



Statewide Independent Living Council - Full Council Meeting
APPROVED MINUTES
Friday September 22, 2017 (1:00 pm – 5:00 pm)
Ability360 Campus, Board Room (2nd floor)
5025 E. Washington Street Phoenix, AZ. 85034
Meeting Also Held Via Web-conference

Council Present:

Dr. Danita Applewhite, Laura Duval, Peter Fischer, Dara Johnson, Joy Johnson LaBarge (via phone until 4), Scott Lindbloom, Randy Russell (until 3:15), Carla Shelton, Eileen Tohonnie (via phone until 4), and Wendy Swagger

Public Present:

David Cardinali, Phil Pangrazio, Shawnnita Miranda, and Diane Savage

Staff Present:

Larry Wanger, Melissa Ann Santora, and Sara Joehnk

Welcome and Introduction:

Dr. Danita Applewhite, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Dr. Applewhite welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were completed.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

No public comment on agenda items was offered.

Approval of meeting minutes (Action):

Scott Lindbloom motioned for approval of all meeting minutes listed on the agenda. Laura Duval seconded the motion. Ten council members voted in favor of this motion, zero opposed, and zero abstained. The vote carried unanimously.

- A. Council meeting of June 2, 2017
- B. Council meeting of June 26, 2017
- C. Council meeting of August 4, 2017
- D. Policy and Legislation Committee, June 14, 2017
- E. Policy and Legislation Committee, August 9, 2017
- F. Resource Development Committee, August 31, 2017
- G. Resource Development Committee, September 18, 2017
- H. SPIL Evaluation Committee, August 21, 2017

Treasurer's Report and Approval of Financial Statements (Action):

Wendy Swagger summarized the financial statements from May 2017 to August 2017. Wendy made a note of two items. One, there was a dip in salary expenses during staff transition. Two, AZSILC was conditionally improved for an emergency line of credit which will alleviate concerns created by delayed payments from RSA. Wendy Swagger also thanked Larry Wanger for contributing to AZSILC funding by offering SILC related paid consultant work.

Dr. Danita Applewhite called for a motion to approve the financial statements. A motion to approve was made by Laura Duval. Carla Shelton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, passing with ten council members voting in favor, zero against, and zero abstaining.



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Chair’s Report and Approval of Evaluation Policy of Executive Director (Action):

Dr. Danita Applewhite called for any questions on the evaluation policy. Dara Johnson asked if the executive committee discussed what questionnaire would be utilized both for the self-evaluation and the council evaluation. Wendy Swagger explained the committee agreed to use an evaluation tool already developed. Dr. Danita Applewhite requested approval of written policy for evaluation of Executive Director. A motion to approve was made by Dara Johnson. Scott Lindbloom seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, passing with ten council members voting in favor, zero against, and zero abstaining.

Arizona’s Open Meeting Law and Q&A:

PowerPoint Presentation made by guest speaker Danee Garone, staff attorney with the Arizona Ombudsman Citizens’ Aide.

Request to Approve Changes to AZSILC Bylaws (Action):

Larry Wanger reviewed the minor changes made to the bylaws. Dr. Danita Applewhite called for a motion to adopt the amended bylaws. Dara Johnson moved to approve the bylaws. Scott Lindbloom seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, passing with ten council members voting in favor, zero against, and zero abstaining.

Executive Director’s Report:

Larry Wanger discussed with the council scheduling a strategic planning session. Larry reminded the board they brought in an outside consultant before, but the typical life of a strategic plan is only three or four years. In addition, AZSILC has new authority to do advocacy work and it would be a good time to review the mission statement and have someone assist with board development. Scott Lindbloom requested advocacy materials be added to the new board member orientation manual. Larry suggested the full council come to Phoenix for the next meeting on Friday, December 1st.

Larry Wanger expressed his concern that the council members might not be aware of all the initiatives and projects of AZSILC. Scott Lindbloom suggested the planning session include short presentations about AZSILC initiatives given by the alumni from the Youth Leadership Forum or the Community Leadership Academy. Melissa Ann Santora recommended this event occur the night before the December 1st meeting.

Dr. Danita Applewhite asked for the executive committee to lead the December strategic planning meeting. The committee would be responsible for setting priorities and approving the expenses.

Larry Wanger updated the council on the Arizona Disability Coalition, which now has 35 coalition members. In addition, the Youth Leadership Forum had about forty graduates this year. The Community Leadership Academy has now started up at all the centers, except for Ability360 which starts next week. Assist! to Independence is on their third class. There are monthly



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conference calls with all the centers. There will be quarterly reports in October. The objective of the Community Leadership Academy is not just to run classes but get people with disabilities into leadership positions.

Larry Wanger reported hiring a new staff member whose part time responsibility is in emergency preparedness. Larry stated he has struggled to reach the Department of Health Services, but resources might be stretched thin due to national emergencies. Larry is also searching for an individual or organization to contract bookkeeping as staff member, Melissa Ann Santora, takes on more responsibilities with the new nonprofit.

Larry Wanger suggested creating a new AZSILC logo since the current logo does not present what AZSILC is about or what AZSILC is working towards. Larry suggested putting out a competition for people to submit logo designs. Dara Johnson suggested the creative process be discussed further at the strategic planning meeting. Wendy Swagger would like to see logos from other states and commented that the current AZSILC logo is a scene of Arizona nature, but is lacking people or any symbol of people. Dr. Applewhite suggested brainstorming for the logo be made into an agenda item for the December planning meeting.

Committee Reports:

Policy and Legislation

Wendy Swagger reminded the council that access to healthcare is a serious problem for the disabled in Arizona. October 31st is the next meeting for the Policy and Legislation Committee and they plan to review the language in a how-to document for filing a grievance before it goes to the full council and to the Independent Living Centers to post online.

SPIL Evaluation

Dara Johnson provided an update on the SPIL Evaluation Committee meeting. Healthcare providers were represented at the last meeting and presented features to help mitigate barriers to access, including beds that can be raised and wheelchairs that can be weighted. They are working to put this information in their provider directories.

Resource Development

Dr. Applewhite informed the council that Resource Development Committee is currently drafting a propose statement and broadly the committee is working to identify new sources of funding. Dara Johnson suggested sustainability as a keyword in the purpose statement.

Dr. Applewhite stated that getting people with disabilities in advocacy and leadership is a priority for AZSILC and the Resource Development committee will put energy into funding projects already showing success, like the Youth Leadership Forum and the Community Leadership Academy.



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Change to Action Item - Approval of Evaluation Policy of Executive Director (Action):

Laura Duval asked to amend the evaluation policy for the Executive Director to include open meeting law restrictions into policy numbers 2, 4, and 6. Dara Johnson called to amend the previous motion to approve the executive director evaluation policy. Scott Lindbloom seconded the change. Seven council members voted in favor, zero against and zero abstaining. Wendy Swagger will make the written changes to the evaluation policy.

Centers for Independent Living (CIL) Reports:

Laura Duval stated there are no new reports from the Centers for Independent Living. She sent out an email on Monday, September 17th to the Centers. Laura is concerned this was not enough notice and is considering arranging future meetings immediately before the full council meeting.

State Rehabilitation Council Report (SRC):

Dr. Danita Applewhite reported to the council that the State Rehabilitation Council has teamed up with the Chamber of Commerce to reach out to people with disabilities for leadership positions. SRC members were at the ASTC Conference, which was about transitioning from K-12 to higher education. The State Rehabilitation Council is presently working to support the DREAM job fairs and AZ Leadership Empowerment Academy.

Announcements:

No announcements.

Call to the Public:

Danita Applewhite gave two calls to the public for comment. No public comment.

Adjourn (Action):

Dr. Danita Applewhite entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Scott Lindbloom. Wendy Swagger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, passing with seven voting in favor, zero against, and zero abstaining.