



**Statewide Independent Living Council –
Public Policy & Legislation Committee**

Approved Minutes for Tuesday, October 31, 2017 (2:00 PM– 2:30 PM)
Meeting Held Via Teleconference, To Connect Via Teleconference:
Dial 1-866- 848-2216, pin code 8099566334#

Committee Attendees Present:

Peter Fisher, Randy Russel, and Wendy Swager

Staff Present:

Larry Wanger and Sara Joehnk

Public Present:

None

Welcome and Introductions:

Wendy Swager, committee chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. A quorum was not present. Wendy confirmed with Larry Wanger there are no action items for today's meeting.

Current Federal Bills of Significance:

H.R. 620: ADA Notification Bill

Larry Wanger provided the committee with a legislative update regarding H.R. 620. Larry stressed to the committee this bill is currently the highest priority for disability advocates. Although AZSILC did not sign on to an organizational letter opposing this legislation, Larry suggested individuals continue to contact representatives about H.R. 620.

Update on Proposed federal FY18 budget and impact on IL programs

Larry Wanger also provided the committee with an update on the federal budget, which has been approved until December 2017. Later this week, Congress is scheduled to vote on significant tax cuts that might have a long-term effect on the funding of independent living.

Wendy Swager called for any questions. There were no questions at this time.

Access Barriers to Healthcare and Next Steps:

Larry Wanger updated the committee on his work developing a series of pages that can go on the AZSILC website for general information about accessible healthcare, links to the AZSILC survey, and directions on how to file a civil rights complaint. Larry plans to share a draft with the committee later this week or the beginning of next week. When the language is finalized, Larry Wanger stated he will send the information to the Centers for Independent Living, ACCESS, and the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. Wendy inquired if the full council is required to vote their approval of the language. Larry stated he did not think providing this information on the website required a formal vote since the AZSILC was not taking a specific position.

Larry Wanger reported to the committee a meeting he attended with ACCESS. This agency is asking for their providers to develop accessibility plans for parking lots, exam rooms, diagnosis equipment, and operational procedures. Provider participation is voluntary. A follow up meeting is planned for December 2017. Wendy Swager asked how ACCESS plans to get the information



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out to the general public. Larry answered this information is going to be available online and printed in the provider directory. Larry warned the committee he believes this will be a time-consuming process as the providers still need to develop their plans.

Larry Wanger discussed the upcoming strategic planning session on December 1, 2017 for the full council. One of the goals at this planning session is to provide the committees with more direction.

Announcements:

Wendy Swager informed the committee she will be unavailable from November 6 to November 28th. Larry Wanger will also be unavailable during a portion of November.

Randy Russel announced he had seen improvement in accessibility at a new doctor's office he visited in April. Before April, he had been to several doctor's offices where he couldn't get into the exam rooms. This new office had large exam rooms and wide hallways for wheelchair accessibility. Wendy Swager stated she has seen this barrier at her doctors' offices too.

Next Meeting:

Tentatively the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6th at 2pm.

Public Comment:

No public comments were received.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Wendy Swager at 2:30pm.