



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

Wednesday, September 20, 2017 (2:00 PM– 3:30 PM)

Meeting Held Via Teleconference, To Connect Via Teleconference:

Dial 1-866- 848-2216, pin code 8099566334#

### **Committee Attendees Present:**

Wendy Swager, Randy Russel, Joy Johnson LaBarge, and Peter Fischer (Note: Peter joined call at 2:27pm)

### **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. Wendy confirmed with Larry Wanger there were not enough members present on conference call to form a quorum. Action items on the agenda will be postponed to such time a quorum is reached.

### **Current Federal Bills of Significance:**

#### **H.R. 620: ADA Notification Bill**

Larry Wanger provided the committee with a legislative update regarding H.R. 620. This bill moved out of the House Judiciary Committee on September 7th and could be voted on by the full House of Representatives at any time. Larry reported that Arizona Representative Kyrsten Sinema is still a co-sponsor of H.R. 620.

Larry reminded the committee that disability advocates feel that H.R. 620 shifts the burden of protecting the right to access from businesses to the person with the disability since it is the person with a disability who first has to be denied access; then must determine that violations of the law have occurred; then they must provide the business with specific notice of which provisions of the law were violated and when; and finally, the aggrieved person with the disability must afford the business a lengthy period to correct the problem.

Larry informed the committee that Senator Jeff Flake is introducing a similar piece of legislation to the U.S. Senate. Larry is going to Washington D.C. next week and is attempting to schedule an appointment with Senator Jeff Flake. Larry has also been working with the Center of Disability Law to educate the public on this bill.

#### **H.R. 1628: Graham and Cassidy Bill**

Larry Wanger also provided the committee with a legislative update on H.R. 1628. Arizona Governor Doug Ducey has announced his support of H.R. 1628.

Wendy asked what actions the disability community should be taking to educate congress and the public about this bill. Larry suggested the focus is on calling Arizona's Senator John McCain. Senator John McCain's support is critical to this bill's passage. The bill can be passed with 50 members of the Senate if voted on before September 30th.



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### **Update on Proposed Federal FY18 Budget and Impact on IL Programs**

Larry Wanger updated the committee on the status of FY18. The House and Senate agreed to postpone voting on the budget until December 18th. The proposed House budget in May would cut funding to many programs, such as the Work First centers, but funding for the Independent Living Centers remain the same as FY17. The Senate appropriation bill is nearly word for word the House's appropriation bill.

Wendy expressed concern that Governor Doug Ducey could support cuts to SILC funding. Larry reminded the committee that SILC is mandated by the federal government. Although the Governor has an initiative to eliminate some of the over 200 governmental boards in Arizona, most of those boards are not federally mandated.

### **Quorum Reached:**

Peter Fischer joined at 2:27pm.

### **Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM):**

Peter proposed joint motion to approve committee meeting minutes from June 14th and August 9th. The motion is seconded by Randy Russel. Wendy asked there were any proposals for changes. No changes were requested. Wendy then called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously, passing with 4 voting in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining. Larry stated the approved minutes will be posted online and provided to the full council at their upcoming meeting on Friday, September 22nd.

### **Council Membership:**

Wendy brought up the updates made to the AZ SILC website. The front page has an advertisement to apply to be a board member of the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council. Wendy suggested to the committee that everyone work to recruit applicants for the board.

### **Access Barriers to Healthcare and Next Steps:**

At the last Policy and Legislation Committee meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup>, Sonya Perduta expressed that she would like the committee to focus on healthcare and specifically the procedure required to file a civil rights complaint. August 9<sup>th</sup>, the committee discussed the creation of a document to describe how and when to file a civil rights complaint. Wendy updated the committee on what resources are currently available online to file a civil rights complaint. She voiced concern over the misconception in the disability community that one must go through ACCESS or the Arizona Attorney General to file a civil rights complaint. Wendy went through the process for filing a civil rights complaint through an online portal provided by the Office for Civil Rights. The online portal guides the user through questions like “what is the nature of your complaint?” and suggests categories where the civil rights violation occurred, such as corrections, education, food, healthcare, housing, social security, and the workplace.

Wendy spoke to a representative at United Healthcare about including this information more prominently on their website. Currently the information about filing a civil rights complaint is



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there, but difficult to find. The Arizona Attorney General’s website only provided information to file a formal written complaint.

Larry brought up that the Centers for Independent Living currently lack the capacity and training to walk people through the complaint process. However, the CILs have agreed to post the instructions for filing a civil rights complaint on their newsletters and websites. The goal for AZ SILC is to provide the centers with this content by November. This document will provide instructions for filing a civil rights complaint, and also information about what people’s rights are and what they should expect from their medical providers if they have a disability.

**Announcements:**

Peter informed the Committee he will be in Washington D.C. next week and he would be able to bring information to Senator John McCain.

Larry announced the Arizona Community Leadership Academy website will be up soon and more information about the Community Leadership Academy will be presented at the next full council meeting on Friday, September 20th.

**Next Meeting:**

Larry suggested the times 2 to 3:30pm on October 31st for the next Policy and Legislation Committee meeting. All participants on the conference call approved of the date and time. Larry mentioned the next meeting will be conducted via webconference. Participants can still call in on the telephone, but they will have the choice to use their smart phone, tablet, or computers to view the meeting via video.

**Public Comment:**

No public comments were received.

**Adjournment (ACTION ITEM):**

The meeting was adjourned by Wendy Swager.