



Monday, December 17, 2018

Wyndham Garden Phoenix Midtown

3600 North Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85013

9:00am – 11:00am

This meeting was also available via teleconference.

Council Members Present: Dr. Danita Applewhite, Laura Duval, Peter Fischer, Dara Johnson, Scott Lindbloom, Susan Molloy, Audra Paletta, Randy Russell, Paula Seanez, Wendy Swager and Eileen Tohonnie

Council Members Absent: Joy Johnson-LeBarge, Kristen Mackey (Ex-Officio) and Carla Shelton

Staff Present: Sara Ann Joehnk, Sarah Kader, Melissa Ann Santora and Tahneesha Smith

Public Present: Nicky Cotton, Rene Cummins and Steven Peterson

Welcome and Introductions:

Peter Fischer, AZSILC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:08 am. Welcome and introductions were completed.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

Peter Fischer called for public comment. No public comment was received.

Treasurer Report and AZSILC Financial Review:

Laura Duval provided the Treasurer Report for September 2018 – November 2018. She asked for questions. No questions were received.

Steven Peterson, CPA, provided an overview of the AZSILC Financial Review. He provided an explanation of assets, liabilities and net assets for Fiscal Year 2018. Mr. Peterson stated that AZSILC is in good standing regarding budgetary spending, and that there were no findings during the Financial Review. The AZSILC 990, was completed and filed by November 15, 2018 without an extension. Mr. Peterson asked for questions. No questions were received.

Peter Fischer called for a motion regarding the Treasurer's Report and Fiscal Year 2018 Financial Review. Wendy Swager moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and FY18 Financial Review. Paula Seanez seconded the motion. The following voted in favor: Dr. Danita Applewhite, Laura Duval, Dara Johnson, Scott Lindbloom, Susan Molloy, Audra Paletta, Randy Russell, Paula Seanez, Wendy Swager and Eileen Tohonnie. The following opposed: None. The following abstained: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Peter Fischer offered time to review the items on the Consent Agenda which included the following:

- A. Approval of Full Council Meeting Minutes from 9/17/18
- B. Approval of Executive Committee Meeting from 11/21/18
- C. Approval of September 2018 - November 2018 Financial Statements
- D. Approval of AZSILC Bylaw Amendment as submitted on 9/17/18

Peter Fischer called for a motion in regard to the Consent Agenda. Paula Seanez moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Wendy Swager seconded the motion.

Peter Fischer called for discussion. Susan Molloy inquired about the Needs Assessment. Peter Fischer determined that this question was not germane to the motion, and indicated that this subject would be addressed later in the agenda. No further discussion was introduced.

The following voted in favor: Dr. Danita Applewhite, Laura Duval, Dara Johnson, Scott Lindbloom, Susan Molloy, Audra Paletta, Randy Russell, Paula Seanez, Wendy Swager and Eileen Tohonnie. The following opposed: None. The following abstained: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Election of AZSILC Officers:

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers for the vacant positions of Secretary and Vice Treasurer. Nominees for the office of Secretary were Randy Russell and Carla Shelton. Nominees for the office of Vice Treasurer were Scott Lindbloom and Randy Russell. Peter Fischer called for nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were offered. Ballot votes were submitted and calculated. AZSILC Chair, Peter Fischer announced the results of the election. The new officers elected were Randy Russell as Secretary and Scott Lindbloom as Vice Treasurer.

Chair Report:

Peter Fischer provided a short overview of the AZSILC Retreat on December 17, 2018. He thanked Rene Cummins for doing an excellent job as facilitator.

Peter Fischer asked Melissa Ann Santora to present an update on SILC Congress to be held in February 2019. She stated that a workshop proposal for the topic of Emergency Preparedness was submitted by Sara Ann Joehnk and Peter Fischer. Another workshop proposal was submitted by Melissa Ann Santora on the topic of Youth Engagement.

Peter Fischer, AZSILC Chair, will be attending the SILC Congress 2019 as well as staff members Melissa Ann Santora, Sarah Kader, and Sara Ann Joehnk.

Sarah Kader was introduced as the AZSILC Director of Operations, effective January 2, 2019. Susan Molloy moved to accept Sarah Kader as the Director of Operations. Paula Seanez seconded the motion.

The following voted in favor: Dr. Danita Applewhite, Laura Duval, Dara Johnson, Scott Lindbloom, Susan Molloy, Audra Paletta, Randy Russell, Paula Seanez, Wendy Swager and Eileen Tohonnie. The following opposed: None. The following abstained: None. The motion carried unanimously.

The next agenda item introduced by Peter Fischer was compensation of the Interim Executive Director and rollover leave. Melissa Ann Santora has served in the capacity of Interim Executive Director from September 16, 2018 – December 31, 2018, without a determination of compensation. In addition, she has an excess of 72 hours of annual leave which she will lose unless it is approved for rollover to 2019.

Laura Duval moved to approve the Interim Executive Director's salary compensation to be increased by \$500 per month for October, November, and December 2018, with increased compensation for September 2018 at \$250, and to approve rollover of an additional 72 hours of annual leave to 2019. Paula Seanez seconded the motion.

Peter Fischer called for discussion. There was conversation around the need for policies for interim positions. Questions were asked by Paula Seanez and Dara Johnson regarding previous practices, and answered by Melissa Ann Santora and Peter Fischer. Dara Johnson requested that policies and procedures be created for interim positions. This request was noted and tabled for a future Personnel Committee agenda. Melissa Ann Santora was asked to leave the room prior to the vote.

Peter Fischer called for a vote. The following voted in favor: Dr. Danita Applewhite, Laura Duval, Dara Johnson, Scott Lindbloom, Susan Molloy, Audra Paletta, Randy Russell, Paula Seanez, Wendy Swager and Eileen Tohonnie. The following opposed: None. The following abstained: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Melissa Ann Santora will resume the position of Director of Innovation, effective January 2, 2019.

Peter Fischer reviewed the active AZSILC committees and asked for member interest in Committee service. Current standing committees are the Personnel Committee (Board) and Nominating Committee (Council). Randy Russell, Laura Duval, and Peter Fischer joined the Personnel Committee. Scott Lindbloom, Peter Fischer and Randy Russell joined the Nominating Committee. Eileen Tohonnie and Nicky Cotton joined the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Presentation of Staff Reports:

Melissa Ann Santora presented the Interim Executive Director Report. She highlighted accomplishments and progress made in this role to include AZSILC Appointments, SPIL amendment, AZEEI curriculum completion, and ASU Morrison Institute Needs Assessment completion. Melissa Ann Santora also shared highlights and goals regarding the Arizona Youth Leadership Initiatives (AZYLI). She met with Sonoran University on Excellence in Development Disabilities (UCEDD) and University of Arizona Conference and Housing Services to discuss AZYLF 2019 at UA. The Sonoran UCEDD would serve as sponsor for the UA Forum, and costs would be reduced. The AZYLI Alumni Association met their annual goals, and have approved new goals, including a two-year goal regarding Disability History in schools. Audra Paletta, AZYLI Alum, has recently been appointed to AZSILC. There were no questions for the Interim Executive Director.

Sara Ann Joehnk presented the Disability Integration Specialist Report. She shared several highlights about the Emergency Preparedness Committee. The committee has been actively recruiting new members. There are currently two youth members and a representative from each Center for Independent Living. Sara Ann Joehnk announced that committee meetings will be held the third Wednesday of each month beginning in January. Joehnk also participated in the Target Event Readiness Forum by Coyote Crisis Collaborative. She announced that the Partners for Preparedness Summit will be held June 11, 2019 in Phoenix, Arizona. The theme is Beyond the Shelter.

Sarah Kader gave a brief update on her orientation process and new responsibilities as Director of Operations. She is looking forward to revitalizing the Arizona Disability Coalition. Her position officially begins January 2, 2019.

Tahneesha Smith also gave a brief update on her orientation process and training as the Administrative Support Specialist.

After the Staff Reports were completed a few questions were asked. Paula Seanez asked for clarification of the Director of Operations and Executive Director roles. Dara Johnson requested clarification on the organizational staff structure. Responses were provided by Sarah Kader.

Committee Reports:

Peter Fischer stated the Emergency Preparedness Committee will tentatively meet at noon on January 16, 2019. Regularly scheduled meeting shall take place every third Wednesday of each month.

The Executive Committee met November 21, 2018. The highlights of the meeting include new hire of Director of Operations, staff medical insurance and Nominating Committee discussion.

Dara Johnson provided an update on the SPIL Evaluation Committee. The most recent meeting was on October 29, 2018 which discussed progress made during January 2018 – September 2018. The committee meets on a quarterly basis. The SPIL Evaluation Committee uses an evaluation tool, and the process has been streamlined so that AZSILC staff now enter the progress data, and the committee determines if timely progress is being made, and/or provides recommendations. Dara Johnson indicated that Needs Assessment is now making progress

Dara gave a brief overview of the SPIL Amendment, which is now being considered for approval by the Administration for Community Living. The intent of the amendment is to revise existing goals to make them more relevant. Regarding the SPIL objective to serve the underserved or unserved populations, Dara Johnson indicated that the amendment would allow the Centers for Independent Living to determine opportunities for outreach in those areas, and the goal to increase employment opportunities for people who have disabilities would be to enhance engagement and collaboration between the Independent Living Network and the Arizona Employment First initiative.

Melissa Ann Santora stated that having the new position of Director of Operations will assist in keeping the SPIL on track in the future.

Agency Reports:

Laura Duval presented the Independent Living (IL) Network Report. The IL Network met December 10, 2018. Laura Duval shared updates regarding individual Centers for Independent Living with the exception of New Horizons, who were unable to participate in that part of the meeting. Ability 360 and Assist to Independence both received new vans to help address transportation needs. DIRECT Center for Independence acquired a small nonprofit focused on employment. They have also started a nonprofit organization to provide counseling to people who have disabilities that is rooted in Independent Living philosophy.

Up to three staff members from each Center for Independent Living received Facilitator Training for the Arizona Education and Empowerment Education Initiative. The IL Network determined how the Centers will now report consumer satisfaction to AZSILC for SPIL reporting purposes.

The Centers for Independent Living agreed that a one-year SPIL extension using the amendment that has been submitted for approval to the ACL, is the best way to move forward. If the SPIL amendment is not approved, the amendment language will be used in the process of developing a new one-year SPIL.

Peter Fischer called for a motion regarding the upcoming SPIL. Dara Johnson moved motion to approve extending the SPIL amendment if approved by the ACL, and as a contingency, using the amendment language in the process of developing a new on-year SPIL.

Peter Fischer called for a vote. The following voted in favor: Dr. Danita Applewhite, Laura Duval, Dara Johnson, Scott Lindbloom, Susan Molloy, Audra Paletta, Randy Russell, Paula Seanez, Wendy Swager and Eileen Tohonnie. The following opposed: None. The following abstained: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Kristen Mackey was not in attendance to provide the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Report.

Scott Lindbloom provided a brief State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) A Report. He stated that the SRC discusses challenges for people who have disabilities involving disability benefits like SSI, that are taking place due to the increase of the minimum wage.

Dara Johnson suggested that these challenges were a good opportunity to inform people of the benefits of utilizing the Centers for Independent Living for benefit and work incentive counseling so that people with disabilities can continue to work without a reduction in hours or a loss of benefits.

Paula Seanez, who also attended the SRC meeting, shared that RSA recently increased the salaries of their employees and the University of Arizona's Master program is being discontinued. The RSA meeting took place on Thursday, December 13, 2018.

Announcements:

Peter Fischer wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season. The date of the next AZSILC meeting is to be announced. A doodle poll will be used to coordinate meeting dates for 2019.

Call to the Public:

Peter Fischer called for public comment. No public comment was received.

Adjourn:

Laura Duval moved to adjourn the meeting. Paula Seanez seconded the motion. Peter Fischer adjourned the meeting at 10:34 am.