



Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council – Emergency Preparedness Committee

Unapproved Minutes for Wednesday, January 16, 2019 (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM)

Meeting Held Via Teleconference

Committee Members Present:

Darrel Christenson (Ability360), Peter Fischer (AZSILC), Darlene Golson (New Horizons), Lupita Hernandez (Direct), Scott Lindbloom (AZSILC), Michelle Verrico (AZYLF Alumni), and Sheryl Yellowhair (ASSIST!).

Staff Members Present:

Sara Ann Joehnk and Sarah Kader

Public Present:

None

Welcome to the Committee (Information):

Peter Fischer called the meeting to order at 12:05pm and welcomed all to the first 2019 meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Public comment on agenda items only. (Information):

Peter Fischer called for public comment on agenda items. No public comment was received.

Introduction to Committee Members (Information):

All committee members present stated their name and association with Centers for Independent Living in Arizona.

Emergency Preparedness at the CILs (Information):

Peter Fisher requested Sara Ann Joehnk begin the discussion on this agenda item. Sara Ann reviewed the history of AZSILC's Emergency Preparedness Committee, including how this committee was first formed after the events of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Sara Ann described the current status of the contract with the Arizona Department of Health and Human Services (ADHS), which has been renewed and there is work ongoing for the 2019 Partners in Preparedness Summit. The Emergency Preparedness Committee last met in June of 2018. At this meeting, the committee recommended AZSILC recruit members from all five Centers for Independent Living in Arizona. These representatives would help the committee to prioritize what tasks the committee undertakes to address the countless needs regarding emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities.

Darrel Christenson asked for clarification between the AZSILC Emergency Preparedness Committee and other emergency preparedness related groups where both Ability360 and AZSILC are participants. Sara Ann Joehnk explained in addition to this Emergency Preparedness Committee with AZSILC, there is an Access and Functional Needs Task Force and the Partners in Preparedness Summit Planning Committee. The Access and Functional Needs Task Force is under the leadership of Arizona's Department of Health and Human Services and Arizona's Department of Military Affairs and Emergency Management. One of the Task Force's major



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accomplishments has been to provide durable medical equipment to emergency shelters. The State of Arizona has caches of equipment ready to be deployed on the request from county emergency management. This Task Force is also the sponsor of the 2019 Partners in Preparedness Summit, which is a biennial event bringing together the disability community and government emergency managers. The event is being organized by AZSILC staff, who formed a Partners in Preparedness Summit Planning Committee. The Planning Committee has only five members, and the Planning Committee meetings will end following the Summit event in June 2019.

Darrel Christenson stated that water and drought issues come first to mind as emergency needs in Arizona. Darrel asked when forming goals and objectives for these groups, which would address a drought issue compared to a fire emergency. Sara Ann Joehnk answered that it would be this Emergency Preparedness Committee that can best address any emergency preparedness need the Centers for Independent Living identify in their communities. Peter Fischer stated that the priorities chosen by this committee would be more specific than drought to include Independent Living goals. Peter Fischer suggested that the committee set an agenda that the CILs and the SILC can be working on. In addition, the committee should be focused on the goals in the State Plan for Independent Living.

Scott Lindbloom, Vice-Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, suggested the committee work in partnership with the individual counties, especially in Northern Arizona. Scott would like to see the committee focus on the need for accessible transportation in high altitude areas during wildfire evacuations. Scott stated during the 2015 SILC Congress, the Washington State SILC had a presentation on how their SILC was working with county level emergency managers.

Darlene Golson stated she looked into the emergency plans for their Center for Independent Living in preparation for this committee meeting. Although the CIL has an emergency plan, the plan would benefit from including more details and covering more subjects. Darlene told the committee about attending the Targeted Event Readiness Forum (TERF) with Coyote Crisis Collaborative. At this event, Darlene learned what a disaster would be like for her living in the geographical area of the emergency scenario and what role the Center for Independent Living might play during such a disaster.

Scott Lindbloom stated that Show Low, like other rural parts of Arizona, is located far away from a Center for Independent Living and is unlikely to benefit from the Center's accessible vehicles during an evacuation. Scott would like to see more trainings on evacuation for individuals who have disabilities, including senior citizens. Scott mentioned in 2014, AZSILC participated in trainings for people with disabilities on how to evacuate during a wildfire.

Peter Fischer, Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, described how he would like to see the committee investigate how the Centers for Independent Living can best communicate



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emergency preparedness information to the individuals in order for them to make their own plans before a disaster. Peter explained how preparedness begin with yourself, then your family, then neighbors, and your community and city from there. Peter stated if there is a consensus on the committee to pursue this goal, then the committee will need to develop a strategy. Scott Lindbloom responded that he believes the best strategy is going to be using self-advocacy and trainings. Peter would like a plan that includes writing emergency preparedness goals into the next State Plan for Independent Living.

Scott Lindbloom would like the committee to develop a survey asking individuals who have disabilities how they would like to be involved in emergency planning. The survey can be distributed by the Centers for Independent Living and would serve to bring awareness to emergency preparedness. Peter Fischer mentioned that tasks assigned by the committee will mostly be followed up on by Sara Ann Joehnk, as the Disability Integration Specialist for AZSILC.

Sara Ann Joehnk asked if Michelle Verrico, alumni of the Arizona Youth Leadership Forum (AZYLF), had any comments at this point, or had any input on how this committee could be engaging with the youth about emergency planning. Michelle answered she is still observing and learning about the committee.

Sarah Kader stated that she agreed with Peter Fischer about the importance of individual preparedness and she thinks this committee could have the most impact by focusing on the individual level.

Sara Ann Joehnk summarized that the committee has suggested three areas of focus:

- Individual Preparedness
- Centers for Independent Living Facilities and Staff
- Building Partnerships with Local, State, and National Government

Scott Lindbloom asked if the committee will develop a survey. Sara Ann Joehnk stated it would be beneficial for the committee and herself to see the results from the Partners in Preparedness Summit survey before starting another survey that requires participation from the Centers for Independent Living.

Sara Ann Joehnk stated that following this meeting, she will check on the status of another survey that was developed for the Centers for Independent Living with Antonio Hernandez from the Arizona Department of Health and Human Services. The results from this short survey can provide a starting point for assessing what the Centers for Independent Living most need from our committee. Sara Ann stated that she anticipates Ability360 having the most robust emergency plans and staff training due to their involvement in the Partners in Preparedness Summit for many years.



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Meeting Schedule for 2019 (Action):

Sara Ann Joehnk explained the goal of regularly scheduled monthly committee meetings is to model the Arizona Education and Empowerment Initiative (formerly called the Arizona Community Leadership Academy). With this initiative, AZSILC was able to facilitate fruitful discussions and resource sharing among the five Centers for Independent Living in the state.

Peter Fischer stated he is only able to attend these committee meetings if they continue to be scheduled between noon and 1:00 pm. Scott Lindbloom asked if Peter would like him to run the meetings when he is unavailable. Peter stated he would be grateful for his help. Peter continued that he is still learning the logistics of running the committee meetings himself, and he would need to follow up with Scott about it.

Sara Ann Joehnk suggested a meeting schedule of every second Wednesday of the month, starting with February 13, 2019 to include Shawnnita Miranda from Services Maximizing Independent Living and Empowerment (SMILE). All those present agreed to the meeting schedule.

Announcements (Information):

Peter Fischer and Sara Ann Joehnk will be presenting on the subject of Emergency Preparedness at the 2019 SILC Congress in February.

Call to the Public (Information):

Peter Fischer opened the meeting for public comment. No public comment received.

Adjourn (Action):

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 pm.