



Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council – Emergency Preparedness Committee
Unapproved Minutes for Wednesday, February 13, 2019 (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM)
Meeting Held Via Teleconference

Committee Members Present:

Darrel Christenson (Ability360), Lupita Hernandez (Direct), Scott Lindbloom (AZSILC), and Shawnnita Miranda (SMILE)

Staff Members Present:

Sara Ann Joehnk and Sarah Kader

Public Present:

None

Welcome and Introductions (Information):

Scott Lindbloom called the meeting to order at 12:04pm and asked for those present to introduce themselves. All committee members present stated their name and association with Centers for Independent Living in Arizona. Sara Ann Joehnk noted that committee members Peter Fischer, Darlene Golson, and Michelle Verrico contacted her in advance that they were unable to attend today's meeting.

Public comment on agenda items only. (Information):

Scott Lindbloom called for public comment on agenda items. No public comment was received.

Livability Magazine – California Wildfires (Information):

Scott Lindbloom requested Sara Ann Joehnk begin the discussion on this agenda item. Sara Ann Joehnk asked if those in attendance received this quarters' Livability Magazine. Sara Ann Joehnk took note of those who needed a digital copy. There is an article called "Natural Disasters: How Can CILs Help". Sara Ann Joehnk stated the article is about how the disability community is the most impacted by disasters. The article also quotes the FEMA Region IX Disability Integration Specialist, Roxanne Crawford, who AZSILC worked with during the National Mass Care Exercise in May 2018. Sara Ann explained this article feels to her like many other articles that present a call to action for the Centers for Independent Living be more involved during a disaster, but there is little strategy or suggestion how to help.

Addressing Gaps in Arizona's Rural Areas (Information):

Scott Lindbloom stated he is passionate about emergency planning and he is especially concerned about the areas located far away from Centers for Independent Living, such as Show Low, Pine Top, Lakeside, Springerville, Williams, Eager, and Flagstaff. There is a large geographical gap between the Centers for Independent Living in Prescott Valley and Tuba City. Scott Lindbloom asked the committee members what can be done to help individuals with disabilities in these areas. Scott noted that there could be examples for the committee to follow from other states with rural areas, like Colorado and New Mexico.

Sara Ann Joehnk asked if Shawnnita Miranda had any advice or comment on addressing gaps in Arizona's Rural Areas. Shawnnita explained to the committee that securing transportation



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during regular conditions is a struggle. There are two places that cover the Yuma area with accessible transportation. One of these is closing and the other just does not have enough accessible vehicles to cover the area. One of their consumers has been in an ongoing battle to access transportation since August of last year and she still is unable to get to any of her doctors' appointments. This is a result of there being no providers in Yuma able to transport her particular wheelchair.

Shawwnita Miranda, representative from SMILE, explained to the committee that in their area, they can experience flooding from the Gila River or Colorado River. Transportation in these cases has been provided by a local cattle company that runs a train to Yuma. This train is accessible for people using wheelchairs. Shawwnita stated since she has been working at the Center for Independent Living, their area has experienced two floods and one wildfire. The wildfire had been a result of a farming accident and was quickly resolved.

Scott Lindbloom asked if it is possible to have a contract for a door-to-door type service. Shawwnita Miranda stated due to the lack of accessible vehicles in the area, even a contract would be with a provider in Tucson or Phoenix. Scott Lindbloom stated he thought it would be possible to start up a dial-and-ride service with partners from the Northern area of Arizona. Scott called on the committee to think about other ways to address the gaps in rural communities.

Darrel Christenson asked if the committee has done any work with the American Red Cross, and if so, what is the current partnership between the committee statewide and the Red Cross. Sara Ann Joehnk stated the committee has worked with the American Red Cross in conjunction with larger agencies, like the Arizona Department of Health and the Department of Emergency Management and Military Affairs. Sara Ann stated from her experience during the National Mass Care Exercise with the American Red Cross, she did not think the American Red Cross regularly provided evacuation transportation to their shelters. The counties in Arizona have Memorandums of Understanding with the American Red Cross to provide accessible shelters.

Sara Ann Joehnk asked Darrel Christenson and Sarah Kader if they had advice which Center for Independent Living Scott Lindbloom and her should seek additional resources or a partnership regarding emergency transportation in eastern Arizona, including Show Low. Darrel suggested that the committee check in with all five Centers for Independent Living and find out what their capacity is for transportation during an emergency. Darrel stated in a community-wide disaster, the Centers for Independent Living would not have the scale of transportation needed, and the community would rely on police, fire, and other first responders. Registries in this case would be activated to evacuate individuals who have self-identified as a person with a disability to their local fire departments or government. The few accessible vans each Center has would hardly scratch the surface of need during a large disaster. The Centers for Independent Living's vehicles need to be part of a much larger list of emergency resources.



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Scott Lindbloom asked if the shelters can take part in providing evacuation transportation. Scott stated that at SILC Congress, he learned Washington state was able to provide emergency transportation for individuals who have disabilities. Scott asked the committee if the committee could research how other states are handling emergency transportation for individuals who have disabilities.

Darrel Christenson stated that the committee should reach out to those who operate the shelters to let them know about the Emergency Preparedness Committee and identify the Centers for Independent Living as a resource. Darrel stated the committee should spend energy on making the Emergency Preparedness Committee and Centers for Independent Living known, and then remain visible, to the emergency planners and first responders. Scott Lindbloom asked Sara Ann Joehnk if AZSILC could investigate shelter plans regarding transportation, and possible contact Aging on Aging for a partnership. Scott Lindbloom asked if he and Sara Ann could talk to the American Red Cross about developing a partnership to provide accessible transportation to the shelters.

Sara Ann Joehnk stated she thought the committee could combine Darrel Christenson and Scott Lindbloom's suggestions to create a list of 'Cross Disability Resources for Emergencies'. Sara Ann stated this would not be as formal as a partnership, but the Emergency Preparedness Committee could start the conversation with other agencies, councils, and organizations by asking them if they would be included on this contact list. The contact list would then be activated during an emergency to take part in conference calls. These calls would be used to identify needs and resources in real-time.

CIL Surveys on Emergency Preparedness (Information):

Sara Ann Joehnk stated the Emergency Preparedness Committee sent out a six-question survey to the five Centers for Independent Living. From this survey, the committee learned among the five Centers for Independent Living in the state, only two of them currently have an active emergency plan. Sara Ann mentioned a goal of the Emergency Preparedness Committee is to work with the Centers for Independent Living on improving their own emergency plans, and a good start could be facilitating the creation of emergency plans for these three Centers for Independent Living. Sara Ann asked Darrel Christenson if Ability360 would share their plans with the other Centers. Darrel stated that he could share this with the other Arizona Centers for Independent Living. Scott Lindbloom asked what other Statewide Independent Living Councils are doing for emergency preparedness. Sara Ann Joehnk replied that the upcoming SILC Congress will be a chance to learn what other SILCs are doing for both Centers for Independent Living and their consumers.

Committee Member Roundtable (Information):

Sara Ann Joehnk explained this agenda item will be on all the scheduled committee meetings. The time is reserve to give each Center a chance to discuss their lessons learned. Sara Ann asked if any of the Centers of Independent Living representatives wanted to use this time to



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discuss their Center’s emergency preparedness activities or any of their observations regarding emergency preparedness for individuals who have disabilities. No comments were received.

Announcements (Information):

Scott Lindbloom called for announcements. No announcements were received.

Call to the Public (Information):

Scott Lindbloom opened the meeting for public comment. No public comments were received.

Adjourn (Action):

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

UNAPPROVED