

UNAPPROVED MINUTES



Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 1:00– 4:00 pm MST
Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
3839 N 3rd St #306, Phoenix, AZ 85012

Meeting was available via
videoconference/teleconference.

Council Members Present: Dr. Danita Applewhite, Shawnique Cotton, Scott Lindbloom, Susan Molloy, Suann Moore, Audra Paletta, Joy Johnson-Pearson, Randy Russell, Paula Seanez and Eileen Tohonnie

Council Members Absent: Laura Duval, Kristen Mackey (Ex-Officio), and Wendy Swager

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

Public Present: Janice Gonzales, CART Service Provider

Welcome and Introductions:

Dr. Danita Applewhite, AZSILC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:17 pm. Welcome and introductions were completed.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

Dr. Danita Applewhite called for public comment. No public comment was received.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Susan Molloy requested corrections to be made to her comments in the August 29, 2019 AZSILC meeting minutes on page six. Molloy asked that the last sentence be changed to reflect the following statement, "Susan Molloy conveyed the plead that was heard at the NCIL Conference not to automatically assume calling 911 as the only alternative for assistance." Molloy also requested that inclusivity be used in place of inclusive in the first sentence on page six.

Scott Lindbloom moved to approve the amended August 29, 2019 meeting minutes with the corrections.

Susan Molloy seconded the motion. The following voted in favor: Dr. Danita Applewhite, Shawnique Cotton, Scott Lindbloom, Susan Molloy, Suann Moore, Audra Paletta, Joy Johnson-Pearson, Randy Russell, Paula Seanez and Eileen Tohonnie. The following opposed: None. The following abstained: None. The motion carried unanimously.

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Treasurer Report:

Dr. Danita Applewhite encouraged AZSILC members to always ask questions regarding any items that are unclear to them during meetings. She also invited members to email Sarah Kader or Melissa Ann Santora if needed.

Scott Lindbloom presented the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Laura Duval. Lindbloom provided an explanation of the Federal Fiscal Year 2109 (FFY19) Part B Proposal. Lindbloom proposed that the remaining \$1,281 in undesignated FFY19 Part B funds be passed through to Diverse Ability Incorporated to sustain the organization and grow the Arizona Youth Leadership Initiatives. This proposal aligns with the Part B Distribution Proposals for FFY18 and May 30, 2019 approved FFY19 Part B Distribution Proposals.

Dr. Danita Applewhite asked AZSILC Executive Staff to provide additional information concerning the Part B funding.

Melissa Ann Santora, AZSILC Director of Innovation, expounded upon the Part B Distribution Proposal. Santora stated funds received by AZSILC related to the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) are Part B funds. The federal budget dictates how much AZSILC receives. Melissa Ann Santora explained that there has been an increase in Part B funding over the last two years. In addition to the federal funding, the state matches 10% of the federal award. The funding can only be used for purposes outlined in the current SPIL. There is a formula in place to distribute any excess funds.

Shawnique Cotton inquired about Diverse Ability Incorporated and its purpose.

Melissa Ann Santora stated one of the current SPIL goals is to develop a nonprofit responsible for ensuring the continuation and growth of the Arizona Youth Leadership Initiatives. Because AZSILC cannot provide direct services, Diverse Ability Incorporated was established to ensure ongoing opportunities for youth engagement across the state.

Melissa Ann Santora provided a short explanation of the roles of the AZSILC Board of Directors and the Council. The Board of Directors approves items related the AZSILC operations and its budget. The Council approves items related directly to the SPIL, and its budget.

Scott Lindbloom moved to accept the FFY19 Part B Funds Proposal which distributes the remaining \$1281.00 to Diverse Ability Incorporated.

Susan Molloy seconded the motion. The following voted in favor: Dr. Danita Applewhite, Shawnique Cotton, Scott Lindbloom, Susan Molloy, Suann Moore, Audra Paletta, Joy Johnson-Pearson, Randy Russell, Paula Seanez and Eileen Tohonnie. The following opposed: None. The following abstained: None. The motion carried unanimously.

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Report of the Chairperson:

Dr. Danita Applewhite shared her experience at the APRIL conference in October 2019. Dr. Applewhite also asked for additional comments from other attendees.

Scott Lindbloom shared that he attended the APRIL conference for the first time. Lindbloom participated in very interesting workshops. Lindbloom was able to gather ideas of how other states work together. He was also able to attend a useful emergency preparedness workshop as he currently holds the office of AZSILC Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair.

Melissa Ann Santora also attended the APRIL conference. Santora is a member of the APRIL Board of Directors. Santora was active at the APRIL Conference assisting in activities surrounding the youth and their conference.

Also in attendance at the APRIL Conference was Audra Paletta. She shared her experience at the conference. Paletta stated that she met new people at the youth conference and was able to build her network. Paletta indicated that she learned many new things from the workshops. She found the sessions intriguing with broad topics.

Audra Paletta was also a speaker at the APRIL Conference. Paletta co-presented on the topic of Governance and Leadership. She felt the audience was engaged and the presentation was well received.

Scott Lindbloom expressed his gratitude for Melissa Ann Santora's attention and care at the APRIL Conference.

Dr. Danita Applewhite announced that she will be resigning as AZSILC Chair effective November 30, 2019. Dr. Applewhite volunteered to serve as AZSILC Vice Chair in interim.

Sarah Kader thanked Dr. Danita Applewhite for her service to the AZSILC. Kader stated that according to the bylaws, if the Chair role becomes vacant, the Vice Chair will automatically assume the role of Chair. Consecutively, the new Chair will appoint the new Vice Chair. Such appointment will need to be ratified by AZSILC members. Then the two positions serve for the unexpired portion of the term or until the election of a successor.

Dr. Danita Applewhite explained that she has been an IL advocate for over 40 years. Dr. Applewhite explained that the role of AZSILC Chair is a tremendous responsibility. At this time, she is unable to dedicate the time needed and desires to allot more time to efforts related to veterans who have disabilities. Dr. Applewhite noted that is leaving the responsibility of AZSILC Chair not the IL movement.

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Report of the AZSILC Staff:

Director of Operations Report

Sarah Kader presented the Director of Operations Report. Kader stated that she will begin maternity leave within days. Sarah Kader stated that she had no concerns regarding AZSILC operations during her absence as Melissa Ann Santora will assist where needed.

Kader shared that she continues to participate in the State Legislative House Committee that addresses abuse and neglect of people with disabilities in state licensed facilities. She stated that committee meetings are open to the public and testimonies can be provided. The recordings of the meetings are available online at azleg.gov.

Sarah Kader also attended an AZPOST Committee which addresses how the police deal with people who have disabilities. The committee is working to create a curriculum and/or best practices for the police force throughout the state.

Sarah Kader explained that the AZSILC hosts a quarterly SILC Regional IX teleconference. The most recent meeting was in October 2019. Sarah Kader is also the SILC Representative for the region. She participated in a separate Regional SILC Representative Congress meeting where they discussed the upcoming conference.

Kader also stated that the SPIL Development Committee met in October 2019 to discuss the process and goals for the next SPIL. There will be public forums and meetings in the beginning of 2020. Sarah Kader encouraged everyone to complete and the distribute the Living with a Disability Survey. This survey was created and being administered by ASU Morrison Institute. Kader asked Tahneesha Smith to send the survey to all AZSILC Council members after the meeting.

Dr. Danita Applewhite inquired about the survey deadline.

Sarah Kader stated that the survey deadline was the end of December.

Dr. Danita Applewhite urged AZSILC members to complete the survey and to encourage one friend to do the same.

Joy Pearson-Johnson asked why the current SPIL was being replaced.

Sarah Kader explained that the AZSILC is required by federal law to renew the SPIL every three years. New data is collected to help improve the SPILs effectiveness and impact.

Melissa Ann Santora stated that although the same goals may appear in a subsequent SPIL, the process of developing a new SPIL would still have to be followed. Santora shared that AZSILC is very responsive to the emerging needs of the state and that is why the Arizona SPIL has been amended in recent years.

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Susan Molloy, Eileen Tohonnie and Dr. Danita Applewhite requested hard copies of the survey.

Melissa Ann Santora stated that hard copies can be made available upon request to the AZSILC staff.

Director of Innovation Report

Melissa Ann Santora presented the Director of Innovation Report. Santora explained that she continues to cultivate relationships during the current off-peak AZYLF season. Santora stated that new Arizona Education and Empowerment Initiatives (AZEI) and Underserved/ Unserved Contracts were sent to the Directors of the Centers of Independent Living (CIL). Melissa Ann Santora announced that she was re-elected to the APRIL Board of Directors, and will be serving as Secretary. Santora complimented Sara Ann Joehnk for her stellar work and emergency preparedness efforts.

Disability Integration Specialist Report

Sara Ann Joehnk shared the Disability Integration Specialist Report. Joehnk stated that the Emergency Preparedness Committee will host seasonal workshops. The first, a Winter Workshop, will take place on Friday, December 13th in Taylor, Arizona. There are several community partners for the event.

Sara Ann Joehnk explained that Haley Nicoll is serving an Emergency Preparedness Internship, for fall 2019. Nicoll will be assisting Joehnk with social media and marketing efforts and other administrative needs.

Sara Ann Joehnk shared that she and Scott Lindbloom will submit a proposal to present at the SILC Congress Conference in February 2020.

Sara Ann Joehnk announced that she had been elected to the Coyote Crisis Collaborative Board of Directors. There are two upcoming events in December 2019.

There was a brief discussion related to emergency preparedness needs and connecting with Navajo representative and tribal leaders.

Dr. Applewhite inquired about the presence of Independent Living and/or Vocation Rehabilitation at colleges on Navajo nation.

Paula Seanez explained there were two colleges on Navajo nation which do have disability resource staff.

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Administrative Support Specialist Report

Tahneesha Smith provided a short Administrative Support Specialist Report. Smith highlighted that she had updated the SILC Congress Conference website to reflect the upcoming conference in February 2020. Smith shared that she prepared travel arrangements for council members for the recent APRIL Conference in October 2019 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Melissa Ann Santora added that the AZSILC Financial Review process had begun.

Report of the AZSILC Committees:

Scott Lindbloom, Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair, provided a committee report. Lindbloom stated that two or three more committee members were added. There are currently eleven committee members. Lindbloom has contacts in different counties and is also actively seeking opportunities to partner and collaborate with others. Scott Lindbloom expressed his appreciation for all of Sara Ann Joehnk's efforts. Lindbloom is anticipating good attendance at the Winter Workshop in December 2019.

Scott Lindbloom suggested that Sara Ann Joehnk have a part time assistant.

Sara Ann Joehnk clarified the procedure and need of a part time assistant.

Dr. Applewhite thanked Scott Lindbloom for all his hard work.

Shawnique Cotton shared an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to participate in a pilot program with Lyft as ADA evaluators.

Dr. Danita Applewhite asked Shawnique Cotton to expound on the opportunity during the meeting announcements.

Audra Paletta, SPIL Evaluation Committee Chair, presented the committee report. Paletta highlighted several updates regarding the progress of the current SPIL. She stated the Morrison Institute survey had been distributed and would remain active until the close of December 2019. The Consumer Satisfaction Report from the IL Network will be provided to AZSILC by the end of November 2019. The survey Consumer Satisfaction Report results will be included in the Annual PPR (formerly 704 Report). Paletta also shared updates as it related to the Youth Leadership Initiatives.

Susan Molloy, SPIL Development Committee Chair, provided a committee report. The SPIL Development Committee met on October 31, 2019. Molloy shared that the next meeting will be in January 2020 to discuss the Morrison Institute survey results. Susan Molloy stated there would be five public forums during February - April. Participants will be able to attend by phone or in person. The meetings will be held near the regional Centers for Independent Living. Susan Molloy

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stated there would be another committee meeting after the public forums. The SPIL draft should be completed by the end of April 2020. Molloy shared that any SPIL related questions could be emailed to Melissa Ann Santora.

Dr. Danita Applewhite reminded the members that the SPIL is the responsibility of the entire council. She encouraged all council members to do their part in helping to develop the new SPIL.

There was a brief conversation surrounding the SPIL.

Report of the AZSILC Partner Agencies:

The Independent Living (IL) Network report was presented by Eileen Tohonnie, Executive Director, of ASSIST to Independence. Tohonnie stated that most centers are working on their Annual 704 Report. Tohonnie shared that New Horizons was working with veterans and had recently opened a sports and fitness center. There was no report for DIRECT at this time. ASSIST hosted a recent Disability Walk to raise awareness in the area. ASSIST also hired a new Community Action Coordinator. SMILE is currently working on their audit.

Paula Seanez suggested that ASSIST work with the new CIL located in Farmington, New Mexico. Seanez shared that there is a lack of priority in regard to serving the underserved Native American community in that area.

There was a brief conversation regarding the need for services and support in the Native American communities.

Dr. Danita Applewhite stated that the Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration (AZRSA) Report would be tabled until the next quarterly meeting.

Paula Seanez suggested that the council request a written report if the AZRSA Representative is unable to be present at the meetings.

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Report was provided by Dr. Danita Applewhite. Dr. Applewhite stated that the new commissioner desires to partner more with the IL Network and Vocational Rehabilitation. She also shared that there had been an increase in job placements over the last year. There are three VR tribal programs as well.

Scott Lindbloom shared that SRC will meet on November 7, 2019 to determine the new chair for the upcoming year.

Dr. Danita Applewhite encouraged that more council members join the SRC as new members are needed.

Sarah Kader, Arizona Disability Coalition (ADC) Chair, provided an agency report. Kader stated that the ADC newsletter had been published in September 2019. The goal of the newsletter is

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to be a centralized medium to find statewide resources. Kader asked members to contact Tahneesha Smith if they had not received the newsletter and/or wanted to be included on the ADC mailing list. Sarah Kader shared that the ADC is currently planning for the Annual Day at the Capitol to be held in March 2020 and a social networking event. The ADC recently held a successful meeting on October 16, 2019. In conclusion, Sarah Kader welcomed newsletter contributions and feedback via email.

Announcements

Dr. Applewhite reminded members to complete the survey and order hard copies if needed. In addition, she encouraged members to attend the Winter Workshop in Taylor, AZ on December 13th.

Shawnique Cotton shared additional information regarding the opportunity to serve as an ADA evaluator. Cotton asked interested members to email her for more information.

Call to the Public:

AZSILC Chair, Dr. Danita Applewhite called for public comment. No public comment was received.

Adjournment:

Scott Lindbloom moved to adjourn the meeting. Susan Molloy seconded the motion. Dr. Applewhite adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm.