

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES



Monday, March 30, 2020 at 1:00– 4:00 pm PST  
Videoconference/Teleconference ONLY

**Council Members Present:** Shawnique Cotton, Scott Lindbloom, Kristen Mackey (Ex-Officio), Susan Molloy, Suann Moore, Audra Paletta, Randy Russell, Wendy Swager, Eileen Tohonnie

**Council Members Absent:** Dr. Danita Applewhite, Joy Johnson-Pearson, and Paula Seanez

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

**Public Present:** Brittany Johnson

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Susan Molloy, AZSILC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10pm. Welcome and introductions were completed.

### **Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:**

Susan Molloy called for public comment. No public comment was received.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Susan Molloy asked if the committee members have all received and read the meeting minutes from November 6, 2019. Wendy Swager moved to approve the minutes as written from the November 6, 2019 meeting. Scott Lindbloom seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Report of the Chairperson:**

Susan Molloy shared her experience at SLIC Congress in February 2020. Susan was impressed by the attendance at SILC Congress and by the presentations given by Regina Blye, from the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Susan thanked Sara Ann Joehnk for leading an Emergency Preparedness presentation that was well received and timely with COVID-19. Susan also thank Laura Duval for working on the presentation with Sara Ann, despite being ill at the time. Susan stated that Melissa Ann Santora conducted a great workshop. Susan was especially grateful for Scott Lindbloom's help, not just with planning for SILC Congress, but helping with the logistics of airport travel. Susan Molloy asked for additional comments from other attendees.

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Scott Lindbloom shared that he has attended SILC Congress several times and this year was the best one. He noticed there were more Vocational Rehabilitation counselors present, as well as members from DSEs (Designated State Agencies). Scott stated that he learned a lot at the 2020 SILC Congress and especially from Melissa's Branding Your SILC Strategic workshop.

Melissa Ann Santora also attended the 2020 SILC Congress. Melissa stated that there was much discussion about developing state plans and the new tool by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Melissa stated that Arizona stands out nationally at events like SILC Congress, because we are one of the model organizations there and we cannot relate to the problems experienced in other states. Alaska and Minnesota are discussing formal mentorships with AZSILC for their own youth leadership forums, but the current COVID-19 concerns might cause delays. The Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) also met with Melissa in-person at SILC Congress to discuss using Arizona as a best practice model for other states.

### **Report of the AZSILC Staff:**

#### *Director of Operations Report*

Sarah Kader presented the Director of Operations Report. Sarah stated she wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the changing time this is with COVID-19. AZSILC staff are here to help and she encouraged AZSILC Council members to reach out if they had any questions. Sarah explained she had been back to work for three weeks from maternity leave before COVID-19 came to Arizona. She stated her goals were to be open and transparent with the Council and continue to work together as a SILC family.

Sarah stated that her first few weeks back were spent on the Arizona Disability Coalition's Day at the Capitol event. This event was followed by the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Listening Sessions which were held in-person in Window Rock, Tuba City, and Prescott Valley. The listening sessions that were scheduled for Phoenix and Tucson were instead conducted online only. The proposals for the new SPIL included keeping Arizona Education and Empowerment Initiative (AZEI), Youth Initiatives, Employment First, and the Arizona Disability Coalition (ADC). The Listening Sessions also included adding Healthcare Accessibility and Emergency Preparedness to the SPIL.

Sarah gave an update on AZSILC Council Membership. Sarah stated she has reached out to Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) about having a member from there on the AZSILC Council. She is looking for a state agency who represents people who have disabilities that can serve on the council. AZSILC membership is currently in compliance, but recruitment to the Council is needed after the resignations last year of Dara Johnson and Peter Fischer. AZSILC received a letter from the governor's office about compliance issues that were incorrect. Sarah is working with the governor's office to make the corrections.

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Susan Molloy asked if AZSILC membership became non-compliant due to a delay at the governor's office, would the governor be liable, and if all the SILCs experience this delay then they should create a group letter about the issue. Melissa Ann Santora stated that the appointment authority for most SILCs is the governor's office, but a group letter would be unnecessary for Arizona. Kristen Mackey stated that many boards and councils experience a delay getting appointments approved. Melissa stated that recruitment for AZSILC council members should occur in September for July appointments.

### Director of Innovation Report

Melissa Ann Santora presented the Director of Innovation Report. Melissa covered the Director of Operation's role while Sarah Kader was on maternity leave. Melissa submitted the Project Performance Report (PPR), formerly called the 704 report, to the Administration for Community Living (ACL). This report was not approved. Melissa stated that nationally only 22 SILCs received approval on their first PPR. These problems are mostly technical rather than problematic. Melissa worked with Kristen Mackey to correct the problem to the report which was regarding the method Part B funds are reported. There is currently no mechanism to report if a bill came late. The wording of the form will likely change.

Susan Molloy commented that there were out-of-date demographic questions on the form regarding the number of females or males the receive services at the Centers for Independent Living. The section of the form on disability also did not include environmental sensitivity.

Melissa stated that it is currently the prime season to recruit for Arizona Youth Leadership Forum (AZYLF) and the school closures have been nothing less than catastrophic for recruitment. Melissa stated that they are still trying to find the best way forward. The primary funder of AZYLF has agreed to conducting AZYLF virtually. Contracts have already been negotiated with different Universities to host the five 5-day conferences and the one 10-day conference. Melissa has been working to adapt the AZYLF curriculum and make backup plans.

Scott Lindbloom asked if Melissa and Kristen Mackey could work together to contact Vocational Rehabilitation counselors regarding AZYLF. Melissa responded that they already work together for AZYLF recruitment.

Susan Molloy asked if it would be worth advertising for AZYLF in the newspapers. Melissa answered that in previous years newspaper ads were not part of their recruitment process, but it is being discussed this year as a result of the school closures.

### Disability Integration Specialist Report

Sara Ann Joehnk shared the Disability Integration Specialist Report. Sara Ann stated that the contract with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) regarding the 2020 Partners in

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Preparedness Summit and summer internships was signed this morning (March 30, 2020). Sara Ann has been participating in the SPIL listening sessions and is working to include emergency preparedness in the next SPIL. Recently her work has been focused on COVID-19. The Emergency Preparedness Committee developed a two-page flyer explaining COVID-19 and how to protect yourself.

### **Report of the AZSILC Committees:**

Scott Lindbloom, Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair, provided a committee report. Scott stated the last meeting was on March 19, 2020. The Committee is planning for the 2020 Partners in Preparedness Summit to be online or in Phoenix, depending on the status of COVID-19. Jeff Oakes from ChangePoint will be conducting a workshop about managing COVID-19 in a group home setting. The Committee is also inviting Todd Holloway from the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) to the Summit, who was able to speak to the committee at the previous meeting. Lewis Kraus from the Pacific ADA will be giving the keynote presentation. Scott stated the committee has a new member representing the Behavioral Health Council, Kathy Bashor. The committee continues to work with Laura Dix and Robin Oothoudt from the Arizona Coalition on Healthcare Emergency Response (AzCHER).

Susan Molloy asked if the committee has heard any COVID-19 updates from the Arizona State Hospital. Sara Ann responded that they did not have any updates currently.

Shawnique Cotton asked if prisons are taking any action to protect incarcerated individuals who have disabilities. Sara Ann responded that this is an important issue nationally, and the committee would look into the issue for Arizona.

Audra Paletta, SPIL Evaluation Committee Chair, presented the committee report. Audra stated that the SPIL Evaluation committee met on February 5, 2020. Audra highlighted several updates regarding the progress of the current SPIL. The committee has not received the full report from the Morrison Institute on the Needs Assessment Survey. Diverse Ability secured the locations for the 2020 Arizona Youth Leadership Forum and is now working to secure a special exception due to COVID-19. The last Arizona Youth Engagement Academy (AZYEA) was completed in January. The Arizona Education and Empowerment Initiative (AZEI) contracts have been renegotiated with the five Centers for Independent Living. AZEEI is a standard item at IL-Network meetings.

Susan Molloy, SPIL Development Committee Chair, provided a committee report. The SPIL Development Committee last met on October 31, 2019. Susan Molly asked Melissa Ann Santora for clarification on the plan for the SPIL Development Committee. Mellie explained that the SPIL Development Committee recommendations were the bases of the listening sessions and there would be another committee meeting now the public forums have been concluded.

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Susan Molloy recommended a Personnel Committee Meeting. The last Personnel Committee Meeting was in July 2019. Laura Duval will schedule this committee meeting.

### **Report of the AZSILC Partner Agencies:**

The Independent Living (IL) Network report was presented by Eileen Tohonnie, Executive Director, of ASSIST to Independence. Eileen stated that most of the Centers for Independent Living are continuing to provide services despite COVID-19 restrictions and office closures. Centers are having their staff participate in online trainings while at home, including those from the ILRU. There was no report for New Horizon at this time. Eileen stated mostly nonprofits are still working in the Navajo Nation and Hopi Reservation to distribute food and needed services. People in the area are commonly unaware of the current COVID-19 threat.

Kristen Mackey provided the Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration (AZRSA) Report. The AZRSA has been working on their COOP plan and how to continue to provide services which are considered essential. The AZRSA have stopped group orientation and have stopped requiring individuals to come into the office or to sign documents. Their goals during COVID-19 are to be as flexible as possible and to work with providers to support their activities. Most of their staff is now working from home.

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Report was provided by Scott Lindbloom. The last SRC meeting was cancelled. Scott stated that next SRC meeting will be on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Sarah Kader, Arizona Disability Coalition (ADC) Chair, provided an agency report. Kader stated the Day at the Capitol event was successful. This was a two-day event on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The first day had two trainings, Advocacy 101 and an advance course. The next day had scheduled meetings with representatives at the state capitol. The coalition is considering an October training day in the future before hosting the springtime Day at the Capitol event. The next ADC meeting will be conducted online on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Sarah shared that the goal of the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be to get individuals more engaged in the coalition.

### **Announcements:**

Shawnique Cotton shared additional information regarding the United Final Association of AZ, which soon will be offering online peer support. They had their first board meeting last week. Shawnique asked interested members to email her for more information.

Susan Molloy thanked Wendy Swager for attending the Council meeting from New Zealand.

### **Call to the Public:**

AZSILC Chair, Susan Molloy called for public comment. No public comment was received.

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

### **Adjournment:**

Scott Lindbloom moved to adjourn the meeting. Wendy Swager seconded the motion. Susan Molloy adjourned the meeting at 3:41 pm.