

**Executive Committee of the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council  
Meeting Notes of January 28, 2016**

**Participants:**

Jennifer Longdon, Bob Michaels, Jenn-Yun Tein, Georgia McLaughlin

**Staff:**

Larry Wanger, Melissa Ann Santora, Lilia Zacchia

**Welcome/Introductions:**

Jennifer Longdon, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:40pm. Jennifer welcomed all to the meeting, and introductions were completed.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes: (Action)**

Jennifer Longdon entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes for December 3, 2015. Jenn-Yun Tein motioned to approve the meeting minutes for December 3, 2015. Georgia McLaughlin seconded that motion. The vote carried unanimously.

**Approval of Monthly Financials: (Action)**

Jenn-Yun Tein motioned to approve the November and December 2015 monthly financials. Bob Michaels seconded this motion. There was no discussion and the vote carried unanimously.

Larry Wanger gave a brief report on the budget after the monthly financials were approved by the Executive Committee. Larry explained that our fiscal year draws to a close at the end of June and that AZSILC is well on track in terms of the budget. Larry also alerted the committee about anticipated increased spending in several areas (due to having more Council Members than anticipated at SILC Congress, as well as an increased cost for printing). Larry additionally explained that DES must approve the fund reallocation. Larry also discussed his plan to meet with RSA to discuss the future budget, as we are nearing the end of the third year of the SPIL.

**Chair's Report: (Jennifer Longdon, Chair) (Action/ Information)**

Jennifer Longdon stated that her report would be brief. She complemented the SILC staff on the success of SILC Congress, which she heard from various sources, was a very well received event.

**Executive Director's Report: (Larry Wanger, Executive Director) (Information)**

Larry Wanger gave a brief report on SILC Congress, stating that it was a very well received event. Larry also announced that it was voted upon at SILC Congress that the conference will be held in Phoenix, Arizona again in 2017. Larry mentioned that he is putting together information to send to hotels for proposals.

Bob, Jenn and Georgia all stated that they very much enjoyed the conference and the nice weather during the three-day weekend.

Jennifer stated that options should be explored as alternatives to holding SILC Congress over

Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend. Larry Wanger agreed and mentioned that the SILC Congress Committee has addressed moving the conference away from MLK weekend.

Larry gave a report on the SPIL Development process. He indicated that our process has been somewhat different than that of other organizations and that he was hopeful to start the process earlier in 2019. He highlighted the process being used by the ADDPC as another example where representatives from community organizations are providing significant input in to the process. Larry stated that SPIL development is an intensive process, requiring more meetings and attention. Additionally, Larry alerted the committee that there is now a time-crunch regarding the SPIL. Larry told the committee that the next steps in the SPIL development process are: working on a proposed draft, getting feedback from the SPIL Development committee, then making the SPIL available for public comment (ideally around mid-March). Larry also said that the SILC staff will be working on Logic Models next week, to better understand how to measure SPIL goals and objectives.

Larry also spoke about Emergency Preparedness. Larry announced that he is meeting with ADHS and stated that they want SILC to continue participating in Emergency Preparedness by Co-Chairing the task force. In regard to Emergency Preparedness and Statewide Plan for Independent Living, Larry mentioned that not much feedback was given in surveys/forums regarding Emergency Preparedness in Arizona. While Larry knows that EP assistance is needed, we are limited in understanding exactly how to proceed, due to limited feedback in surveys and forums. Further, responses to community forums and surveys indicate strongly that we should prioritize other areas.

Jennifer stated that because of weather changes, Emergency Preparedness has become an increasingly problematic issue. Jennifer mentioned that she is serving on a Portlight Technology Task Force, in collaboration with the Red Cross. This committee is tasked with changing the culture of Emergency Preparedness. Jennifer stated that there have been more calls about Emergency Preparedness and Disasters this month than they would expect in one entire quarter. Jennifer predicts that Emergency Preparedness will become an increasingly bigger issue, citing the snow storm which recently occurred on the East Coast. Jennifer stated that shelters often reach a stumbling block and are unsure about what to do in disaster situations. Jennifer closed by saying that Emergency Preparedness is an important issue to address, but that these shelters and the Red Cross should know what they are doing by now.

Larry responded by stating that he believes that Arizona is more ready than we may think in terms of Emergency Preparedness and the State has taken steps to incorporate various issues into their planning.

Larry reported that AZSILC is again having to address appointment issues. Larry said that there are several Council Members ending their appointments, and leaving the Council. He provided a list of individuals ending the 2<sup>nd</sup> term and those concluding their first noting that we need to be encouraging candidates to apply. Larry said he has contacted the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions in regard to changes with WIOA as well as approval of appointments in a timely manner. Larry mentioned that there are several spots that need to be filled or re-appointed on our Council, due to many members' second terms ending. Larry mentioned the importance of

recruiting more Council Members and asked if anyone had any suggestions on Council Members, to send them his way.

Larry announced that there are several disability-related Bills and pieces of Legislation that he is following in the state legislature. Larry stated that the Service Animal Bill regarding service animals appears to be dead. Larry also mentioned that there are a number of Bills, which are not directly disability related that may affect early voting. One of the issues that Larry is following relates to Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) funding increase in the Governor's budget proposal. There is a lot of negotiation likely to occur. At this time, there is no opportunity for public comment in the budget hearing process. Larry mentioned that he will send the Council information regarding this funding increase, stating that it is extremely important for the Council to follow up with their representatives in order to talk to them about the needs for this funding. The fear is that the Governor/ Legislator will support other priorities.

Office updates, Larry stated that Lilia Zacchia (an Arizona State University, Masters of Social Work student) began working at SILC three weeks before the SILC Congress.

Larry gave the Council an update regarding staff Health Insurance, Larry stated that there has been a significant rise in insurance premiums. Larry explained that SILC has been paying 100% of the premium for full time staff (Larry and Melissa). The plan was canceled and Larry and Melissa shopped around, but are still with HealthNet. Larry stated that his health premium is \$481 per month and has gone up quite a bit. Melissa's health premium is \$587 per month. Overall Larry stated that SILC is paying \$1,069 dollars in health-care premiums. Larry stated that, although the budget can cover it, he wants the Council to be aware of the full cost of the health care premium.

Larry also mentioned that about a year ago, the Council authorized \$300 for AZSILC staff to have access to the Ability360 Sports and Fitness Center. Those funds are now gone. Bob Michaels mentioned that he feels a gym membership is a good idea. Jennifer Longdon stated that Larry and Melissa use the gym often.

Jennifer stated that SILC staff health and fitness is a bonus to the Council. Jennifer mentioned that she would be willing to support the SILC staff's continued health and fitness. Jennifer entertained a motion to continue to pay for SILC staff gym memberships at the Ability360 Sports and Fitness Center and to discuss a specified membership dollar amount.

**After much discussion about the various options,** Jennifer Longdon indicated that AZSILC clearly wants to make a generous contribution, but without the exact membership prices, it is not possible to make an informed decision.

Bob Michaels motioned to approve payment for 2 workouts a week for three staff members for 30 days. Georgia McLaughlin seconded. All were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Larry reminded the Executive Committee that the SILC office lease expires in late 2018, and discussion for the future is acceptable at this time. Jennifer Longdon indicated that it would be practical to begin looking at alternatives.

**Review and Discussion of Council Bylaws: (*Information*)**

Larry Wanger sent a document to the Executive Committee featuring proposed changes to the bylaws, in response to WIOA changes.

Bob Michaels indicated that in addition to those items proposed, it is also appropriate to eliminate the position of Vice Treasurer, and to add a description of Resource Development.

Larry indicated that the final changes need to be provided to AZSILC members in the meeting prior to when they are voted on. Ideally, this would occur before the SPIL is submitted to the Administration on Community Living for approval. This would mean a vote in April or June.

Larry proposed that he make some amendments to the draft bylaws and send them to the Executive Committee for review and feedback. Perhaps it would be beneficial to have someone with a legal background also review the changes prior to providing the proposed bylaws to the full SILC. Larry also indicated Executive Order also needs to be changed.

**Announcement: (*Information*)**

No announcements were given.

**Call to Public: (*Information*)**

No comments.

**Adjournment: (*Action*)** Jennifer Longdon thanked members of the committee for their participation. A Motion was made by Bob Michaels and seconded by Georgia McLaughlin. All were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.