

**Statewide Independent Living Council
Council Meeting
ABILITY360 Board Room and Teleconference
5025 E Washington Street, #214. Phoenix, Arizona 85034
Unapproved Minutes of Thursday, June 9, 2016**

Council Members Present:

Jennifer Longdon, Pete Weaver, Scott Lindbloom, Danita Applewhite, Georgia Mclaughlin, Jen Yin Tien, Paul Ferry, Laura Duval, Randy Russle, Bob Michaels, Larry Clausen, Wendy Swager, Paula Seanez, Dara Johnson

Council Members Absent:

Megan Cox, George Garcia, Rudy Buchanan, Joe Lee Yazzie, Jonathan Hoyt

Staff

Lilia Zacchia, Larry Wanger, Melissa Ann Santora

Public

Catherine Rea, Steve Eastwood, Vicki Cuscino, Karen Thompson,

Welcome/Introductions:

Jennifer Longdon, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Jennifer welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were completed.

Meeting Minutes:

Jennifer Longdon asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the April 28th, 2016 Full Council meeting and the May 10th, 2016 Nominating Committee meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Bob Michaels. Danita Applewhite seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, passing with 13 voting in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

Monthly Financial Statements:

Larry Wanger provided a brief report on the April financial statements.

He stated there were no outstanding issues and that, at that time, the budget was tracking as expected.

He stated that he would discuss more about the current financial picture later in the meeting as it relates to the end of the 2016 fiscal year.

Jennifer Longdon asked for a motion to approve the April financial statements.

A motion to approve the statements was made by Larry Clausen. Bob Michaels seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously, passing with 13 voting in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

Review and Request to Amend FY2016 Budget:

Larry Wanger indicated that SILC has a fairly significant amount of funding remaining in some line items thanks to lower costs than anticipated. Factors contributing directly to the surplus included lower than anticipated costs related to SPIL development, lower than anticipated costs for health, workers compensation and liability insurance, a vacancy in the Office Manager position for just over four months during the year and some additional factors. He stated that any funds that we fail to use are returned to RSA for client services and, while that is a good thing, there are some needs

in the office that could be addressed. With that said, Larry provided an overview of the amendment that would move funds to line items including equipment, information technology, staff training and staff travel.

Equipment

Larry stated that there is a need to replace old, poorly functioning computers which would allow staff to utilize increasingly accessible, up-to-date software. He proposed moving \$2,500 in remaining funds from Administration/ Executive Director to Equipment, as well as \$2500 in remaining funds from Administration/ Office Manager, resulting in a total of \$5,000 being moved to the equipment line.

Supplies

Larry proposed moving \$650 from Administration/ Director of Administration to Office Supplies as well as moving \$950 from Operating/ Software to Office Supplies, resulting in \$1,600 being moved to this line.

Information Technology

Larry then proposed moving \$573 from Operating/ Auditor to Information Technology.

Staff Training

Larry suggested that we move \$1,000 from Operating/ Maintenance to Staff Training, resulting in a \$0 remaining balance in Maintenance.

Staff Travel

Finally, Larry proposed moving \$1,400 from Operating/ Accounting to Staff Travel.

Jennifer Longdon asked for a motion to approve the budget amendment. A motion to approve the amendment was made by Danita Applewhite. Larry Clausen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, passing with 13 voting in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

Chair's Report:

Jennifer Longdon announced that this will be her last meeting as the Chair of the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council. She then indicated that updates on Council appointments and other issues will be provided by Larry in his report.

Report from the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers:

Jennifer Longdon noted that the Nominating Committee met on May 10th and agreed on a list of nominees to serve as officers on the SILC Executive Committee. The following Council members were recommended (and have accepted nominations) as Executive Officers:

Danita Applewhite (**Chair**)

Laura Duval (**Vice Chair**)

Pete Weaver (**Secretary**)

Wendy Swager (**Treasurer**)

Scott Lindblom (**Vice Treasurer**)

Jennifer Longdon asked for a motion to approve the nominated Executive Officers. A motion to approve the committee was made by Larry Clausen. Paula Seanez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, passing with 13 voting in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

Direct Center for Independence Presentation:

Vicki Cuscino, Executive Director of DIRECT! Center for Independent Living provided an informative presentation highlighting activities at the CIL in Tucson. She noted changes that have taken place in some areas since she became the Executive Director in 2015, how core services are provided, things that are going well and successes for the organization as well as some of the challenges they are working on.

Executive Director's Report:

Larry Wanger stated that Boards and Commissions has been increasingly responsive, assisting the SILC in ensuring that upcoming vacancies on our Council will be filled in a timely manner. Larry encouraged the Council to direct personal or professional connections that would be interested in serving on our Council to our website.

Larry also noted that, with the election of officers during this meeting, the entire Executive Committee and leadership of the organization was lost due to the fact that each of their terms expire this month. He suggested that it would be far more advantageous for the SILC if terms were staggered so that fewer people left the Council in any given year. For example, he noted that we will have no vacancies in 2017 to fill but that 2018 and 2019 would then be similar to 2015 and 2016 in terms of turn-over with the Council. Boards and Commissions expressed support for looking at this issue as well as the possibility of reducing the size of the Council.

Additionally, Larry reminded Council members that the 2016 Arizona Youth Leadership Forum is currently 3 days away. This year, 20 youth from across the State of Arizona will participate in the conference. Larry stated that the SILC will provide a detailed report and statistical analysis of the event. Lastly, Larry announced that Ability360 will sponsor two AZYLF Alumni to attend the NCIL Conference in Washington DC

Larry shared with the Council that SILC participated in the recent two-day Emergency Preparedness training, which occurred in La Paz County. Larry announced that this training "went well" and that it likely will be scheduled to occur in Mohave County.

Larry mentioned his hope that in the upcoming months, we will work on the re-branding of the Statewide Independent Living Council (including, but not limited to our logo). Larry stated that many of the activities in the upcoming 2017-2019 State Plan provide us with an opportunity to have a high-level of visibility within the Arizona community (due to training, education, and empowerment initiatives).

Recognition of outgoing Council Member:

Jennifer took a moment to recognize the outgoing members of the Council and a list of those individuals was read aloud and Council members commented on their experiences serving on the Statewide Independent Living Council.

2-1-1 Arizona presentation Catherine Rea and Steve Eastwood:

Catherine Rae and Steve Eastwood have been working closely with Arizona Centers for Independent Living during the past two years in order to build an effective, comprehensive information and referral database, especially in relation to increasing and improving the information that is available to persons who have disabilities. 211 is an easy to remember toll-free phone number (and website) that connects callers with local community services (such as food, shelter, counseling employment assistance, job search tools, permanent housing and more).

Catherine and Steve highlighted the success of the partnership, reporting that there has been a 52 percent increase in the number of disability related services added to their database.

State Rehabilitation Council:

Danita Applewhite summarized the recent SRC meeting. Danita stated that an additional 10 million dollars will be added to AZRSA's budget that will assist the approximately 4,000 individuals on the waiting list for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Danita additionally expressed that SRC is supportive of the Arizona Youth Leadership Forum and noted that Larry provided a presentation to the SRC at the May meeting.

RSA Update

Paul Ferry provided the update on behalf of AZRSA. He stated that, due to the increased funding for the agency, there will be an increase in consumers seeking services from Vocational Rehabilitation. he provided further explanation about the state and federal match and the net increase in funding that will be received. Finally, he mentioned that AZRSA staff will be participating in the AZYLF.

Approval of the 2017 – 2019 State Plan:

Larry Wanger provided a brief overview of the 2017 – 2019 State Plan for Independent Living, highlighting goals and objectives in the document and the process that will take place over the next few weeks resulting in submission of the Plan to ACL before June 30. He also mentioned the public hearing that was conducted on June 1.

For the 2017 – 2019 State Plan, no written comments were received, but AZSILC staff did receive a few phone-calls. Larry also mentioned that during the public hearing, there was some concern over no longer using Part-B dollars to pay for the ILRS program that Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration was operating.

Bob Michaels expressed significant concern related to the source of SPIL funding dollars, commenting that, due to his unease, he is unsure as to whether he will vote to approve the current State Plan. His concerns were specific to the use of Social Security Reimbursement funds for the SILC Resource Plan. Larry provided the Council with some detail about the differences between SSA Reimbursement and I&E funding, noting that SSA dollars are not stable in that the amount received by the state differs from one year to the next whereas i&E funds are set. Larry noted that he tried to get information from AZRSA regarding the amount of SSA Reimbursement funds received each year for at least the past three years but that he was told this is not public information.

After much discussion regarding the funding issue and the concerns Bob presented, Jenn Yin-Tien motioned to approve the SPIL strongly objecting to the use of Social Security

Reimbursement dollars in lieu of I&E dollars to fund the SILC Resource Plan, and to direct the staff to continue to advocate for the use of I&E funding to fund the SILC resource Plan. Paula Seanez seconded the motion. The motion carried, passing with 12 voting in favor, 1 against, and 0 abstaining.

Announcements:

Council members terming out were presented with a plaque to thank them for their service on the SILC.

Call to the Public:

No comments were received.

Jennifer Longdon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to approve the motion was made by Danita Applewhite. Laura Duval seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, passing with 13 voting in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.