

**Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council – Emergency Preparedness Committee**

Unapproved Minutes for Wednesday, March 13, 2019 (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM)

Meeting Held Via Teleconference

**Committee Members Present:**

Darrel Christenson (Ability360) and Scott Lindbloom (AZSILC)

**Staff Members Present:**

Sara Ann Joehnk

**Public Present:**

None

**Welcome to the Committee (Information):**

Scott Lindbloom, Vice-Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, called the meeting to order at 12:01pm.

**Public comment on agenda items only. (Information):**

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

**Introduction to Committee Members (Information):**

All committee members present stated their name and association with Centers for Independent Living in Arizona.

**Winter Snow Storms and Sheltering-in-Place (Information):**

Scott Lindbloom, resident of Show Low, shared his experience in the recent snow storm to hit Northern Arizona. The city of Show Low received two feet of snow during this single event. Individuals with mobility-related disabilities found it more difficult, if not impossible, to get around their communities. Scott pointed out that simple tasks, such as going to the grocery store, became a struggle on the snow-covered sidewalks. Although the roads might be clear, the snow on the sidewalks made traveling inaccessible for individuals using a wheelchair or other mobility devices. Scott recommended that individual preparedness training for individuals who have disabilities include more information on stocking up in advance to shelter-in-place during winter storms. Scott would like the committee to research what methods other cities have taken to clear their sidewalks following snow storms, such as Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Flagstaff, Kingman, Payson, Prescott Valley, Tuba City, and Williams. Scott mentioned a starting place for research could either be with Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) or with these local governments.

Darrel Christenson responded that the city government would be the entity in charge of the sidewalks, rather than ADOT. Some sidewalks are private property and would be managed by the owners of a business or residential complex. The city government often will have rules regarding these private sidewalks that include clearing debris in a timely manner. In some cases, city employees will help clear debris, but the city will charge a fee. If the individual is unable to clear debris on their own, they often rely on neighbors and friends in the community to assist them in clearing the sidewalks.

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Sara Ann Joehnk brought up the City of Chandler, which doesn't have snow to clear off the sidewalks, but the city has a volunteer program for individuals who have disabilities to get free assistance with yard maintenance. A program like that might already exist in some of the Northern Arizona cities regarding snow.

Scott Lindbloom stated he will bring up this issue at the next ADA Advisory Committee for his Legislative District. Scott also stated Tuba City might have the same issues as Show Low during the winter storms. Darrel Christenson reminded the committee that from a SILC perspective, the AZSILC Emergency Preparedness Committee should be focused on the state of Arizona as a whole, and not one specific neighborhood or one specific city. Sara Ann Joehnk agreed with importance of the committee working on statewide priorities. Sara Ann asked the committee, if the effort of the committee's work in Show Low were to inspire the city to create a solution, and then the Emergency Preparedness Committee shared the work by the city of Show Low with other cities, would that be a local project or could it be considered a statewide initiative. Darrel answered that this would be an example of sharing "Best Practices" and would fit the objectives of this committee.

Darrel Christenson asked if there are already communities in Northern Arizona that have a program to address the inaccessibility of sidewalks due to snow and he suggested contacting the Centers for Independent Living, New Horizon's and ASSIST, to find out more information.

Scott Lindbloom suggested the Emergency Preparedness Committee build relationships with the county emergency managers, especially those in Apache and Navajo Counties. Scott mentioned that funding could be a hurdle for the cities in starting any program. He would like to see an ADA Advisory Committee in each city that makes it a priority to address emergency preparedness issues effecting individuals who have disabilities in their area.

### **Where to Share Best Practices Among SILCs and CILs (Information):**

Sara Ann Joehnk explained she is unsure where to share "Best Practices" learned or developed by the AZSILC Emergency Preparedness Committee. Sara Ann has been attending the National Council on Independent Living's subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness. This subcommittee is very active and has experienced members from both the independent living and emergency planning fields. Sara Ann mentioned though she was hesitant that this national committee was the right place to be sharing "Best Practices" for SILCs and CILs since their activities have been focused on the changes required by the Administration on Community Living, the American Red Cross, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to effectively prepare for individuals who have disabilities.

Darrel Christenson stated he is on the Executive Committee of the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL). He recommended the committee contact Todd Holloway, the Chair of NCIL's Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, and discuss with him both the history of the subcommittee and how to best share AZSILC's Emergency Preparedness committee work with

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their national-level subcommittee. Darrel mentioned that the NCIL website and social media could be a useful place to share information, as well as the upcoming NCIL Conference.

Darrel Christenson asked if the five Centers for Independent Living still have their Executive Directors meeting, and that this could be another place for sharing information. Sara Ann Joehnk responded that the Executive Directors for each CIL meet during the Independent Living Network, or IL Network, meetings. The next IL Network Meeting will take place on March 25, just before the AZSILC Full Council Meeting.

### **Developing Emergency Plans for Arizona CILs (Information):**

Sara Ann Joehnk updated the committee regarding emergency plans at the five Centers for Independent Living. Although two of the five CILs have emergency plans, all the Centers need to work on their facility's plans. Sara Ann reported that she sent Antonio Hernandez, from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), the Centers' current plans and has asked for feedback. Sara Ann suggested that Antonio or another staff member from ADHS join the next committee meeting to advise the members on the next steps in developing these emergency plans. Scott informed the committee that he will be unable to attend the next committee meeting. Sara Ann suggested the committee record the guest speaker's portion and send the recording to the committee members who are unable to attend.

Scott Lindbloom suggested the committee work in partnership with nearby states, like Colorado and New Mexico. Darrel Christenson brought up that working across state lines can get complicated due to funding which is allocated to the work of one specific state. Sara Ann Joehnk brought up an opportunity the committee has to work with other states coming up. There is a national level exercise that ADHS is participating in with New Mexico. AZSILC could reach out to the New Mexico Statewide Independent Living Council and start building those relationships by working on the national exercise together.

Darrel Christenson stated that AZSILC and the Arizona CILs had attempted to get a line item included in the State's budget that would give additional funds to the five current Centers and fund the building of two more Centers to cover the underserved areas of Arizona. At the time, the State budget was tight and experiencing additional budget cuts. Additional funding from the state would help individuals who have disabilities in rural areas without the Centers having to go across state lines for partnership.

Scott Lindbloom suggested the April Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting have a reduced agenda to give the guest speaker more time. Sara Ann Joehnk stated she will contact Peter Fischer, Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, about the April meeting.

### **Committee Member Roundtable (Information):**

Scott Lindbloom opened the meeting for input from the committee members. No additional comments at this time.

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**Announcements (Information):**

No announcements.

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

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

**Adjourn (Action):**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm.

UNAPPROVED