



**Monday, March 25, 2019**  
**Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council**  
**3839 N 3rd St #306, Phoenix, AZ 85012**

**This meeting was also available via video-conference.**

**Council Members Present:** Dr. Danita Applewhite (Via Video Conference), Laura Duval, Scott Lindbloom, Kristen Mackey (Ex-Officio) Susan Molloy, Audra Paletta, Randy Russell, Paula Seanez, Carla Shelton, and Eileen Tohonnie

**Council Members Absent:** Dara Johnson (Ex-Officio), Joy Johnson-Pearson, and Wendy Swager

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

**Public Present:** None

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Dr. Danita Applewhite, AZSILC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06 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:**

Paula Seanez requested that her statement on page six of the December 17, 2019 meeting minutes be amended. The corrected statement should read "Paula Seanez, who also attended the SRC meeting, shared that RSA recently increased the salaries of their employees. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) will continue to support the second and third year Master's program through completion. No additional support will be provided through the RSA collaborative agreement for counselors and staff."

Kristen Mackey clarified that the Vocational Rehabilitation Services will no longer pay for full Master's degrees program of supporting staff through the University of Arizona.

Paula Seanez moved to accept the December 17, 2019 meeting minutes as amended.

Eileen Tohonnie seconded the motion. The following voted in favor: Dr. Danita Applewhite, Laura Duval, Scott Lindbloom, Susan Molloy, Audra Paletta, Randy Russell, Paula Seanez, Carla Shelton, and Eileen Tohonnie. The following opposed: None. The following abstained: None. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Laura Duval asked Melissa Ann Santora to expound upon the 2020 combined budget. The AZSILC Board of Directors approved the SILC Resource Plan portion of the combined budget at the Board meeting on March 20, 2019. The Part B Budget includes State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) activities which require Council approval. The SPIL amendment was approved, and the IL Network and AZSILC approved the intent to extend the amended SPIL for an additional year. Melissa Ann Santora explained the Federal Fiscal Year 2020 SPIL activities' distributions of objectives and federal award increase with a state match.

Audra Paletta asked for clarification on the state matching program.

Kristen Mackey provided an overview of how the state matching program operates.

Other questions related to the Arizona Education and Empowerment Initiatives and SPIL were addressed.

Laura Duval moved to approve the 2020 combined budget as presented to the Council.

Paula Seanez seconded the motion. The following voted in favor: Dr. Danita Applewhite, Laura Duval, Scott Lindbloom, Susan Molloy, Audra Paletta, Randy Russell, Paula Seanez, Carla Shelton, and Eileen Tohonnies. The following opposed: None. The following abstained: None. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Dr. Danita Applewhite asked for an update from the AZSILC Board of Directors. No comments were provided.

Melissa Ann Santora provided a SPIL Extension Update. Santora shared that the Administration for Community Living approved the amendment to the SPIL in February 2019. AZSILC is now in the process of obtaining signatures to submit a one year SPIL extension, which will be Year 3 of the amended SPIL in its entirety. The amendment includes more involvement in the Arizona Employment First program. Through the work of the Centers of Independent Living the amended SPIL will also provide for enhanced outreach to the unserved/underserved populations in each service area.

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

Sarah Kader began her Director of Operations Report by thanking Melissa Ann Santora for the training she has and is still receiving in her new role. Kader attended her first SILC Congress Conference in February 2019. Sarah Kader currently oversees the Board of Directors and AZSILC operational logistics. Kader plans to visit all five Centers of Independent Living soon. She will be visiting ASSIST to Independence and New Horizons Disability Empowerment Center the week of March 25th.

In February of 2019, Sarah Kader was elected Chairperson of the Arizona Disability Coalition. Kader shared the success of the Arizona Disability Coalition's Day at the Capitol held on March 13, 2019. The event boasted close to one hundred people.

During the Director of Innovation Report, Melissa Ann Santora, explained the recent change to the financial duties in efforts to streamline the bookkeeping process and maintain lower operating expenses.

It is anticipated that financial training responsibility for financial matters will be fully transitioned to new AZSILC staff by April 30, 2019. Santora shared that Diverse Ability Incorporated received significant funding to afford the opportunity to host five 5-day regional Youth Leadership Forums and one 10-day statewide Youth Leadership Forum. As in the past, the conferences will provide pre-employment courses, peer-based training and more. The pass-through funding from AZSILC to Diverse Ability Incorporated is administered by the Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Melissa Ann Santora reminded the Council that she will be transitioning to full time employee status with Diverse Ability Incorporated , and will provide plenty of advanced notice.

Santora attended and presented at the 2019 SILC Congress Conference in Orlando, FL in February 2019.

Sara Ann Joehnk presented the Disability Integration Specialist Report. Joehnk announced that registration was open for the Partners in Preparedness Summit to be held in June of 2019 in Phoenix, Arizona. She thanked the Centers for Independent Living for their support in securing 700 responses to their recent public survey. 55% of the submissions came from people who have disabilities.

Joehnk is working on a new Emergency Preparedness guide book in collaboration with the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and Dads for Special Kids.

Sara Ann Joehnk stated that the Emergency Preparedness Committee plans to share their information and strategies with the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) in efforts to help other Statewide Independent Living Councils.

Dr. Danita Applewhite commented that Arizona is setting the standard both in emergency preparedness and in youth initiatives.

Paula Seanez and Susan Molloy raised concerns regarding preparedness in rural areas in Arizona.

In response to concerns raised, Sara Ann Joehnk stated that the Emergency Preparedness Committee was reaching out to resources for further information to best address these concerns.

Sara Ann Joehnk was recently interviewed by LivAbility Magazine.

Tahneesha Smith shared a brief Administrative Support Specialist Report. Smith has continued to receive training on financial operations. She helps with the coordination of meeting and events. Smith helped maintained the SILC Congress Conference website and assisted in the re-branding of the AZSILC website.

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

Sara Joehnk did not provide any further comments on the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

During the SPIL Evaluation Report, Laura Duval shared that the SPIL Evaluation Committee met on March 11, 2019. Duval reported that the SPIL Amendment had been recently approved and new objectives will be reflected in future reports. Duval reported that the customer satisfaction survey data will be sent to the AZSILC staff.

Melissa Ann Santora shared her excitement about the upcoming Youth Leadership Forums and the stellar trainings that will be available to attendees.

Audra Paletta commented on the impact the Youth Leadership Forums has had on her life and her continued involvement in Youth Leadership Initiatives.

Laura Duval explained that Objectives D2 and D3 needs attention regarding how it is reported on the SPIL. AZSILC currently does not have a Policy or a Resource Development Committee.

In regard to Objective D2.2, it more fittingly should read, "The AZSILC decided the particular activities are not appropriate at this time but the objective and indicator are achieved through AZSILC's participation within the Arizona Disability Coalition."

Melissa Ann Santora explained the SPIL lists a Resource Development Committee. Currently, there is no such committee which would make AZSILC in noncompliance. Resources do not have to only be financial.

Kristen Mackey expanded on Santora's comments.

There was further discussion by Sarah Kader, Dr. Danita Applewhite and Laura Duval regarding Resource Development and Board of Directors' functions. Laura Duval suggested that with the organizational restructuring, the Board of Director is serving as the Resource Development Committee, and that like the Policy and Legislation Committee, future report to the SPIL Evaluation Committee should indicate such. Council members expressed agreement.

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

Kristen Mackey, the RSA Administrator, provided the Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration Report. Mackey stated that serving everyone is a top priority which includes removing individuals off the current waitlist. RSA is currently removing 100-170 individuals off the waitlist every month.

Mackey shared that they now have an open enrollment for vendors which helps expand its vendor network. The agency is working to make their processes more consistent across the state of Arizona.

Dr. Danita Applewhite encouraged members to report any problems within in respective regions to Kristen Mackey.

Kristen Mackey addressed follow up questions regarding her report shared by Paula Seanez.

Scott Lindbloom provided a brief State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Report.

Laura Duval, the Center for Independent Living Representative, presented the Independent Living Network Report. The IL Network conducted a meeting on March 25, 2019. All Center Directors were present with the exception of one. Ability360 recently held their fundraising breakfast to benefit their Sport and Fitness Center. Ability360 reported that senior staff will be retiring in the coming months to years. They are also exploring youth transitions. DIRECT is pursuing a new counseling direction. They recently acquired a nonprofit. SMILE made updates to their website. They are also experiencing ongoing transportation concerns. Assist to Independence is working with new Tribal Leaders to determine how to best serve the community.

Laura Duval explained concerns with use and/or partnership with Arizona 211. Currently, the 211 website does not properly represent information regarding Independent Living and the Arizona Centers for Independent Living. Melissa Ann Santora and Sarah Kader will work together to address concerns with their website.

Dr. Danita Applewhite requested that the Arizona 211 topic be included on the agenda to be addressed at the next council meeting.

The next AZSILC Council meeting is not scheduled, and a Doodle Poll will be sent to establish a meeting time. **Announcements**

Susan Molloy expressed concern about accurate reporting on the 704 report by Centers to reflect the accurate picture about Centers being accessible to people who have a variety of disabilities. Physical access for the majority does not mean a Center is accessible to everyone, and specifically mentioned scented products as a concern.

Dr. Danita Applewhite invited everyone to listen to the Dr. Applewhite Talk Show on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Call to the Public:**

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

**Adjournment:**

Paula Seanez moved to adjourn the meeting. Laura Duval seconded the motion. Dr. Applewhite adjourned the meeting at 3:20 pm.