



## Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (UNAPPROVED)

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting

All AZSILC Board members and staff participated via Zoom.

### **Board Members Present:**

Dr. Danita Applewhite, Carla Shelton, Laura Duval, Scott Lindbloom, Randy Russell

### **Staff Members Present:**

Melissa Ann Santora, Sarah Kader, and Tahneesha Smith

### **Public Present:**

None

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Dr. Danita Applewhite, AZSILC Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03pm. Introductions were completed, and Dr. Applewhite welcomed all to the meeting.

### **Public Comment (on agenda items only):**

Dr. Danita Applewhite called for public comment. No public comments were received.

### **Report of the Treasurer:**

Laura Duval provided a summary of the December 2018-January 2019 financial statements, and asked Melissa Ann Santora to review the drafted SILC Resource Plan 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter amendment for fiscal year 2019, and the drafted 2020 combined budget for advancement to AZSILC Council.

Melissa Ann Santora shared that the drafted 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter SILC Resource Plan amendment for fiscal year 2019 reflected the cost of the new staff members in regard to equipment, training and travel. She also noted that the Accounting costs have continued to exceed budgetary expectations, and indicated that AZSILC staff will begin to start doing more of the data entry, which will cut down on these costs going forward.

Santora stated the combined budget for advancement to AZSILC Council accounts for potential salary increases for AZSILC staff. The document also reflects the SPIL Objectives and pass-through funding to Diverse Ability Incorporated for Arizona Youth Leadership Initiatives.

Scott Lindbloom inquired about transportation costs for AZSILC Council members' travel. Melissa Ann Santora stated that the Council travel, training and accommodations are mandated and must be accounted for in the budget. She encouraged members to



travel to meetings to have a in person connection with other members at least once a year.

Scott Lindbloom moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Carla Shelton seconded the motion.

Dr. Danita Applewhite, Carla Shelton, Laura Duval, Scott Lindbloom, Randy Russell were all in favor. Zero opposed and zero abstained. The motion was approved.

**Personnel Committee Discussion:**

Sarah Kader explained the need for the establishment of the Personnel Committee. The committee will assist in executive level staff evaluations, staff retention efforts and succession planning.

Scott Lindbloom shared his prior experiences with staff evaluations while serving on the AZSILC.

Melissa Ann Santora stated that the Personnel Committee is the responsibility of the AZSILC Board of Directors as stated in the bylaws. The current Personnel Committee members are Laura Duval and Randy Russell, as appointed by former Chairperson, Peter Fischer.

Scott Lindbloom volunteered to join the committee. Dr. Danita Applewhite accepted this offer, and announced that the Personnel Committee had been established. Sarah Kader indicated that AZSILC staff would assist with the coordination of a Personnel Committee meeting.

Melissa Ann Santora inquired about the involvement of the Board in succession planning as she transitions to Diverse Ability Incorporated. Dr. Applewhite indicated that the Board does not feel it is necessary to participate in the planning process, and trust that Melissa will inform them of her plans in advance of her departure.

**State of Organizational Affairs:**

Sarah Kader, AZSILC Director of Operations thanked Melissa Ann Santora for the training she has received for her new role. Kader also shared her experience at her first SILC Congress Conference in February 2019. Sarah Kader will be visiting all the Arizona Centers for Independent Living in the near future. She will be visiting New Horizons Disability Empowerment Center and Assist to Independence the last week of March 2019.

Sarah Kader stated that the Arizona Disability Coalition was reestablished this year and held its first meeting in February 2019. The Arizona Disability Coalition's Day at the Capitol held on March 13, 2019 was a great success with nearly one hundred participants.

Melissa Ann Santora, AZSILC Director of Innovation, stated that the expansion funding to Diverse Ability Incorporated had been received. Therefore, there will be five regional,



**Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council Board of Directors Meeting**  
Unapproved Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 2:00pm

and one statewide Youth Leadership Forums, this year. Previously there were only two conferences.

Melissa Ann Santora shared that the new Arizona Education and Empowerment Initiatives curriculum has been implemented by the Centers for Independent Living.

Santora explained that Sara Ann Joehnk is coordinating the 2019 Partners in Preparedness Summit to be held in June 2019 in Phoenix.

**Announcements:**

Dr. Danita Applewhite announced the 2019 APRIL Conference. Laura Duval shared that the event will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan during October 25-28, 2019.

Dr. Danita Applewhite announced that the AZSILC is currently comprised off over 51% of individuals who have disabilities. She noted that some disabilities are not always seen. Dr. Applewhite encouraged members to share personal disability information that might be helpful for AZSILC to maintain this status.

Scott Lindbloom announced that the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)RSA meeting will be held on May 9, 2019.

**Call to the Public:**

Dr. Danita Applewhite called for public comment. No public comments were received.

**Adjourn:**

Scott Lindbloom moved to adjourn. Randy Russell seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:57pm.