



Thursday, May 30, 2019
Ability360 – Classroom B
5025 E. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034

Meeting was available via
videoconference/teleconference.

Council Members Present: Dr. Danita Applewhite, Shawnique Cotton, Laura Duval, Scott Lindbloom, Kristen Mackey (Ex-Officio), Susan Molloy, Suann Moore, Randy Russell, Wendy Swager, and Eileen Tohonnie

Council Members Absent: Dara Johnson (Ex-Officio), Joy Johnson-Pearson, Audra Paletta, Paula Seanez, and Carla Shelton

Staff Present: Sarah Kader, Sara Ann Joehnk, 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:

Wendy Swager made a motion to accept the March 25, 2019 meeting minutes.

Susan Molloy seconded the motion. The following voted in favor: Dr. Danita Applewhite, Shawnique Cotton, Laura Duval, Scott Lindbloom, Susan Molloy, Suann Moore, Randy Russell, Wendy Swager, and Eileen Tohonnie. The following opposed: None. The following abstained: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Laura Duval presented the Treasurer's Report. She began with the explanation of the distribution of Part B Funds. The AZSILC Board has proposed that the funds in the amount of \$40, 560 be used for youth initiatives in Arizona which aligns with Goal B of the State Plan of Independent Living (SPIL).

A few additional moments were provided for Susan Molloy to review the Part B Distribution document before voting.

Melissa Ann Santora provided an overview of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

Dr. Danita Applewhite expressed her deep appreciation for the current AZSILC staff members. An applause was given.

Shawnique Cotton inquired about the number of members on the Board of Directors.

Melissa Ann Santora confirmed the amount of 5 on the AZSILC Board of Directors and 14 Council Members.

Laura Duval reintegrated how beneficial it is to use the Part B funds for the youth leadership initiatives which will provide a great impact statewide.

Kristen Mackey, the RSA Administrator, provided a summary of how Part B funds are calculated and received from the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Part B funding is grant money received from ACL given to AZSILC in which they distribute to the Centers for Independent Living (CILs). The funds must be utilized within a two-year window.

Wendy Swager made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report to include the Fiscal Year 2019 Part B Funds Distribution. Randy seconded the motion. The following voted in favor: Dr. Danita Applewhite, Shawnique Cotton, Laura Duval, Scott Lindbloom, Susan Molloy, Suann Moore, Randy Russell, Wendy Swager, and Eileen Tohonnie. The following opposed: None. The following abstained: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of the Chairperson:

Dr. Danita Applewhite asked Laura Duval for an AZSILC Board of Directors update.

Laura Duval stated the AZSILC Board of Directors had met and approved the February 2019 – April 2019 Financial Statements, 4th Quarter Budget Amendment, and Part B Funds Distribution Proposal. They also approved Personnel Policy and Procedures and discussed AZSILC Staff Evaluations. An Executive Session convened to discuss other items.

Sarah Kader provided a brief update on the concerns surrounding the 211 services and website. The 211 website is an exhaustive resource tool which includes a disability section. Kader stated that she had been working with their staff to address the website and how to make improvements. Her goal is to ensure that the information included on their website is accurate and helpful for individuals with disabilities.

Dr. Danita Applewhite agreed that the 211 website needed more clarification to properly represent disability resources.

There was a brief conversation among members regarding 211 services and experiences.

Report of the AZSILC Staff:

Sarah Kader presented the Director of Operations Report. Kader shared her current responsibilities and role highlights. She stated that her responsibilities have continued to increase. Kader has been working to update policy and procedures within the organization along with meeting logistics.

Sarah Kader is the Arizona Disability Coalition (ADC) Chairperson. Her role on ADC helps AZSILC to meet its advocacy goals outlined in the State Plan for Independent Living. The ADC Board recently held a

meeting. They are planning to create a quarterly robust digital newsletter of valuable resources. Kader requested individuals with ideas to include in the newsletter to notify her.

Susan Molloy inquired about ADC providing training to Legal Aide how to assist individual with disabilities in rural areas.

Sarah Kader asked that Susan Molloy contact her for further discussion on legal resources.

Sarah Kader plans to travel to Centers of Independent Living in Yuma and Tucson in August 2019. Kader have been actively attending local meetings to raise organizational awareness. She recently attended two meetings of interest that involved proper police officer training when dealing with individuals with disabilities. Another meeting of interest involved participation in the 2020 census by individuals with disabilities.

Dr. Danita Applewhite asked that the Arizona Disability Coalition be included on future agendas under Partner Organization Updates.

Melissa Ann Santora presented the Director of Innovation Report. She shared that the Arizona Youth Leadership Forum (AZYLF) begins the first week in June 2019 in Tsaille, Arizona. Santora is extremely excited about its location. The AZYLF in Tsaille will be followed by other regional locations in Yuma, Prescott, Phoenix and Tucson. The final AZYLF will be hosted in Phoenix as a statewide conference. Melissa Ann Santora provided a short background of Youth Leadership Forums engages delegates on a self-discovery process among other life skills and information. Alumni of the AZYLF continue to be active in the community.

Santora continues to oversee the Arizona Education and Empowerment Initiatives (AZEI), Underserved/Unserved Initiatives and Employment First.

Melissa Ann Santora will be mentoring her fourth state on how to execute a Youth Leadership Forum.

Dr. Danita Applewhite acknowledged all the hard work Melissa Ann Santora has done with the Arizona Youth Leadership Forum.

Dr. Applewhite noted that Shawnique Cotton, new AZSILC member, was a graduate of Arizona Community Leadership Academy (CLA).

Shawnique Cotton briefly shared her wonderful experience with CLA.

Dr. Danita Applewhite encouraged AZSILC Council Members to get involved with the AZYLF. She urged them to save the date in order to attend the AZYLF graduation in Phoenix.

Melissa Ann Santora shared that the graduation at the Statewide AZYLF in Phoenix would be held on Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 6pm – 9pm. The graduation location is to be determined.

Sara Ann Joehnk shared the Disability Integration Specialist Report. Joehnk explained that she has been working on the Partners in Preparedness Summit. The summit will take place on Tuesday, June 11, 2019.

Joehnk shared outcomes of a recent report created by the National Council of Disability. Sara Ann Joehnk highlighted from the report, the possibility of grants for emergency preparedness efforts distributed to Centers for Independent Living in the future.

Sara Ann Joehnk's grant with Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) has been renewed and increased to \$65,000 each year.

Melissa Ann Santora is grateful for Sara Ann Joehnk's hard work. She is the right person for this role.

Tahneesha Smith shared the Administrative Support Specialist Report. Smith continues to transition into her new role growing in understanding of the financial and bookkeeping responsibilities of the organization. Smith is working with Sarah Kader to create new helpful procedures to streamline processes. Tahneesha is looking forward to attending the AZYLF as a staff member in Prescott.

Report of the AZSILC Committees:

Sara Ann Joehnk provided an Emergency Preparedness Committee Report. The Committee is looking to potentially restructure in near future. No current meetings are scheduled. The committee is researching ways to make sidewalks more accessible in Northwest Arizona after snowstorms. They are working with Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) on the Ebola demonstration.

Susan Molloy recommended adding concerns surrounding controlled burning in rural areas that affect individuals living with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and asthma to the Emergency Preparedness Committee discussion.

During the SPIL Evaluation Report, Laura Duval, shared the SPIL Evaluation Committee met on May 20, 2019. They reviewed each goal and objective listed in the SPIL. They are awaiting to receive additional information regarding SPIL amendment and extension from the Administration for Community Living.

Melissa Ann Santora explained the SPIL to include its goals and objectives. The current SPIL has been extended by one year. There are five Center for Independent Living in which AZSILC partners to achieve goals. The SPIL represents what the state designated as needed. The funding may fluctuate but the goals and objectives remain the same.

Susan Molloy voiced her concerns regarding rural area's needs being represented in the SPIL.

Melissa Ann Santora encouraged council members with concerns or issues to voice them at a public forum to help get them prioritize for inclusion in future SPILs. The masses must mobilize to make a difference and be heard.

Melissa Ann Santora further encouraged council members to join and take an active role on the SPIL Evaluation Committee.

Randy Russell and Wendy Swager had to leave the meeting.

Susan Molloy volunteered to be member of the SPIL Evaluation Committee.

Dr. Danita Applewhite appointed Susan Molloy to the SPIL Evaluation Committee.

Report of the AZSILC Partner Agencies:

Kristen Mackey, the RSA Administrator, provided the Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration Report. Mackey stated they are continuing to remove individuals off their waitlist. RSA is making great strides. The current waitlist has decreased from 5,000 to less than 600. Their goal is to have no one on the waitlist by July or August 2019.

Also, in July or August 2019, RSA is piloting two custom employee trainings in Tucson.

Mackey stated that the Governor had mandated that all government agencies use Google for email and calendaring. They are working on this conversion to be completed by the end of June 2019.

Dr. Danita Applewhite that the SRC had not held recent meetings due to the lack of quorum.

Scott Lindbloom shared that the next scheduled SRC meeting would be on June 20, 2019.

Laura Duval, the Center for Independent Living Representative provided the Independent Living Network Report. The IL Network conducted a meeting on May 30, 2019. The topics addressed at the meeting were data collection from consumer surveys and AZEEI course updates. The IL Network would like to see full representation of all center directors at meetings and longer meeting times with a different format.

No meeting was scheduled at this time.

Announcements

Scott Lindbloom shared a conference taking place in Snowflake, AZ on September 16-17, 2019.

Dr. Danita Applewhite asked Lindbloom to send additional event information to Sarah Kader or Tahneesha Smith.

Call to the Public:

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

Adjournment:

Scott Lindbloom moved to adjourn the meeting. Susan Molloy seconded the motion. Dr. Applewhite adjourned the meeting at 3:21 pm.