

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES



Thursday, August 29, 2019  
Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
100 North 15<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 104, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Meeting was available via  
videoconference/teleconference.

**Council Members Present:** Dr. Danita Applewhite, Shawnique Cotton, Scott Lindbloom, Susan Molloy, Suann Moore, Audra Paletta, Randy Russell, and Wendy Swager

**Council Members Absent:** Laura Duval, Joy Johnson-Pearson, Kristen Mackey (Ex-Officio), Paula Seanez, and Eileen Tohonnie

**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 12:49 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:**

Scott Lindbloom made a motion to approve the May 30, 2019 meeting minutes.

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

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

Dr. Danita Applewhite asked Scott Lindbloom to provide a brief Board of Directors Report. The report included the approval of APRIL Conference attendees and May - July 2019 Financial Statements.

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Dr. Danita Applewhite shared that Scott Lindbloom and two other AZSILC Council Members will be attending the APRIL Conference in October 2019. Dr. Applewhite encouraged other interested members to complete the online request form.

Sarah Kader explained that any council member interested in training can submit their request by completing the development and training form online. The link to the online form was provided in a recent email.

Susan Molloy shared that she was planning to also attend the APRIL Conference.

Dr. Danita Applewhite inquired about the form submission deadline for individuals still interested in attending the APRIL conference.

Melissa Ann Santora stated the deadline had already passed and the AZSILC Board would have to decide if they will consider late entries.

### **Ratification of the Vice-Chair Appointment:**

Dr. Danita Applewhite nominated Susan Molloy for the role of AZSILC Vice-Chair. Carla Shelton recently resigned due to scheduling conflicts.

Susan Molloy accepted the nomination.

Dr. Danita Applewhite appointed Susan Molloy as the Vice-Chair of AZSILC.

Scott Lindbloom made a motion to approve Susan Molloy as the new Vice-Chair of AZSILC.

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

### **Creation of the SPIL Development Committee:**

Sarah Kader explained that the SPIL Development Committee is a temporary committee that is used to develop the next State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) and help initiate the process of gathering public comments. The next three-year SPIL cycle will be 2021-2024. The SPIL Evaluation Committee unlike the SPIL Development Committee regularly reviews current objectives and goals.

Dr. Danita Applewhite explained the importance of the SPIL. Dr. Applewhite encouraged council members to learn more about the SPIL by asking questions.

Sarah Kader stated that SPIL information is included in new AZSILC member training, but members are always welcome to ask her questions.

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

### **Appointment of Committee Chairs:**

Dr. Danita Applewhite appointed the following AZSILC Council Members as Committee Chairs: Susan Molloy, SPIL Development Committee; Audra Paletta, SPIL Evaluation Committee; and Scott Lindbloom, Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Scott Lindbloom made a motion to accept the AZSILC Committee Chairs.

Suann Moore seconded the motion of the new AZSILC Committee Chairs as presented Dr. Danita Applewhite.

Sarah Kader reminded the council that other members will be needed to serve on the SPIL Development Committee.

Scott Lindbloom volunteered to serve on the SPIL Development Committee along with Shawnique Cotton and Dr. Danita Applewhite.

Scott Lindbloom requested members also volunteer to serve on the Emergency Preparedness Committee. There were no volunteers at this time.

Dr. Danita Applewhite encouraged AZSILC members to invite non-members to join committees.

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

Sarah Kader presented the Director of Operations Report. Kader shared that the AZSILC Staff had completed their end of fiscal year financial accounting. She also indicated that AZSILC Staff had improved internal processes for meetings. Sarah Kader also shared that she was recently appointed to a State Legislative House Committee to address abuse and neglect of people with disabilities in state licensed facilities. The committee was created by Representative Jennifer Longdon. The new committee is requesting stories of individuals that have been personally affected by abuse or neglect in a state licensed facility. Sarah Kader also provided an update on the Arizona Disability Coalition (ADC) on which she is the current Chair. Kader shared that the ADC Board of Directors had met regularly this year. The ADC Board is finalizing their inaugural statewide newsletter. The quarterly newsletter will be published soon. Kader is scheduled to visit the Centers for Independent Living in Yuma (S.M.I.L.E.) and Tucson (DIRECT Center for Independence). She also stated that the preparation for creating the new SPIL had begun. The Morrison Institute of Public Policy at Arizona State University has been contracted to administer a survey to collect needed data for the SPIL. The survey will be released in early September 2019 and data collection would continue through the end of 2019. In conclusion, Sarah Kader, shared that she was expecting a child and would be on maternity leave from mid-November 2019 – February 2020.

There was a short discussion regarding partnerships and features of the ADC newsletter.

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

There was also questions and a brief dialogue surrounding the ad-hoc committee to help address abuse and neglect in state licensed facilities.

Melissa Ann Santora presented the Director of Innovation Report. Santora stated that it had been an extremely busy summer full of youth initiatives in which she led. There were five 5-day regional Youth Leadership Forum across the state and 1 ten-day statewide Youth Leadership Forum. This new multiple conference model was successful and will continue to be used. Dr. Danita Applewhite presented an award at the statewide forum graduation in Phoenix, Arizona. Melissa Ann Santora stated that the Youth Engagement Academy had graduated students and currently employees one of them to help operate the academy. The Alumni Association is close to completing their fiscal year's goals. Santora shared that the Arizona Education and Empowerment (AZEI) Initiative is going well. Santora shared that one Center for Independent Living (CIL) had taught the Living Well with a Disability in Spanish. This class was the first of its kind in Arizona and there is a waiting list for the next training. Melissa Ann Santora explained that she continues to work and serve on committees related to Employment First, Community Practice of Transition, and Access Person-Centered Planning efforts. Santora stated AZSILC's current contract with the Department of Health Services (DHS) had been re-negotiated for emergency preparedness efforts. Pursuant to new contract, AZSILC will receive \$65,000 which is an increase of \$10,000 in funding. In closing, Melissa Ann Santora expressed her satisfaction of the direction AZSILC is going with new staff and organizational structure.

Sara Ann Joehnk shared the Disability Integration Specialist Report. The new funding received from DHS contract will allow her and one other to attend the SILC Congress in February 2020. It will also allow Joehnk to present specialized training at the Centers for Independent Living later in 2019. Sara Ann Joehnk shared there will be a paid fall internship that will focus on social media outreach. Joehnk shared the success of the Partner in Preparedness Summit. Joehnk provided highlights from her participation in National Crimson Contagion 2019 Functional Exercise. Sara Ann Joehnk will attend the ADA Pacific Conference in California in September 2019.

Dr. Danita Applewhite suggested that Joehnk's emergency preparedness efforts be reflected more on the AZSILC website with a hyperlink to the website for the Partners in Preparedness Summit.

Tahneesha Smith presented a short Administrative Support Specialist Report. Smith reiterated similar administrative efforts already provided by Sarah Kader. She also shared her experience at the Youth Leadership Forum in Prescott, Arizona.

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

Sara Ann Joehnk provided an Emergency Preparedness Committee Report. Joehnk stated that the next committee meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2019. She thanked Peter Fischer

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

for his service to the group as the previous Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair. Scott Lindbloom has been recently appointed as the new committee chair.

Scott Lindbloom, Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair, expressed some goals for the committee. Lindbloom wants to focus on emergency preparation for the upcoming winter months, specifically in Showlow and northwest Arizona. He also expressed his concerns with issues surrounding extreme heat in the Phoenix area.

Dr. Danita Applewhite requested ways the AZSILC can support the efforts of the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Dr. Applewhite suggested that the committee work with the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Scott Lindbloom suggested that AZSILC provide training and use other state as models.

There was a brief discussion about potential ideas and partnership to assist in the efforts of the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Dr. Danita Applewhite asked if the SPIL Development Committee can meet with the SPIL Evaluation Committee.

Melissa Ann Santora stated that a combined meeting is possible.

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

The Independent Living (IL) Network and Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration (AZRSA) Reports were not given. These reports were tabled until the next quarterly meeting.

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Report was provided by Scott Lindbloom. He shared brief highlights from their recent meeting. Lindbloom would like to see more integration between the SRC and AZSILC.

Dr. Danita Applewhite suggested that the SRC be invited to future AZSILC meetings.

Melissa Ann Santora stated that an AZSILC member is required to serve on the SRC. The federal law is designed that the two entities remain separate; although, they partner in certain areas. Santora stated there are currently three SRC representatives on the AZSILC and are present at meetings when available.

### **Announcements**

Susan Molloy provided announcements. Susan Molloy shared her experience as an attendee at the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) Conference located in Washington, DC in July 2019. Molloy stated there was a great deal of discussion surrounding intersectionality, diversity

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

and inclusive. She also stated there was discussion regarding the Threat Assessment, Prevention, and Safety (TAPS) Act which may conflict with or weaken HIPAA. Molloy also explained the new Electronic Visit Verification System (EVV) and concerns associated with the new system. Susan Molloy conveyed the plead that was heard at the NCIL Conference to lessen the use of 911 calls and involvement for situations with males of color unless absolutely needed.

Dr. Danita Applewhite thanked the AZSILC Staff for implementing new administrative processes.

### **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. Shawnique Cotton seconded the motion. Dr. Applewhite adjourned the meeting at 2:49 pm.