

LOUISIANA STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
February 1, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Members	Wednesday, February 1, 2023	Thursday, February 2, 2023	Role
Archaga, Yavonka	Present	Present	CIL Representative
Bottley, Jarrod	Absent	Present	Parent
Broussard, Daryn	Absent	Absent	Self-Advocate
Credeur, Danielle	Present	Present	CIL Representative
Dartez, Randy	Present	Present	CIL Representative
Fontenot, Lynette	Absent (COVID-19)	Absent	Self-Advocate
Garafolo, Claudia	Absent	Absent	Self-Advocate
Jett, Esther	Absent	Absent	Agency serving Dis
Murray, Teri	Present	Present	Self-Advocate
Hammond, Alicia	Present	Present	CIL Representative
Harrell, Antionette	Present	Present	Self-Advocate
Bordelon, Brandy	Present	Present	Self-Advocate
Green, Tamara	Present	Present	Self-Advocate
Ex-Officio Members	Wednesday, February 1, 2023	Thursday, February 2, 2023	Agency
Brown, Bernard	Absent	Absent	LDH- OCDD
Crain, Cheri	Present	Present	GOEA
Gradney, Charlene	Absent	Present	LDH- OBH
Jackson, Welma	Absent	Absent	LDVA
Murrell, Eleanor	Present	Present	LWC-LRS
Wilson, Juon	Absent	Absent	LHC
Vacancy			
Staff	Wednesday, February 1, 2023	Thursday, February 2, 2023	Agency

Ennis, Jamar Lanier	Present	Present	SILC Coordinator
Guests	Wednesday, February 1, 2023	Thursday, February 2, 2023	Agency
Kelly, Paige	Present	Present	SLIC
Tinnin, Mollie	Present		FEMA
Whiteside, Libby	Present		DRLA
Dean, Gale	Present	Present	New Horizons

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Call to Order – Yavonka Archaga (1:03 p.m.)

Yavonka Archaga, Vice-Chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) called February 1, 2023 meeting to order at 1:03 pm. A brief moment of silence was held in recognition of a SILC ally who was not present at the meeting.

Roll Call / Determination of Quorum – Esther Jett (1:06 p.m.)

Executive Director Ennis conducted Roll Call. Quorum was established.

Introductions – Members and Guests (1:10 p.m.)

Yavonka Archaga, encouraged all participants (Members and Guests) of the February 1, 2023 meeting to introduce themselves and their official capacities.

Pledge of Allegiance - Lead by members (1:15 p.m.)

Yavonka Archaga, led the participants of the February 1, 2023 meeting in the reading of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mission Statement (1:20 p.m.)

The SILC members and guest in attendance recited SILC's mission statement below together in unison:

“The mission of Louisiana’s Independent Living program(s) is to maximize the

leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, facilitating integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society. Louisiana's IL Partners promote a philosophy of Independent Living, including: consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy."

Approval of February 1st and 2nd Agenda(s) (1:25 p.m.)

Alicia Hammond made a motion to approve the February 2023, SILC meeting agendas, Antionette Harrell seconded the motion to approve the February 2023 SILC agendas. The motion to approve the February 2023, meeting agendas passed without any abstentions, discussions, or objections.

Approval of November 2022 Meeting Minutes (1:30 p.m.)

Randy Dartez made a motion to approve the November 2022 meeting minutes with corrections, Terri Murray seconded the motion to approve the November SILC meeting minutes. The motion to approve the November 2022 meeting minutes passed without any abstentions, discussions, or objections.

SILC Quarterly Budget Update- Daryn Broussard (1:40 p.m.)

Executive Director Ennis, on behalf of Daryn Broussard the Treasurer of SILC provided an update regarding the budget. Link to the SILC Quarterly Budget is attached.

[SILC Budget](#)

FEMA/Disability Emergency Management Planning (1:50 p.m.)

Mollie Tinnin, a Disability Integration advisor for FEMA provided a presentation relative to the importance of establishing preemptive Emergency Preparedness initiatives for individuals with disabilities. Mollie shared an emergency planning guidebook from the state of Missouri with everyone in attendance to generate ideas, suggestions, and comments in an effort to re-create a similar plan for Louisiana.

The members in attendance suggested that the SILC explore any and all options to create a similar resource guide for the State of Louisiana, and possibly take the lead on.

[Presentation Exhibit](#)

Legislative Update 1:50 p.m.)

Executive Director Ennis provided an update relative to the SILC's 2023 Legislative Agenda. An updated narrative the of the following items were circulated to everyone present:

- Support fully funding of the SPAS Program
- Support fully funding LRS
- Allocate State General Fund Dollars to the three CILS in Louisiana

It was suggested that the members of the council take on an active role to schedule and meet with Legislators and decision makers to advocate for the above legislative request as the Federal Laws prohibit the Executive Director from lobbying under the current funding source. It was also suggested that the CILs meet with legislators and leaders who encompass their service areas.

Libby Kiger of Disability Rights Louisiana provided a presentation relative to a proposal for DRLA's The Supported Independent Living Advocacy Program Expansion

The SILC agreed to write a letter of support for the Supported Independent Living Program Expansion.

[DRLA Presentation](#)

[Letter of Support by SILC](#)

704 Report/Membership Activities, SPIL, and Reporting

Executive Director Ennis gave an overview of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The SPIL is a three-year plan that articulates in writing how the SILC and counterparts will improve independent living services. The 2023-2026 SPIL's submission date has been deferred until 2024. Any changes or updates to the SPIL that would like to be made in light of the extension shall be submitted by June 2023.

Meeting Accessibility and Technology

Executive Director Ennis broached the topic of exploring opportunities on making future meetings of the SILC accessible by using electronic technology to reduce the output of paper. It was discussed, as an option, to seek donations from computer companies to

avoid draining the current budget. It was also mentioned that having a centralized-online portal for SILC members to gain access to information securely would be a great idea. The members in attendance discussed the idea of all members having a tablet/laptop to gain access to all of the meeting documentation, as opposed to carrying around binders of meeting documents and materials.

Agency Update

Independent Living Centers Updates (9:15 a.m.)

The following reports were read and rendered by the named individuals below.

Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (@SLIC)– Randy Dartez

Randy Dartez provided a report on behalf of SLIC. Please find the link below to gain access to the full reports.

[SLIC Report](#)

Update from New Horizons Independent Living Center (NHILC) – Gale Dean

Gale Dean provided a report on behalf of New Horizons Independent Living Center. Please find the link below to gain access to the full report.

[New Horizons Report](#)

Update from Resources on Independent Living (RIL)- Yavonka Archaga

[Resources for Independent Living Report](#)

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services – Melissa Bayham

[LRS Report](#)

Veteran Affairs- Welma Jackson

No Report Provided

Office of Behavioral Health- Charlene Gradney

[OBH Report](#)

Update from Elderly Affairs- Cheri Crain

[GOEA Report](#)

Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities- Bernard Brown

[OCDD Report](#)

Department of Transportation and Development– Jamie Ainsworth DOTD

NO Report Provided

Louisiana Housing Corporation- Juon Wilson

No Report Provided

Executive Director Report- Jamar Lanier Ennis

[Executive Director Report](#)

Fiscal Agent Discussion

Executive Director Ennis expressed concerns with the current process for which essential items, services were to be acquired and paid on behalf of the Council. The items and services include but are not limited to purchasing equipment to carry out the functions conducting the regular business of the council, equipment to be used during the quarterly meetings, and hiring a CPA to provide tax preparation services on behalf of the Council. Currently, the budget does not provide any line item exceptions provisions to purchase the items mentioned by the Executive Director. In a effort to create better efficiency and streamline the process to purchase the essential items and services on behalf of the Council, Yavonka Archaga made a motion to implement a board resolution to allow the Executive Director to purchase equipment, retain services, and adjust the SILC's budget for this purpose up to (\$6,000-\$8,000). The motion, seconded by Daryn Broussard was passed by the unanimously by the members present without any abstentions, discussion, or objections.

Public Comment (3:55 p.m.)

No public comment was provided.

Adjournment (4:00 p.m.)

Alisha Hammond made a motion to adjourn the February 1, 2023, meeting of the SILC. Teriyonda Murray seconded the motion to adjourn the February 1, 2023 meeting of the SILC. The motion to adjourn the February 1, 2023 meeting of the SILC passed without any objections, abstentions, or discussion. The February 1, 2023 meeting of the SILC adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

February 2, 2022 **Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order- Jarrod Bottley (9:00 a.m.)

The February 2, 2023 meeting of the SILC was called to order by SILC Chairperson Bottley at 9:07 a.m.

Roll Call / Determination of Quorum – Esther Jett (9:09 a.m.)

Secretary Esther Jett called the official roll of the SILC. Quorum was established.

Independent Living Centers Updates (9:15 a.m.)

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Update from Resources on Independent Living (RIL)- Yavonka Archaga

[Resources for Independent Living Report](#)

Future Meeting Schedule, Venue and Logistics (9:45 a.m.)

The Council agreed to have future quarterly meetings at the Renaissance Hotel in Baton Rouge, LA for the foreseeable future.

SILC Video Shoot and Adjournment (10:00 a.m.)

The members present participated in a video shoot to create content for the SILC and adjourned the February 2, 2023 meeting at 12:00 p.m.

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