**LOUISIANA STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL**

**February 4th-5th 2022**

**Meeting Minutes**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Members** | **Thursday, February 3rd** | **Friday, February 4th** | **Role** |
| Archaga, Yavonka | Present | Present | CIL Representative |
| Bottley, Jarrod | Present | Present | Parent |
| Bristo, RaShad | Absent | Absent | Parent |
| Broussard, Daryn | Present | Present | Self-Advocate |
| Cheramie, Shaely | Absent | Absent | Self-Advocate |
| Duplechine, Jamie | Present | Present | Self-Advocate |
| Fuselier, Rocky | Present | Present | Agency serving Dis |
| Garafolo, Claudia | Present | Present | Self-Advocate |
| Hennessey, Sharon | Present | Present | Self-Advocate |
| Jett, Esther | Present | Present | Agency serving Dis |
| Nguyen, Steven | Present | Present | Self-Advocate |
| Taylor, Erick | Present | Present | Self-Advocate |
| 4 Vacancies |  |  |  |
| **Ex-Officio Members** | **Thursday, February 3rd** | **Friday, February 4th** | **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 | Present | LHC |
| Vacancy |  |  |  |
| **Staff** | **Thursday, February 3rd** | **Friday, February 4th** | **Agency** |
| Ennis, Jamar Lanier | Present | Present | SILC Coordinator |
| **Guests** | **Thursday, February 3rd** | **Friday, February 4th** | **Agency** |
| Baker, Kandy | Present | Present | LWC- LRS |
| Bayham, Melissa | Present | Present | LWC- LRS |
| Dean, Gale | Present | Present | NHILC |
| Dejean, Lillian | Present | Absent | GODA |
| Jordan Brisco | Absent | Present | GODA |
| Vallien, Alishia | Absent | Present | SICC |

**February 4, 2021**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order – Jamie Duplechine (1:00 p.m.)**

Jamie Duplechine, Chairperson of the SILC called the February 3, 2022 meeting to order at 1:07 pm.

**Roll Call / Determination of Quorum – Esther Jett (1:05 p.m.)**

Esther Jett conducted Roll Call. Quorum was established.

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

Jamie Duplechine encouraged all participants (Members and Guests) of the February 3, 2022 meeting to introduce themselves and their official capacities.

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

Steven N. Led the participants of the February 3, 2022 meeting in the reading of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Mission Statement (1:20 p.m.)**

“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 4th-5th Agenda(s) (1:25 p.m.)**

Daryn Broussard made a motion to approve the February 3rd and 4th SILC meeting agendas with corrections, Dr. Jarod Bottley seconded the motion to approve the February 3rd and 4th SILC agendas with corrections. The motion to approve the February 3rd and 4th meeting agendas passed without any abstentions, discussions, or objections.

**Approval of November 4th-5th Meeting Minutes (1:30 p.m.)**

Made a motion to approve the November 4th and 5th meeting minutes with amendments. Seconded the motion to approve the November 4th and 5th meeting minutes with amendments. The motion to approve the November 4th and 5th meeting minutes with amendments passed, without any discussion, objections, Sharon Hennessey abstained from the vote.

**SILC Member Contact Information Discussion (1:35 p.m.)**

Chairperson Jamie D. stated that in an effort to ensure that SILC members are not missing out on Important updates, reminders, and other time-sensitive information, all SILC Council members will be asked every quarter if there are any updates relative to their contact information. Jamie D. asked that all members of the SILC provide their work and cellular phone numbers, email address, mailing address, and physical address. We need to ensure that are getting information out timely and to the right people.

The document with our contact information will be shared with everyone on the council so that everyone can communicate with one another.

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

Daryn Broussard the Treasurer of SILC stated that as of February 3, 2021 the SILC has paid $117.00 for an annual Zoom account, and payroll of $2,039.20.

**Discussion on LASILC’s Reporting Obligations (1:50 p.m.)**

Jamie D. stated that Eleanor Murrell of LRS, Gale Dean of New Horizons Independent Living Center, and Jamar Lanier Ennis of SILC worked together to submit the annual PPR data to ACL. The data reported was from 2020 and 2021. It was mentioned that ACL switched to a new system that the parties had to get acclimated to. Despite these challenges the parties were able to meet all of the reporting deadlines.

**Discussion on LASILC’s Autonomy (2:00 p.m.)**

Jamie D. stated that Mr. Mark Miller of Kean Miller Shreveport filed all of the paperwork relative to SILC’s 501(1)(c)(3) application to the IRS in January 2022. It was mentioned that Jamie D. signed a power of attorney form to allow Mr. Miller to perform the necessary work relative to SILC’s autonomy on behalf of the council.

**Discussion on LASILC’s Organization (2:15 p.m.)**

Jamie D. stated that should the members of the SILC need to conduct any business on behalf of the council, they may do so with the SILC’s Zoom account. Jamie D. encouraged members of the SILC to register for Bublup, so that they may gain access to SILCs documentation and other important information. Jamie D. also mentioned that it is important to create a website, and social media accounts to effectively communicate with our stakeholders and the community. Claudia G. provided that the SILC webpage must be accessible to everyone. Gale Dean mentioned that New Horizons has contracted with Recite Me, a company that has built the New Horizon’s Webpage, and they may be willing to assist the SILC in creating a webpage.

**Discussion on LASILC’s Execution of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Objectives (2:30 p.m.)**

Executive Director Jamar Lanier Ennis shared the 2020-2023 SPIL via the shared screen function on the Zoom Platform. Ennis provided an overview of the specific goals of the SPIL and suggested that the members of the SILC and the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) submit to self-reporting monthly updates electronically as opposed to providing the aforementioned updates during the scheduled meeting times.

**SILC Congress and NCIL (3:20 p.m.)**

Jamie D. provided that SILC Congress is scheduled to take place on May 18, 2022 in San Diego and the NCIL Conference is scheduled to take place on July 25, 2022 in Washington D.C. Claudia Garafolo made a motion for SILC to send representation for both the SILC Congress and NCIL Conference with the number of representatives be determined in consideration of the SILCs budget. Daryn Broussard seconded the motion. The motion for SILC to send representation for both the SILC Congress and NCIL Conference with the number of representatives be determined in consideration of the SILCs budget was approved, without any abstentions, objections, or further discussion. Once a determination of the SILC budget has been realized, Jamie D. will determine which members will attend each event.

**Establish Committee and Meeting to Amend SILC Bylaws (3:30 p.m.)**

Jamie D. Mentioned that a series emergency meetings to finalize the SILC’s Bylaws and Policy and Procedures Manual, respectfully, will be scheduled in the near future.

The following members volunteered to participate on the Bylaws committee: Yavonka Archaga, Sharon Hennessy, Steven Nguyen.

The following members volunteered to participate on the Policy and Procedures Manual Committee: Erick Taylor, Steven Nguyen, Claudia Garafolo.

**Public Comment (3:55 p.m.)**

**Claudia Garfolo provided that the Christopher and Dana Reeve’s Foundation has opened their spring grant application process with a deadline of March 9, 2022.**

**Gale Dean provided that Darrell Jones has been named the interium director of NCIL.**

**Adjournment (4:00 p.m.)**

**Rocky Fuselier made a motion to adjourn the February 4, 2022 meeting of the SILC. Yavonka Archaga seconded the motion to adjourn the February 4, 2022 meeting of the SILC. The motion to adjourn the February 4, 2022 meeting of the SILC passed without any objections, abstentions, or discussion. The February 4, 2022 meeting of the SILC adjourned at 3:18pm.**

**February 5, 2021**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order- Jamie Duplechine (9:00 a.m.)**

The November 5, 2021 meeting of the SILC was called to order by SILC Chairperson Jamie Duplechine at 9:02 a.m.

**Roll Call / Determination of Quorum – Jamar Lanier Ennis (9:05 a.m.)**

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

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

***Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (@SLIC)– Rocky Fusilier***

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

[SLIC Report 1](https://7rug7w0.sharing.bublup.com/ui/landing_page?item_id=001-i-e1a2a13d-2ad5-4eff-8a06-623266419670)

[SLIC Report 2](https://7rug7w0.sharing.bublup.com/ui/landing_page?item_id=001-i-fda2f12c-072f-4734-8225-74f4f2b6562f)

**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](https://7rug7w0.sharing.bublup.com/ui/landing_page?item_id=001-i-341ce0ad-a9b7-40ef-b573-14ce4d9a926c)

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

Yavonka Archaga provided a report on behalf of Resources on Independent Living. Please find the link below to gain access to the full report.

[RIL Report](https://7rug7w0.sharing.bublup.com/ui/landing_page?item_id=001-i-6db76140-135b-49a1-bd24-daa3c86eec2d)

**Agency Updates (10:00 a.m.)**

***Louisiana Rehabilitation Services – Melissa Bayham***

Melissa Bayham provided an update on behalf of LRS. Please find the attached link to gain access to the full report.

[LRS Report](https://7rug7w0.sharing.bublup.com/ui/landing_page?item_id=001-i-b3cec5b1-0317-4566-9250-e21c6b97ee61)

***Veteran Affairs- Welma Jackson***

No report provided.

***Office of Behavioral Health- Charlene Gradney***

No report provided.

***Update from Elderly Affairs- Cheri Crain***

Steven Nguyen read the Elderly Affairs report on behalf of Cheri Crain, please find the link below to gain access to the full report.

**[GOEA Report](https://7rug7w0.sharing.bublup.com/ui/landing_page?item_id=001-i-6fc55f90-8d8d-4b11-8bdc-65b6c96704b6)**

***Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities- Bernard Brown***

Steven Nguyen read the OCDD report on behalf of Bernard Brown, please find the link below to gain access to the full report

[OCDD Report](https://7rug7w0.sharing.bublup.com/ui/landing_page?item_id=001-i-f8f01bc1-1346-44cc-9ca0-5d05a61b8c1c)

***Department of Transportation and Development– Jamie Ainsworth DOTD***

Please find the link below to gain access to the DOTD report.

[DOTD Report](https://7rug7w0.sharing.bublup.com/ui/landing_page?item_id=001-i-d6bb74bc-5b5d-497a-8e37-460f11e1ad78)

***Louisiana Housing Corporation- Juon Wilson***

Please find the link below to gain access to the LHC report.

[LHC Report](https://7rug7w0.sharing.bublup.com/ui/landing_page?item_id=001-i-0410f1ba-f106-4b5f-92da-7db42f3425ea)

***People First Louisiana/GACDA and NCIL Housing Committee- Sharon Hennessey***

No report provided.

**SILC Executive Director Update- Jamar Lanier Ennis (11:00 a.m.)**

Jamar Lanier Ennis- Provided an overview of the proposed legislation that would enable the Centers for Independent Living under the guidance of the SILC, to receive an annual award of $500,000.00 to meet the disability integration/disaster relief needs of individuals with disabilities in Louisiana. Pursuant to Act 2021 of the Regular Legislative Session, The Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs is scheduled to receive $500,000 or 2% of the tax revenue derived from sports betting.

Ennis mentioned that he was approached by the Governor’s Office to inquire if SILC would like the opportunity to receive the aforementioned funds to provide for the disability integration/disaster relief needs via the Centers for Independent Living. The opportunity calls for a contract between the SILC, CILS, and a plan administrator who has experience of serving the needs of individuals with disabilities in the emergency/disaster management context in every region of Louisiana.

Ennis mentioned that SILC would be responsible to develop a plan for use of the proposed funds, and file an amendment to the current SPIL to accept the funds and complete the necessary activities.

It was mentioned that Rep. Lyons would be the proposed author. The proposed legislation does not have an instrument number at this time.

Daryn Broussard made a motion to support the concept of the proposed legislation that will dedicate the Act 435 of the Regular Legislative Session of 2021 from the Disability Affairs trust fund to the SILC for purposes of disability integration and disaster preparation for response and recovery. Erick Taylor seconded the motion made by Daryn Broussard. The motion to support the concept of proposed legislation that will dedicate the Act 435 funds to SILC passed without any objections, discussions, or abstentions.

**SILC Member Updates (11:00 a.m.)**

*Recap of activities/events occurring in each Council member’s local community that might provide opportunities for dissemination of Independent Living services and philosophy.*

Erick Taylor- Graduated from the workforce program

Daryn Broussard- mentioned that he is celebrating his 26th year anniversary with his wife.

Steven Nguyen- is leading a monthly chat group for men living with disabilities across the United States.

**Legislative Updates (11:30 a.m.)**

Jamar Lanier Ennis shared a draft via zoom of SILC’s policy position statements via Zoom. Ennis mentioned that it is important for SILC to build its own identity as an autonomous entity, and to have some form of presence during the legislative atmosphere both on State and Federal Levels.

Although the SILC cannot lobby, having policy position statements is a great way to ensure everyone knows the Council’s stance on key issues such as: Transportation, Accessibility, Healthcare, Education, and Employment.

It was also mentioned that SILC should do everything possible to support the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services to ensure that they are adequately funded.

**Other Business, Closing and Public Comments (11:50 a.m.)**

Jamar Lanier Ennis is working with the Governor’s Office in drafting the Council’s new Executive Order.

It was encouraged that the members of SILC engage other individuals who may be interested in participating on the SILC as a council member. Ennis is working with the Louisiana Boards and Commissions to track applications and to ensure membership compliance.

Independent Living Technical assistance will be utilized as needed to provide guidance to the SILC as it continues its transition from the Office of the Governor and to becoming a fully autonomous entity.

**Adjournment (12:00 p.m.)**

Daryn Broussard made a motion to adjourn the February 4, 2022 meeting of the SILC. Steven Nguyen seconded the motion to adjourn. The SILC November 5, 2021 meeting officially adjourned at 11:57 p.m. without any objections, abstentions, or discussion.