Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

MINUTES January 11th -12th, 2018

The Statewide Independent Living Council held a meeting on January 11th-12th, 2018, at Red Cross. Chairperson Rosellas Viltz presided.

Present:

Bristo, Rashad (Day 1,2)

Fuselier, Rocky (Day 1,2)

Geddes, Sharon (Day 1,2)

Gray, Anita (Day 1,2)

Morales, Rosemary (Day 1,2)

Nguyen, Steven (Day 1,2)

Polotzola, Bambi (Day 1,2)

Taylor, Erick (Day 1,2)

Viltz, Roszella (Day 1,2)

Baker, Kandy (Day 1,2)

Duplechine, Jamie (Day 1)

Harrell, Antoinette (Day 1,2)

Cocharn, Jay (Day 1,2)

Absent:

Granger, Mitch

Beverly, Keara

SILC Staff Present

Lewis, Jessica

Guests:

Jolan Jolivette

April Dunn

Alisha Garrison

Ken York

Yavonka Archaga

Juanita Johnes

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

SILC Chairperson, Roszella Viltz, called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM, and asked Jamie Duplechine to call roll to establish if a quorum is present. A quorum was present for the meeting. Roszella asked members and guests to briefly introduce themselves.

MISSION STATEMENT

The SILC read the mission statement together.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Roszella Viltz asked members to review the agenda. There was a motion to move SPIL goal 4 on day 2 agenda be moved to day 1 by Rashad Bristo and seconded by Antoinette Harrell. Sharon Geddes motioned to move the GODA report to day 2 from day 1 it was seconded by Jamie Duplechine. There were no objections

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The council took a few moments to review the minutes from October 6th-7th, 2017 minutes. Erick Taylor made a motion to approve the October 2017 minutes with corrections and Rock Fuselier seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by the council without any opposition.

Director’s Report

Jessica Lewis provided an update to the SILC members regarding the SILC membership. Jessica Lewis stated they are still looking for someone in the Alexandria region, and that members give their hotel receipts at the end of the meeting.

Jessica Lewis asked members if they had any questions regarding the scrapbook or any other ideas for the scrapbook. The scrapbook will be going with her to the Region 6 NCIL Conference. Ms. Lewis stated the 704 report is in the members binders, so members can see what the SILC’s status regarding SPIL goals and objectives. She went over the handouts in the members packets regarding the SILC Annual Report, lA children trust fund, Human trafficking, Lacan roundtables, and the SPIL progress report. Jessica talked about REV UP, which is an initiative to help people vote. She also stated she would help start a committee on disability affairs for Baton Rouge. Jessica said they need to start looking at who will be attending the next SILC Conference meeting with her. Jessica informed members she will be giving a small presentation at the Region 6 Conference.

Roszella asked members who would like to attend the SILC Congress.

BUDGET UPDATE

Jay Cochran provided an update relative to the Quarterly budget and stated we are in the new fiscal year. This updated included the total revenue, salaries, retirement, benefits, travel, services, and expenditures for the SILC. Jessica added the SILC put off a large number towards the interagency agreement and it has been hard to get a concrete breakdown from the fiscal office. Rocky Fuselier asked if there is enough money left over to attend for NICL, and stated he would like to attend if money is available

PARTNER UPDATES

GODA

Bambi Polotzola stated the Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs had a successful GOLD Awards at the Old State Capitol. She informed the council the Statewide Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) for Early Steps will now be under the office of Disability Affairs. April Dunn is also a new staff person in our office. We have pushed forward and made progress regarding employment for people with disabilities. The Governor plans on signing an executive order as the state as a model employer; we have worked with many different agencies and we met with Civil service. GACDA’s legislative items pertained to LACAN legislative issues regarding TEFRA, deaf education, and waiver slots. Mrs. Polotzola talked about project armchairs, which is a movement to have 5% of chairs to have arms in public spaces. Bambi said the proposed cuts due to the fiscal cliff could end the children choice waiver and almost every service from Medicaid and will cut a lot of things that are considered optional.

LRS

Ken York filled in for Mark Martin. We did not receive a midyear budget cut this year. The agency is maximizing the resources that it has available. He stated November 8, 2017, order of selection group 1 was open. This means groups 2-5 are still closed, but we are doing what we can to link those people to the career and solutions center. 49:00 We’ve been in workforce for a long time, but it seems LWC does not fully understand what we do at LRS so we are having cross training for VR counselors. The WIOA has a mandate to provide services to students with disabilities to spend at least 15% in regard to them. We are serving in vocational rehabilitation 11,000. We understand the philosophy of WIOA to provide work based experiences. We are seeing the number of students increasing in regard to transition. Stephen asked if that was a trend nationwide and York stated they in were not sure what the date looks like in other states. Louisiana is one of the states that has taken that mandate seriously. We have about 17 counselors across the state who serve only that population.

We are working on breaking down the silos and work on the integration between staff and counselors. We are locating staff across the state and will be moving our office. There will be a conference call on January 16 regarding the monitoring and there will be a series of 4 conference call. March 12 -16 is going to be reserved for an onsite visit looking at the program.

York said I doubt we will be able to open order of selection 1-2. Stephen asked what is the counselor to client ratio. York stated we have lost people. York stated they can send the information on what is the average caseload. Stephen asked for a breakdown of clients served by region.

The GODA and LRS updates relates to SPIL Goal #3, Objective 2, Activity 2, to continue partnering with other CILs and disability-related organizations to foster best practices.

CIL Updates

Yavonka gave information about the Independent Living Center in New Orleans. She mentioned the Mayor-Elect Cantrell has always been very helpful towards the Independent Living Center. She stated they also do a filming every year during the month of January. She sits on the National Emergency Disaster Council, and presented to the National Disability Conference in May.

Alicia, from the Independent Living Center in New Orleans went over the programmatic side of the NOLA ILC. She stated we do have to work on more social media. They have the MLK parade coming up where we have a booth and participate in the parade. We have our annual back to school drive and we partner with Healthy blue. We also help with the deaf Olympics. They partner with Louisiana trans advocates and other to talk about mental health. They also work with NAMI. They are working on addressing housing by partnering with housing agencies to help consumers find a place to live.

Gale dean went over new horizons. She went over VITA and said last year they did over 230. This year we had a retreat for the staff. Last year we had an event called Bar Wars and we had so much good response we will have it again called Bar Wars: Attack of the Brew on January 20th.

The CILs updates have filled SPIL Goal #1, Objective 1, Activity 1 with the CILs updates.

SPIL

Roszella said it is not due until July 2019. The leaders for the progress notes. Gale Dean had assigned leaders for the SPIL and asked if anyone wanted to take over any specific thing. We need to start working on SPIL Goal 4.The executive council met to go over the policy and procedure manual. Jessica noted the legal team and programs director has reviewed it and this is the final document. Kandy was asking if the ppm was clear in the manual.

Jay Cochran and Anita Gray motioned to accept the policy and procedure manual.

Recess

Roszella Viltz called for a recess at 4:00pm.

Meeting Resumed

The meeting was called back to order at 9:09am. She asked members and guests to briefly introduce themselves. Roszella asked members if they were fine with Antoinette Taking pictures.

SILC Congress and NICL Conference

Jessica Lewis went over the website and said she has been given a new task of updating the calendar.

This update relates to SPIL Goal #1, Objective 1, Activity 4.

Member Community Updates

Rashad Bristo said they had a diversity job fair in October and Healthy Blue was there. Steven said he went to a job diversity in NOLA. Roszella talked about how Rashad helped with the Anti bulling event in New Iberia. Morales talked about how DD council put on an Customized Employment Conference. Jay Cochran talked about going to the job fair in Shreveport. Bambi said we are collecting employment stories of people with disabilities. These reports relate to SPIL Goal#1, Objective 1, Activity 5.

CIL Annual Meeting

Jessica Lewis went over the next meeting at a center, besides the October meeting, which April 5th and 6th, 2018. She then went over the meeting times and locations for the rest of the meetings. All of the meetings will be at the LRS building except for the meetings at the centers. This relates to SPIL Goal #1, Objective 1 Activity 7.

Introduction of Advocacy Group

Donald Leger went over the La benefits planning services. He talked about how ticket to work really came out of GODA in 2001 when it first began. Whatever the program that the IWD is receiving we will look to see how it affects its benefits. We will look at the individual and what benefits they are receiving and tailor our assessment and counseling for an individual. One misnomer about ticket to work does not prevent someone from not seeing their benefits being adjusted.

Stephen asked if anyone can call that number within the state. Donald said yes, anyone who falls within that green area we can help. We can show you how earning income can help you with Social Security disability. Donald talked about transportation regarding helping someone get to work. Bambi asked is transportation something that can be offset with the money that you are making. He said it must be a reasonable expense and will allow a partial reimbursement for the SS! check. He said you can maintain Medicaid insurance even if you don’t have SSI. Rosemary asked if they have someone who is not sure if they can work so they can lose benefits can you meet with them? He said they cannot cold call people about receiving benefits. April asked if you can lose your Medicaid waiver services? He said you would have to earn well over $2000 a month

This relates to SPIL Goal # 1, Objective 1, Activity 8.

**LRC Report**

Jessica said there is a packet for LRC’s annual report. She said they will be monitoring the CRP’s. and that LRS look at the eligibility process of the one stops. The next LRC meeting will be at the end of this month. Also they discussed there will be interpreters for two hours. LRC requested a status report from director to see what cuts will be applied.

Roszella stated a member from SILC was interested in joining LRC. Kandy said there are two for Business and Labor and one for the parent Training Center.

This relates to SPIL Goal #2, Objective 1, Activity 1.

**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)**

Jay Cochran stated they start taking appointments next week and will start working on taxes Feb 1st. We are expecting to do over 300 this year which will be an increase from the 230 last year. This relates to SPIL Goal #2, Objective 1, Activity 2.

**Fact Sheet**

Jessica said if there is anything for the one page fact sheet on what they want to talk about with legislators. Stephen said maybe having a uniform fact sheet in regard. Bambi stated SILC should have something employment related. This relates to SPIL Goal #2, Objective 1, Activity 3.

**Identifying Issues and Advocacy**

Jessica stated their advocacy in regard to P3I and talked about advocacy going toward to DC. This SPIL goal has been fulfilled. This relates to SPIL Goal #2, Objective 2, Activity 1.

**Educating Legislators**

Rocky Fuselier talked about the spas program. He said he talked with Henry on appropriations and Walsworth on finance. Mrs. Sharon, Erick, rocky agreed to giving to public testimony. Kandy said she could let members know when testimony is needed for LRS. This relates to SPIL Goal #3, Objective 1, Activity 1.

**Emergency Preparedness – Collaborate with emergency preparedness entities by requesting speaker(s) from various entities**

AMY DAWSON

Amy works in the GOHSEP and went over disability data regarding the disability make up of Louisiana. She said the info did not assess deafness are seeing. We are in the top four of people having disabilities in the US. She said people with disabilities live in poverty twice the rate of people with disabilities. She said our emergency planning is focused on the people who have the most need, which are usually people with disabilities. Parishes set up things like PODS that contain water and tarps, but this is usually for people who have cars and this is not the target population that desperately need s\help because they might not have transportation. We try very hard that when we are putting out info or maps it is accessible for everyone. We must know how to evacuate someone who is in a power chair and what are the implications of having someone taken out of a power chair/wheelchair. The challenges in disasters is maintaining independence. It’s through partnerships that we can provide people with the resources they need. It is important to know the disability data for the people of Louisiana. Amy suggested if SILC would like to do a table top she would help set one up.

Amy talked about Alert FM that gives emergency alerts to your smartphone or smart mobile device. 211 is also another great way to get information. Our OEP directors are on webEOC. This relates to SPIL Goal #2, Objective 2, Activity 3.

**Resource Development**

Roszella talked community events that we can have to bring awareness to SILC and the things that we do. Stephen said there is a resource fair going on in February and will send the info to Jessica. This relates to SPIL Goal #3, Objective 1, Activity 2.

**Members webinars**

Roszella asked if members participated in any recent trainings or webinars. Bambi said she can give the SILC the employment first webinar to participate in. Rashad said he attended a meeting in regards to using pronouns for trans community and the pronouns. This relates to SPIL Goal #3, Objective 2, Activity 1.

**Next Meeting**

Jessica Lewis went over the meeting dates and Bambi mentioned that the date for SILC in January would have to change it’s meeting because it falls under SICC. Members discussed having February 7-8 as their meeting for next year. Rocky motioned to move the first quarterly meeting of the year for 2019 be on February 7-8 it was seconded by Jay Cochran.

Jessica went over the attendance handout and expressed the importance of members showing up for meetings. The next meeting will be in Lake Charles for April. This relates to SPIL Goal #1, Objective 1, Activity 7.

**Roszella called for an executive session**

**Rocky motioned and Jay seconded to go into an executive session.**

**Sharon and Steven motioned to close the executive session.**

**Closing Comments**

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**Adjournment**

Sharon motioned, and Erick seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:20pm.