**Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

**MINUTES**

The Statewide Independent Living Council held a meeting on April 4th and 5th, 2019 at **New Horizons Independent Living Center,111-A Hawn Ave. Shreveport, LA**. Chairperson Roszella Viltz presided.

Present:

1. Bristo, Rashad (Day 2)
2. Duplechine, Jamie(Day 1,2)
3. Harrell, Antoinette(Day 1,2)
4. Cochran, Jay(Day 1,2)
5. Geddes, Sharon (Day 1,2)
6. Nguyen, Steven (Day 1,2)
7. Cottonham, Danny(Day 1,2)
8. Broussard, Daryn (Day 1,2)
9. Ainsworth, Jamie(Day 1,2)
10. Viltz, Roszella (Day 1,2)
11. Egle, Jill(Day 1,2)
12. Baker, Kandy (Day 1,2)
13. Taylor, Erick (Day 1,2)
14. Gray, Anita (Day 1,2)
15. Granger, Mitch(Day 1,2)

Absent:

1. Fuselier, Rocky (Day 1,2)
2. Polotzola, Bambi (Day 1 ,2)
3. Guillory, Michelle (Day 1,2)
4. Hennessey, Sharron(Day 1,2)
5. Morales, Rosemary (Day 1,2)
6. Bristo, Rashad (Day 1)

SILC Staff Present

1. Lewis, Jessica

Guest:

Jamar Ennis

Gale Dean

Wyolanda Hall

Janelle Allen

Mitch Iddins

Sujitra Clark

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

SILC Chairperson, Roszella Viltz, called the meeting to order at 1:30PM, and asked everyone to briefly introduce him or herself. Viltz asked Jamie Duplechine to call roll to determine if a quorum is present. A quorum was present.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The members of SILC read the council’s Mission Statement. Roszella Viltz informed members to adhere to the ground rules.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Roszella Viltz asked members to review the agenda for any corrections. Corrections were documented by the Director. Daryn. B motioned with corrections, and Anita G. seconded to approve the agenda with corrections. There were no objections and the agenda was approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The council reviewed the minutes from February 7th and 8th 2019. Members made corrections to the minutes. The Director documented the corrections. There was a motion to approve the minutes with corrections by Danny C. and seconded by Sharon G. There was no opposition and the minutes were approved. Acknowledgment of the passing of council member Kris H. hospitalization of some members, and Bambi birthday by Danny C and Roszella.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

The SILC Director’s Report was given. The report was given for February 1- March 31. SILC membership is looking for 2 new members, more so in region 6 and 8. This was included in the GODA newsletter. An application for a new member was passed around. Communications from SILC Congress per ACL communications were as follows. The CIL’s must sent to the SILC there 704 report. A definition of Resource Development will come out in the near future. Network training around the SPIL will be in November or December. The tool for the SPIL will look very similar to the 704 report model. Questions addressed from last meeting, which were, Mitch question regarding reporting once a quarter for CIL’s, which we cannot do per the SPIL. The ED will ask the communications department if the PSA can be condenses and put on local stations in the CIL’s service area. Jamie A. will have someone from COA to come and explain its transit program at August meeting. Today the SILC voted on the different events. Some concern about the amount of Job Fairs and the ED suggested to wait until Rashad was present at the meeting to give reasoning. As well as vote on formulating a committee for each. The SILC will vote on a person that can solicit sponsorship letters. Maybe name them Resource Development Representative. The SILC will vote on what bills to support for individuals with disabilities. The 2 Bills that DD Council are pushing as it related to Independent Living are fully funding SPAS and equitably Fund Districts / authorities. SILC will do a Revup tour again in the month of September but waiting on clarification from RSA if this can be done. The council members that want to remain on council need to send to the ED a response back to the email regarding re appointment. A backup person regarding NCIL was established. Daryn and Anita agreed to be the backup. The 704 Report has a correction that has to be made regarding Bambi’s appointment date, but waiting to hear back from BAC regarding this. The ED went to a meeting at OAAS to create the Aging and Disabled Adult Commission to study and make recommendations relative to establishing an Aging and Disabled Adult Council in Louisiana and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations, including whether Louisiana residents would benefit from an Aging and Disabled Adult Council, to the House Committee on Health and Welfare by March 1, 2020. Asked for suggestions to include on the OAAS draft and corrections was documented. A motion was entertained to accept the proposal with recommended changes by Steven and seconded by Antoinette H. with one opposition by Erick Taylor, motion passes. More discussions took place around this topic. The ED participated in a Diversity Job fair for transitioning students. A folder was passed around to see the caliber of students at this event. A certificate was given for our participation. Webinars , meetings, events will be sent in email and the ED participated in the Employment Job Fair for Florida Parishes, the Light House website audit and a Diversity Meeting from Healthy Blue. Other announcements was passed out for viewing. The ED brought attention to the IAT and the highlighted areas and signatures that will be involved.

**BUDGET UPDATE**

Jessica went over the budget given from the fiscal office. Handout was given.

**SPIL GOAL# 3: Objective 2: Activity 2: Continue partnering with other CILs and disability-related organizations to foster best practices.**

**Update from GODA**

Jamar gave a update for GODA. Jamar spoke about a lot going on right now including the Housing Conference. GODA discussed what policy persons they have been speaking to and what bills GODA will support. Discussed a bill by Rep Chad Brown HB 237 with an description and how it is a part of the Governor packet but being challenged by Jeff Landry. Parts of the Governors packet talks about the opioid addiction. GODA will Support legislation to fully fund LRS , only need 5.5 million to pull down the match of 20 million, but speaker of house is not acknowledging that there is a surplus. GACDA will support HB 390, HB143, SPAS, and the PCA rate. Encourage SILC to support some of these bills. HB199 needs to be amended for TEFRA because it will take money from LDH. GODA got a grant to allow more tools to support the SAME task force and had a windmill training in February. The DD council also will provide technical training for customize employment. OAAS plans to get rid of community choice waivers and moving to a consolidated waiver. OAAS have transition 28 individuals out of nursing homes and want to reduce waiting list for community choice waiver. GACDA will draft a letter to Rep. Smith and Sen. Clayter about Act 227. GACDA committees there descriptions was discussed.

**Update from LRS**

LRS Order of Selection (OOS) Groups 1 through 4 have been open since 2/14/19. Also, the waiting list for OOS Group 5 was removed and currently, only 1 individual is in OOS Group 5. LRS will have a Counselor Academy in March 2019 for newly hired rehabilitation counselors. In HB 105, LRS is proposed a cut of $223,178 in SGF, which would result in a cut of 823,530.51 additionally in federal funds.

**SPIL GOAL #1: Objective 1: Activity 1: CILs provide updates at each SILC meeting**

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

The New Horizons update was presented by ED Gale Dean, who welcomed the SILC to New Horizons Independent Living Center. G. Dean announced that NHILC will be participating in this year’s Give for Good, which is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7. On Saturday, May 4, NHILC will participate in Shop for Good. Give for Good is a 24-hour online day of giving. However, the website will be open for donations two weeks in advance of Give for Good. Business cards were distributed with the website for giving donations, which must be at least $10. The NHILC Board of Directors will be holding a Board Retreat on Saturday, April 27 from 10am – 2pm. The purpose of the retreat is for Orientation and Training. New Horizons continues to be active with the Live @ Home program and the newly-formed LA Mental Health Coalition. Both groups will be doing legislative advocacy in Baton Rouge in the coming weeks. The NHILC VITA program, which provides free tax preparation for people with disabilities and for low-income community members, is now in its 10th tax season. Both the Shreveport and Monroe offices are participating in collaboration with the IRS. The ED stated that NHILC will reach well over 300 returns prepared. This includes 2018 returns plus prior years returns. The Shreveport NHILC is open year round.

Update from @Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (@SLIC)

@SLIC consumers participated in the Tim Tebow Night to Shine Prom. It was hosted by Christ Community Church on February 8, 2019. Movie Night/Day has been established for our Welsh and Lake Charles consumers. This is a time to get together and enjoy each other’s company, eating popcorn, drinks and watching an appropriate movie that they can all enjoy. March 2019. On April 26th and May 3rd of this year, @SLIC hosted an Easter Party Appreciation for both our DSWs and consumers. We served hot dogs, chips, desserts and drinks and played Bingo. @SLIC participated in the annual Special Olympics that was on held March 29th at the Lake Charles Boston old football field. We had several consumers that participated and had a great time. Each consumer received a ribbon and medal and was able to take pictures on stage. @SLIC employees/consumers attended the Disability Services Day at the Capitol on May 1st, 2019 to meet legislators and discuss the many issues that are not allowing many providers to be able to effectively recruit and hire quality direct service workers to assist with our consumers. The reimbursement rates are not sufficient enough to be able to properly pay a direct service worker to provide care to not only our consumers, but all the consumers that utilize the services in our communities.

Lafayette

Attended the 2019 Legislative Roundtable presentation at the St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in February 2019. Community Career Connections expo for high school kids. We saw over 4,000 individuals letting them know the services SLIC provides. Special Olympics 3/21/2019 had 5 volunteer for the office. Met with VOA to discuss resources and services. Easter Party for consumers/DSW’s April 16th. Participated in the Vermillion Parish Health fair at the library on 4/10/19. Gave DSW incentives away on 4/11/19. They received a gift card for dinner along with a certificate. Participated in disability rights day in Baton Rouge on 5/1/2019. Had multiple consumers and staff attend. Loaner closet – 30 pieces since 1-2019

Leesville

10 new consumers-4 LTPCS, 2 VA, 3 EPSDT, 1 supports waiver. Fort Polk Readiness Hiring Event Jan 16th at Fort Polk. Provider Meeting Jan. 18th 10a-12:30p in Alexandria. Networking with Hospice of Leesville to discuss services Feb 5th. Consumer Birthday Party at the office February 15th 11a. OCDD Meeting Feb 20th 9a in Pineville. Mardi Gras Parade March 2nd in Leesville. Man Power Breakfast March 25th – resource sharing. CMG Ball March 26th 10a-1p in Leesville. Vernon Chamber Luncheon  March 27th 11:30-1:30 in Leesville. Fort Polk National Guard Conference March 28th (I met with a representative who was interested in learning about the VA side of it and she will be promoting us at their Conference with brochures- it will be in Alexandria in April). Ice Cream Social April 18th at the office. Networking with For Polk Readiness for upcoming events. DSW Appreciation Day April 29th . DD Workshop May 10th in Alexandria. Vernon Counsel on Aging Health Fair May 24th 9:30a in Leesville. Community Fun Day Pineville May 25th 10a-2p. Consumer Hula Party (Summer Event) June 14th

Supportive Employment/ LRS Lake Charles and Leesville

* New Consumers: 22 Consumers
* Placements: 21 Consumers
* Unique Placements and Job Titles: samples  
  Inner Parish Security Corporation (Armed Security Guard)  
  FedEx (Package Handler)  
  Albertsons (Butcher Block Clerk)  
  Delta Downs (Receiving Barn Attendant)
* Leesville Office
* New Consumers: 44 Consumers
* Placements: 11 Consumers
* Unique Placements and Job Titles: samples  
  Central Texas College on Fort Polk (Agjunct Communication Professor)  
  Jena Choctaw Pines Casino (Cashier/Host)

Meetings

* Live At Home – Advocacy Group
* Louisiana Mental Health Coalition
* Aging and Adults with Disabilities Coalition
* EMDAC
* Mayor’s Commission on Disability
* Rotary Club
* Kiwanis
* 67 pieces of equipment distributed from loaner closet since 1/2019
* loaner closet-67
* completed hearing aids-37 since the 1st , 99 for the physical year
* equipment thru LCD-33 since the 1st
* 730 hours of interpreting

No other Business

5:00pm Recess

**DAY 2**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called back to order at 9:15AM by Roszella Viltz and Steven N. called roll again to establish if a quorum was present. No introductions were done.

**SPIL GOAL #1: Objective 1: Activity 3: SILC members and SILC Director report on events attended to raise awareness of IL philosophy, programs, initiatives, and Centers for Independent Living**

Daryn B. stated that on 2/28 he and other members of New Horizons participated in the LaCan round tables. Also Daryn has been with VOA promoting Independent Living in community monthly. Erick T. will speak with a group of kids that have disabilities and there parents at the end of next month at the McMaine Center in BR. Mitch had a list of events that @SLIC participated in on the following dates, 4/11, 4/16, 4/18, 4/25, 4/30, 5/17, and 5/21, COA in May, and 5/10. New Horizons events are Gift for Good on 5/2 and Shops for Good 5/4. The ED participated in the Lighthouse audit, the Job fair for Florida parishes, and the Healthy Blue Meeting. Jamie D. has a Peoples First workshop on 4/27. Daryn B. stated he has standup booked for 2 months on May 3rd and April 19th . Chairperson stated to SILC to take pictures at events that they are attending. Mitch stated the SILC should share pictures and events from the CIL’s to educated people. Chairperson also stated to visit the REVUP Page. Suggested to bring information to churches about SILC and CIL’s. Further discussions took place around this topic.

**SPIL GOAL #1: Objective 1: Activity 5: SILC members provide updates on activities/events occurring in each member's local community that are opportunities for dissemination of IL philosophy and services**

Rozella spoke about Housing conference and that it started on Tuesday morning. At this time she does not have any handouts. This conference had over 500 persons in attendance. Sharon Hennessey was there. One important fact is the different types of programs for persons who want to become a home owner and how a lot of the programs do rural development. She also spoke about the tax credits for IWD and seniors. You can speak with LHC regarding the programs. The Governor spoke at the conference. Jamie D. spoke about the TBI conference. Jamie met the guy that does the waterskiing and did a presentation regarding how persons with disabilities can ski and will do a clinic on June 1st. Jamie discussed the difference classes and what they involved. Steven did go for the second day of the TBI conference.

**SPIL GOAL #1: Objective 1: Activity 8: Partnerships with other advocacy groups by including reports from other groups or presentations from other groups**

Mitch I. gave a report on Shreveport Mayor’s Advisory Council but first he went back and spoke about housing and the concerns for IWD. This council has existed for about 30 years but recently fail apart. This was because of low participation. Now, it is back and running. The public transit system has now changed the route back for IWD to live independently thanks to the Council advocacy. The city has agreed to build a more accessible bus stop as well as equip the buses to be more accessible. You can also get a 50% discount for a bus pass. He then explained the process and how some parts of the policy that can be discriminator. Mitch I. then advocated for this policy to be changed at the Shreveport Transit and it then included person receiving SSI. Also the council is working on handicapped parking and implementing the handicapping parking program.

**SPIL GOAL #2: Objective 1: Activity 2: Report by CILs on Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) services**

Done close to 300 already, by next week will have more. The Monroe office did VITA for the 1st time this year. Have been getting a lot of calls at the end of the year for this service.

**SPIL GOAL #2: Objective 2: Activity 2: Advocate for improvement on transportation issues that affect individuals with disabilities**

Jamie Ainsworth gave an updated to SILC about distributed about 16 more accessible vehicles. Have 56 more to go by June. Now trying to work with Medicaid but found success with one provider. DOTD Public Transit has delivered about half of the 99 accessible vehicles awarded in FY 2019 and we have made announcement on an additional $14 mil in transportation funding for FY 2020.  Question and Answers was given regarding this topic.

**SPIL GOAL #3: Objective 1: Activity 1: Educating legislators regarding CILs and the services they provide while advocating for legislative appropriation of funds**

Daryn Broussard gave some basic information to present to a legislator. Three key points: Support any state general funding. there after a description of the CILS core services and how they are funded took place to understand why this is needed. Another point is to increase rate for home community based services which is HB 390. A description of this bill was given. Initialization cost the state 53 thousand per person per year verses staying at home for 23,000. LA is only state that allows a legislator to own a stake in nursing homes. Last point support full funding for SPAS program. Mitch would like to get a bill regarding increase funding for CIL’s. Jamar suggested to look at appropriation for next session and go to a legislator to ask for this funding. A letter draft was given to the council to send to legislators. Suggested to send emails and letters but showing up works best! Asked if anyone would like to go do public testimony when called. Discussed multiple bills. Suggested to advocate for restore rate for community choice waiver. VOTE

HB199- TEFRA

HB 390- provider rate increase

HB 237- preexisting conditions exclusions

Motioned by Daryn B. seconded by Rashad B. and Jamie D. to support these 3 bills.

In favor: AH,SN, AG,JD,DC,SG,DB,JC,ET,RV passed

Motion to fully fun LRS by Sharon G, Seconded by Erick T. and Daryn B. No abstentions.

**SPIL GOAL #3: Objective1: Activity 2: Exploring opportunities for resource development for activities of the SILC and CILs**

* Revup vote: Jamie D. motioned Danny C. 2nd AH, SN, JD,DC,SG,JE,DB,

JC,RV,ET,MG,AG no opposition, motion passed.

* Job Fair vote: : Erick T motioned Sharon G. 2nd AH, SN,AG,DC,SG,JE,DB,

JC,RV,ET,MG,RV,JD, no opposition, motion passed.

* Gala vote: Jamie D. motioned Erick T. 2nd AH, SN,DC,SG,JE,DB,

JC,RV,ET,MG,JD,AG no opposition, motion passed.

* Formulation of a committees vote: Danny C. motioned Jamie D. 2nd  No oppositions.

Rashad gave a description as to why the SILC will do the amount of job fairs, and funding regarding the subject.

**SPIL GOAL #3: Objective 2: Activity 1: Participating in webinars, conference calls, and training from national groups**

Chairperson asked if anyone had any updates. Mitch G. stated that some of his staff are participating in NCIL trainings. Daryn participated in training promoting IL for the youth.

**SPIL GOAL #4: Objective 1: Activity 2: Formulate Policy and Procedure manual to comply with federal regulations-**

The Chairperson went over the P&P manual. Corrections for updates were discussed and a vote took place. Corrections are located on the on document. Jamar explained reasoning details regarding DOA audits. The ED will find out if the checking account number can be blacken out for proof of the returned check for DSW reimbursement. The formula was given for DSW payment for clarification. The correction in P&P manual applied to everyone. Erick T. motioned Anita G. and Antoinette H. to adopt the P&P manual with corrections. Motion passed.

**SPIL GOAL #4: Objective 1: Activity 4: Review Bylaws to ensure compliance with federal**

**regulations and amend with necessary corrections as needed**

The Chairperson went over the Bylaws. Corrections for updates were discussed and a vote took place. Corrections are located on the on document. Mitch asked why some of the changes regarding officers and the Chair explained best practice from the SILC Congress per ACL.

A explanation as to why the CIL director should not be chair because a conflict of interest. Erick T. motioned Anita G. and Steven N. to adopt the P&P manual with corrections. Vote on the bylaws took place. RB,ET,JC,RV,JD,AG,SN,AH -yes, MG DB, SG- abstain, DC- no. Motion passed. For future all voting issues put on first day.

Moved by Daryn, seconded by Anita G. for vote on applications and election of officers to next meeting. Motion passed.

**SILC Membership application review-Jessica Lewis**

**SPIL GOAL #1: Objective 1: Activity 7: Plans for the next annual meeting at a Center for Independent Living**

The ED discussed the next meetings along with handouts regarding the dates were given.

No Closing Comments. Adjournment

Daryn B. motioned to adjourn and Sharon G.

Approve minutes on 8/1/19 Jay C. motioned and Anita G. seconded.