Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

MINUTES

The Statewide Independent Living Council held a meeting on August 6th and 7th, 2020 Zoom virtual conference meeting. Chairperson Danny Cottonham, presided.

Present:

1. Ainsworth, Jamie(Day 1,2)
2. Baker, Kandy (Day 1,2)
3. Bristo, Rashad (Day1, 2)
4. Brossard, Dayran (Day 1,2)
5. Cottonham, Danny(Day 1,2)
6. Duplechine, Jamie(Day 1,2)
7. Egle, Jill(Day 1,2)
8. Fuselier, Rocky (Day 1,2)
9. Gray, Anita (Day 1 )
10. Granger, Mitch(Day 1,2)
11. Guillory, Michelle (Day 1,2)
12. Hennessey, Sharron(Day 1,2)
13. Morales, Rosemary (Day 1,2)
14. Nguyen, Steven (Day 1,2)
15. Taylor, Erick (Day 1,2)
16. Viltz, Rosezella (Day 1,2)
17. Cheramie, Shaely (Day 1,2)
18. Jett, Ester (Day 1,2)
19. Whitlow, Stephen (Day 1,2)
20. Bottley, Jarrod (Day 1,2)
21. Jackson, Welma (Day 1,2)
22. Gradney, Charlene (Day 1,2)
23. Wilson, Juan (Day 1,2)

Absent:

1. Gray, Anita (Day 1,2 )

SILC Staff Present

1. Lewis, Jessica

Guest:

1. Gale Dean-NH
2. Melissa Bayham-LRS
3. Melanie Washington-GODA
4. Jamar Ennis-GODA
5. Paige Kelly

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

SILC Chairperson, Danny Cottonham, called the meeting to order at 1:15PM, and asked everyone to briefly introduce him or herself. Danny asked A. Harrell to call roll to determine if a quorum is present. A quorum was present.

The pledge of allegiance was read by Mitch Granger.

CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

The Chair welcomed all of our council members, staff, and guests to the third quarter meeting. He mentioned that the NCIL virtual conference which started on July 28 and some members attended. Due to COVID-19 this conference was spread out over three weeks but would typically be held in Washington DC. He mentioned birthdays, anniversaries, additions to the family, and loss of family members or friends. He thanked Ms. Sharon for the awesome work that she did with the legislature in getting senate bill 252 passed and Jamie D. Work she has been doing for SILC with the rev up project. He also congratulated the ED on her NCIL regional advocacy award for region six. He mentioned to make sure you share special events and announcements with the Chairperson and ED so it can be shared at the next meeting. He made acknowledgment on the entire SILC receiving certificates and wanted to express to all the sincere appreciation for the dedication, commitment, and advocacy that they provided for the disability’s community within the state through SILC. Lastly, he wanted to remind SILC that the virtual meetings are a little more difficult to manage so bear with him. A prayer was rendered.

MISSION STATEMENT

Steven N. read aloud the council’s Mission Statement. Danny Cottonham informed members to adhere to the ground rules.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Danny Cottonham asked members to review the agenda for any corrections. Corrections were documented by the Director. Steven N. motioned, and Erick T. seconded to approve the agenda. There were no objections and the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The council reviewed the minutes from May 7th and 8th, 2020. There was a motion to approve the minutes by Erick T. and seconded by Antoinette H. And approved with corrections.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The director welcomed the new members and gave a brief update on membership. She also explained the change for the initial person that was designated from the LHC and how the last person for the agency resigned her position for some health reasons. Ms. Juan Wilson is the new LHC person. A list of persons that will be terming off will go as follows, Rosemary, Kandy, and Michelle. They will be transitioning someone else from there agencies to be on SILC. Also, Roszella terms off in December. The ED also mentioned the APRIL conference and asked who would like to attend. This will be a virtual conference. Roszella and Jamie D. stated that they will attend. The SILC is currently still waiting on approval from ACL regarding the SPIL and SILC programs are still postponed due to covid. The emergency prep committee is possibly thinking about doing a virtual emergency prep conference in September and inviting speakers and still in the beginning stages. Jill is no longer on the SILC council because she has been appointed to the DD Council this opens a spot for another person. The executive committee has recommended Ms. Claudia G. from New Orleans for appointment. Also, the Chair reminded the council that when the executive committee votes, it's simply a recommendation. Council moved to vote on this applicate on day 2.

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

Update from LRS

LRS currently has 8,775 participants in Vocational Rehabilitation and 1,816 in Pre-ETS only cases. LRS currently has Orders of Selection 1-4 open, and Order of Selection Group 5 remains closed; however, LRS currently does not have any participants on the waiting list. LRS, in an effort to improve services and to be able to deliver services during the pandemic, has implemented electronic signatures and virtual platforms to conduct meetings with consumers. Referrals are starting to increase after a significant decline during the Stay at Home Order. LRS has adopted an Emergency Rule that allows LRS increase the limits of up to 500% of the current poverty guidelines for the financial needs test that is required for some VR services, such as training. Job development and job placement services do not require a financial needs test. LRS has increased the reimbursement rate for On the Job Training (OJT). LRS can now reimburse an employer for one and a half times the consumer’s base salary for up to three months while the employer is providing training.

Update from Elderly Affairs- Michele Guillory

The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs has been actively involved in the COVID 19 response and recovery.  GOEA actively participates in the Louisiana Feeding Task Force and the Emergency Management for the Disabled and Aging Coalition (EMDAC), we are planning and having many discussions with regards to COVID and Shelter Management if Louisiana has an emergency/disaster situation.  This hurricane season has established itself as a very active season.

The Councils on Aging meal sites and senior centers are currently closed to services, but "Grab and Go" and Home Delivered meals are being provided to those who typically would visit the meal sites and senior centers for their lunch meal.  Telephone assurance is being provided to ensure the senior is ok and do not have additional needs.  Transportation services continue but are on a limited base.  GOEA has received additional funding from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to supplement the Title III (Older American's Act) funds.  GOEA has also received additional funding for the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers.  The Aging and Disability Resource Centers provide resources for disabled individuals, elderly and the caregivers for the disabled and/or elderly.  The ADRC are providing application assistance for economic stability programs such as SNAP, Utility Assistance, Commodity programs, legal service programs and other local programs that would provide a more sound, stable financial base for the constituent.

Since the state will remain at Phase 2, the senior centers and meal sites will remain closed until after phase 3 or such time that administration feels it is safe for those services to resume.  Many of the agencies are exploring new ways to limit social isolation by providing activities such as pod casts, Facebook live events and drive by parades for seniors.  The Elderly Protective Service Program continues to conduct most investigations via telephone, e-mail and US Postal Mail.  High Priority cases were being referred to local law enforcement, but are now being worked in person by the EPS staff.  Low and Medium case priority will continue via telephone, e-mail and US Postal mail.  We are still collecting data for the close of fiscal year 2020, but have had challenges due to COVID 19.  I will share data at the next scheduled SILC.Side note:  My new e-mail starting August 15th is [Michelle.Guillory@la.gov](mailto:Michelle.Guillory@la.gov).

Updates from OCDD- Rosemary Morales

**Home and Community Based Waiver Services**

The following figures reflect **total waiver numbers as of June 08, 2020**:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **WAIVER PROGRAM** | **Total # of Slots Allocated** | **Linked/Filled** | **Total # of Certifications** | **SLOTS W/O CERTIFIED RECIPIENT** | **VACANT SLOTS** |
| **Mixed I/DD Waivers** | **14,184** | **13,703** | **12,954** | **384** | **481** |

**Request for Services Registry (RFSR)**

Developmental Disability (DD) RFSR = 13,436

* Individuals with urgent/emergent unmet needs (SUN score 3/4) = 0 (offers made to all as screened and identified 3 or 4—2,092 in process)
* Individuals with current needs met (SUN score 0/1/2) = 10,303
* Individuals with no identified unmet needs = 6,518 [estimates based on previous information available and information available in Louisiana Service Reporting System (LaSRS)]
* Individuals in process of scheduling / receiving screening = 6,519

**Request for Services Registry Screening**

* A total of 13,654 Screening of Urgency of Need (SUN) tools have been completed (as of 6/9/2020) \*\*Note this number does not include the individuals who were closed on the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry (RFSR) for any reason (e.g. acceptance of a waiver off, no current Statement of Approval (SOA), declination of services.
* OCDD continues to screen everyone on the RFSR who can be located and who is willing to participate in the screening, including people who newly move onto the Registry and people who have a change in status. Additionally, routine re-screenings for people with previous SUN scores of 2/1/0 are being conducted.

**Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities Waivers**

OCDD requested that CMS grant exceptions to the rules and regulations in the four me /DD Home and Community Based Waivers during the COVID-event. These exceptions are as follows:

* Allow participant and worker to live in the same home
* Allow legally responsible relatives to be paid direct support staff.
* Suspend background checks for immediate family members who live in the home and become temporary paid staff.
* In ROW / NOW, allow for sharing of staff when needed
* Convert day habilitation hours to in-home hours when needed
* Add Monitored In-Home Caregiving (MIHC) as a service in the ROW and NOW
* For NOW, waive rule of requirement of a service every 30 days.
* Allow 16- and 17-year olds to be paid staff, when no other worker available.
* Allow 20 hours / week above capped hours in Children’s Choice Waiver and 20 hours of respite in Supports Waiver
* Allow 90-L to remain in place until the conclusion of the epidemic

**Monitored In-Home Caregiving (MIHC)**

As noted above, OCDD added Monitored In-Home Caregiving (MIHC) to both the ROW and the NOW for the duration of the emergency. Monitored In-Home Caregiving are services provided to a participant living in a private home with a caregiver (can be the legally responsible relative or a family member). The goal of this service is to provide a community-based option that provides continuous care, supports, and professional oversight. This goal is achieved by promoting a cooperative relationship between a participant, a principal caregiver, the professional staff of a Monitored In-Home Caregiver agency provider, and the participant’s support coordinator. The principal caregiver is responsible for supporting the participant to maximize the highest level of independence possible by providing necessary care and supports that may include:

1. Supervision or assistance in performing activities of daily living.

2. Supervision or assistance in performing instrumental activities of daily living.

3. Protective supervision provided solely to assure the health and welfare of a participant.

4. Supervision or assistance with health related tasks (any health related procedures governed under the Nurse Practice Act) in accordance with applicable laws governing the delegation of medical tasks/medication administration.

5. Supervision or assistance while escorting / accompanying the individual outside of the home to perform tasks, including instrumental activities of daily living,

Health maintenance or other needs as identified in the plan of care, and to provide the same supervision or assistance as would be rendered in the home.

6. Extension of therapy services to maximize independence when the caregiver has been instructed in the performance of the activities by a licensed therapist or registered nurse.

Monitored In-Home Caregiving providers must be agency providers who employ professional nursing staff and other professionals to train and support caregivers to perform the direct care activities performed in the home. The agency provider must assess and approve the home in which services will be provided, and enter into contractual agreements with caregivers who the agency has approved and trained. The agency provider will pay a per diem stipend to caregivers. The agency provider must capture daily notes electronically and use the information collected to monitor participant health and caregiver performance. The agency provider must make such notes available to support coordinators and the state, upon request. LDH will reimburse for Monitored In-Home Caregiving based on a two tiered model which is designed to address the participant’s acuity.

**Employment**

* OCDD had planned to host another Vocational Redesign Workgroup meeting in April, however, due to the COVID-19 event, the meeting was not held. Another meeting will be scheduled during the next quarter to continue working towards the service redesign.
* OCDD has received the report regarding the recommendations for our state from the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN). OCDD is working with the SELN to establish a plan of action to begin moving forward with recommendations. One recommendation is establishing an SELN Team for our state that includes stakeholders. The SELN and OCDD are working to establish a date in July to present the report the stakeholders via webinar.
* OCDD and the Local Governing Entities (LGEs) continue to work with vocational providers to provide technical assistance to help with moving into compliance with the HCBS Settings Rule. OCDD reviewed and compiled all of the surveys and transition plans. Because all Day Program facilities are closed due to the COVID 19 event and OCDD is unsure when they will be reopened, we have not been working directly with the providers in regards to compliance. OCDD will use Zoom webinars, and other virtual methods, to work with the LGEs regarding moving forward with trainings and providing technical support, as well as various other technical guidance needed to assist providers with compliance.

**Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule Activities**

The Statewide Transition Plan (STP) was posted for public comment through March 31, 2020. No comments were received in the OCDD. LDH submitted the STP to CMS for final approval on June 15, 2020.

**Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration (My Place Louisiana)**

Initially, My Place transitions were scheduled to stop on December 31, 2018 in accordance with CMS Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program rules. However, the Federal government allowed states (like Louisiana) with remaining grant funds to continue all operations (including transitioning new participants). In May 2020 LDH received budget approval to continue transitions through December 2020. The funding sources can be drawn from three possible sources:

* Funding remaining under the state’s 2016 award,
* New funding made available under the Medicaid Extenders Act of 2019 for MFP programs, or
* A combination of both.

OCDD has transitioned 5 individuals into the community since January 2020, bringing the total number of transitions to 518 between 2009 and 2020. The Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) also participates in the MFP program. OAAS and OCDD have transitioned a total of 3,207 individuals through the life of the program.

**Early Steps**

As of June 1, 2020, the Early Steps program was providing services to 5,170 children and their families. COVID-19 led to a decrease in child count due to some families requesting closure of their child’s case and a 30% decrease in referrals in April and May. Referrals have increased since May when physician offices re-opened for well child care.

Changes implemented for the duration of COVID-19:

* All services, included initial contacts with families occurring through virtual meetings or tele therapy.
* Suspension of the family cost participation requirement for families with financial impact such as lost income.
* Early Steps staff work from home.
* Children who reached their 3rd birthday in March, April, or May for whom local education agencies (LEAs) had not completed eligibility evaluations or IEPs (after schools closed in March) continued services until the end of the LEAs’ original school year end date.

The Early Steps advisory council, the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC), had a virtual meeting on May 21, 2020 at 1:00pm since the April meeting was cancelled. The next virtual meeting will be Thursday, July 9 at 1:00, the regularly scheduled meeting date. On June 23, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) with the United States Department of Education will issue its determination of Louisiana’s Part C Annual Performance on the federally established performance indicators. Early Steps received “Meets Requirements,” the highest performance level for the second year in a row. In May, the application for federal funds was submitted to OSEP. The 2020-2021 allocation is $7,021,584, a $6,407 increase compared to 2019-2020.

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

Jamie started the cares act initiated relief due to Covid 19 and this was a huge contribution to Louisiana for our rural general public transportation programs. Louisiana received 40 million‑dollars to be infused into those rural public transit programs. That money is to support operations and assisted with financially burdened. DOTD planned, applied for, negotiated and submitted contracts and as a result between March and May. Also nearly 4 million of that was given in rural operations programs. Our existing providers will continue to spend that money through FY21 and 22. This program is traditionally fifty percent federal share and fifty percent local share program, which puts lots of pressure on the local entities to come up with that fifty percent match. The cares act weighs that match responsibility and provides that money to transit operations at a hundred percent. There is another stimulus bill that has transit factors in that bill, but from what we understand so far mostly designed for urban support. So your large city bus, fixed route things in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Shreveport, etc.

The next big thing to watch for, however, is that DOTD current transportation funding that funds both the general public program and specialized program for elderly and persons with disabilities, it expires September of 2020. While there is draft legislation begun, historically what DOTD find in a Presidential election year we often end up on continuing resolution. The good news is, the program won't change much under continuing resolution. The bad news is that DOTD lose the opportunity to be more innovative, bigger, faster, and stronger and grow. The fast act replacement does have some substantial increases in transportation services, but no one has identified where that money is coming from. The current legislation is very split politically. What that means for DOTD is we are not directly impacted by potential continuing resolution. However, DOTD services in Louisiana look differently now under covid than they did. The last four months we have made modifications to nearly the entire fleet. Protective shields of drivers, sanitization equipment. The federal government between partnership FTA and FEMA provided face masks to all of our specialized providers and our rural providers. We are trying to make the accommodations as DOTD grow into this to figure out how DOTD sustain it both in the short term and not knowing what it looks like in the long term.

We have not changed our vehicle procurement program. We are in the process now of awarding vehicles for FY21 that began July 1st. We are finding that some of these agencies, because their own programs have changed, they are denying some of those vehicles. Sometimes its available match, sometimes they are just not ready to grow their fleet because their numbers are still low. The frustrating part of that is as we were filling gaps in transportation across the state this whole covid thing just feels like a setback. I think she stated we are going to be impacted for the long term.

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

Update from @Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (@SLIC)-Mitch

* COVID 19
  + Gloves - $476.00, Masks - $7,103.07, Hand Sanitizer - $450.49, Thermometers - $342.33,TP ,Outside Furniture - $1,472.87,Soap Doorbells ,Ramps, iPad for consumer, Computers for staff to work from home, Lysol.
* Independent Living – see the numbers
* Supported Employment
* Louisiana Commission of the Deaf (LCD)
  + HAP 139 in LC & Phone Equipment
* Interpreting
* HCBS
  + NOW
    - SIL
  + ROW
  + CC
  + EPSDT
  + LT-PCS
  + CCW
  + VA
  + SPAS
  + PP
  + SW
  + SIL

Ms. H was given a tablet that was purchased through the CARES ACT to allow her to fulfill a dream and longtime goal of writing a book about her life. Due to the COVID19 Pandemic and Ms. H’s health condition it is hard for her to get out into the community, by utilizing this funding and purchasing a tablet for Ms. H she is able to spend her time putting her life into words which will one day help others in the community by reading her story. This is something that Ms. H has always dreamed about doing, but never had the equipment or finances to pursue her dream.

H C is a SLIC Consumer who had been living in Welsh, Louisiana for some years now. He lived in an older house that began requiring repairs and updating. When his landlord informed his Case Worker that he was increasing H’s rent by $100 she sought and secured new housing for H in Jennings, Louisiana. Since H was born and raised in the Jennings area he was excited about the move. Now not only is his rent cheaper, he is living in a more updated apartment and his monthly bills have also decreased. H is happy to say that he is home again!

J L is a SLIC Consumer, who has in the past exhibited severe behaviors that required him to be hospitalized several times. Because of this, J along with his new Case Worker formulated and agreed upon an allowance program that would reward J for making appropriate decisions and exhibiting good behaviors. The program also has taught J to divert negative energy and focus on his weekly award. Since the implementation of this program J has not exhibited the severe behaviors and proudly boasts about his newfound “wealth”!

**HEARING AID SUCCESS STORY**

Hearing people don’t realize how life changing receiving hearing aids can be for someone who hasn’t been able to hear things like television or music or the voices of their loved ones.

A woman came to our office for the LCD hearing aid interview so distraught because her grandchildren made fun of her not being able to hear. I explained that the hearing aids could help with that and I would like to get a phone call or visit, telling me how she likes her hearing aids. I received the invoice from the hearing aid vendor and did my follow up, asking how she is adjusting. With audible tears in her voice, she said “I feel I’ve gotten my life back.”

This program has assisted so many people in renewing their lives because they can simply hear again. This helps them in doctor visits, at the cash register or simply enjoying their favorite television program again. It’s a very rewarding program to work in.

A local musician was one of the people who put his name on the waiting list for hearing aids through LCD. He came for his appointment and qualified based on his income. He stated during his interview that he was eager to get his hearing aids because he had a 10-day gig in Northern United States coming up soon. After receiving his hearing aids, he called to say he had been listening to music and songs in preparing for that gig and heard words he hadn’t heard before.

Once again, this proves the LCD hearing aid program and our services are working because so many of those services are involved in this process.

On February 7, 2020 @SLIC staff escorted 14 consumers to the annual Night to Shine Prom sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation.   Christ Community Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana hosted the prom and provided an atmosphere of royalty and elegance.  Consumers were provided with amenities such as having their shoes shined and getting their hair and makeup done by professional hairdressers and makeup artists.   Each consumer was presented with crowns, tiaras and corsages; walked the red carpet; and were photographed by a professional photographer.   They were provided with a catered formal dinner and also participated in karaoke, limo and hot rod rides, and had the opportunity to take pictures with three Disney princesses.  Consumers were eager to get on the dance floor and dance the night away while listening to music provided by the professional DJ.  @SLIC was instrumental in making sure all consumers had black tie formal attire for the event and assisted with transportation needs.  Planning usually starts in the summer of the prior year as the excitement begins to build amongst the consumers.  This has become an annual event at @SLIC and we are very excited to see what unfolds in 2021!

Mr. S was taken advantage of when he had a money card by people asking for money.  He was very stressed about having money in his home.  We implemented a Petty Cash log with cash of $300/month and he has stepped up his independence by managing those funds well and tracking his receipts.  He has also become more aware of appropriate male/female interaction after attending group sessions for appropriate communication.  He is more aware of when people are trying to take advantage of him and will tell people messaging him for money “no”.

Mr. B was not utilizing his shower.  He would take sponge baths on his toilet in the bathroom.  He was afraid of falling and very prideful about the workers seeing him.  We requested the apartment manager make accommodations for him and add a shower bar to his tub.  We also recommended a bathing suit for him to feel less embarrassed.  He is now showering in his shower and feels more secure getting in and out of his tub.

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

Our report this quarter will feature one of our resource development sources, as the CILs are required to have other funding sources in addition to our federal funding. The New Horizons Employment Network Ticket to Work program has continued to do well despite the pandemic environment. We are currently serving consumers in 6 states: Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, and North Dakota. We currently have 25 active participants. Three are seeking employment. Five are seeking different employment. We have 4 who are on hold due to medical treatment. Two are in cancer treatment, one is recovering from surgery, and one is scheduled for surgery. Three were assisted with CARES funds when they developed COVID and/or when their hours were reduced due to COVID, and 2 were assisted with supplies we purchased with CARES funds for distribution. In summary, 88% are employed. We are happy with our progress with this program, and it has become a valuable resource development program.

Another resource development activity was our participation in the Give for Good program with the Community Foundation. Our final figures of this fundraiser and awareness activity was $4272.79.

As of 7/31/20, we completed 491 tax returns in collaboration with the AARP. The AARP site closed down due to the pandemic, but they still had taxpayers needing tax services. They relocated to our office during June and July and used our software and computers. With some doubt as to whether or not the AARP will re-open next tax season, we are already discussing repeating this collaboration. We are continuing to prepare taxes with taxpayers dropping off their information to us.

We are still busy zooming, with participation in the weekly EMDAC calls and the 3-week NCIL conference. We have also watched GODA conference sessions on YouTube. We have enjoyed being able to distribute masks on behalf of the Governor. This distribution has become a part of all of our programs and we are appreciative of GODA for providing us with this important outreach opportunity.

We are very thankful to be able to assist consumers with CARES funds. We started with $300,721 and as of 7/31/2020, we had a balance remaining of $182,973.08 to last until 9/30/2021. As of 7/31/2020, we have assisted with 275 consumer needs related to the pandemic.

The Paycheck Protection Program has been very helpful to us in meeting our payroll needs, especially for those employees who were quarantined and unable to work and those whose program income has been reduced due to pandemic restrictions. Our original loan on May 9 was $167,500. Our current balance is $19,569.55. We intend to apply for forgiveness when the money is expended. The relaxing of the regulations a month ago has helped us as well. We were also able to use the money to pay rent and utilities.

Work is underway on our accessible website, which will improve accessibility for people with vision, hearing, and motor skills impairment. Our developers are doing preliminary research on the platform as they aim for compliance with the WCAG or Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. There is no visual progress yet.

The Centers are required to present the results of our annual Consumer Satisfaction Survey to the SILC. We sent out 25 survey requests and received back 15 surveys, which is a rate of 60% participation. The questions asked were: 1) how do you rate the services provided to you by your Independent Living Specialist? 2) How do you rate the courtesy of the response when you telephone New Horizons? 3) How do you ate your service from New Horizons as having improved your independent living skills? The rate of satisfaction was 97% on all three questions. The overall rate of satisfaction was 97%.

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

No report was given.

New Business

Danny then asked for Bambi to assist with find out about the reimbursement checks of the persons that are still waiting on them and for the ED to send all correspondents regarding the matter. A discussion took place regarding part B funding and an apology was given by Mitch granger regarding the part B happenings. Jamie D. then stated she realized during the GODA conference several laws are being violated when it comes to individuals with disabilities voting. She thinks we need to look into more accessibility within voting for all individuals with disabilities and that she would like this to be an initiative of the Statewide Independent Living Council because we do have rev up as an initiative. The chair then acknowledge the passing of council member’s relatives.

4:00pm Recess

DAY 2

CALL TO ORDER- Roll call

The chair stated three of our ex‑officio members are technically at their last meeting. Michelle, Rosemary and Kandy and gave a heartfelt thank you to all three of you for their service and the work that you have done for SILC.

Voting of new officers

Chairperson

The floor was opened for chairperson position. Danny, Sharron, and Rashad was nominated. Rashad declined. It was motioned by Dayran and second by Rashad. Nominations then closed. A vote was taken. Danny Cottonham will stay as the Chairperson.

Vice Chair

The floor was opened for vice chairperson position. Sharon was nominated unanimously. Nominations then closed. A vote was taken. Ms. Sharon Hennessy will become our new vice chair for the year coming.

Secretary

The floor was opened for nominations for secretary. Antoinette Harrell and Dayrn Broussard was nominated. Nominations then closed. Votes was taken. Daryn will be the secretary.

Treasurer

The floor was open for nominations for treasurer. Steven and Antoinette was nominated A. Harrell declined. ??? Motioned to close nominations Ms. Antoinette Harrell second that we close the nomination. Votes were taken Steven, is the new treasurer.

Member at Large

The floor was open for nominations for Member at Large. Erick and Rocky was nominated. Nominations closed. Votes was taken. Erick is now the new Member at large per vote.

Vote on new member

Discussions took place about the applications then a vote.

The three names are Donaldson, Carpenter and Ms. Claudia. At vote took place. Seven for Garofola. Six for Donaldson. Mr. Garofola will be the recommendation to the Governor got appointment. It was motion to make Mr. Donaldson an alternate by Dayran and seconded by Erick. Mitch also address correction of the representation map.

**SPIL GOAL #4: Objective 1: Activity 2: Formulate Policy and Procedure manual to comply with federal regulations-** VOTE ON BYLAWS AND P&P

Discussions of corrections where made live by Steven N. in the Policy and Procedure. The document is now approved.

SPIL GOAL #1: Objective 1: Activity 2: Ongoing orientation of SILC members through sharing effective resources and services of each Council member

Nothing was going on right now because of Covid-19.

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

Erick stated have something coming up where he is speaking to parents that have kids with disabilities that don't understand the disability and scared to put their kids out to learn for themselves. This speaking engagement will be virtual because of covid. A lot of parents don't want to let kids go on their own. I have been reached out to do that. We are going to do it by computer right now because due to the covid. Daryn did three webinars called raise your voice for Families Helping Families region seven which is in Shreveport, Monroe, and Lake Charles. It discussed ways to do self‑advocacy. Jessica stated that the programs from SILC will be postponed this year due to Covid 19.

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

Update from GODA

Bambi stated the newsletter went out on Monday and she posted it in the chat how you can text and add your email to our email list to receive notifications. She spoke about the GODA conference and she will post a link to that as well in the chat. The 15 sessions were recorded and all of feedback was really great. They had over 600 people, this was historical. She also discussed the revamp of GACDA and how now it is made up of more advocates and not state agencies. They are now working towards the inclusive art contest and GOLD awards this will and this will happen between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are now excepting nominations for candidates for the Gold awards. She also mentioned the biggest news is Jamar Ennis is a father of beautiful twin girls.

SPIL GOAL #2: Objective 2: Activity 1: Identify disability issues and organize campaign in favor of individuals with disabilities

No participating persons

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

Report on NCIL in November meeting. Danny will send a written report for SILC Congress.

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

The ED stated if the phases change we will be traveling to Lake Charles. If not, we will be on zoom again regarding our SILC meeting in November. We have to keep in mind a lot of individuals with disabilities, health disparities.

New Business

Danny mentioned the advocacy item that Jamie D. mentioned and would hope that we take that up soon. He also stated if anyone have other things we can think of from to advocate work please let the Chair know. Gale stated in the minutes that this is an error regarding language in caption. This was corrected and reflected in the May minutes document. The contract is 3 year and not year to year. Also any proposals to contracts would need to be presented to LRS 6 months prior. Rosezella asked the SILC promotion to be on a one pages to distribute to consumers. Michelle, did we talk about finalizing that training and talked about emergency preparedness.

Rosezella motioned to adjourn and Michelle seconded.

Approve minutes on Rozella Viltz motioned and Erick Taylor seconded with corrections.