



Idaho State Independent Living Council

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**State Independent Living Council (SILC)
Quarterly Business Meeting
Zoom Meeting
October 16, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Captioning will be available for this meeting**

MINUTES

- I. 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
- Purpose: Introduce members, staff, and visitors
 - Facilitator: Eric Bjork, SILC Chair

Council Attendees: Eric Bjork, Angela MacDonald, Candy Harris, Christina Cernansky, Claire Wareham, Denise Myler, Jeremy Maxand, Max Hudson, Melva Heinrich, Molly Pollastrini, Sean Burlile, Shiloh Blackburn

Ex-Officios: Steve Achabal, Judy Taylor, Jane Donnellan, Beth Kriete

Staff: Mel Leviton, Jami Davis, Megan Bates, Janey Bruesch

Guests: Dana Gover, Mark Leeper, LeAnn Sullivan, Ray Lockery, Mandy Greaser

Meeting Notes: Eric Bjork called the meeting to order and declared a quorum at 9:05 a.m.

- II. 9:10 a.m. **Approval of Minutes and Perfection of Agenda**
- Purpose: Ensure Understanding
 - Facilitator: Eric Bjork, SILC Chair
 - Review and Approve Minutes from July 17th, 2020
(Decision)

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Meeting Notes: July meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

III. 9:15 a.m. **July Meeting Evaluations**

- Purpose: Feedback and Information
- Facilitator: Angela MacDonald, SILC Vice-Chair
 - Handout provided

Meeting Notes: People would prefer to meet in person but Zoom meetings work until it is safe. Only three surveys completed. Council agreed to make more of an effort to complete surveys put out by staff prior to meeting's end.

IV. 9:25 a.m. **Executive Director Report**

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making
- Facilitator: Mel Leviton, Executive Director
 - SILC updates – recent activities
 - 2021-2023 SPIL – Review Adjustments
(Decision)
 - Other business

Meeting Notes: All SILC staff are working at least part of the day, M-F in the office at this time. Staff are prepared to work from home if necessary. Megan will provide budget update later in the meeting. The state annual report was included in packets and mirrors our State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The reporting platform on ACL is no longer operational for any agency reporting to ACL. We don't know how we will submit our annual federal report yet and will likely prepare a Word version. CIL and Council members response for quarterly reports continues to improve. Mel has been appointed to the Covid19 Vaccine Committee. If Council members would like the updated handbook sent to them, let Janey know. Mel asked that the Executive Committee or other committees review the Council committee descriptions and improve them for greater participation and impact. We are looking at alternative locations for the two-day April 2021 Council meeting should Council members wish to have an in-person meeting with space for social distancing combined with virtual participation for those who don't wish to travel. We also still have reservations at the

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hotel where we usually meet. Based on the COVID-19 health emergency situation in January, the Council will have three options from which to choose for our two day spring meeting: virtual; in-person in a space we can socially distance, and in-person at our usual location.

The Council reviewed updates to the 2021-23 SPIL as per recommendations from the Administration on Community Living (ACL). A motion was made and passed for staff to complete technical revisions and resubmit the 2021-23 SPIL to ACL.

V. 10:00 a.m. **Executive Committee Report**

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making
- Facilitator: Eric Bjork, SILC Chair
 - SILC Budget update, Megan Bates, Financial Specialist
 - Audit update, Megan Bates, Financial Specialist
 - SILC Chair/Vice Chair nominations
 - CIL Director Council membership discussion
 - SILC Congress proposed dates (April 25 – 29, 2021) San Diego California

Meeting Notes: Megan would appreciate everyone completing the W9 so she can have everything correct when you start traveling again.

The budget request for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 was submitted successfully. The Legislature will take up our request during their session. The Federal Fiscal year (FFY) ended September 30. The SILC carried over some Part B funds that were unused, primarily due to reduced travel related to Council meetings, training and outreach. We are now using general funds for our federal match. We will be having our yearly audit the end of October. It will be handled remotely so she expects to be scanning a lot of documents.

Eric Bjork accepted nominations for SILC Chair and Vice-chair. Nominations for Chair with second: Angela. Denise said she is interested in Chair.

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However, there was no nomination or second indicated. Vice Chair with second: Shiloh. Voting for new chair and vice-chair will occur during the January Council meeting.

Jami stated that the SILC congress, usually held in February will be held in April for 2021 in San Diego. We'll provide the dates during our January meeting for discussion on who and how Council members might attend.

VI. 10:20 a.m. **Committee Sessions – Breakout Rooms**

- Purpose: Collaboration
- Facilitator: Committee Chairs

Meeting Notes: Eric Bjork asked that everyone look at who is on the committee, who isn't on a committee, think about descriptions, etc. We will review and make decisions in January.

Break 10:50

VII. 11:05 a.m. **Membership/Outreach Committee Report**

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making
- Facilitator: Angela MacDonald, Membership Chair
 - Review applications for upcoming and/or current open positions
(Decision)

Meeting Notes: Angela MacDonald stated that we have two new applications for Council members. Tara Adams (Deaf and Hearing Impaired) and Erik Kimes, Region III. If you have anyone interested in serving on the Council, have them complete the application and get it to Janey. It would be great to have bilingual or color representation. Motions to approve Tara Adams and Erik Kimes passed. Staff will submit the applications to the Governor's office for appointment.

VIII. 11:15 a.m. **Policy Committee Report**

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making

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- Facilitator: Denise Myler, Policy Chair

Meeting Notes: Chair – Denise Myler; Committee members: Dana Gover, Shiloh Blackburn, Christina Cernansky, Claire Wareham

Senate is pushing for a vote on the new Supreme Court Justice before the election; Idaho Legislature wants to change how the Governor is allowed to do executive orders. Next month is national family caregiver's month – The Caregiver's Alliance is looking for stories to support family caregivers. The Caregivers Alliance conference will be February 20th. Beth Kriete stated that there may be some rules in the next Legislative session of interest – possible rule that would allow a waiver for qualified providers of substance abuse who have past drug convictions; electronic visit verification (EVV) federal requirement; skilled nursing facilities that opt into a behavioral care unit - increases number from 20% to 30% of their population; telehealth uses due to Covid19.

Jeremy would like to serve on the Policy Committee. Please be sure to include Mel.

IX. 11:25 a.m. **Planning Committee Report**

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making
Facilitator: Melva Heinrich, Planning Chair
 - 2020 SPIL review and year-end report

Meeting Notes: Shared the quarterly report for the SPIL. Reporting is getting better using Survey Monkey. Trying to come up with a method in the survey to capture other activities that council members do during the quarter.

X. 11:45 a.m. **Training**

- Purpose: Education
Facilitator: Mel Leviton, Executive Director

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- DisAbility Rights Idaho – Voting Information and Voter Rights, Courtney Holthus; Patient Rights and Accommodations in Hospital Settings during the COVID-19 health emergency, Courtney Holthus

Meeting Notes:

Bruce Klootwyk, Jr. joined this session as it is his first day with DisAbility Rights Idaho.

Courtney Holthus shared information on voting for those with disabilities including accessibility. Things change by the moment. You can always contact DRI or your county clerk with questions.

There have been changes in hospital visitation, etc. due to Covid-19. The provisions that were in place before Covid-19 are still in place. A staff member from DRI reviewed the policies for hospitals throughout Idaho. As a result, many of the policies were updated. Find the policy for that facility/provider; review it and see if there is an exception for a support person; bring the policy with you as not everyone knows about the exception. Courtney will send a handout to take with you when visiting a hospital for Mel to distribute after the meeting.

12:30 p.m. Agency Reports

- Purpose: Brief agency explanation of successes and barriers
- Facilitator: Eric Bjork, Council Chair
- Handout provided
 - Disability Action Center Northwest (DAC-NW)
 - Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI)
 - Idaho Commission on Aging (ICOA)
 - Living Independently For Everyone (LIFE)
 - Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC)
 - Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR)
 - IDHW – Medicaid, Bureau of Long-term Care

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- Guests – NW-ADA

Meeting Notes:

DAC-NW – Been front and center related to Covid-19, CARES act, and the SPIL. Doing rural outreach; advocating for increased internet access for rural areas, barriers include no housing; as people with disabilities are released from prison, working to help them with transportation, etc., have purchased tablets to help with access

ICBVI – Attending the April virtual conference. There have been some great presentations. Covid-19 has affected both barriers and successes. Thinking outside the box has been a good thing.

ICOA – New grant for caregiver map in SW Idaho. Getting lots of data and when it ends, we will see if it is giving us what we need. Just finished a consumer directed respite pilot. It went so well in Region III it is rolling out statewide. It allows older people to decide who they want coming into their home, etc. Covid-19 education on-line. Senior nutrition - can do home delivery or pick-up.

LIFE – New staff are doing a great job. Due to high demand they will be reopening payee services at all for locations. Policy manual is done. IL manual is almost done. Due to Covid-19 they are having to work from home again.

LINK – Jeremy introduced LeAnn “Sulli” Sullivan. She was a care provider for her son for 13 years and he recently married and moved to Arizona. Working on IDVR pre-employment training for youth; working with VA; working with other CILS regarding Linked-in and opportunities for businesses looking for disabled employees. Continue to hand out PPE as needed, developing internal document for Covid-19 PPE tracking. High demand for AT (ramps) and affordable housing. Finding a rental is almost impossible. If any partners need PPE let us know. They have gloves, clear face masks, shields, cloth masks.

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IDVR - We have had a reduction in applications since Covid-19 started. We are trying to think outside the box and seeing where we can do things differently. Staff are in the office, but appointments are limited. Due to Covid-19 they had to cancel all of their college youth camps. They did do a virtual camp and it was great because it included youth from all over the state. IDVR is in the rule making process for the legislature. Those will be posted in the December bulletin if you want to comment.

We will be putting out an invitation to bid for "benefits counseling" for people who are receiving social security that are coming into VR. If you have people you know who might be interested in bidding, please share the information with them.

Working on hiring three Transition Coordinators - each will cover a portion of the state. Working on the ADA 30th Anniversary in November.

IDHW-Medicaid – Working on rules updates, there is a funding opportunity through Covid-19 funds to Medicaid providers affected by Covid-19, details are on the web site.

NW ADA – Will be writing a grant in December for the next 5 years for the Idaho Center. Will ask stake holders to listen in and attend via zoon in November. ADA 30th Anniversary - Idaho celebration online has been absolutely amazing. Council for Deaf and Hard of Hearing has done a lot of the captioning for us. We need more pictures of folks in our T-shirts.

1:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. **Meeting after the meeting**

- Purpose – For those with wish to connect with each other after the scheduled agenda concludes, we've reserved an additional hour of Zoom and captioning for catching up and sharing with each other.

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