



Idaho State Independent Living Council

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**State Independent Living Council (SIILC)  
Quarterly Business Meeting  
Zoom Meeting  
April 15, 2021  
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. MDT**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**1:00 – 1:15 p.m. Welcome & Introductions**

Christine Pisani, Janey Bruesch, Angela MacDonald, Melva Heinrich, Erin Olsen, Mel Leviton, Beth Kriete, Steve Achabal, Megan Bates, Ray Lockary, Molly Pollastrini, Candy Harris, Jeremy Maxand, Erik Kimes, Russell Salyards, Shiloh Blackburn, Denise Myler, Jami Davis

**1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Training**

- Purpose: Increase understanding of Developmental Disabilities (DD) systems and services and how improvements might be leveraged for improved Aged and Disabled (A & D) waiver services.
- Facilitator: Christine Pisani, Executive Director, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

Provided a power point on Community Now

**2:30 p.m. Break**

**2:45 p.m. Orientation for Council Members**

- Purpose: Training – Independent Living History and Philosophy
- Facilitator: Mel Leviton, Executive Director

Mel provided a power point presentation on Independent Living History and Philosophy.

## SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

### **3:45 p.m. Orientation for Council Members**

- Purpose: Training – Travel Accommodation Requests and Travel Reimbursement Forms
- Facilitators: Megan Bates & Janey Bruesch, SILC Staff

Megan and Janey reviewed the Accommodation Request form and the W-9 as well as what is reimbursable, receipts needed, etc.

### **4:45 p.m. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

**State Independent Living Council (SILC)  
Quarterly Business Meeting  
Zoom Meeting  
April 16, 2021  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. MDT**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

Ray Lockary, Janey Bruesch, Mel Leviton, Megan Bates, Jami Davis, Angela MacDonald, Steve Achabal, Beth Kriete, Molly Pollastrini, Erik Bjork, Erin Olsen, Candy Harris, Melva Heinrich, Mark Leeper, Denise Myler, Jeremy Maxand, Shiloh Blackburn, Russell Salyards, Steve Decker, Dana Gover, Erik Kimes, Jane Donnellan,

**10:00 a.m. Call to Order and Introductions**

- Purpose: Establish a quorum - introduce members, staff and visitors
- Facilitator: Angela MacDonald, SILC Chair

Introductions were made. Angela declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:15.

**10:20 a.m. Approval of Minutes and Perfection of Agenda**

- Purpose: Ensure Understanding
- Facilitator: Angela MacDonald, SILC Chair
  - Perfect the Agenda
  - Review and Approve Minutes from January 15, 2021 **(Decision)**

Motion: Denise Myler moved and Eric Bjork seconded to approve the January Council meeting minutes. Unanimous.

**10:25 a.m. January Meeting Evaluations**

- Purpose: Feedback and Information

## SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

- Facilitator: Shiloh Blackburn, Membership Chair
  - Handout provided

Shiloh reviewed the evaluation.

- It was suggested that we keep the electronic version when we begin meeting in person.

### **10:30 a.m. Executive Director Report**

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making
- Facilitator: Mel Leviton, Executive Director
  - SILC updates
    - E.D. and staff activities
    - Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) – 2022 SILC appropriation update
    - Begin discussion about statewide assessment
- Staff are back in the office full time.
- Saved money due to a lack of travel so we have been able to upgrade software, electronics, etc.
- Legislative session
  - Very different this year.
  - Lawsuit on accessibility got what we needed in the time we had.
  - Budget was approved by senate unanimously. The Governor signed it on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
    - The legislature decides how much we can spend in our budget. They have to give us permission to use our federal funds, etc. That allows us the flexibility to apply for a grant or if we had been eligible for Covid funds, we could have used them, etc.

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- On Monday there will be a bill for H&W to access funds – it would give us an extra 10% in FMAP. It only affects Home and community-based programs.
- If you have a relationship with a legislator on JFAC, encourage them to pass this so Idaho can access this \$64,000,000. Email and phone message won't work at this point. It has to be a personal contact.
- We don't have good numbers on people with disabilities related to COVID. ICF's report no deaths. She is working with H&W to get better information.
- We will start the statewide SPIL assessment process and it will last about a year.

### **11:15 a.m. Break**

### **11:30 a.m. Program Updates**

- Purpose: Information
- Facilitator: Jami Davis, SILC Program Specialist
- ABLE - 34 calls or emails related to ABLE accounts
  - Transition time at high schools – will do 3 presentations
- IIEC presentation to Region X Steering Committee
  - Housing Modification is the only group left and is about to wrap up
- Vaccination Clinics
  - Weiser on April 25th
    - Group effort, great project, doing what's right for the community, no one is taking credit
    - Partnered with Medicaid – sent a flyer and information sheet to 329 individuals on A&D and DD waivers

## SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

- SILC will provide emergency awareness information in both English and Spanish and go bags.
- Looking at Twin Falls next
- Continuing to look at other areas – North Idaho, Eastern Idaho, etc.

### **11:45 a.m. Executive/Finance Committee Report**

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making
- Facilitator: Angela MacDonald, SILC Chair
  - Review Budget, Megan Bates, SILC Financial Specialist
    - Handout provided
  - Bylaw Discussion: review comments, changes and adopt updates
    - Handout provided (**DECISION**)
  - Appoint Committee Chairs
  - NCIL – virtual attendance – July 19 – 30, 2021
    - Review cost - early bird registration (ends May 10)
    - How many will the Council send? (**DECISION**)
    - Those interested need to complete a SILC conference participation form and submit to the Membership committee by -?
- At the end of the State fiscal year and half-way through the Federal fiscal year.
- Have met the required match
- Candy would like to come into the office to review the excel charts

The changes to the bylaws were reviewed.

Motion: Molly Pollastrini moved and Denise Myler seconded to approve the bylaws changes. Unanimous.

- Committee chair appointments
  - Membership co-chairs will be Denise Myler & Max Hudson
    - Committee members include Candy Harris,

## SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

- Policy chair will be Shiloh Blackburn
  - Committee members include Erik Kimes, Jeremy Maxand, Eric Bjork
- Planning co-chairs will be Molly Pollastrini & Steve Achabal
  - Committee members include Erin Olsen, Jane Donnellan, Melva Heinrich, Beth Kriete
- NCIL Conference will be virtual
  - Cost estimated around \$150
  - Conference covers 2 weeks, July 19 -30<sup>th</sup>
  - Conference is recorded
  - Anyone attending is expected to give a short report at the October Council meeting
  - Registration deadline is May 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Janey will send a Survey Monkey to the entire Council - if you want to attend, you need to complete it ASAP

Motion: Melva Heinrich moved and Molly Pollastrini seconded to spend up to \$2,000 for Council registrations for NCIL. Unanimous.

### **12:15 p.m. Lunch**

### **12:45 p.m. Committee Sessions**

- Purpose: Collaboration, strategy, decision making
- Facilitator: Committee Chairs

### **1:15 p.m. Membership/Outreach Committee Report**

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making
- Facilitator: Shiloh Blackburn, Membership Chair
  - Open positions and target groups
  - Review applicants for upcoming and current open positions, make recommendations, vote on prospective new members **(Decision)**
  - Review process for application and recommendation to attend conferences

## SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

- We need a Parent-at-Large, a person from Region II and a Youth (18 to 30 years old) for the Council.
- It was recommended that the Membership Chair interview candidates in the future. This gives an opportunity to ask questions, meet them, etc.
- Have two applications to vote on. Rick Huber, if approved, would fill the position vacated by Christina Cernansky, Region V. Chelsie Henderson, if approved, would replace Melva Heinrich when she terms off in May.

Motion: Candy Harris moved and Eric Bjork seconded to accept Rick Huber's application for the SILC and submit it to the Governor. Unanimous.

Motion: Molly Pollastrini moved and Melva Heinrich seconded to accept Chelsie Henderson's application for the SILC and submit it to the Governor. Unanimous.

### **1:40 p.m. Policy Committee Report**

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making
- Facilitator: Denise Myler, Policy Chair
  - Legislative wrap up
  - Review Summer Advocacy Activities and Opportunities
- HCBS
  - Last section is titled "Work Force Development"
    - Need input from us as to what we want in that section
  - American Rescue Plan has money set aside for home and community based personal care
    - About \$64,000,000 that JFAC needs to move on
- Mel will share the information Jeremy pulled together with everyone.
- How do we make being a professional care provider worthwhile (financially, etc.)?

### **2:00 p.m. Planning Committee Report**

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making



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- Facilitator: Melva Heinrich, Planning Chair
  - SPIL Survey update
  - SPIL Planning - Early brainstorming and discussion: options for statewide assessment 2021-22
- We do the SPIL survey every quarter.
  - Each CIL does it a little differently. We gather the information and then submit to SILC.
  - When other collaborators do things that relate to the SPIL, they can give it to Mel and she can report it.
  - Best SPIL survey we have had thus far. Time to start the new SPIL process.
- SPIL Process
  - It is a process. Mel will provide an outline for the Planning team.
  - Mel sets a timeline that starts when our SPIL is due and works backwards from there.
  - Last time we kicked the SPIL off at CIL meeting in Boise and did another 18 meetings around the state. May want to consider doing it over a 12 month period this time.
  - We have access to the Medicaid list. Need to decide what our captioning area is and then they send the labels to the state mail room.
  - Want to do more in-depth sessions around the state.
  - Want to hear more about access, etc.
  - Need opportunities to broaden the information we get.
  - Planning team meets once a month and then, as the date gets closer once a week.

**2:45 p.m. Break**

**3:00 p.m. Agency Reports**

- Purpose: Brief agency explanation of one success and challenge.

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- Facilitator: Angela MacDonald, Council Chair
  - 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)
  - NW-ADA
  - Family and Community Services Crisis Team
  - Guests

**Mark – DAC-NW** -- Hello from Mike Smith. Molly is a rock star. It has been difficult and a real challenge. We have been gate keepers for money to give out, getting information on vaccinations out to people. We have put folks in hotels for housing issues, etc. We have not had a lot of calls about vaccinations. Because of area we are in and adding the J&J recall, the mindset is just quirky. They are hiring for a position in Post Falls for putting in ramps. It is a weird time and in the IL world, a lot has been laid on us. We want them to equally provide services for us, not develop a separate service. The newsletter continues to grow. We did participate in an application for continuation of the NW-ADA center and they have committed to that partnership. Flat Fred's was a fun event. ACL has just announced automatic no cost extensions for current year projects for CILs, the ILS (Part B programs), etc.

**Steve Achabal – ICBVI** – The biggest challenge has been covid. With things starting to open up there are new challenges. Rehab teachers are starting to meet with clients face-to-face. It is up to the clients. They have protocols in place for going into homes. They are seeing an up-tick in referrals. Staff have done 24 videos. They are posted on their website and have received lots of positive feedback.

Vaccine - They have been contacting clients and others that they know in the area. Transportation has not been an issue. The biggest issue has

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been isolation. Across the board – some are waiting to see what happens, some want the vaccine and some absolutely do not want it. Bottom line – if they want it, they are able to get it. Steve believes a fairly high number of blind individuals have been vaccinated. There is an uneasiness, especially with the older blind, to talk about it.

Molly stated that the one thing that is disheartening is, if you are reading things on the internet and there is something positive, then there are tons of comments are that you are pushing propaganda, etc. If someone is on the fence about getting the vaccine, it makes it hard to convince them.

**Erin – ICOA ---** We have seen this past year as one of new opportunities, like getting to or having to coordinate with other groups. They have targeted the hesitation issues and are addressing questions related to the Covid vaccine. Triple As are willing to assist with transportation. They are also working to help with the in-home vaccinations. Next week are taking our lay-leader training -- “Mind over Matter – Continence Issues”. This session is related to women over 50. Later there will be a version for men. It will cover how to prevent having the issue but also include information for those who have the issue. They are writing a grant that is due today to access some of the ARPA funds.

There is definitely a lot of work still to do. We are excited about finding positive approaches to implement new and innovative things. A significant part of the funds Mel was asking about will be used for the AAAs to hire additional I&A and vaccine scheduling staff.

**Steve Decker – LIFE** – No one was available to report.

**Jeremy – LINC** – Like everyone else, COVID has been the biggest challenge. There are a handful of barriers related to people getting vaccinated - some cultural, some transportation issues, etc. they are considering doing some PSAs to help educate people. A lot of folks died in long term facilities, but IL did not experience that issue. Currently they are working on in-home vaccinations.

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LINC has been partnering with other groups in Blaine county to get people to Twin Falls for medical appointments. Once they get to Twin Falls, they can access the "script" program to get around town. They are on track to get EEV completed and be in compliance. They are working on "retro" checks that will go out to direct care workers as a "bonus". LINC has a couple of positions open and they have hired a resource person.

**Jane – IDVR** – Due to COVID, they have seen a decline in referrals, so they have "extra" funds. Staff are back in the office but are rotating schedules and staggering appointments to help with social distancing. They have not reached out to clients related to vaccination.

The Extended employment program is for people with disabilities. It is 100% general funds. There are no rules. They did 14 listening sessions to see what people thought the program should be. They gathered the information and are working on proposed rules. Once the proposed rules are completed, they will go into negotiated rulemaking. The meeting will be virtual meetings. They need feedback. She is concerned that providers may skew what the rules will look like if they don't get enough feedback from individuals.

They have robust summer work programs. They are not doing overnight programs but are doing day programs. They have engaged with the Idaho Business for Education to partner to develop youth apprenticeships throughout the state. They have put out a bid for benefits counseling. LINC got the bid for this part of the state and another group got the one in the eastern part of the state. They will go out to bid during the summer to try to get coverage for entire state.

Jane is on the Workforce Development Council. There are 37 members, appointed by the Governor. A voting member with a disability is required. (that is her). Jane stated that the agency will send out notices for the public meetings and give as much notice as possible. Meetings will not be scheduled until after mid-June. Jeremy heard that July is when the

## SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

hearings will start. Jeremy is pulling a meeting together the first week of May for self-advocates. Jane stated that the annual budget for EES is 3.5 million and it goes to those services. They relinquished about \$600,000 last year. They have been reverting funds back to the state so decided to relinquish the funds as of 7-21. It serves about 600 people.

**Dana – NW ADA** - We have started a number of committees to improve access to voting, recreation, and community access. There are many barriers we are working on related to web access.

### **4:00 p.m. April Conference Update**

- Each Council Member will list an item from the April Conference that stayed with them.
- Facilitator: Angela MacDonald, Council Chair
  
- Mental Health emergency preparedness
- Mel & Christine's workshop on Building Relationships
- Enjoyed "Building the Next Generation of Independent Living"
- There were several good sessions.
- Encouraged Council members to use the training log to record all training they do during the year, whether it is through SILC or not.

### **4:30 p.m. Other Items**

Discussion ensued regarding how to get the message out or talk to people that are on the fence related to getting the vaccine.

### **5:00 p.m. Adjourn**

Motion: Melva Heinrich moved and Molly Pollastrini seconded to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous.