



Idaho State Independent Living Council

120 South Cole Road(83709)  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-9601

**Idaho State Independent Living Council (SILC)  
Quarterly Business Meeting (Virtual)  
October 14 and 15, 2021  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mountain Time  
Zoom Captioning and ASL Interpreters Provided**

**Minutes – Thursday, October 14**

**Attendance:** Sean Burlile, Alan Aamodt, Molly Pollastrini, Denise Myler, Shiloh Blackburn, Angela MacDonald, Michael Lefevor, Steve Achabal, Candy Harris, Tara Adams, Eric Bjork, Jeremy Maxand, Ray Lockary, Russ Salyards, Monica Christensen (LIFE), Heather Clarke (LIFE), Erin Olsen

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

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

- Purpose: Establish a quorum - introduce members, staff and visitors, and explain meeting process (housekeeping)
- Facilitator: Angela Hertz, SILC Chair
  
- Angela MacDonald called the meeting to order.
- Introductions were made.

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

- Purpose: Ensure Understanding
- Facilitator: Angela Hertz, SILC Chair
  - Perfect the Agenda
  - Review and Approve Minutes from July 16, 2021  
**(Decision)**

## IDAHO SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING – October 14 and 15, 2021

- There is an agenda change for Friday. Jeremy Maxand, LINC, will present at 11:35 a.m. and Erin Olsen, Idaho Commission on Aging, will present at 1:05 p.m.
- Denise Myler moved and Candy Harris seconded to approve the July minutes. Motion passed.

### **10:20 a.m. July Meeting Evaluations**

- Purpose: Feedback and Information
- Facilitator: Denise Myler and Max Hudson, Membership Co-Chairs
  - Handout provided
- Denise reviewed the July meeting evaluation results.
  - Angela stated that the meeting evaluations really do help us improve the meetings.

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

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making
- Facilitator: Mel Leviton, Executive Director
  - State operations status (annual reports and budget submissions)
- Housekeeping
  - As we move forward, when we meet in person we need to remember not to talk fast and not to have side conversations or talk over each other. It causes issues for the captioner and interpreter.
- Staff are all working in the office. We use masks in common areas.
- IT is working to improve our wireless service
- Fiscal Year 2023 budget was submitted the end of August
- The 2022-2024 State Strategic plan was submitted
- The 2021 Performance report was also submitted
  - As soon as the 2021 report is accepted, we will share it with all of you.
  - We met all of our State benchmarks except the Youth Leadership forum. With BSU closed, it would have been difficult to have it.

## IDAHO SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING – October 14 and 15, 2021

- Participated on two panels during the NCIL conference
- Presented a revised version of History of Independent Living to partners in policy making.
- Will be participating in an APRIL workshop next week.
- SILC Committees have been really busy.
  - Great teams of folks
  - Planning Committee
    - Shout out to Alan for jumping right in.
    - Refined quarterly assessment which you probably noticed. Think it is getting easier to use.
  - Policy Committee
    - Working on Membership policy and will be working on it more today. Trying to get internal policy more in line with what actually happens.
- More information coming on waivers, direct care shortage, lack of training, rates, etc. Before Covid there were many regions/areas who had only 1 agency for direct care. There are even fewer now.
- We continue to work on the Covid-19 response.
  - Crisis Standards of Care
    - Justice in Aging has filed a lawsuit against the State around age discrimination in the Crisis Standards of Care.
    - On the Disaster Medical Advisory Committee.
      - Meetings are not public
      - Anticipate the language for the Crisis Standards of Care will be changed.
      - Crisis Standards of Care are advisory, so hospitals do not have to follow it. It just doesn't work in their systems.
  - All of the ICFDs report zero deaths due to Covid-19.
    - That is not possible given that many of them are very medically fragile. There's a whole group of people who never get to the hospital.

## IDAHO SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING – October 14 and 15, 2021

- Facilities that treat only Covid patients, death rates are pretty high.
- Continue to work with Public Health around flu vaccines. It will be a great partnership as we go forward.

### **11:00 a.m. Executive/Finance Committee Report**

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making
- Facilitator: Angela Hertz, SILC Chair
  - Review Budget, Megan Bates, SILC Financial Specialist
  - National Association of Statewide Independent Living Councils (NASIL) – membership discussion and vote (**Decision**)
- Megan reviewed the financial report and the new budget submission program.
  - LUMA is the new State accounting system. There have been some problems so it has been postponed until 7-22.
  - The budget does go through the new system, it's just not connected to anything.
  - The new system for timecards, etc. goes into effect 7-23.
  - For one year there will be two programs she has to use.
  - The current system is from 1986.
- National Association of Statewide Independent Living Councils (NASIL)
  - It was formerly what we referred to SILC Congress. Due to liability issues, it was incorporated. That vote was two years ago .
  - It was training
  - Dues are \$150. Membership is for 2022.
    - Provides each member SILC with a vote
    - Provides lower registration fees for conferences
  - Not sure it is good, not necessarily bad, just don't know. Mel read the letter we received.
  - We usually send 4 to 5 people to the SILC Congress.
    - For those who have attended, it is the best. The knowledge and information apply to what we do more than any other conference.
    - Mel state for her personally, it is the best conference.
    - Use it for Council development.

## IDAHO SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING – October 14 and 15, 2021

- Good place to learn.
- Less expensive than NCIL since it isn't in Washington, DC

Molly Pollastrini moved and Denise Myler seconded that we join NASIL. Motion passed.

### **11:30 a.m. Break**

### **11:45 a.m. Committee Sessions (Break out rooms)**

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

### **12:30 p.m. Lunch**

### **1:00 p.m. Membership/Outreach Committee Report**

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making
- Facilitator: Denise Myler and Max Hudson, Membership Co-Chairs
  - Open positions and target groups
  - Make recommendations based on applications for upcoming and current open positions (**Decision**)
  - Outreach and recruitment

- Denise stated the Membership Committee would like to recommend Brittany Shipley as the Parent Advocate for the Council.
  - Denise provided a short overview of Brittany's qualifications and experience.

Denise Myler moved and Candy Harris seconded to submit Brittany Shipley to the Governor's Office for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

- Four people will term off in May 2022.
  - Need a person with a disability that does not work for a CIL nor the state for Region I, Region II, Region V, and Region VII.
  - We also need a CIL representative from DAC, a CIL representative from LIFE and a Young adult with a disability.
  - We need to receive applications prior to the January Council meeting so they can be reviewed by the Membership Committee and then vote if we hope to have them approved by May.
  - Molly will follow-up with the Tribe again.
  - We also have some at large seats.

## IDAHO SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING – October 14 and 15, 2021

- If you talk to anyone, send an email to Mel or Denise and they will follow-up.
- Bylaws say we rely heavily on CILs to send us recommendations. It needs to be someone who has some IL knowledge. They may not know all the lingo but they are living that life and willing to learn how to approach representatives, etc.

### **1:30 p.m. Policy Committee Report**

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making
- Facilitator: Shiloh Blackburn, Policy Chair
  - Review internal membership policy for potential updates (**Decision**)
  - Review issue areas for potential policy and advocacy work (**Decision**)
- Reviewed and updated the policy for SILC membership.
  - We need to be certain people who are considering applying for SILC membership are aware that there will be an in-depth background check.

Denise Myler moved and Molly Pollastrini seconded to accept the changes to SILC membership policy. Motion passed unanimously.

- Committee discussed the age change to the ABLE Act.
  - More people would be eligible with the age change (moving age out from 26 to 46) as it would be onset. Many people become disabled after the age of 26 (an example would be Veterans).
- Committee also discussed the Direct Care staff shortage.
  - Several groups are trying to address the shortage.
  - It is more grassroots than SILC can do but LINC, LIFE and DAC-NW can definitely get involved.
- Jeremy stated that there was some pretty robust public involvement in the rulemaking hearings about a month ago.
- Afterwards the Governor's office sent a memo that the process was going to be removed from normal rule making process and put in the hands of the Legislature.
  - The DD Council and others are trying to set up another meeting. We are still in kind of a learning mode at this time.
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## IDAHO SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING – October 14 and 15, 2021

- Mel has been involved and expressed concerns
- We are talking about State funds that are currently channeled through the Division of Vocational Rehab which is outside their federal authority and really awkward for them because vocational rehabilitation is about inclusion in the community and fair wages in the community. It is a painful process that has been going on for at least 10 years.

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

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making
- Facilitator: Molly Pollastrini and Steve Achabal, Planning Co-Chairs
  - Review quarterly SPIL survey
  - Review recommendations for changing future quarterly surveys
- Steve reviewed the fourth quarter SPIL survey results.
  - We are improving and what we are doing is improving.
  - We increased Emergency planning 100% in the last year.
  - Need to some training on how to complete the SPIL survey.
  - Some information we capture because it is measurable and other is more informational and the bigger picture.
  - Mel stated that we are lucky to have all of you hammering this out. We have much more solid relationships and partnerships, so we are better able to serve this huge state.
  - Definitely showing some good improvement and lasting connections.

### **2:30 p.m. BREAK**

### **2:45 p.m. Program Updates**

- Purpose: Information
- Facilitator: Jami Davis, SILC Staff
- Jami stated that she received 36 new ABLE emails and phone calls.
  - Some of the calls are not just ABLE calls. Somewhere in the call it shifted and became a suicide assessment. Starts as one conversation and ends up being something different. People are struggling.

## IDAHO SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING – October 14 and 15, 2021

- Outside of SILC, Jami has provided information on CILs to people. She works at the Suicide Hotline and a lot of the callers have disabilities. Appreciates all you do.
- Jami and Mel are on several housing work groups. Even if you are on SSI, STI etc. there are ways you can still qualify for the emergency rental assistance.
- Jami is the Behavioral Task Force work group. Behavioral and mental health is a big task to try to tackle.
  - Raul Enriquez is from the Area Agency on Aging for Regions III & IV.
  - One of the projects coming out of this is employee mental health.
- Jami is on the Neighbors United Task Force working with refugees
  - They are focusing on vaccines and targeting certain housing groups.
  - Part of our commitment is to learn how they do independent living and inviting them to share that when they want to. We need to learn what it looks like in their community, not in ours.
  - Learning from them and hopefully providing better resources to them when they ask.
- Participated in the ADA celebration in North Idaho and went to the Nez Perce Reservation. I really appreciate Molly & Mark for having me and inviting me into some of the groups you have worked long and hard with.

### **3:05 p.m. 2023-25 SPIL Planning Committee Updates**

- Purpose: Information and Decision Making
- Facilitator: Molly Pollastrini and Mel Leviton and committee members
  - Review draft assessment questions for final approval (**Decision**)
- Group reviewed the entire survey. Discussion ensued and changes were made.

Molly Pollastrini moved and Denise Myler seconded to allow the Committee to make final adjustments to the survey. Motion passed unanimous.

- Mel stated that staff will get the revisions to the committee and the committee will resume meeting.
- A demo survey will be sent to everyone, including guests unless you tell us you don't want it, before January.

### **4:00 p.m. Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.



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10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mountain Time  
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**Minutes - October 15, 2021**

**Attendance:** Sean Burlile, Ray Lockery, Russ Salyards, Monica Christensen, Molly Pollastrini, Tara Adams, Candy Harris, Alan Aamodt, Jeremy Maxand, Angela MacDonald, Mark Leeper, Denise Myler, Steve Achabal, Erin Olsen, Shiloh Blackburn, Brittany Shipley

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

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

- Purpose: Establish a quorum - introduce members, staff and visitors, and explain meeting process (housekeeping)
- Facilitator: Angela Hertz, SILC Chair
- Angela called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.
- Introductions were made.
- Angela reviewed the list of Council members who can be nominated for Chair and Vice-Chair. They are Shiloh Blackburn, Erik Kimes, Candy Harris, Tara Adams, Sean Burlile. Jeremy Maxand can be nominated for Vice-Chair.

**10:10 a.m. Training – National Partners**

- Purpose: Introduction to the resources, training and services available through the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
- Facilitator: Mary Willard, Director of Training and Technical Assistance, APRIL
- Mary Willard introduced herself. Everyone is welcome to ask questions at any time.

## IDAHO SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING – October 14 and 15, 2021

- Idaho was very instrumental in ensuring that APRIL got started. You are ingrained with us whether you know it or not.
- Mary provided an overview of what they do and the training they provide as well as a couple of links for the training. She will send a list of committees to SILC staff to share.
  - APRIL peer mentoring program: <https://www.april-rural.org/index.php/peer-to-peer>
  - Guidebook for SILC Chairpersons, Members, and Administrators -- <https://www.ilru.org/guidebook-for-silc-chairpersons-members-and-administrators>

### Questions:

- What kind of mentorship might be available for a Council member who is not attached to a CIL?
  - They can set up a council-to-council peer support. We try to listen to the people, and we are willing to put something together based on needs.
  - If there is a SILC that is great at recruiting members, that would be a great support of us.
- Idaho is a rural state and unique. There is such a thing as being terminally unique. We are so different no one can help us. The things we face or how we can address them, no one understands. Is that fairly common with SILCs and CILs? How do other states overcome that to build stronger partnerships?
  - If you have seen one SILC or CIL, you have seen one. Each one is unique and has to be. If something works in an urban area, it works in an urban area, and you can always scale up. However, that does not always retrofit the other way.
  - Molly asked why the Idaho SILC is totally different from other SILCs.
    - Mel stated that it because we are part of state government and are not a nonprofit. There are definite advantages such as staff benefits, easier to get state funds, etc.
- What is APRIL doing regarding direct care workers?
  - Great question. Mary will make a note to make that the first topic for their world conversations coming back in January.
- Do different states have different rates?
  - Yes. The rates are different from state to state. The more we talk about it, the more we make change. Change happens by sharing and by collecting data and sharing that data.

## IDAHO SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING – October 14 and 15, 2021

- The best time to catch legislators is before they come to the statehouse. We have had a hard time getting those connections for IL statewide. We would be really interested in learning more about how that was tackled in Montana.
  - Do you have an action alert system? Answer was no.
  - Mark stated that he would put us in touch with Travis Hoffman as this is his passion. He collects emails from folks interested in various things across the state and then sends out information to them.
- Mary stated that it is easy to get siloed in, so she talks to everyone and shares across the network. You don't have to create things from scratch.
- APRIL has a robust youth foundation. They received a grant from the Ford Foundation and are going to be building a youth development academy.
- If you need help, I'm happy to help.

### **NOMINATIONS:**

- Molly Pollastrini nominated Shiloh Blackburn for Chair and Candy Harris for Vice-chair. Denise Myler seconded. Shiloh and Candy accepted the nomination. Passed.
- Angela MacDonald nominated Shiloh Blackburn for Chair and Tara Adams for Vice-chair. Denise Myler seconded. Shiloh and Tara accepted the nomination with the understanding that they can withdraw their name at a later date. Passed.

### **11:25 a.m. BREAK**

### **11:35 a.m. Training – Center for Independent Living (CIL)**

- Purpose: Introduction to Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC) – CIL serving southwest and southcentral Idaho
- Facilitator: Jeremy Maxand, Executive Director, LINC
- Jeremy introduced himself and shared a power point presentation about LINC.
  - Link was established late in 1988. It was incorporated as a 501c3.

## IDAHO SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING – October 14 and 15, 2021

- Original Board of Directors was made up of 1/3 people with disabilities, 1/3 people who were blind or visually impaired and 1/3 community members interested in supporting IL.
- Initial goals resonate as much now as they did back then.
- LINC has been involved in a long list of legislative and community issues and projects over the years and continues to be involved.

### **12:35 p.m. LUNCH BREAK**

### **1:05 p.m. Training - Statewide Partners**

- Purpose: Introduction to the Idaho Commission on Aging (ICOA)
- Facilitator: Erin Olsen, Outreach and Education Specialist, ICOA
- Erin introduced herself. She has been with ICOA for 4 years in several different positions. Has changed positions several times.
- She shared a power point presentation about ICOA.
  - They target people 60 or older but also work with people with disabilities that are 18 and older.
  - Are a state agency
  - Funding comes from the state and ACL – funding is filtered out to our six Triple As and the area Agencies on Aging.
  - Number one goal is to keep people in their home and community, as independent as possible where they can make their own choices.
  - We have several groups you may be interested in. You can find links to all of these on our website ([aging.idaho.gov](http://aging.idaho.gov)).
    - No Wrong Door is a public group.
    - ADRC Stakeholders has a private group. You have to be approved to join this group. Erin would love to have you join this group.
    - Disease Prevention and Health Promotion is a private group limited to providers and stakeholders.

### **2:20 p.m. BREAK**

**2:35 p.m. NCIL Conference Reports, Questions and Comments**

- Denise Myler
  - Candy Harris
  - Erin Olsen
  - Jami Davis
  - Megan Bates
  - Janey Bruesch
- 
- Denise stated there wasn't one particular thing, just the overall conference was very interesting. She wants to revisit the information on housing and look at what we can do here in Idaho. She was impressed with North Carolina transition program.
  - Jami stated that it was interesting to see the changing of the guard. It's also hard with Zoom vs in person. The Health Policy and Independent Living talked about different administrations, numbers have dropped and changes that have been taking place.
  - Megan stated that two sessions she attended that were very interesting and, interestingly somewhat related were Building Plural Safe Places and Rehab Assistance for people with Environmental Hyper Sensitivities. Being on Zoom made it more accessible for people who might have a hard time attending otherwise. She also attended the Unmasking of Ableism. This was not a very happy session but was very informative of how they were able to make a difference and work with other stakeholders.
  - Janey stated that this was her first NCIL Conference, so she attended as many sessions as possible. She attended the Plural Safe Places and Unmasking of Ableism. It was interesting to learn what other states have been doing during COVID. One statistic she found interesting was that in Colorado less than 5% of the people live in Nursing Homes or Assisted Living facilities and yet 30% of the COVID related deaths happened in those facilities. She also attended the sessions on Emergency Planning and found that Jami already includes those things in our program.

## IDAHO SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING – October 14 and 15, 2021

- Erin stated that the NCIL Conference was great. As a new person to SILC, she is trying to learn more about what we do and is an information sponge. She attended as many sessions as possible.

### **Around the state:**

- Molly stated that she has spent a lot of time working on housing issues in their area. The Warming shelter has been delayed but they are hoping to have it open soon. She continues to work with the Tribe as well. She is working a HUD program for housing related to access point - one with no barriers (such as felonies, addiction, etc.). They have created a special fund for Disabled Veterans. They actually sit down with the person and help with the housing search. Still doing covid stuff with CARES act funding.

### **3:05 p.m. Meeting Review and Evaluations**

- Evaluation was emailed to Council. Link is also in chat.

### **3:30 p.m. Adjourn**

- Meeting was adjourned at 2:37.