



Idaho State Independent Living Council

Shiloh Blackburn, SILC Chair  
Mel Leviton, SILC Executive Director

**State Independent Living Council (SILC)  
Quarterly Business Meeting  
Minutes - January 19, 2024**

**10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. MST (9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. PST)**

**ASL & Zoom Captioning will be provided  
Zoom Meeting**

**Attendance:** Tara Rowe, Tara Adams, Shiloh Blackburn, Justyne Collins, Brianna Tamayo, Anhora Snodgrass, Sherri Boelter, Brittany Shipley, Erik Kimes, Michael Lefevor,

**Ex Officios:** Erin Olsen, Russell Salyards, Alan Aamodt, Steve Achabal,

**Guests:** Jeremy Maxand, Ian Bott, Denise Myler, Ray Lockery, Mark Leeper, Candy Harris

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

**Minutes**

<b>Call to Order and Introductions</b>	Shiloh welcomed everyone and declared a quorum at 10:38 a.m. Mel went over the ASL information. Introductions were made. Housekeeping – remember to be recognized by the chair before speaking, Ian is a guest while we await his appointment.
<b>Approval of Minutes and Perfection of Agenda</b>	There were no changes to the agenda.  Tara Adams moved and Brittany Shipley seconded to approve the October minutes with the change noted. Motion carries. (change wording in Program Updates for ABLE account to ABLE Account Program)

## SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

<b>October Meeting Evaluations</b>	Tara Adams gave a brief overview of the evaluation results. There was a lot of positive feedback related to having legislators attend. It was also suggested that perhaps orientation could be done online.
<b>Executive Director Report</b>	<p>Mel Leviton provided the Executive Director report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The PPR will be ready for signatures by the SILC chair and DSE on Monday. It is recommended that Shiloh Blackburn sign the PPR since she was the Chair during the time the report covers.</li></ul> <p>Michael Lefevor moved and Brianna Tamayo seconded to have Shiloh Blackburn sign the PPR. Motion carries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• After talking with two firms regarding the audits for the SILC, Mel recommends going with Zwygart, John and Associates from Nampa.</li></ul> <p>Michael Lefevor moved and Erik Kimes seconded to move forward with Zwygart, John and Associates for the SILC audits. Motion carries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• After a review of the options related to audio for Council meetings, the Council agrees to continue using the audio system through the Holiday Inn Express.</li><li>• Disability Awareness Day (DAD) at the Capital February 1, 2024. It starts at 9</li></ul>

## SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

	<p>a.m. There will be a tour of the Capital at 10 a.m. The Proclamation will be read around noon. Shiloh Blackburn will be accepting her award remotely. Greg Metzger will receive the Marilyn Sword award. Senator Mark Harris will receive his award at 1:30 after the event ends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There are major changes to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) process for 2024. If you are interested, it is recommended that Council members watch a hearing. Staff can send you a link.</li></ul> <p>The SILC budget will be before JFAC on February 7. Mel and Megan will attend to answer any questions but will not make a presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quick review – Do’s and Don’ts of speaking before the legislature as a SILC member</li></ul> <p>It is fine to say you are a member of the SILC but be clear you are not speaking on behalf of the SILC but on your own behalf.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Potential legislation impacting the disability community</li></ul>
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SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

	<p>Potential legislation removing dental coverage for people on Medicaid</p> <p>Legislation on Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementia - Council should remain publicly neutral while trying to educate legislators</p> <p>Legislation to pay family care givers is currently on hold. It needs some safeguards and is not the answer to the care provider crisis.</p> <p>There is proposed legislation that the Legislature would have to approve Medicaid State Plan Amendments related to waivers. It is being suggested that every change or amendment to a waiver, including the original waiver, must be approved by the Legislature. As anyone who deals with waivers knows, it is already difficult to get a waiver or amendments and this would add even more time to the process.</p> <p>Tara Adams moved and Sherri Boelter seconded to approve Mel Leviton and Jami Davis to testify as needed and to educate policy makers on the impact of legislation on the community. Motion carries</p>
<b>Executive/Finance Committee Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Megan Bates reviewed the financial report and excel file. JFAC will review</li></ul>

## SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

	<p>the SILC budget request on February 7<sup>th</sup> for FY 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brittany Shipley gave the Executive Committee Report. It was decided to streamline reports such as the meeting survey to save time during the meeting.</li></ul> <p>Four applications were received for NASILC attendance. The Executive Committee (with Brittany and Tara A. abstaining) recommends sending Brittany Shipley and Tara Adams to NASILC with Anhora Snodgrass being the alternate if one of them can't attend. Council concurs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There was discussion regarding options for the July Council meeting.</li></ul> <p>The Council would like to have orientation return to being the afternoon/early evening the day before the April or October Council meeting.</p> <p>Tara Adams moved and Tara Rowe seconded to change the July meeting to a one-day virtual meeting and discuss how to use the funds at the April meeting. Motion carries.</p>
<b>Program Specialist Updates</b>	Jami Davis gave the Program Specialist update.

## SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emergency Preparedness</li></ul> <p>Over the last year, trained 252 individuals which includes 5 high schools. At the high schools, Jami had the students put their go-bags together and talk about what each might be used for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ABLE</li></ul> <p>108 people were trained through workshops over the last year with an additional 298 new contacts through calls and emails.</p> <p>ABLE Workgroup</p> <p>Currently the workgroup includes Jami Davis, Mel Leviton, Tara Rowe, Shiloh Blackburn, Ian Bott, and Christine Pisani. It has been expanded to include a parent of two children with disabilities that is very knowledgeable.</p> <p>We are going to expand it in the next month or two to bankers, Legislators if they are available to join and an attorney who is also a parent of a disabled child.</p>
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## SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

	<p>The Workgroup is putting together talking points for DAD. Tara Rowe and Shiloh Blackburn drafted the talking points. Jami is reviewing them. When complete, they will be sent to the entire Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Donations for the Idaho SILC baskets for NASILC</li></ul> <p>Tara Rowe sent a book, Anhora is working on a painting, Tara Adams will donate her ASL books, Justyne will make something to donate, Sherri will donate some jewelry, and Janey is collecting other donations of items made in Idaho.</p>
<b>Membership/Outreach Committee Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tara Adams stated that the open positions on the Council for a PWD who are not employed by a CIL or the state, are Region 2, Region 7, and At-Large positions (marginalized communities, blind, Veteran, Native American, etc.). Direct member contact is the most successful way to get new members.</li></ul> <p>It was suggested that a piece about the open positions be posted on the SILC Facebook page and ask the CILs to include it on their Facebook page and/or in their newsletters.</p>

## SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

	<p>If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let Tara Adams know.</p> <p>The SILC is still waiting for Ian Bott's appointment from the Governor's office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Committee would like to encourage Council members to attend events in their area. Perhaps Jami could include any upcoming events in the Squirrel Digest each month. Mel stated that staff will do a better job of contacting Council members in the area when there is an event. It's a good way to connect with community members.</li></ul>
<b>Policy Committee Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brittany Shipley reviewed the draft policies.</li></ul> <p>The signature line was removed from the Code of Ethics. There was discussion regarding the wording of item #4 in the Code of Ethics.</p> <p>Tara Rowe moved and Tara Adams seconded to approve the Code of Ethics policy with the changes noted. Motion carries. (Note: #4 should read "With fellow council members, hire a qualified Executive Director who organizes the day-to-day operations of the SILC and as such, will refrain from interfering with the day-to-day operations of the SILC.")</p>



## SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

	<p>Tara Rowe moved and Sherri Boelter seconded to approve the Disciplinary Action of a Member and SILC Meeting Guests policies. Motion Carries.</p>
<b>SILC Chair and Vice-Chair Elections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Open Meeting Law does not allow secret ballots so voting will be open.</li></ul> <p>Jami Davis stated that Brittany Shipley was nominated for the SILC Chair. Voting ensued and Brittany Shipley was elected as the SILC Chair. (Brittany abstained).</p> <p>Janey Bruesch stated that Tara Adams was nominated for the SILC Vice-chair. Voting ensued and Tara Adams was elected as the SILC Vice-chair. (Tara Adams abstained)</p> <p>Brittany Shipley appointed Tara Rowe as the Policy Committee Chair, Tara Adams as the Membership and Outreach Committee Chair, and Erik Kimes as the Planning Committee Chair. Anhora Snodgrass was appointed as a person from the SILC to the Executive Committee.</p>
<b>Planning Committee Report</b>	<p>Erik Kimes gave the Planning Committee report.</p>

## SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The information provided in the Quarterly reports is great and helps with the annual PPR. Please keep up the great work.</li></ul> <p>Michael LeFevor reported that the CILs discussed and made a decision regarding the objective for Part C funding if it were ever to change. If Part C funding ever increases, funds would be distributed equally between the CILs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SPIL Public Comment</li></ul> <p>The SPIL must go out for Public Comment for 30 days. During that time the SILC needs to hold a public meeting for comments. It was suggested that the virtual public meeting happen the week of January 28<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Tara Rowe moved and Brittany Shipley seconded to hold the virtual public meeting for the SPIL the week of January 28, 2024, and to open it for public comment for 30 days. Motion carries.</p>
<b>Adjourn</b>	Meeting was adjourned at 3:25p.m.