

Minutes State Independent Living Council (SILC) Quarterly Business Meeting April 17 & 18, 2025 -- 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT

Attendance: Brittany Shipley, Anhora Snodgrass, Ian Bott, Justyne Collins, Erin Olsen, Faith Neibert, Russell Salyards, Beth Cunningham, Tara Rowe, Alan Aamodt; Michael Lefevor and Joseph Vincent arrived at 2:30 p.m.

Excused: Erik Kimes, Sherri Boelter, Kylie Reed, Shiloh Blackburn

Guests: Jeremy Maxand, LINC; Keith Mason, United Health

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

April 17 Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions	The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. and a quorum declared. Introductions were made.
Approval of Minutes and Perfection of Agenda	<p>There is an adjustment to the agenda. Handouts #9 and #10 were numbered wrong. The handout #10 on the agenda is actually #9, and #9 is #10.</p> <p>Justyne Collins moved and Anhora Snodgrass seconded to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carries. (Note: On page 2, need to correct the spelling for Fred Riggers Day.)</p>
January Meeting Evaluations	Brittany reviewed the January meeting evaluations. The January meeting was shorter and that is preferred by many but it also felt rushed at times. It is something we will work on. The training suggestions are very helpful. There was lots of great support and thanks to the SILC staff.

Program Updates	<p>Jami stated that ABLE passed! Jami and Mel met with several legislators and with one exception, they all voted in favor of the ABLE bill. It will be implanted on or after July 1, 2025. The Treasurer's office is looking at STABLE or the National ABLE Alliance.</p> <p>Jami gave an ABLE presentation in Twin Falls last week. She will be doing ABLE presentations in North Idaho in May. She is working on doing some presentations in Idaho Falls and Rexburg.</p> <p>Jami will be participating in the Caldwell Resource Fair next week. She attended the VOAD Conference last week.</p> <p>Jami is looking at the possibility of working with the Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) to attend some of their statewide meetings with targeted focus groups. The DD Council would cover her expenses.</p> <p>SILC Congress was very well attended. There was great sharing between SILCs. The Unconscious Bias Workshop was very good. They used stories for the presentation. Jami is the chair for the Planning Committee for SILC Congress 2026. It will be in Florida again.</p> <p>Brittany stated that it was a tough year at the Legislature. Getting the ABLE legislation passed was a big win. She is very proud of the SILC staff and Council members who really championed ABLE.</p>
Executive/Finance Committee Report	<p>Megan reviewed the financial report.</p> <p>Brittany provided an overview of the Executive Committee Meeting in March.</p> <p>Tara reviewed the Annual Training Plan. This is for trainings outside of the Council meetings. Please complete the Annual</p>

	Training Plan and return it to Janey prior to leaving the meeting tomorrow.
Executive Director Report	<p>Mel reviewed her written report.</p> <p>Mel will meet with the Treasurer regarding the Board for the ABLE group. Board members can't work for the state. If you know of folks, please send their names and contact information to Mel in the next two weeks. The meetings will be virtual.</p> <p>Vocational Rehabilitation will begin collecting administrative fees of not more than 1% starting October 1. Idaho has only received about 45% of Part B funds for this year, which is typical. We are still expecting the balance by the middle of May.</p> <p>ACL dismantling is very concerning. Mel has met with legislators regarding ABLE and the Medicaid rule changes. If there is nothing in state law and the federal rules go away, then it all goes away.</p> <p>Mel had an opportunity to present to the Health & Welfare Committee during the legislative session.</p>
SILC Congress Reports	<p>Justyne made a lot of meaningful connections. She learned that we need to contact both supportive and non-supportive legislators when educating them (or advocating as a private individual).</p> <p>Brittany read Sherri's report which was provided as a handout.</p> <p>Michael stated that he always learns new things when he attends SILC 101. He is learning the difference between advocacy and lobbying related to how emails are worded.</p>

	<p>Michael attended the PAC-RIM International Disability Conference in Hawaii. There were about 50 break-out sessions you could attend in the two days. There was a lot of good information. There is a need for students to know self-advocacy.</p> <p>Joseph stated that NASILC was open to him as a newcomer and possible SILC member. He learned a lot about SILCs around the country. Region X had great attendance.</p>
Member Updates	<p>Beth stated that so far so good for their funding. The biggest concern is for older blind people and talking book services. They hope to know more about their funding by September. They are adapting a new case management system that should go live in January. They are gearing up for summer activities, new staff orientation and the new mobility instructor is from Texas and starts in June.</p> <p>Justyne stated that the Sunflower is an international symbol for invisible disabilities. The Boise airport is launching the Sunflower lanyard program today.</p> <p>Michael stated that Life has funding concerns like everyone. They still have classes going on. The Idaho Falls office is almost finished. Their PPR was approved. They served 15 of 18 counties and they have a youth program.</p> <p>Erin stated that Treasure Valley Habitat for Humanity is accepting applications for ramps in Ada and Canyon Counties. She will send the flyer to Janey for distribution to the Council. Let Erin know if you are interested in having a Fall Risk Screening Event in your area.</p> <p>Russ stated that so many changes have happened and continue to happen. The Crisis group has been put on hold but they hope to get it moving again soon. They have been able to continue the building projects. START has continued. It is now under the Crisis Prevention Team.</p>

	Alan stated that they are using an “Order of Selection” now. They have a waiting list but people should still apply. People are selected based on the application date and type of disability. Eric Bjork is their new financial person.																																				
Motion for Executive Session (Decision)	<p>Tara Rowe, SILC Vice Chair, moves and Michael Lefevor, Council member, seconds, that the Council, pursuant to Idaho Code Idaho Code § 74-206 convene in Executive Session to consider personnel matters [Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(a) & (b)] and the vote to do so by roll call vote:</p> <table><thead><tr><th></th><th>Yes</th><th>No</th><th>Abstain</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Justyne Collins</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Ian Bott</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Anhora Snodgrass</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Michael Lefevor</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Tara Rowe</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Joseph Vincent</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Brittany Shipley</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Faith Neibert</td><td></td><td></td><td>Stepped out of the room</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Executive Session was convened at 3:55 p.m. and Adjourned at 4:29 p.m. Staff and Ex-Officio members were excused.</p>		Yes	No	Abstain	Justyne Collins	X			Ian Bott	X			Anhora Snodgrass	X			Michael Lefevor	X			Tara Rowe	X			Joseph Vincent	X			Brittany Shipley	X			Faith Neibert			Stepped out of the room
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Executive Session Report	<p>Joseph Vincent, Council Member, moved and Tara Rowe, Council Vice Chair seconded, to give an Explementary Appraisal to the SILC Executive Director, Mel Leviton. Roll Call vote:</p> <table><thead><tr><th></th><th>Yes</th><th>No</th><th>Abstain</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Justyne Collins</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Ian Bott</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Anhora Snodgrass</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Michael Lefevor</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Tara Rowe</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Joseph Vincent</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Brittany Shipley</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Faith Neibert</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>		Yes	No	Abstain	Justyne Collins	X			Ian Bott	X			Anhora Snodgrass	X			Michael Lefevor	X			Tara Rowe	X			Joseph Vincent	X			Brittany Shipley	X			Faith Neibert	X		
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	Brittany will meet with Mel next week to review additional details regarding Mel's appraisal.
Adjourn	Council meeting was adjourned for the day at 5:00 p.m.

**State Independent Living Council (SILC)
Quarterly Business Meeting
April 18, 2025 -- 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT**

Attendance: Brittany Shipley, Anhora Snodgrass, Ian Bott, Justyne Collins, Erin Olsen, Faith Neibert, Russell Salyards, Tara Rowe, Alan Aamodt; Michael Lefevor and Joseph Vincent

Excused: Erik Kimes, Sherri Boelter, Kylie Reed, Shiloh Blackburn, Beth Cunningham

Guests: Jeremy Maxand, LINC; Christine Pisani, DD Council; Richelle Tierney, DD Council

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

April 18 Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions	Introductions were made.
Committee Reports	<p>Mel welcomed Jeremy Maxand to the Council. His term starts in late May.</p> <p>Membership and Outreach Committee</p> <p>Mel stated that we need someone from Region II and Region VI as well as a Veteran and other at large positions. Jami does a lot of Outreach when she does presentations or events around the state.</p> <p>Brittany stated that outreach was a big discussion. If there</p>

is an event you know about, please let us know.

Policy Committee

Tara stated that they have been working on the Training Plans that are due today. They will have a policy for the July meeting regarding the Training Plans. They have also been working on the dual plan transition.

Mel reminded everyone to be sure to put the three trainings today on your training log.

Planning Committee

Michael stated that they discussed Part B funds and we will be able to check ABLE off on the SPIL. Mel stated that we will have to make some technical amendments related to VOC Rehab and the administrative fees this fall. Michael we will make some changes to the quarterly survey questions.

The Planning Committee is trying to figure out how to gather information for the assessments. The goal is to put together five simple questions, have four public input sessions – 1 in each CIL area and 1 virtual. The CIL IL specialists could also gather information during 1 to 1 meetings. Mel asked how we can get more participation from the CILs. Michael stated that fewer questions, how easy questions are to answer, etc. will help. Mel stated that the questions need to fit well for events as well as other needs. We also need demographic information (city or zip code), age, male/female. May need a separate survey for someone completing it for someone like a parent of a disabled child, (guardians/providers). The people we really need to hear from are the people with disabilities.

	<p>Mel stated that the Hands Around the Capital event is July 25th. If you are interested in attending, you need to complete the Conference application and get it to Janey no later than May 15th. If you attend, you will take turns spending time at the SILC table talking with people. If you are planning to be there for more than 6 hours from the Boise area, SILC will pay for lunch per diem.</p>
<p>Medicaid Dual Coverage</p>	<p>Presenters: United Health Care: Keith Mason & Dennis DHW/Medicaid: Alex Childers-Scott Molina: Marny Packard, Jenny Morman, & Sherry Wheeler</p> <p>Alex provided a flyer with an overview of the transition for Medicare/Medicaid. Blue cross is leaving May 31. June 1 anyone with MMCP who did not make a choice between Molina and United Health Care will automatically be enrolled in United Health Care. There is no wait list. Open enrollment will happen in the fall. It is difficult to reach everyone on Medicaid but they are doing the best they can.</p> <p>Molina will be hiring 6 to 10 people to start on 6-1-25 to help with the influx of people. Also increasing the contact center team in Idaho.</p> <p>Keith stated that if you have Blue Cross and haven't made a choice then you will be automatically be enrolled in United IMPLUS and have to find other coverage for the MMCP until January 1 or you could go with Molina until January 1.</p> <p>You have to opt in to Part D. You have to make a consciences choice for Part D. You are never automatically enrolled in Part D.</p> <p>Alex will provide information in writing to the SILC after this meeting regarding options for people who are or have recently been institutionalized. She will also provide</p>

	<p>information on the requirements and frequency for a care coordinator to have contact with members. Alex will provide a list of the counties in Idaho that are not covered.</p> <p>Both Molina and United Health are hiring more staff to help with the influx of people.</p> <p>Alex offered to meet with the Council again in the future to talk about 2026.</p>
Emergency Preparedness Training	<p>The website at Ready.gov has a lot of information on emergency planning and planning for disruptions.</p> <p>Council members should attend the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) meetings in their area.</p>
Housing Panel	<p>Presenters: Intermountain Fair Housing – Zoe Ann Olson Boise City/Ada County Housing – Deanna Watson Idaho Housing and Finance – Erin Anderson</p> <p>Erin stated that she definitely doesn't know all the answers but some of the funding for rural areas and tribal groups that help them provide affordable housing has been lost.</p> <p>Deanna stated that their funding is from HUD so are watching it closely. HUD staff has been cut 50% nationwide. The loss of funding could reduce rental assistance and other programs.</p> <p>Zoe Ann stated that the goal is to keep them running. They had three grants cancelled without due process and then won on a TRO. If they close the Region X office we have the skill process to file elsewhere. With Region X we could file our cases with a person. Now they will go to a portal. The issues with a portal are you don't get an inquiry number and other information you need so you have to request it. We have to make sure people's civil rights are protected. We do have private grants that</p>

	<p>mandate us to represent everyone related to discrimination in housing.</p> <p>With cuts to Legal Aid and Fair Housing is there any other source people can access?</p> <p>Erin stated that perhaps the city and/or state could do some things.</p> <p>Deanna stated that IFH and Legal are still taking cases. They still have their funding for now.</p> <p>ABLE can be used to save for a downpayment on a home. People need to be trained to understand what an ABLE account is and how the funds can be used.</p> <p>Is there a program or a way to help with the first/last/deposit for renters?</p> <p>Zoe stated that there are resources all across the state. Sometimes she has to piece it all together.</p> <p>Some people are already facing challenges getting their SSI and SSD, do you have any programs in place to help them?</p> <p>Erin stated that they don't have a large contingency plan. Right now, it is on a case-by-case basis. They are not prepared for a widespread issue.</p> <p>Deanna stated that they are receiving more calls from people asking if I lose my SS are you going to kick me out. They have resolved not to kick anyone out. They will work with landlords and will re-evaluate their income, and if necessary, pay all of the rent.</p> <p>Zoe Ann stated that landlords have to give you a 30 day notice not a 3-day notice if they receive federal funds.</p>
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	They have to comply with the CARES act. There is fair housing training available online.
Other business	Photo of Council members present was taken.
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 4:19.