

**New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC)
Full Council Meeting
March 20, 2015
Troy Hilton Garden Inn, Sage Ballroom
9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Council Members Present: Roger Benn, Joe Bravo, Julie Cardone, Brett Eisenberg, Helen Fang, Zach Garafalo, Jose Gonzalez, Susan Gray, Bob Gumson, Sue Hoger, Carla Lewis-Irizarry, Shelley Klein, Lindsay Miller, Henry Nixon, Sue Ruff, Chad Underwood

Member Present by Phone: Luis Gutierrez

Absent: Melba Torres, George Hoehmann

NYSILC Staff Present: Brad Williams, Patty Black
Consultants: Rosalind Harris (Virtual Assistant)

Guests: Leah Farrell (Justice Center), Suzanne de Beaumont (NYAIL), Raymond Pierce (ACCES-VR)

Open Forum

Dave Whalen encouraged council members to refrain from checking email and texting during the council meeting.

The council had a discussion about the ADA 25th Anniversary and the potential for a bill for an ADA coordinator involving 50 or more employees. Kim Hill discussed this bill with Brad although it was late in the process. He thought a conceptual draft could be developed in the summer so that it could be introduced in January 2016. They are trying to introduce it by the end of that session. Kim is currently working on this with her staff in recognition of the anniversary. Dave Whalen is close to finalizing the State 911 Operator's training and gave SILC member's the opportunity to talk to him about any last minute input.

Review and approve FCM Minutes of November 14, 2014 – Chad pointed out that there were some spelling mistakes and suggested approval of an amended version that reflects corrections. Sue Ruff mentioned comments on page 4 that were not accurate. She emailed the corrections to Brad. Shelley requested that minutes be signed by the person providing them.

Motion to approve: Sue Hoger
Second: Carla Lewis-Irizarry
Motion Carries

Executive Director's Report – Brad Williams

The audit and 704 Report have both been taken care of and the year-end appeal will be addressed in Development Report. Brad will give the report for Lynn Drucker. The SPIL evaluation has proceeded through the committee process and been sent on to Alan Krieger who will have the draft ready by April 2015. The NYSILC technology installation is partially complete and is making good progress. The desktop computers are installed and the web updates are complete.

For new members, make sure that you look at committee listings and see if there's one you'd like to sign on to. Dave Whalen asked if you can still chair a committee when you transition off of NYSILC. Brad responded that only active council members should be chairs. There have been former "emeritus" and ex officio members who remain involved with the committees though.

Treasurer's Report – Sue Hoger

Sue went over the quarterly report and audit. She reported that there was nothing outstanding with the quarterly report. The only nuance to mention was that personnel and fringe were slightly under-expended and contractual was over-expended as we have to provide for technical writers. It will be adjusted in a budget modification during the fourth quarter. The audit was easy and the auditor found no areas of potential fraud and felt he conducted a reasonable and accurate audit of our records. NYSILC is well managed fiscally. Most of the things that were different were those items we had anticipated, such as the change in the amount of staffing. We received a small amount of money from fund development donations and the cash from beginning to end of year was up by \$13,000. There was a lot of conversation about the leasing process at NYSILC. It was a good audit overall. Sue Ruff asked why there was such a difference in travel expenses between 2013 and 2014. Brad responded that in 2013 we had more out of state travel to the NCIL annual conference and for consulting (which we were reimbursed back). No significant out of state travel occurred in 2014. It was at the 2013 NCIL conference that Brad learned about the NGA "Better Bottom Line."

Motion to Accept: Sue Ruff
Second: Carla-Lewis Irizarry
Motion Carries

Executive Committee Report – Shelley Klein

The minutes are in the packet with the exception of the most recent meeting that we had last Friday. We did our SPIL evaluation and "evaluated the evaluator" who received accolades from all who participated. We then discussed preparing for the new member orientation, the Full Council Meeting, and the NYSILC office. One of the most important discussions we had addressed the 2015 priorities: the importance of the upcoming SPIL formulation, needs assessment, the second phase of the LCDEP, and the impending WIOA changes. The Executive Committee agreed with the need to stay focused. Brad

added that it will be important for the council to stay focused on its priorities and business during this state plan formulation year. Shelley thanked all new members who attended new member orientation. A motion was made to change the status of Zach Garafalo from Acting Secretary to Secretary.

Motion: Dave Whalen
Second: Sue Hoyer
Motion Carries

Committee and Subcommittee Reports –

ACCES-VR (Bob Gumson): Contracts for capacity building are on their way to being finalized and signed. They are currently six months behind. Looking at possibility of integrating peer services (trained IL staff) working with ACCES-VR staff. This RFP could be released in early/mid spring. ACCES-VR wants to dedicate significant amount of funds (several million) geared toward working with transition youth. ACCES-VR will be convening a workgroup to determine what should be in an IL focused youth transition project. Deliverables proposed by ACCES for next three-year ILC contract were responded to with some significant concerns by NYAIL and the ILC membership. These concerns are currently under review by ACCES.

Commission for the Blind (Julie Cardone): In the process of preparing for the consumer satisfaction survey with Cornell. Gearing up for Unified State Plan. Brad informed Julie about the Commission for the Blind IL survey results. He will send the data to Julie when he gets back to the office. It will be a part of the evaluation report. Julie mentioned the Business Enterprise Program and the opportunities being very slow. Brian Daniels has been working very hard on this initiative. BEP gives a potential site the opportunity to say “sorry, this will affect my bottom line.” There is “A Taste of New York” Governor’s initiative with vending machines which can be seen along the thruway. It is a part of the Business Enterprise Program.

NYSILC Discussion of Work Priorities and Challenges – Brad Williams

This is a SPIL formulation year, so 2015 will be very busy for NYSILC. Brad and the council will be engaged with a needs assessment to gather data and search results into a report. The SPIL formulation committee will need to seek public input and develop the next state plan. We also have the public policy agenda, LDCEP campaign, and database workgroup. We will have an intense need to stay focused on priorities.

Priority Recommendations to the Governor – A joint letter was prepared from NYSILC and NYAIL. The report came out March 1 and Brad reported that the “why” section is very good as is the “best practices section.” Page 12 explains the goals of the report. Pages 13-18 identify the Commission’s Recommendations, which include much of what we suggested such as reinstating a 55B statewide coordinator, enhancements to the 55B program, a cross-disability tax credit, etc. Shelley mentioned that the commission focused on cross-disability needs rather than just developmental

disabilities. Bob Gumson stated that the plan didn't address that NY still has a very significant preferred source contracting program that benefits NYS Industries for the Disabled and with this plan, disabled folks would still be taken advantage of. The plan does have an Appendix A – an implementation plan – which identifies timeframes for most steps. Brad spoke with Pauline Barfield so that NYSILC and NYAIL can show their support of the recommendations. It will be up to advocates and the community to monitor the implementation.

Dave Whalen commented that the small business development center in Buffalo is not accessible and their staff is not well trained.

Raymond Pierce – ACCES VR - Presentation

Mr. Pierce spoke about CRS delivery contracts and potential changes coming with supported employment and youth employment services. He stated that with WIOA there will be more funding than what is being offered with the CRS contract. He mentioned adding an hourly component to support employment for CRS. There is talk of developing an RFP for youth employment services. Also, there is additional funding with WIOA that is targeted for support employment for youth. They are working on developing services around the new laws and regulations. ACCES is looking at putting out "CRS 2.0" contracts to incorporate their new ideas.

Brad finished his update on issues by discussing the NYSILC blog and the subject of law enforcement and people with disabilities and their treatment by law enforcement. He drew attention to Dave's program at Niagara and the need for training and working together. Brad sent this blog off to the NYS Attorney General's Office to make them more aware of this issue. Sue Ruff suggested it would be helpful to talk to District Attorneys across the state and the fact that persons with disabilities have historically not been seen as good witnesses to the violence that has been done to them.

Lunch

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Presentation – Suzanne De Beaumont and Zach Garafalo

Suzanne spoke about the purpose of this grant, which is to put more emphasis on home and community based services. They want to eliminate barriers to individuals getting long-term care in their home. In order to be an MFP participant, one needs Medicaid at least one day before transition and must have resided in an institution for 90 days. People can move anywhere they wish in the community including small group homes. One of the primary means of referrals is through "Section Q" – asking nursing home residents if they would rather reside in home or community.

Zach spoke about the second component of MFP which is connecting people who are interested into transitioning into community to peers who have resided in institutions and

have successfully transitioned. They also look to connect with people with disabilities who have experience linking with community resources who manage well on their own. Transition specialists offer peer services to the people they meet. Within ten days, a peer is dispatched to that area. The main goal is to support peers and their families during the process. This is a fee for service model.

SPIL Committee – Brett Eisenberg and Sue Hoger

Brett gave an update. The minutes are in the packet. He stated that the first call for the upcoming SPIL process is set for the end of March. There will be much work ahead for the SPIL formulation process this year.

Needs Assessment Committee – Sue Hoger

Sue reported that the needs assessment process had begun. If people have thoughts on this, she asked them to please let her or Brad know. Also, if people are aware of any sources for data, she asked that they please be sent on to the NAC. Needs Assessment is a necessary part of the SPIL and needed to formulate it properly. Brad added that the NYS Office of the Aging is actively looking into what data sets they have so they can contribute to the NAC.

Database Workgroup – Brad Williams

NYSILC is set to meet with ACCES VR at the end of the month. The data interface is the first item on the agenda. The update provided at the meeting will allow the workgroup to move forward once they know the project's status.

Development Committee – Brad Williams for Lynn Drucker

Chad encouraged everyone to make their contribution to the 2015 LDCEP Campaign. He stated that last year NYSILC reached 96% and this year are trying to reach 100%. Brad summarized NYSILC's campaign progress. He stated that NYSILC had a total of 20 different donations and raised over \$4,000 with a one in-kind donation for printing. There is a total of \$ 35,800 in the SEFCU savings account. Brad has been working on the LDCEP proposal with the technical writers.

Consumer Satisfaction – Brad Williams

Brad stated that the committee had a very productive meeting in January and worked on the evaluation for SPIL objectives. They started talking about the process for the next cycle and putting priorities together. The committee is not sure of when the next meeting will be as other priorities are more immediate. The plan was to have another discussion in six months.

Public Policy – Brad Williams

Brad stated that another meeting is set next week with the goal to start the process of drafting the 2015 public policy agenda which is based on needs assessment priorities. They will be looking at existing agendas and recommendations to fill in what is consistent with the priority areas.

Youth – Marc Rosen

Chad stated that the youth committee has not been as active. He was looking for volunteers to get it more active once again. Susan Gray volunteered to take on this task as the member at large. She asked members to email her if they were interested in joining the committee.

Emergency Preparedness- Dave Whalen

Dave stated that the committee is looking to have some transition in the future to make sure they are both regionally and disability represented. He also noted that Bridgit Burke's case study on inclusive disaster preparedness training that was recently published had a lot of implications and there was much interest in this study beyond NYSILC. It was sent on to FEMA and the NYSEMA President. Dave was invited by FEMA to go to the access and functional needs course for responding to people with disabilities before, during and after an emergency. The goal is to get NYS to fund it so they can get more people trained. They also forwarded a good resource page which was a summary of best practices. Finally, Dave gave a quick update on the disability awareness training and said that 911 operator's training was about to start. He also suggested that advocates make their local emergency managers aware of this training so they can hear about it from the disability community.

Outreach – Susan Gray

The committee will be meeting in April and Susan stated that there was an ATI Cortland Quarterly Report for Capacity Building in the packet. It should be noted that in the future, we will have up to ten capacity building grant reports in the packet to review. She stated that there are three applications in for the Pat Figueroa Young Adult Sponsorships to attend an ADAPT event. Susan also encouraged anyone who might be interested in joining the Outreach Committee to please contact her. Lindsay Miller said she would like to join Outreach.

Motion to adjourn

Joe Bravo

Minutes: Patty Black and Zach Garafalo