

**New York State Independent Living Council
Full Council Meeting
June 5, 2015**

Council Members present: Chad Underwood, Martin Abril (Jose Gonzalez), Joe Bravo, Helen Fang, Zach Garafalo, Susan Gray, Luis Gutierrez, George Hoehmann, Sue Hoger, Shelly Klein, Lindsay Miller, Henry Nixon, Marc Rosen, Sue Ruff, and Dave Whalen

Present by Phone: Lynn Drucker (on phone), Melba Torres (later - on phone)

Others present: Brad Williams, Patty Black, Alan Krieger

Open Forum:

Sue Ruff stated that the Nurse Practice Act is being held up in the Senate by Senator LaValle of Long Island. Lindsay Miller stated that the NYAIL bi-annual conference will be held in the days preceding the next full council meeting in September.

Minutes

Edits to the March full council meeting minutes from Julie Cardone included inserting: “who received VR services?” Delete “BEP” statement. Brad has made the specific edits for Julie who was unable to make the meeting. There was a move to accept the minutes with the amendments from Joe Bravo.

Second: George Hoehmann. Vote: Unanimous.

Executive Director’s Report

Brad said that the previous firewall was actually not a firewall per se. They have installed a dual firewall to allow public access and restricted access to WiFi. The NYSILC server will be installed on Tuesday of the coming week. Also, NYSILC technical writers have been busy working on other deliverables for the council such as the quarterly contract report and draft annual report. They will get back to the Leadership Development and Civic Engagement Proposal (LDCEP) work as soon as possible. This is a very busy year with much time involved in the State Plan and needs assessment processes.

Treasurer’s Report

Sue Hoger reported that we have a little money left over to spend by the end of the year. We will work on ideas in the next month. Income and expenditures are within an acceptable range.

Executive Committee Report

The committee agreed unanimously to support language adapted by NCIL and ADAPT regarding the Community Integration Act. The council (Recruitment Committee) is actively soliciting new council members. A very involved discussion ensued about the lack of applications (two to date) for six projected openings on the council for 2016. The council brainstormed on strategies to generate more applicants by the June 19th deadline. More to come in the committee report.

Committee and Subcommittee Reports

Regarding the SPIL, the committee worked with Brad to create a new SPIL formulation timeline, Federal CIL director voting process and mediation process (if needed). For the last item, it was felt that an arbitration process could be needed in case we do not get 13 votes. It looks to appoint an ad hoc committee to get things addressed. Clarification is needed on whether the DSE can provide technical edits and can object to the SPIL. The real issue is that we (all states) are formulating and developing plans with no guidance. Joe Bravo said that if we see an issue with some members in terms of approval, we should reach out to members to ensure that we get 13 votes. We will have a follow up SPIL committee conference call on June 22. Afterwards, we will schedule a call with federal CIL directors by September. Chad asked to make a motion to accept the conceptual framework. Motion: Lindsay Miller. Soconded by unnamed member. Motion: Unanimous.

ACCES-VR SRC Report

A number of updates around WIOA, implementing new services, self-advocacy, and workforce development. Bob said there was a tremendous amount of work, including shifting funding priorities to youth with disabilities. At this time, the VR State Plan is no longer a standalone plan. It is now a uniform plan across agencies (DOL, CB, and ACCES-VR). There is no final rule making for VR workforce.

ACCES-VR Report

Bob Gumson talked about the IL unit. Most of the capacity building contracts have been approved and finalized. By the next meeting, there will be updates and reports from all 10 projects. Bob asked for communication to go out from the finance office and heard about concerns with reimbursements. There will be a 30 day waiting period. For the Pilot project, peers in two ILCs are going to help with workforce development. An RFP should come out this summer. ACCES-VR is also convening an IL transition workgroup for ILCs to develop a uniquely IL transition model. An RFP will then be developed.

Our new State Education commissioner has an adult son who is blind and is working as a lawyer for the National Federation for the Blind.

Sue Ruff stated that she would like to see the council send a letter to State Ed because the TASC practice test is not accessible in Braille and audio. It is available only in large print.

The Albany Law School is having an ADA celebration the same week as the IL statewide conference and the NYSILC and NYAIL meetings.

Presentation of SPIL Evaluation Report

Alan Krieger of Krieger Solutions, LLP, the council's SPIL evaluator, presented the 2014 NYSILC SPIL Evaluation Report to the full council. He went over the highlights of the report which was shared in advance with the meeting materials. The evaluation process is now well established for the council, with identified committees conducting

evaluations on objectives in the months leading up to a review of the draft report by the SPIL Committee. After feedback, Alan pulls together the final report. It was accepted by the council.

Alan talked about objectives being straightforward and the numbers of people served as well as numbers of meetings. 4 of 9 were fully met and 5 of 9 were substantially met. 100% of the objectives were fully or substantially met. He felt that we needed to build “value added” components into outcomes. Alan said he would like to see the council get so good at evaluation that he works himself out of a job.

The report has since been distributed widely and posted on the NYSILC website: http://www.nysilc.org/images/2014_SPIL_Evaluation_Report_Final_5-28-15.docx.

Training Part I and II, Alan Krieger of Krieger Solutions, LLP

Before lunch, Alan facilitated a session with materials that discussed the development of goals and objectives. He then went further and reviewed the development of outcome measures and targets. After lunch, this gave council members time to break into small work groups to apply their fresh or renewed knowledge on the subject to current SPIL objectives and attempt to improve SPIL goals, objectives, outcomes, and targets.

Needs Assessment Committee

Sue Ruff reported that the committee has been very active. There was some confusion about the numbers of people in developmental centers. We settled on the fact that differences between central and regional offices and their data is between them and could be due to a variety of factors. We will cite the source of our data (FOIL #) and treat it like a sample. The second workgroup looked at the surveys and changed and edited language. They are doing well, just lacking on institutionalized data from DOH (last FOIL request). In addition, Brad talked about doing a national webinar on SILC needs assessment and building a needs assessment on a limited budget set for June 23rd.

Development

Brad reported for Lynn Drucker. The LDCEP needs to be addressed with the proposal fully completed. As soon as we can get back to it, given present work priorities, we will make it happen. There are just too many competing work demands and priorities.

Database Group

The workgroup recommended that we reach out to ACCES-VR and confirm where ACCES VR is at with the process and discuss how a data interface for the network can achieve multiple goals. It was brought into a discussion of three issues between ACCES-VR and NYSILC: current Designated State Entity (DSE), possibility of Innovation & Expansion (I & E) funds to compliment the Part B funds for the SILC resource plan in the upcoming SPIL 2017-2019, and this discussion about the data interface.

Bob stated that he had consistently made requests for IT to turn the framework from database workgroup ideas into a request for information from the technology people about how to build and design the database. Perhaps it is time to rethink the strategy on the data interface issue.

Consumer Satisfaction

The group initially met and discussed the questions. However, they will reconvene in 2016 after SPIL development to determine if there are any ways to improve upon the process.

Public Policy

Brad talked about the DVRN finishing its project. CDR sent a letter to Bob with a copy to Brad about their intent to continue use of the database after completion of the project/contract. Bob stated that the property and products are owned by the state. The original intent of the grant was for CDR to continue using the database. State Education is working on a licensing agreement.

Youth Leadership:

Luis talked about the Disability Pride Parade in July in NY City to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ADA.

Emergency Preparedness:

Two topics were discussed. First, there is excessive functional needs training in the following areas:

Niagara County, Erie County, Livingston County, and Genesee County. Also, connecting Susan Gray, Sue Hoger, Joe Bravo and other folks to people in Albany. Second, disability awareness training for 911 operators attending a conference in Denver.

Recruitment

As discussed earlier, the search is active for 2016 to recruit new members. Looking for six total members: two parents/guardians, one organization serving, one CIL representative, one CIL representative (formerly the 121 project representative - needs to be reclassified) and one other. The deadline for new member applications is June 19th. All members were asked to send the solicitation notice and encourage interested individuals to apply. A discussion ensued about individuals who are interested in NYSILC when they come from agencies of a current council member. It was mentioned that there are no federal or state laws or regulations that prevent the council from having individuals from the same agency. It is just that for diversity purposes, it is always a first preference to have people from different experiences and agencies for the broadest representation possible.

Lindsay made the following Motion: The council can have more than two members from the same agency serving at the same time. Second: George Hoehmann. 10 Yes, 3 Nos, 2 abstentions. Motion does not carry.

As a result, it was acknowledged that nothing changed. The Recruitment Committee should act upon applications as they have in the past and support diversity first. If a lack of applicants or other circumstances prevent otherwise, then the best possible candidates should always be selected - even if they are from the same agency.

Outreach

Reports for capacity building grants are in the packets. Four are outstanding. Veteran's report was incredible. Pat Figueroa sponsorships were projected from last quarter and YOUTH POWER! did not need them this year because they received a separate grant for scholarships. Roger Benn agreed to chair outreach in September when Susan Gray leaves.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes: Patty Black and Zach Garafalo