

New York State Independent Living Council  
Full Council Meeting  
September 18, 2015

Members present: Roger Benn, Sue Ruff, Dave Whalen, Susan Gray, Chad Underwood, Zach Garafalo, Brett Eisenberg, Joe Bravo, Shelley Klein, Julie Cardone and Bob Gumson.

Members on phone: Luis Gutierrez, Carla Lewis-Irizarry, Marc Rosen.

Staff: Brad Williams, Patty Black.

Proxies:

- Zach Garafalo proxy for Luis Gutierrez, Marc Rosen, Carla Lewis-Irizarry, and Lindsay Miller.
- Joe Bravo proxy for Susan Hoger.

Total voting members present (nine) plus proxies (five) equals fourteen. Quorum met.

Public: Cliff Perez, Crystal (Justice Center), Nick and Cadence.

### **Full Council Minutes**

Dave Whalen made a motion to approve council minutes from June 5, 2015. Seconded by Joe Bravo. Roger Benn abstained. All others approved. Motion Carried.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Brad noted that \$2,600 will be generated from consulting/speaking fees for the year. In terms of equipment, a projection panel and screen was purchased which will help to offset the cost of Power Point presentations at full council meetings (\$500 each time) and will assist with the upcoming SPIL formulation and real time captioning. Also, the front desk area at the NYSILC office is being replaced after more than 20 years.

The council reviewed the following proposed meeting schedule for NYSILC full council meetings in 2016:

- Friday April 15, 2016, Friday, June 17, 2016, Friday, September 16, 2017, and Friday, November 4, 2016.

Sue Ruff made a motion to approve the 2016 NYSILC full council meeting schedule as proposed. Brett Eisenberg second. All approved. Motion carried.

Chad noted that the ACCES-VR State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) approved its 2016 dates. Looks like the ACCES-VR SRC and NYSILC could do a joint meeting around the June meeting dates. Members agreed and supported this. There will be a need to follow through in 2016.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Revenues exceeded expenses. A budget modification was submitted and approved in advance of the third quarter. The salary line was reduced and used to increase the contractual and equipment lines. In terms of the final quarter potential spend down plan, the Finance Committee discussed options. It was felt that realizing funds so Alan Krieger of Krieger Solutions could draft the needs assessment report was a high priority. Also, sponsorship of the NYAIL conference and contracting with a vendor to complete a draft proposal for the LDCEP initiative. Lindsay recommended the ADG group - a local MWBE vendor. Brad is working with the bookkeeper to monitor payables to budget. A question was raised related to the school tax escalation and maintenance operation bills per the lease as a non-profit. Joe Bravo noted that they are fairly standard in leases.

In addition the NYSILC 2016 fiscal year budget was submitted for review. It was reviewed by the Finance Committee. Joe Bravo made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 NYSILC fiscal year budget as presented. Roger Benn seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Nominations were opened and were being accepted for NYSILC two-year officer positions. Descriptions for each position were provided in the packet: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Member-at-Large. All positions are open. Election will be held at the November full council meeting. New officers will take office in January 2016. In terms of the nomination process, they should flow through Brad including any questions. A slate will be presented at the next full council meeting. Brad will follow up with everyone since not all members were present.

Brad will be meeting with representatives from ACCES-VR next Thursday to discuss NYSILC recruitment appointments to the council for 2016, potential I & E funds to help supplement the SILC resource plan for 2017-2019, and the data interface project.

In regards to the NYSILC liaison to the NYS Commission for the Blind SRC, the council continued to discuss the various options available. Members recognized that the new appointees to the council in 2016 could provide a potential opportunity to have someone serve in this dual capacity. Cliff Perez was present at the meeting and volunteered that if he was appointed to the council, he would be willing to serve in this dual capacity.

The council needed to identify members who could serve on behalf of NYSILC to the Inclusive Workforce Alliance to address the Employment First issue. An important meeting was coming up on October 14<sup>th</sup> with John Allen and a person from DOL. Chad Underwood and Sue Ruff agreed to represent the council.

### **Committee and Subcommittee Reports**

Chad stated that the ACCES-VR SRC met last week. It was noted that three Regents left office last March. There has been a change in dynamics. The new Commissioner of

State Education has an adult child with a disability. There will be a new RFP coming out in January.

- New core rehabilitation services that are more closely aligned with WIOA.
- Customized employment
- Internships
- Learn by doing

The SRC is focusing on performance measures to comply with WIOA. Consumer satisfaction surveys have been sent out. They are interested in seeing what people think a year after their cases are closed. There has not been a final decision as to whether there will be a separate package for youth services or all in one.

Bob gave the ACCES-VR report. He has been working on a design of new services for youth.

- Developing a draft proposal for self-advocacy (disclosure, employment, understanding yourself as a person with a disability).
- Convened a policy discussion around transition: how to craft a model that speaks to the strengths of IL and how to RFP.
- Needs: Reaching far and wide with disconnected youth (foster care, drop outs, etc.).
- On its way out of ACCES. Peer independent living services: integrating peers into ACCES-VR offices. One up state opportunity and one down state opportunity.

Bob also mentioned that they are closing out the second year of the SSAN.

Julie gave the NYSCB report. Many vacant positions have been filed. OCFS has a management project where they have each agency identify a deficiency. Commission for the Blind identified an eye registry. There is now "no waiting list." Consumer satisfaction surveys are being done with Cornell. Five hundred have been returned to date. State plan meetings are being held and in partnership with ACCES and DOL.

### **Review of SPIL and NAC Activities**

Nick and Cadence (invited guests) were given the opportunity to speak about their personal experiences related to the lack of affordable, accessible housing. They have both been on the verge of being homeless.

Brad gave an update on the SPIL formulation process and how the materials are posted at the top of the NYSILC website [www.nysilc.org](http://www.nysilc.org). The consumer and center surveys are both active during the month of September. The consumer survey is also posted on the NYSILC homepage. Messaging will continue for both the SPIL and needs assessment through October.

### **Presentation on the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs**

The presentation was made by Kim Wadsworth. Materials were provided in advance and a Power Point was followed for discussion purposes. The following outline was provided.

Programs:

- Adult home and advocacy
- Technology related assistance for individuals with disabilities (TRAID)
- Surrogate Decision Making Committee (SDMC)
- Information and referral
- Ombudsperson for individuals with developmental disabilities
  - Anything you say to an ombudsperson is confidential. They are not mandated reporters.
- Training
- Advocacy

Prevention:

- Code of conduct
- Abuse prevention resource center
- Prevention of abuse and neglect work group
  - Self-assessment for an abuse free environment

**Committee and Subcommittee Reports** (Continued)

Brett Eisenberg gave the SPIL Committee report. He noted Brad's comments earlier and then remarked about the Federal CIL Director conference call on September 4<sup>th</sup> co-facilitated by himself and Joe Bravo. It went very well. There is a general understanding of how to proceed. Thirteen yes votes will be required to approve a SPIL section and the overall SPIL. The group will get back together in early November after the public comment period has concluded.

Sue Ruff and Brad provided an update about the Need Assessment Committee (NAC). The real push right now is to get as many consumer to respond to the survey as possible. Sue mentioned that the committee made an effort to make the questions as basic and readable as possible. It was a goal to try to get each center to have 30-40 centers complete the survey. Brad noted the interesting trend this cycle that more people are actually completing the Word document and sending it in versus clicking the Survey Monkey link and selecting choices and "done."

Brad noted that the Database Workgroup is scheduled to have a meeting September 25<sup>th</sup> a day after Brad has a meeting with ACCES-VR for which the last item of discussion will be the data interface. A new direction will be provided as a result of these meetings.

Brad also mentioned that the Development Subcommittee hasn't met for a while and is due for a meeting. He will connect with Lynn and look to set something up in late October or early November.

It was decided that Zach Garafalo should work with Martin Abril to energize the Youth Leadership Subcommittee. Brad will get the most recent names and email addresses of Pat Figueroa recipients to Zach as a start.

Dave Whalen gave the Emergency Preparedness report. He talked about the Access and Functional Needs Initiative. Dave then discussed how Jim Fleming of FEMA has been conducting regional outreach to counties related to disability integration. Jim scheduled ten county visits over four days in early September. Counties included Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Livingston, Cortland, Cayuga, Jefferson, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego. The intent was to have emergency management personnel come together with the disability community and establish an advisory group with both parties addressing the matters relative to inclusion and proper planning. In regards to the NYS Human Services Committee, in follow-up to the January meeting, Dave reached out to Terry Hastings of DHSES. Jim and Dave discussed NYS funding to move this forward. He stated he is no longer in this role, downplayed his statements from Sept 2014 NYS OEM committee meeting. Dave DeMatteo is the new contact. Dave has reached out to Stephanie Pagnotta to connect us. The next meeting of the NYS OEM human services committee is October 19th. First Responders Disability Awareness Training and 911 Dispatch Train the Trainer (TTT) had 16 attendees in its debut covering nine counties. We have now conducted 20 FF/EMS TTT and 20 Law enforcement TTT, which results in 240 trainers going through various programs in NYS. If all did training, we would have 24,000 trained first responders. NYS DDPC grant expires October 31st, but Niagara University has committed to sustaining the program. NYS Division of Criminal Justices (DCJS) has committed to funding the Law Enforcement TTT through 2016. We will conduct four sessions next year.

Brad gave a summary of the vetting process for the 2016 council recruitment recommendations for the council. The Recruitment Committee sent them to the Executive Committee who were in favor of the recommendations, but they were contingent upon the attendance of an existing member who did not show for today's meeting and has missed her first three meetings. It was recommended that Brad send a letter, per the by-laws, informing member Melba Torres, that she will be replaced. As a result, the recommended 2016 appointees are:

- Cliff Perez
- Doug Usiak
- Denise DiNoto
- Edith Prentiss
- Robert Meek
- Ann Scherff
- Keith Gurgui

Susan Gray gave the Outreach Subcommittee report. Capacity building (CBILCO) reports were provided in the separate SILC monitoring packet for ATI Cortland, AIM Corning, BILS Bronx, PILS Putnam, RILC Rockland, STIC Binghamton, WILC White Plains, and WNYIL Buffalo. Brad also gave a brief update on the Pat Figueroa sponsorships and noted that ten applications were reviewed and nine sponsorships were approved (two youth and seven young adults) during the past quarter. One youth

and two young adults from Cortland were approved to attend one day (July 28<sup>th</sup>) of the NCIL Conference in Washington, DC. Three young adults from Troy, Albany, and Kingston were approved to attend the IL statewide conference: Back to the Future, September 16-17<sup>th</sup>, in Troy, NY. One woman and her son from Long Island applied for a sponsorship to attend the conference. However, it was determined that neither individual was eligible. One youth and one young adult were approved to attend an ADAPT event in Salt Lake City, UT September 26<sup>th</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>. Nick (a young adult from Syracuse) was approved to attend today's NYSILC full council meeting to talk about housing from a youth perspective. Overall, fourteen sponsorships were approved for the year.

Dave made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.