

DRAFT

**New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC)
Full Council Meeting
June 17, 2016
Troy Hilton Garden Inn, Sage Ballroom
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Council Members Present: Denise DiNoto, Helen Fang, Zach Garafalo, Keith Gurgui, Sue Hoger (Chair), Shelley Klein, Carla Lewis-Irizarry, Lindsay Miller, Henry Nixon, Clifton Perez, Edith Prentiss, Sue Ruff, Ann Scherff, Chad Underwood, Doug Usiak, Joe Bravo, Bob Gumson (ACCES-VR).

Present by Phone: Robert Meek, Martin Abril, Roger Benn

Absent: Brett Eisenberg, Luis Gutierrez, George Hoehmann, Marc Rosen, Brian Daniels

NYSILC Staff Present: Brad Williams

Open Forum

Chad Underwood reminded members of the need to identify someone to replace him on the ACCES-VR State Rehabilitation Council. This is his last year. He has made some suggestions to coordinate this with Lawanda Cook, Membership Committee Chair for the SRC.

Minutes

Brad Williams explained that due to personnel changes at NYSILC and an extremely busy schedule, the April council minutes were never typed up for review. Draft minutes will be available for council members to review at the September meeting.

Executive Director's Report - Brad Williams

Brad Williams brought up the following SILC consulting opportunities for discussion: One day at the NCIL Conference July 28th for a SILC directors' presentation on "Lessons Learned" from State Plan formulation and development, two webinars—The State Plan 3-year Cycle, and SPIL Authorities; as well as APRIL peer mentoring with the Michigan SILC, all of which will bring compensation to NYSILC. Patty Black-Cate is leaving NYSILC. Interviews for her position are in process. Leadership Development Civic Engagement Program—talking with Liberteks regarding this project to choose technology with a reasonable cost related to an interactive website with comprehensive tool set. There were no questions regarding the NYSILC Quarterly Contract Report. Brad raised a new issue regarding section 3 of the Personnel Policies. He brought a motion to strike the last sentence of 3.2, disconnecting health/dental benefits from the introductory period, and to bring the introductory period to 3 months to align with the health/dental benefits. The matter was debated. All approved to delete section 3.2 of the personnel policy. In a separate vote to switch the introduction period to three months (14) yes (1) abstentions (Edith Prentiss), and (1) no (Sue Ruff).

Motion to approve 3 month introductory period: Chad Underwood
Second: Lindsay Miller
Motion Carries

Treasurer's Report - Roger Benn

Quarterly Fiscal Report January–March 2016, Revenues exceeded expenditures for the quarter. Total revenue under-expended by 11% to date. ACCES-VR contract under-expended by 13%, which matches up to the salary line item expense under-expended by 12%. This is due to the part-time tech writer position that needs to shift to the contractual services line item for the last quarter in a budget modification. SILC meeting expenses are low because no council meetings took place during the last quarter, but two will occur in the following quarter. Total project costs are low, but will catch up due to the NCIL Conference. Chad moved to accept the Quarterly Fiscal Report and the Finance Committee minutes. Doug seconded the motion. All approved.

Executive Committee Report - Joe Bravo

Executive Committee meeting minutes in the packet. The council is recruiting members for 2017. Joe asked members to encourage new members. Edith asked for parameters on the four seats available. Brad mentioned that there is no council member from the North Country. NYSILC Committee reminder: let chairs know if you'd like to join any committees. Inclusive Workforce Alliance kick off meeting was in March. Disability Stakeholder Forum for Employment First would like IL participation. Any interested committee members should let Brad know. Sue asked to reference page 11 regarding employment first goals, and spoke to the various challenges for employment and high school graduation, and increasing access to transition information for high school students. Chad remarked that ACCES-VR is behind the times with employment first, even though it's what they do, and he continues to advocate for change in this area.

Presentation and Review of 2015 NYSILC SPIL Evaluation Report -- Alan Krieger, Krieger Solutions, LLP. Also, see Excel NYSILC 2015 Questionnaire Results.

Review of draft document: discussion, questions, action. Alan Krieger of Krieger Solutions, LLP, the council's SPIL evaluator, presented the draft 2015 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 the development of the draft report by Alan.

Alan discussed the shift to impact based result measurements as opposed to activities measured. This would result in seeing measurable impact from activities, with each new SPIL becoming better at being oriented toward outcome based objectives. 60% of the objectives were met. Objectives met—2 of 9 objectives had a 33% success rate for objectives, 7 of 9 were substantially met. Of 47 activity targets—29 were met or exceeded. The council is a functioning, effective group. Young adult sponsorship—moving to getting the young adults to become more active, for the value-added objective. Youth Leadership subcommittee has become very active, and may discuss expanding. Alan stated his assertion that the council is responsible for the subcontractors, because the council chooses the subcontractors. If contractors aren't meeting targets, the project needs to be reevaluated. Council members must be actively involved in committees. Committee has defined "system change" allowing that to become measurable.

There was discussion regarding projects that take longer than the scope of a 3 year funding cycle. Chad moved to look into and investigate a future concept of extending projects beyond the 3 year SPIL cycle, possibly to 5 years. Doug seconded, all approved. Chad moved to accept the report and take the word "draft" off of the report. Doug seconded, all approved. Report will be posted on the website.

Motion to accept report and remove "draft": Chad Underwood
Second: Doug Usiak
Motion carried unanimously

The council moved into a facilitated discussion about the SILC's monitoring duty, Uniform Grant Guidance, and need for council to develop protocols to monitor SPIL objectives for projects/contracts. The various problems with both the monitoring and accountability needed for projects and contracts, and allowing room for innovation and growth were discussed. Programs are monitored with quarterly reports, and giving programs both positive and negative feedback on activity was suggested. The role of the council in monitoring goals, objectives and accountability was debated and discussed. Protocols for communication and action will need to be developed.

Committee and Subcommittee Reports

ACCES-VR - Chad Underwood

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) final regulations are expected out by the end of July. NYS ACCES-VR will send representatives to Washington, DC on August 9 to review, train, and answer questions. Transition and youth services initiative—there is now one transition and youth services senior vocational rehabilitation counselor in each district office. Core goal is to engage individuals that are under 25 years old. 51% of all new applicants fit that category. There are three community employment specialists in each districts to provide transition support to school districts. Federal law and regulation are the primary driving factor for ACCES-VR. Core rehabilitation services 2.0 has been delayed due to senior level turnover, changes to service delivery, and many other factors. ACCES-VR has a 3 year ad to target campaign, business, youth, and the general public. Chad mentioned a lack of focus on the supply side—to educate the businesses and get them up to speed.

Lunch

Presentation/Discussion: Mental Health Association New York State (MHANYS), Glenn Liebman, CEO.

Glenn spoke of the mission of MHANYS, mainly advocacy. He spoke broadly about policies and legislation, bearing in mind that the public mental health system is broken. He stressed the importance of advocating for the greater good of the community, and changing the atmosphere of mental health in NYS. MHANYS achieved the mental health tax checkoff to allow people to give on their tax returns. This is a symbolic victory for mental health public awareness, and the first one in the country. MHANYS campaigns for mental health education in schools, and this should be part of the health class curriculum. Sue asked a question about having disability history into NYS curriculum. She mentioned that the NYS Special Education Taskforce has done work on anxiety and stress. She mentioned the great need for mental health education and services in schools, and thanked Glenn for his work. It was stated that there is no statewide curriculum. MHA is creating a curriculum to be a resource for schools. Ann mentioned that in her county they are looking into developing a first responder curriculum for people with IDD in dealing with grief issues. Glenn brought up the issues of stigma and the importance of advocacy. Glenn discussed Mental Health First Aid—an 8 hour training—mental health 101 on how to respond to a mental health crisis until they can get the professional help they need. MHA has 6 staff trained on this and 60 state wide. There is discussion on requiring this for teacher certification. MHA budget—system is underfunded, but with Medicaid managed care, things that aren't usually Medicaid billable such as peer support, family engagement, supported employment, supported education, will become Medicaid billable services. MHA continues to advocate for community based services with local assistance dollars with the division of budgeted, due to the needs of those who are not part of Medicaid. Glenn addressed workforce issues—people dramatically underpaid, and not for profits are challenged to meet the demands of the new minimum wage. Glenn spoke about housing issues for the mental health community to make housing more accessible and available. Sue spoke of the problem of those with mental health issues ending up housed in jails and prisons and not receiving the treatment they need, and the state's willingness to

spend the money on prison, but not on therapeutic solutions. Bob mentioned building a more sustained partnership with Glenn and his organization, and learning from the Mental Health First Aid program to roll out IL history and philosophy education program. Zach brought the issue of the Albany Lead Program to the discussion, and asked Glenn about law enforcement training. Ann discussed the Mobile Crisis team in Genesee County. The council thanked Glenn for his presentation.

Subcommittees

ACCES-VR -Bob Gumson

Upstate/downstate forums—20 IL Centers in the two areas attended. Very good dialogues. Status of RFPs, SSAN coordination is about to leave SED and go to comptroller's office. All projects have been reviewed, award letters will go out within the next month. Peer integration project in VR office starting July 1. Bob hopes this is a good way to improve local relations. Possibly could be expanded to every district office in the state. NYSILC single source contract—the comptroller's office continues to have questions regarding the single source request. Youth employment transition RFP—there will be a general youth employment initiative RFP from ACCES-VR, open-competitive and geared toward schools. District offices have received copies of updated IL brochure with all contact information. Every new consumer of VR gets the brochure and understand where their local ILC is and what they do. Bob suggests that if local councils come to agreements with the district office, follow it up with the manager with an email and the supervisors of the district office to ensure accountability.

The suggestion was made to encourage ACCES to consider funding IL centers to work with schools to help them arrange for work experience in the communities. Doug raised the question of ACCES-VR meeting with IL representatives a year ago. Peer mentoring whereby peer mentors and coordinators would be in every center using a standardized curriculum and connect them with youth who were interested in work. This is currently in "ACCES Limbo."

Motion was made by Doug that NYSILC requests revisiting peer mentoring model geared toward IL centers for transition with ACCES-VR. Seconded by Joe, passed unanimously.

Motion: Doug Usiak

Second: Joe Bravo

Motion: Passed unanimously

It was discussed that the TASC GED is not provided to students who are blind in audio or braille. State Ed must provide accommodations.

SPIL Committee - Brad Williams:

Everything was uploaded and sent to ACL. We received an error message. An "after the fact" email was sent out with instructions. After making corrections, Brad will resubmit.

Consumer Satisfaction -Brad Williams

The group is looking to simplify the methodology. Effort will be made to use Survey Monkey for data collection with the Excel spreadsheet to calculate the total score based on the new weighted scale. Brad mentioned getting a temp worker to work on consumer satisfaction survey materials.

Public Policy - Brad Williams for Shelley

The three-year public policy agenda is now on the NYSILC website. The committee will focus on a post- election voting survey for people with disabilities. We will need to do another voter survey, decide what questions we want to ask, do this in house, or employ a pollster. Brad mentioned leaning toward hiring a pollster. Edith bought up the issue of the AAPD rev-up, and Brad answered that getting voters to the poll is the job of the local ILC.

Youth Leadership - Zach Garafalo

This is a biweekly meeting of nine people across that state that are active participants. Fundraising for NCIL, sending two members for a portion of the conference, and will meet up with Chad's group. This helped the committee learn fundraising skills. One person on the youth leadership committee went to the University of Youth Power. They were able to communicate with SANY's youth advocacy program and exchange information. Survey is going out to solicit input from youth service professionals. Lindsy Wickert is connecting with others who work with transition youths, creating a network of staff members.

Emergency Preparedness - Sue Ruff

Dave Whalen is focusing on his grant from the DDPC. Issues on OEM DOH mass medication drill in Oriskany. Sue received a call from the emergency manager from the DOH in Steuben County wanting to know where she could find more information regarding the disability issues regarding emergency management. She suggested Corning AIM and connect her to Rene and Jim Flemming from FEMA. Flemming is hoping to come to the Southern Tier in September to Chemung and Broome counties. Onondaga County doesn't want to share its 20 year old emergency plan.

Database - Brad Williams

The group narrowed choices to two vendors, and had a meeting with ACCES-VR on June 15th to talk through what needs to be done with database/interface project. Brad is writing an email to the ACCES-VR/full team to decide where to go next to move the project forward.

Recruitment - Brad Williams

Solicitation for new council members was discussed because Brett, Shelley, and Chad will be leaving the council, with the possibility of one more vacancy. There are 7 current complete applications.

Outreach - Brad Williams

The new Excel spreadsheet is updated for 2016 year, and will track measurable indicators for project progress. The CBILCO quarterly reports are in the SILC Monitoring Document.

Motion to Adjourn