

**New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC)
Full Council Meeting
Sept 16, 2016
Troy Hilton Garden Inn, Sage Ballroom
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Council Members Present: Denise DiNoto, Zach Garafalo, Sue Hoger (Chair), Shelley Klein, Lindsay Miller, Henry Nixon, Sue Ruff, Ann Scherff, Chad Underwood, Doug Usiak, Joe Bravo, Bob Gumson (ACCES-VR), Martin Abril, Robert Meek, Marc Rosen.

Present by Phone: Helen Fang, Roger Benn

Absent: Brett Eisenberg, Luis Gutierrez, Brian Daniels, Clifton Perez, Carla Lewis-Irizarry, Keith Gurgui, Edith Prentiss

NYSILC Staff Present: Brad Williams, Amy Wink, Erin Dwyer

Others Present: Lindsay Wickert, Aileen Martin, Aaron Baier, Crystal Rivera, Daniel Foster, Stephanie Woodward

Open Forum

Sue Ruff suggested having a representative from OASAS (Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services) come and speak to the council regarding addiction, incarceration, and disability. Some issues to be discussed would be alternatives to jail, reentry supports, crisis supports, and mobile crisis. This is an expanding issue that centers are faced with, and would be an important topic on which to have more information.

Mark Rosen pointed out that in Nassau and Suffolk counties there seems to be active opposition to improving addiction services.

Sue Hoger remarked that Dutchess County was one of the last to receive a mobile crisis unit, and when they called they were told that mobile crisis did not begin work until 1 PM. This left the center with the difficult task of trying to resolve a crisis, and to figure out where to send the consumer when the crisis had passed.

Peer advocacy is a very important tool for those suffering from substance abuse and or mental health issues. This problem is likely to continue to grow and warrants the council's attention.

Doug mentioned that the problem is bigger than what the IL council can adequately address. As a movement we have failed to offer cross disability representation into these various environments. However, in Western New York it has been useful to inject the Independent Living model into peer recipient activity, with representatives in the county hospital, the state psychiatric hospital, and the mental health court. Peers are assigned to the 24/7 crisis service, and there is a critical response team for individuals who have overdosed, working with mental health providers and the hospitals. As a network there should be greater representation in these areas.

Deb Kotter sent an email to Brad in which she asked about the coordination between the No Wrong Door program and SILCs. Sue Hoger stated that she has already responded to Deb Kotter on this matter.

Helen Fang would like to raise an issue for the next council meeting in November regarding the opportunities in Civil Service for open/competitive employment for people with disabilities. This is above and beyond what is available in the 55b&c programs.

Minutes

Full council minutes from April 15, 2016 and the June 17, 2016 full council meetings were reviewed and approved. Doug made a motion to approve the minutes, Joe seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report - Brad Williams

Brad spent one day at the NCIL conference doing a panel discussion with colleagues on *Lessons Learned under the State Plan and WIOA*. This was followed by a talk on the Draft Standards and Indicators. Brad has also recorded two webinars for the IL Net. The first is on the 3-year SPIL cycle, and the second was on the SPIL Authorities. These are authorities that were allowed before 2005/2006, and they have now been reinstated. The SILC must include these authorities in an approved state plan in order to do them. Brad will attach these in the materials for the November council meeting, and summarize them for the council. The 2015 annual report was published online as is required in the contract.

The 2017-2019 SPIL has been approved with only one request for clarification, and without needing to make any changes to the document.

LDCEP: Larry with Liberteks continues to work on the Leadership Development/Civic Engagement website.

Erin Dwyer gave a brief update on the work she has been doing since being hired at NYSILC in July. The NYSILC website was reviewed for accessibility by My Blind Spot and recommendations were made to make the tutorial and the quiz more accessible. Erin has also been updating the NYSILC website and the meeting minutes, as well as working on the LDCEP with Amy, Brad, and Liberteks.

Amy Wink was recently hired as the Program Coordinator at NYSILC, and she gave an update of the projects she has been working on. This included the Consumer Satisfaction Survey, editing and simplified the methodology and the survey, and putting them on the website to make them easily accessible. The documents will be available in both English and Spanish, and will also be translated into Russian and Chinese. Amy has also been researching grant opportunities for the Leadership Development and Civic Engagement Program, and will be participating in the Leaders without Limits training academy in Houston.

There were no questions regarding the NYSILC quarterly report for April-June 2016.

Treasurer's Report - Roger Benn

Quarterly Fiscal Report April-June 2016 is in the meeting packet.

The 2017 annual budget reflects an increase to accommodate the cost of the new program coordinator position, and about \$5000 a year for the consultant reports. The additional increase came from innovation and expansion funds from ACCES-VR.

Doug made a motion to accept the quarterly fiscal report, Denise seconded, and all approved.

Doug made a motion to approve the annual budget, Lindsey seconded, and all approved.

Executive Committee Report - Brad Williams

There were no questions regarding the executive committee meeting minutes in the packet. The vice chair vacancy was addressed by Brad. Sue Ruff was the only member interested in being the vice chair. Chad made a motion to nominate Sue Ruff to be the vice chair, Lindsay seconded, and all approved.

There will be a vote for the member-at-large position during the November council meeting. Doug Usiak indicated interest in the position.

There was an Inclusive Workforce Alliance (IWA) meeting on August 10, 2016 to discuss strategies for employment first. Brad, Chad, Meagan Schoeffling, and Frank Pennisi attended this meeting.

John Allen and his team are focusing in on Medicaid and Ticket to Work recipients because they are both quantifiable entities. Lindsay Miller mentioned that NYAIL is currently drafting a letter to the Governor regarding the need to focus on the implementation plan of Employment First. Brad gave his perspective on the recent meeting. He felt the IWA has shifted its focus away from the implementation plan and more toward the needs of the providers to help meet the overall goals. Chad agreed.

It was decided that NYSILC should write a letter separate from NYAIL's letter to the Governor. The letters should be consistent but not identical.

ACCES-VR SRC: Chad Underwood

The final federal regulations for WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) were released in August, and there will be a lot of work to make sure the state stays in compliance. ACCES continues to work with the department of labor and the combined state plan, implementing initiatives such as counselor assistance, and focusing on staff and youth throughout the state.

Chad will need a replacement on the committee. Brad spoke to the importance and requirements of having someone on both councils. Someone on the council must consider taking the position. Brad will put out a note to all council members. Chad has said that the SRC meetings are a slightly bigger commitment than the NYSILC council.

ACCES-VR: Bob Gumson

The ACCES part of the processing of the IL center contract advanced payments is complete. The Systems Advocacy Network contracts are in the process of being executed. NYAIL has the list of all SSAN award recipients. Bob doubts that everyone will have an executed contract on October 1. NYSILC's single-source contract is close to being finalized, with an MWBE component. Bob will also be tracking the advance on the NYSILC contract. Any unspent money in the state plan will be absorbed. This is due to ACCES-VR covering approximately \$137,000 a year during the current plan due to sequestration. The fiscal unit has caught up with the difference and will monitor it going forward.

Bob had a discussion with Ray Pierce regarding the daunting task of WIOA. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will possibly be ready for release in January. Internal, SED approved RFP of \$300,000,000 over 5 years, and includes all the new services under WIOA. Bob recommends meeting with Ray Pierce to talk about WIOA and the CRS at the next council meeting. ACCES youth employment initiative: Bob has not been able to get any clarity on the timeline of a youth RFP, open to all providers to target youth under WIOA that are in school systems. Bob has created a proposal floating in-house to do a large-scale peer mentoring program at the ILCs for disconnected, out of school, assistance-oriented youth. He does not know when this proposal will get the attention he's hoping for. The way

WIOA is written, we can use funds to provide mentor support for youth age 14-24, it's just a matter of how it will be done.

The 2017 IL conference is in the state plan, and some of the single source money in the state plan will be used for participants and speakers.

Chad raised the NYSOFA (New York State Office for the Aging) NY Connects Grant, and should be considered along with WIOA and youth transition services, and with the other services provided by ILCs. It directly identified the ILC network. Bob covered that it mentioned other stakeholders.

Brad spoke regarding the letter to Brian Daniels from the Commission on the Blind. Brad asked if they intended to continue on the SILC, and Brian responded that they do not intend to continue with representation on the SILC. The Commission on the Blind will no longer be on the council agenda as of the November meeting.

Bob reported that the Commission on the Blind is very concerned that under WIOA they can no longer count someone who is reported as a homemaker to be engaged in competitive employment. This accounted for about 20% of the commission's successful rehabilitations a year. Another concern for the Commission on the Blind is the issues in the Regent's Committee on Disability in Higher Education. There is a Commission of the Blind representative on the committee. There is no organization of the blind representative, which is concerning to the blind public, because it can often mean that issues for the blind in higher education are not begin addressed.

Doug then asked how the fact that the Commission on the Blind has chosen not to have a representative on the SILC impacts program development under Part B for the older blind. Brad answered that it "remains to be seen" as the effects of WIOA become more apparent and are worked through.

Report and Program Evaluation on the Youth Forum/Pat Figueroa Grants, Youth/Young Adult Sponsorships

The council heard from several of the people who have recently benefited from the Pat Figueroa Youth/Young Adult Sponsorships.

Aaron Baier: Youth have been encouraged to use the scholarships for Washington trips in July, NYAIL Legislative days, and the Youth Power! Annual Leadership Forum. Aaron feels the results of the sponsorship have been positive. He has seen people grow and enhance their work in advocacy, and it has brought new people into the agency and put them to work as volunteers. The process is smooth, flexible and helpful.

Stephanie Woodward, RCIL-CDR: Receiving the Figueroa sponsorship helped her attend the NCIL conference, and kept her grounded in disability rights at a time when she did not have the money to participate without the grant. The experience has helped her professionally, and as a student in law school. Receiving the Corey Rowley National Advocacy Award was made possible by continuing to go to NCIL, and continuing to learn. RCIL youth gave a presentation on the youth group they created, and how it helped them. This assisted other groups across the nation to build youth groups.

Lindsi Wickert: Youth Transition Coordinator in Troy, NY. The scholarship helped bring two young people to the NCIL conference this year. The experience was eye-opening, inspiring, and community building. Lindsey recommended making the sponsorships more visible, so that more people will know about and take advantage of them.

Zach read a statement from Melanie Hecker: Melanie is an advocate for Youth Power. Melanie found the experience and learning at the NCIL conference eye-opening and inspiring. She shared many specific examples of learning opportunities at the conference.

Emily Ladau spoke through a video message: Emily has recently put in a proposal for a Figueroa sponsorship for travel to NCIL board meetings. Emily did an internship at the Suffolk Independent Living Organization, and she's been involved in the disability advocacy and independent living movement for years. She has devoted her life to disability both personally and with her career. She was voted the first youth-at-large on the NCIL board, and this is why she needs the Figueroa sponsorship, as she must fund her way to the quarterly board meetings. Emily suggested that it would be beneficial to grant scholarships on a sliding scale, based on the needs of the person, and the cost of the specific event.

Zach Garafalo: Zach found out about the Figueroa sponsorship a few years ago, and it allowed him to go to the NCIL conference for the first time. Zach believes it's the connections that are made that make the events and the funding so valuable. It allows people to bring the inspiration and learning home into local communities. It helps people to recognize that they are not alone in their struggle, but they are part of a greater movement for justice and equality. The ability for a few people to go to NCIL conference would not have been possible without the Pat Figueroa sponsorship.

The council was then invited to ask questions of those who have received sponsorship. Doug had question regarding the purpose of the evaluation, in order to narrow down the specific focus of the evaluation, and the testimonies of those who have received the benefit of a Figueroa sponsorship. Brad stated that it was standard evaluation that the council does at the September meeting of a selected program or objective. The questions looked at the value of the program, its continuation, and how it might be improved. The issue of how to increase awareness of the program was also raised, and whether or not there are expectations of recipients to give back in some way. Brad answered that the media consultant will come up with a strategy to better promote the sponsorship. Recipients of the sponsorship are encouraged to participate on the youth leadership subcommittee, and then potentially serve on the council at a later date. Bob asked the sponsorship recipients about the workshops and networking they engaged in during the NCIL conference, and each person responded with specific events in which they had the opportunity to engage. Those who attended the conference spoke to the value of meeting people in person, and engaging in face to face learning.

Lunch

Facilitate Discussion on Two Topics:

1. Youth transition and funding, with consideration of 5th core services.

Brad discussed the letter that was written as directed by the council to Kevin Smith at ACCES-VR regarding the changes due to WIOA, prioritizing youth and employment, and the recognition of 5th core services related to youth transition for CILs. The letter asked if ACCES-VR intends to collaborate on youth transition projects. Kevin Smith responded, and the letter is also in the packet.

Doug responded that the letter from Kevin Smith did not answer the question being asked by the council, which was regarding the possibility to continue to engage in a dialogue pertaining to youth transition projects. Doug would like to see a more proactive response from ACCES-VR to meet, talk, and design possible programs.

Bob responded with some history of trying to collaborate with ACCES-VR, and the limitations of those efforts. He believes there is a lot of opportunity that is not being used.

Chad discussed the possibility of writing a letter that would encourage IL centers to get in touch with the Regents to educate them on the activities of the centers. He brought up the question of whether a separate letter from NYSILC would be positive and effective. Lindsay Miller stated that she believed a separate letter from NYSILC to the Board of Regents, in addition to the letter from NYAIL, would be effective regarding the youth initiative, the role of IL, and how they'd like to see the State Department of Education engaged. NYSILC and NYAIL would like to see a more collaborative approach with the ACCES-VR committee within the Board of Regents, and ACCES-VR as the unit within State Department of Education and Independent Living.

Chad made a motion to have a letter drafted to the Board of Regents. Motion was seconded by Sue Ruff. Sue Ruff summarized many instances of frustration in making progress in this area. Joe Bravo commented that the frustration with ACCES has been going on for decades. He agreed that the letter must be written, as well as keeping communications open with Kevin Smith and Deborah Brown-Johnson from ACCES. He would like to see the letter have a positive, upbeat tone regarding the work that can be done if ACCES and the ILs will find a way to collaborate. Sue responded that the IL network need to present themselves as partners and collaborators with ACCES-VR, willing to help accomplish necessary work.

Motion: Chad
Second: Sue Ruff
Abstain: Roger Benn
Motion Approved

2. Draft SILC Standards and Indicators, Brad Williams:

The time for SILCs and the community to comment on the draft standards and indicators has passed. We provided comment. CILs have long had S & Is. SILCs are just getting to their formulation. The first column refers to the law, and the second column is the standards, the third column is the indicators. This is a draft, and they are subject to change. SILC membership reflects IL philosophy. Under different standards there are indicators for recruiting applicants, candidates for appointment to the SILC, yearly training for the members including orientation, codes of ethical behavior, assessment to the SILC training needs for the new SILC technical assistance center, sound fiscal personnel policies and procedures, and controls for the budget and allocation of funds consistent with the priorities. Other standards are as spelled out in the document. This document also determines which CILs are eligible to sign the State Plan.

There was discussion over the rules of who has to sign off on the SPIL. Only the federal CILs currently sign the SPIL as state plan partners. Other centers can participate in the process.

Many of the Standards and Indicators are already being implemented by NYSILC. When the S&Is become finalized, we will develop a manual to document our compliance.

There were no questions on the Draft SILC Standards and Indicators.

Committees and Subcommittees

SPIL Committee, Sue Hoger:

The ACL has notified us of approval of the SPIL for FY 2017-2019.

Consumer Satisfaction, Brad Williams:

The language translations are underway. Final documents will be posted to the website when they are complete. The Survey-Monkey links will be available in all of the chosen languages. There will be a late October committee meeting for an update on progress. VOIP will also be considered to help translate the survey to the deaf population.

Public Policy, Shelley Klein:

Minutes from the June meeting are in the packet, there was another meeting earlier in the week. SPIL evaluation was discussed in that meeting with Alan Krieger, the SSAN objective, and the ways that measurements are addressed per outcome. Time was also spent on the post-election survey questions. Minor adjustments were made and Brad will be contacting pollsters for estimates on the work.

Chad asked for an update on the public policy agenda, looking forward to legislative action days. Brad answered that since the public policy agenda is a three year. It is ready to go and just needs to be reviewed on an annual basis with adjustments

Youth Leadership, Zach Garafalo:

NCIL was the main event of the summer, but it is necessary to try to build the committee up from its current nine core members. There are areas in the state such as Syracuse, New York City, and Rochester, where further recruitment is necessary.

Emergency Preparedness, Sue Ruff:

Committee meeting is next week. Amy Wink has given the committee information on the new Center for Emergency Preparedness on the State Office Campus in Albany. It is important to make sure that the building is 100% accessible. The committee would also like to encourage people with disabilities to participate in emergency preparedness training. Dave Whalen has been busy with training in Westchester, Suffolk and Broome. He will be using people from the ILC as part of his core advisory group. The fire department in NYC asked for and received a proposal from him for a training program for all personnel. He is meeting with the NYS association of county this week, and is pushing them to provide regular training on the ADA. The Department of Health has reached out to the IL community to include them in their training and planning. People must reach out to their counties to be sure that the disability community is being included in training and planning.

The operation center bunker in the basement of the Center for Emergency Preparedness on the State Campus is not known to be accessible, and that needs to be checked into.

The Database Workgroup: Roger Benn

There is a meeting with ACCES-VR on 9/20, and the database is a main item of discussion. The work group will be addressing the next steps for this project.

Recruitment, Brad Williams:

Meeting again next week with ACCES-VR, recommending four new individuals for appointment to the council, along with three reappointments.

Outreach - Roger Benn

The committee is very active, and includes the Pat Figueroa sponsorships. The capacity projects are approaching year three, and an email needs to be drafted reminding them of their responsibilities going into the last year. This includes the how-to manuals. An ad-hoc committee needs to be formed to review and finalize the general guidelines of the how-to manuals, the content and questions, and how they will be distributed and archived. There are several people on the council interested in being on the ad-hoc committee: Brad, Doug, Bob, Brett, Sue H., and Ann Scherff.

Motion to Adjourn: Bob, Seconded Lindsay