

APPROVED 9/10/09
SILC Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 5, 2009 • 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Renaissance Inn • 5188 Wittenberg Lane North • Keizer, OR

INTRODUCTIONS/CONFIRM QUORUM • After a short period of not having a quorum, a quorum was confirmed. In attendance: Ann Balzell, Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme, Angel Hale, Wendy Howard, Dodie McKenzie, Dean Westwood. Sherry Stock arrived later due to her involvement in a legislative hearing. Brad Collins, Jack Oliver, Randy Samuelson, Frank Synoground, and Stephaine Parrish-Taylor were not available to attend this meeting. Staff: Tina Treasure, Lynelle Wilcox. Guests: Sheila Thomas of LILA, Patty Kunkler of HASL, and Kirt Toombs of EOCIL were present for portions of the meeting.

AGENDA REVIEW • Due to an initial lack of a quorum, agenda items will be juggled to address update items until we have adequate attendance to review and approve action items.

CIL PRESENTATION • Wendy Howard of SPOKES Unlimited shared a brief update about SPOKES. SPOKES has nine staff members and offers a variety of unique IL services in addition to the four core IL services:

- ♦ **Lifespan Respite Care** • This program coordinates respite care for individuals who serve as caregivers to family members who have a disability. This respite care enables family caregivers to have necessary breaks and avoid burnout, resulting in people with disabilities retaining supports that often enable them to attain and maintain independence in the least restrictive environment possible.
- ♦ **SPARK** • This parent partner program provides education, training, and support to parents with disabilities and to families who have children with disabilities.
- ♦ **ADA** • SPOKES maintains a long term relationship with local government agencies that review and approve building renovations and new construction. SPOKES staff includes an accessibility/ADA guru who is actively sought by architects, planners, and others in the construction and remodeling arenas for her ADA knowledge and advice. This mutually beneficial connection results in increased accessibility in the

- ♦ Work Incentive Network (WIN) ~ After a gap in having a WIN staff person, SPOKES has a new part time Work Incentive Coordinator who has received WIN training and is now up to speed, and is starting to provide work incentive services to consumers.

SPOKES is seeing an increase in people needing assistance and applying for services due to the current economy. SPOKES recently formed a Consumer Advisory Council to advise about things that are going well, areas to consider improvement, other services they'd like to see SPOKES offer, etc. Members were recruited based on asking staff to refer consumers who seemed like good candidates. Fifteen individuals were recommended and letters and applications were sent to them. Seven of the candidates conveyed interest and submitted an application and those seven individuals now form the Consumer Advisory Council.

The group includes a rotating Board Liaison position as a way to develop a connection and comfort with the Board. The experience on this council and the time spent rotating as a Board liaison are opportunities for Consumer Advisory Council members to gain the knowledge and skills desired of board members. Thus, this new council may be a resource for SPOKES to recruit future board members. This group has also been involved in fundraising activities, i.e. planning a fundraiser dance, food drives, and creating picture frames with a story about each artist, with intent for the frames to be sold at the community's weekly Art Walk.

This year was SPOKES 20th anniversary, and SPOKES asked staff, board members, and consumers to bring in a favorite recipe. Recipes were compiled into a cookbook that was sold for \$10 per book. This was a successful fundraiser that SPOKES plans to continue as a signature fundraising activity.

SILC GENERAL ACTION ITEMS

April 2009 SPIL Review meeting minutes

April 2009 SILC meeting minutes

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft April 2009 SPIL Review meeting minutes and the April SILC meeting minutes as submitted.

Motion, Wendy Howard. Second, Dean Westwood. Votes in favor: Ann Balzell, Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme, Wendy Howard, Dodie McKenzie, Dean Westwood. No abstentions or votes in opposition. Motion carried unanimously.

Ratify EC Approved SILC Budget • Tina indicated that a slight change has been made in the SILC Budget, under “Special Projects” in the STEPS section. Cost allocation for staff time for STEPS project administration is now combined into one line item instead of the previous style of listing administrative costs throughout the STEPS budget. This format revision is also reflected in the Financial Report, making both reports easier to read and understand. Bottom line numbers remain the same, thus the budget reflects the same information that the Executive Committee previously approved.

As a result of the shift from our previous budget structure to a new one that provides a clearly separate “SILC Resource Plan” to reflect RSA’s input about legal roles and associated funding, some category changes might result in future variances in specific line items, although bottom line totals will remain within budget. As an example, the previous budget had a line item for an Office Specialist 2 (OS2); the current budget does not include an OS2, so past OS2 expenses were posted to the Administrative Specialist 1 (AS1) staff position line item.

As a result of combining those two line items, the AS1 line item might reflect an overspent variance later in the year, but overall salary costs would be within budget. This year will provide a track record, so that we have a basis for more accurate budgeting utilizing the revised budget format for the new categories in the future.

*A motion was made and seconded to ratify the EC approved SILC budget as submitted. Motion, Wendy Howard. Second, Sharon Coverstone. Votes in favor: Ann Balzell, Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme, Wendy Howard, Dodie McKenzie. Abstention: Dean Westwood. No votes in opposition. Motion carried.

SILC FY 2008/09 financial report (1/16/09 – 5/15/09) • *A motion was made and seconded to approve the SILC financial report as submitted. Motion, Dean Westwood. Second, Wendy Howard. Votes in favor: Ann Balzell, Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme, Wendy

Howard, Dodie McKenzie, Dean Westwood. No abstentions or votes in opposition. Motion carried unanimously.

STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL) RELATED ITEMS

The SILC meeting packet includes several SPIL related documents:

1. **A06-SPIL Amendment Input Summary** • This document identifies that we did not receive public input from the official SPIL hearing or through wide electronic dissemination of the SPIL. However, we did receive input from staff, Executive Committee (EC) members, and some CIL Directors. This document summarizes the EC discussion and action taken on those input items.
2. **A07-Summary of Proposed Amendments to the 2008-2010 SPIL**
 - This document summarizes the revisions that were made to the original, RSA approved 2008-2010 SPIL, which more clearly defined to better reflect the legal roles of the SILC, DSUs, and CILs and to incorporate the input from the April 16th SPIL Planning meeting.
3. **A08-Proposed SPIL Amendment** • This document is the full SPIL Amendment that was drafted based on public input, RSA's input, and SILC, DSU, and CIL discussions at the April 16th SPIL Planning meeting.

Additional CIL input • After the enclosed SPIL Amendment was drafted, staff reviewed the draft and identified goals, objectives, and activities that include a CIL role and/or would be CIL responsibilities. A table of CIL SPIL Assignments was drafted and shared with CIL Directors for their review.

Wendy, who had been involved in drafting CIL portions of the SPIL Amendment, further offered input regarding two aspects of CIL SPIL assignments: 1) staff training activities might be too ambitious; and 2) MFP reporting might be done by ILR.

This input was considered, yet since CILs conduct staff trainings on an ongoing basis and training surveys are readily available, it seemed that the training objective was feasible. For item 2, CILs need to report MFP progress to ILR anyway, so reporting the same data to the SILC seems like a simple "cc". Based on those thoughts, the SPIL Amendment was not revised in these areas. These updates were shared with the CILs and CILs did not offer any objections to this update.

SPIL pending changes • Based on staff review of the draft SPIL Amendment, a few additional changes are proposed to correct several activity completion dates to fall in the current SPIL period, and to revise a couple of objectives to be more feasible and measurable, as follows:

1. Change date from June 2011 to September 2010:
 - ♦ OBJECTIVE A6c – Youth Outreach/Mentoring
 - ♦ Change date from September 2011 to 2010:
 - ♦ OBJECTIVE A1 - Transition
 - ♦ OBJECTIVE A4 - Disaster Preparedness
 - ♦ OBJECTIVE A5b - Mentor Grass Root IL Leaders
 - ♦ OBJECTIVE A6e - Community Partnership
 - ♦ OBJECTIVE B1 - Statewide CIL Partnership
2. Revise objectives to reflect more feasible, measurable outcomes:
 - ♦ **OBJECTIVE A6a** - Outreach and Education • Revise as follows, with added text identified in brackets: 75% of hospital discharge planners [surveyed] within CIL service areas have knowledge of IL services and where to obtain them, and have a plan for providing this information to their consumers with disabilities. Also, change target date from November 2010 to September 2010.
 - ♦ **OBJECTIVE A6b** - Outreach and Education • Revise as follows, with added text identified in brackets: Reduce target percentage to 75%, from 100% so that objective reads as follows: 75% of State Disability Services Offices [surveyed] within CIL service areas have knowledge of IL services and where to obtain them. *Strike “and have a plan for providing this information to their consumers with disabilities” due to fact that DSO’s differ so much across the state and are often resistant to adding additional resources to their consumer information packets. Also, change target date from February 2011 to September 2010.
3. Both the Executive Committee and the SILC granted staff authority to review the SPIL Amendment and revise spelling, grammar, and typos as needed. These minor corrections will not change basic content of the SPIL Amendment.

SPIL Amendment discussion • Goals and objectives were developed based on April SPIL planning with SILC members, DSUs, and CIL Directors. Some minor changes were incorporated into the enclosed SPIL Amendment

In the SILC's role of monitoring SPIL implementation, we can report accomplishments, as well as reporting progress and status of goals and objectives that might not be accomplished. Each agency, committee, or group will need to be responsible for their assignments, insure they have ways to track and report data, and be able to share progress, status, and reasons in cases where a goal is not achieved. Whether or not each goal and objective is achieved, the status updates enable the SILC to fulfill their SPIL monitoring and reporting responsibilities.

In a perverse way, the process of documenting planned outcomes that have not been accomplished due to low funding, low staffing, and/or instability of IL funding, may provide evidence that more IL funds are necessary in order to accomplish SPIL goals. Thus, although the intent is for SPIL goals and objectives to be accomplished, it's acceptable if some are not achieved as long as we can document and report on activities that reflect due diligence and reasons, barriers, and challenges in cases where the planned outcomes were not achieved.

SPIL Amendment input opportunities • The SILC, SPIL partners (OVRs and OCB), and CILs were each involved in the April SPIL planning. Staff drafted the SPIL Amendment based on the ideas and the direction that was shared at the April SPIL planning session. A public hearing was conducted on May 15th. Although no one attended the hearing, the draft SPIL Amendment was disseminated widely via email on May 7th, with input due by May 15th. Input was also solicited from SILC members, CILs, and SPIL partners, with their input due by May 26th. CIL Directors also had the opportunity to provide input on the SPIL sections that involved CILs, based on the CIL SPIL Assignment document that was prepared and shared with CIL Directors.

Based on those diverse input opportunities and the EC/staff discussions and decisions regarding the input that was received, the enclosed draft SPIL Amendment is ready for SILC review and approval, with the

understanding that the three "SPIL pending changes" described above would be incorporated into the SPIL Amendment before it is submitted to RSA.

Although specific ARRA fund allocation is not yet determined, RSA will be scheduling a call with each state to negotiate Title VII, Part C ARRA fund allocation plans. Since the proposed SPIL Amendment includes a process for determining allocation of one time funds, it's likely that the process can be implemented without ARRA fund allocation resulting in a need for a change in the proposed SPIL Amendment. However, if Oregon's planned use of ARRA funds is a significant shift from the current SPIL Amendment goals and objectives, then staff will initiate another SPIL Amendment, including the required public hearing.

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed SPIL Amendment with the three "SPIL pending changes" described above. Motion, Wendy Howard. Second, Dean Westwood. Votes in favor: Ann Balzell, Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme, Wendy Howard, Dodie McKenzie, Sherry Stock, Dean Westwood. No abstentions or votes in opposition. Motion carried unanimously.

SPIL Amendment process, next steps, timelines

- ◆ Staff will incorporate final revisions
- ◆ Staff will work with Angel and SPIL partners (OCB and OVRS) to prepare a cover letter that includes explanations about the ARRA fund allocation process, and the de-funding of SCILS so it is clear why SCILS is listed in some sections of the SPIL and not in others
- ◆ Staff will solicit partner signatures from OCB and OVRS
- ◆ Staff will submit the final SPIL Amendment and cover letter to RSA by June 30th, for RSA's review and approval

PUBLIC COMMENT • No public comments were offered.

SPIL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Interim SILC committee assignments • The purpose of this document is twofold:

1. To provide ideas and priorities to committees for their work during the interim period when we are finalizing the SPIL Amendment and then awaiting RSA's approval of such. This document is a preliminary VERY rough draft to share possible SPIL Amendment assignments based on

our existing committee structure. The document needs further review by Tina and Shelly for updates regarding activities that might already be accomplished, and revisions to reflect which activities each committee should focus on during the interim period. A revised document will be shared with committee chairs during June so they have direction for their work during the interim.

2. To serve as a rough starting point for a possible workgroup to review SPIL activities and develop and recommend a committee structure and associated SPIL assignments that enable effective and efficient implementation of the SPIL Amendment. This document would be revised to list SPIL Amendment goals, objectives, and activities without reference to existing committees so that planning can be done without bias of how we've done things in the past.

This is the same process we've used at SILC Retreats when a new SPIL is about to begin. The nature of the workgroup responsibilities requires intensive planning that is likely to be done via a combination of conference calls, email, and a one day in-person planning meeting in late June or early July, after we know the status of state IL funds. Proposed committee names and SPIL assignments need to be ready in time to share with the full SILC at the September Retreat.

If the SILC forms this workgroup, it seems likely that their input would include a recommendation to form a SPIL Development Committee so that we'd have a committee responsible for gathering data, resources, and implementing brainstorming and planning for the next SPIL. This approach enables SPIL planning and development to be done holistically as an ongoing activity.

There was discussion about whether the possible SPIL Development Committee would be responsible for monitoring SPIL implementation. It's likely that the responsibility of a potential SPIL Development Committee would be focused on SPIL development as opposed to monitoring SPIL implementation.

Staff shared that monitoring SPIL implementation is a large and a diverse task since there are so many aspects of SPIL implementation i.e. CIL, OCB, and CAP SPIL Update reports, 704 reports, contract compliance, SILC member training, etc..

If a workgroup is created to review SPIL Amendment goals, objectives, and activities, the thematic groupings they design would be the basis for SPIL assignments to staff, SILC committees, CILs, OVRs, and OCB. With this approach, it seems likely that different aspects of monitoring SPIL implementation would be a natural fit with various SPIL assignments.

Input needed from the SILC:

- ♦ Do you want to form a 3-4 person Work Group to take the SPIL Amendment and develop a proposed new SILC Committee Work Structure? If so, volunteers?
- ♦ Do you support the idea of having an on-going SPIL Development Committee?

SILC members conveyed consensus support of both concepts. Ann Balzell, Angel Hale, Dean Westwood, Barry Fox-Quamme, and Sherry Stock volunteered to serve on a SPIL Amendment Committee Work Structure work group. Ann and Sherry can substitute for each other if workgroup meeting dates conflict with other commitments for either individual. If we need someone to back out to have a smaller workgroup, Dean is willing to opt out in favor of new eyes and perspectives.

IL AWARD • There was discussion about whether the SILC wants to create and implement an annual IL Award that could be presented at the Mega Conference Awards banquet. Sherry Stock suggested that since the Work Incentives Network (WIN) project benefits each CIL, CILs might want to acknowledge Representative Vic Gilliam for his work as an IL champion on the WIN funding bill that is being considered in legislative sessions.

There was input that it might be politically sensitive to acknowledge representative Gilliam without also recognizing other legislators who have been IL champions for state IL funding in past and current legislative session. It was determined that CILs have the option to join with other WIN partners, including the Steering Committee of the CMS grant that funds the administrative aspects of the WIN project, to acknowledge Representative Gilliam for his role in championing WIN funding.

Creating an annual IL award would involve developing IL award criteria, and a nomination or application and review process, with timelines that enable an award candidate to be identified, considered, and selected in time to present the award at the annual Mega Conference.

ODC and other disability agencies have various awards in place and often, submissions are minimal, so additional award opportunities might or might not be desirable. It's also not known if the Mega Conference will continue to be an annual event. For now, SILC workloads and other time sensitive priorities mean it's not feasible to develop and implement an award process in time for a presentation at this month's Mega Conference, so a potential IL award would be a consideration for next year and beyond. SILC members opted to table this discussion till the September SILC meeting.

REVIEW/APPROVE SPIL PROGRESS REPORTS

1. Advocacy Committee
2. Education, Outreach, Leadership Development Committee
3. Executive Committee
4. Membership Development Training Committee
5. Staff report

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the SPIL progress reports and staff report as submitted. Motion, Sherry Stock. Second, Wendy Howard. Votes in favor: Ann Balzell, Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme, Wendy Howard, Dodie McKenzie, Sherry Stock, Dean Westwood. No abstentions or votes in opposition. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY REPORTS

Oregon Commission for the Blind (OCB) • The Governor proposed disbanding OCB, but individuals and groups immediately mobilized blind advocacy groups and as a result, OCB funding has remained in the Governor's budget and the disbanding proposal is off the table for now. The timing of the Governor's proposal coincided with a Secretary of State audit report on OCB that included negative findings that OCB subsequently refuted. OCB's website includes the state audit report and OCB's comments and rebuttal.

Although it was stated that the Governor's proposal was not related to OCB's audit results, there is concern that the audit findings might be used as a basis to argue the merit of combining OCB and VR in the future. Federal law mandates that a "VR"blind agency exist as one of the criteria for states to access federal VR IL funds, yet the law doesn't prescribe

A portion of states have separate blind and VR agencies and other states have a general VR agency, serving all disability populations. It's likely that talks will resume about merging Oregon's blind and general VR agencies in the future. Individuals interested in this issue can contact Frank Synoground to get onto OCB's email list for updates and advocacy opportunities about this topic.

OCB was one of a variety of agencies that the Governor proposed disbanding. Sharon Ely shared that several of the disbanded agencies were funded solely by member dues. Since most of the agencies the Governor suggested disbanding receive very little if any state dollars, the disbanding proposals don't save enough money to make economic sense. Thus, the intent might be connected to the public perception that government is too big and needs to shrink.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) • Stephaine Parrish-Taylor was not present to share a verbal report. OVR is still in order of selection.

Home Care Commission (HCC) • Sharon Ely shared an HCC update from their meeting yesterday. Highlights are listed below.

- ♦ **HR 702** • This legislative bill was brought forth by the SEIU. It would put all homecare workers, regardless of who they are providing services to under the jurisdiction of the HCC, like those that provide services to seniors and people with physical disabilities. This includes people who work in nursing homes, foster homes, DD, OPI, and Personal Choice and other programs. If passed, the HCC would receive additional funding to cover costs to add those individuals to the state registry database and provide training opportunities to the many caregivers, theoretically resulting in more qualified caregivers being available to the many individuals who use personal assistant services.

However, there is a common perception that the risks outweigh the potential benefits of this legislation because some of the needs of individuals in those situations and programs impacted provide unique consumer-driven flexibility and empowerment specifics that wouldn't be available in a structure that is more of a one size fits all approach. At

this point, it appears that HB 702 will not go further but there will likely be further discussion on this issue.

- ♦ **Worker's Comp** • Worker's Comp claims have occurred when an individual's pet injures a Homecare Worker (HCW). These situations have served as a catalyst for discussion about the importance of individuals being in control of their animals and fulfilling their responsibility to provide a safe environment for their Homecare Workers.
- ♦ **STEPS** • STEPS continues to be a valuable program and the HCC appreciates the monthly STEPS statistical and narrative reports as well as the occasional STEPS presentations. Although nothing definitive will be known until the legislative session ends, the HCC might lose 50% of their training budget.

STEPS is currently operating on a contract that ends in June 2009, with a contract extension in place that enables project continuance through September 2009. If the HCC does lose 50% of their budget, a quick decision will need to be made about the future of STEPS.

The HCW training that the HCC trainer provides is done through workshops around the state on various topics and the HCWs are paid to attend these trainings. HCC trainings have an ongoing participant base since they are directly connected to participating HCW's through the registry. Many HCWs want to upgrade their applications to demonstrate they have received various trainings since that often gets them more offers of work than individuals who don't have the training so HCWs are generally eager to attend trainings.

The STEPS training, due to its difference, cannot be compared to the general HCW training offered by the HCCC directly. The focus is vastly different. STEPS is specific and unique in being consumer driven, with a focus on training the consumers to be effective employers of HCWs.

The STEPS training requires connections with and marketing to various agencies to share about STEPS' benefits to consumers, HCWs, and SPD case managers and then relies heavily on those entities to make referrals.

STEPS presentations continue to result in more consumer referrals and growing interest in the STEPS training. The HCC is not meeting in July,

Oregon Disabilities Commission (ODC) • Tina Treasure shared a verbal update on ODC. Highlights are listed below.

- ◆ ODC is becoming more widely known, with requests to liaison with many committees increasing. Their connections include liaisons on the EPD Advisory Committee that advises SPD on the EPD program, Medicaid Long Term Care Quality Assurance and Rate Restructuring Committee, and a direct link with the Governor's office and with various legislators.
- ◆ ODC has been reviewing many legislative bills, drafting and providing testimony on some bills, and offered letters of support or concern on various others. Tina drafted some of the testimonies for others to present. It might be useful to look into the feasibility of Tina and/or the SILC offering testimony in the future.
- ◆ In their role of being a systems change agency, ODC offered input on many topics including review and comments about care provider payments, other aspects of foster care and assisted living, cost effectiveness of in-home services, a state version of the ADA, an anti-bullying bill, and the Capitol Renovation project.
- ◆ ODC shared opposition comments on HR 702 - a bill that would bring all homecare state workers providing personal care under the jurisdiction of the HCC, with those that currently provide homecare services to seniors and individuals with physical disabilities. ODC's opposition was based on the view that the bill would be detrimental to the IL values of consumer control, choice, autonomy, and flexibility that some programs, especially in the DD and mental health systems provide. ODC supported the general goal of the bill, which was to provide health care and other benefits to all HCW's in the state, but took the position that each program and the changes that this would bring to them would need to be analyzed before such a move was made.
- ◆ Tina was an ODC volunteer serving on a planning workgroup for the next State Plan on Aging. In this capacity, Tina attended a two day

planning session with Sharon Ely who also served on this workgroup, representing HCC. The two days were inspiring and invigorating, with ongoing evidence and support of growing infusion of IL philosophy into various service delivery systems with a focus to engage seniors and people with disabilities into their communities.

The resulting proposed plan supports an ADRC model. The plan utilizes IL philosophy, peer models, and includes a preamble that emphasizes the importance of consumer control, choice, empowerment, and the value of training providers, discharge planners, and others about the benefits of infusing IL into the services they provide and the connections they develop. This plan is a significant systems change accomplishment that exemplifies consumer empowerment and direction.

State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) • Ann Balzell attended the last SRC meeting even though her SRC appointment as the SILC representative was not official yet at the time. Dodie also serves on the SRC as the Section 121 representative.

The last SRC meeting included review of their state plan and updates about two pilot projects. One pilot project trains VR counselors to identify clients' discomfort, with the desire to ease discomfort as the motivation and catalyst for change. The other pilot project is about enhancing employment outcomes.

Ann will see if it's possible for someone to share a brief presentation about these projects at a future SILC meeting. At a minimum, she'll see if brochures or other training items are available to share electronically. Stephaine also shared information about the impact of VR's order of selection at the SRC meeting, including how order of selection affects vendors as well as clients.

RSA REVIEW FINDINGS UPDATE • The SILC/OVRS has responded to RSA review findings, but has not heard back from them. However, RSA currently has many time sensitive issues to address including ARRA fund allocation planning, and follow-up on several states' IL reviews and SPIL amendments. In response to Oregon's RSA review findings, the SILC implemented applicable changes to comply with RSA's input on legal roles of the SILC, DSUs, and CILs.

The SILC also developed an OVRs IL position job description - which OVRs will soon be posting, revised the SILC resource plan, prepared for a coordinated transfer of contract and contract monitoring activities to the DSU Contracts Department, and created a transition/training plan that is ready to be implemented upon the hiring of the new IL staff in OVRs.

WIN UPDATE • Sara Kendall was not available today, so Sherry Stock provided a WIN update. Representative Vic Gilliam has spearheaded legislation for WIN funding, yet due to a misunderstanding, the WIN bill was dropped, instead of being “dropped into committee”.

In spite of that error, there was a hearing to share about WIN and to seek legislative permission for the bill to be re-considered as part of the February 2010 session.

Thirty five people provided written testimony, and sixteen people, including Representative Gilliam, provided verbal testimony that demonstrated how finding employment with the knowledge gained through the WIN has improved individuals' lives. Sherry shared a Powerpoint presentation that included statistics about the project: 2,000 people received WIN services so far; 43 people (20%) gained employment as a result of WIN services, and 21% of WIN clients have higher pay and/or more employment hours as a result. More WIN information will be shared with legislators at the February session.

STEPS UPDATE • Joan Claypool, the STEPS Project Coordinator, is out of town, so Tina shared a brief STEPS update. The HCC update included information about the possible HCC budget cut and the STEPS contract extension from July 1 through September 30, 2009.

Tina and Joan will schedule a STEPS presentation to the HCC to share about the unique and beneficial aspects of the STEPS trainings. Referrals continue to increase as the project becomes more and more known and recognized.

Joan has been doing CIL site visits as an aspect of quality assurance and these visits include time for Joan to meet local partners with the CIL's STEPS staff. This outreach has resulted in more awareness and referrals in each area Joan has visited. People continue to share success stories that

reflect STEPS benefits and positive outcomes to consumers, case managers, and Homecare Workers.

If the project continues, a future goal might be to advocate that SPD require new consumers to take STEPS training within 90 days of entry into the system. Aside from teaching skills to be an effective employer of a Homecare Worker, STEPS promotes the responsibility of individuals to provide a safe environment for their Homecare Workers.

The training is also an important avenue for people to live in the least restrictive environment since support services often enable individuals to live in their homes longer. The resulting independence enables inclusion, more consumer control and choice, and saves money in the long run. Individuals who could benefit from assistance in performing their HCW employer roles can have a representative, now an official of the OARs, attend the training with them or on their behalf, so they can still benefit from the training.

Dean shared that his Personal Care Assistant told him about STEPS training and spoke highly of ILR and their STEPS training - an example of the increased awareness about STEPS and CILs as a result of this program.

PROJECT/ACTIVITY UPDATES

SILC/OVRS transition and staffing update • Transition activities have been implemented to reflect RSA's review findings regarding the role of the SILC, DSUs, and CILs. SILC staff drafted a job description for the OVRS IL position. Once VR recruits and fills that position, SILC staff will provide resources and training to enable a smooth transition.

Mega Conference planning update • Updates have previously been shared about last year's accessibility issues at the Mega Conference. The Accessibility Committee has been meeting regularly to insure adequate cross disability access at this year's conference.

The Portland Sheraton Hotel was selected as the conference site based on their willingness to implement as much accessibility as possible this year, with plans for inclusive accessibility in their upcoming new wing. Although that renovation won't be done in time for the 2009 conference, the Sheraton's coordination of significant accessibility this year, their pursuit of staff diversity training, and their plans for greater accessibility in a planned hotel addition are significant examples of infusion of IL philosophy, and

proof that disability awareness education can often lead to positive systems change.

The Accessibility Committee will have a member at the Sheraton and their two partner hotels so that conference attendees have an accessibility resource available at each of the three conference lodging sites. Dean will be the accessibility liaison at Aloft; Patricia will be the liaison at the Hampton Inn; Jan will be the liaison at the Sheraton.

2009 Region X IL Conference update • Tina, Sherry, and Lynelle are involved in Region X IL conference planning. The conference was originally planned for October 2009 and a hotel had been secured, but many agencies are experiencing heavy workloads, tight finances, and travel restrictions. As a result, planners are considering alternatives, including cancelling the conference, rescheduling it for spring 2010, coordinating distance learning now and a regular conference in 2010, or having a small conference for people to attend, with distance learning opportunities for people to participate without traveling to Washington.

Proposed training topics include advocacy, how to organize community involvement in advocacy issues, health care, how to work with legislators, sharing IL personal stories and cost benefits effectively, and how to identify individuals' motivation as a catalyst for involvement in IL issues and achieving personal and IL goals. The nature of the proposed training topics seem to be a good fit for SILCs, CILs, and consumers, so the target audience includes all three groups.

Training funds are available for conference presenters and technology costs, but not for scholarships or stipends, so attendance projections may be a key factor in determining which option(s) to pursue. In the current situation of tight finances and travel restrictions, it seems like distance learning may be the most cost effective training strategy, with a conference possibly re-scheduled in 2010. However, now that training topics and a diverse target audience have been identified, a new poll will be sent to SILCs and CILs to solicit projected attendance so that conference planners can determine the best training strategy.

SILC MEETING PLANNING

The September SILC meeting and Retreat is scheduled for Thursday/Friday, September 10-11 at the Pendleton Red Lion Hotel. Tina will check with Shelly about bed height in the hotel's accessible rooms

since beds have been inaccessible at various Salem hotels. Shelly has communicated with various transportation agencies in the Pendleton area, so she can address transportation questions as needed. Dean and/or Kirt may have contact information for Darren Umbarger - an IL advocate in Pendleton who might be helpful with accessibility, logistics plans, and consumer involvement at the meetings.

SILC members approved tentative agenda topics for September meetings as listed below. The items are not in agenda order, and they are subject to changes as needed based on timing, logistics, or other factors.

Thursday, September 10 • SILC meeting

- ◆ EOCIL staff presentations
- ◆ EOCIL consumer input (structure and goals of input to be determined)
- ◆ Needs assessment • survey, Q/A, focus group, or other method?
- ◆ Visit EOCIL
- ◆ SILC regular business

Friday, September 11 • SILC Retreat

- ◆ Summary of SPIL Amendment goals and objectives
- ◆ Review of proposed committee structure (developed by SPIL workgroup)
- ◆ Committee membership determined
- ◆ Committee break-outs to develop work plan activities and timelines
- ◆ Committee reports
- ◆ Approval/direction for committees' initial plans as a starting point

OTHER UPDATES

On the Move and Legislative updates were cancelled due to loss of a quorum and the SILC meeting ending early.

MEETING ADJOURNED.