

Approved 12/4/09
SILC Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 10, 2009 • 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Red Lion Hotel • 304 SE Nye Avenue, Pendleton, Oregon

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENT • Angel Hale welcomed people to the SILC meeting and announced that Public Input is scheduled for 1:00 p.m.. She announced that there is a sign up sheet for Public Input, and reminded individuals that public input materials need to be available in alternate format and that each speaker will have five minutes to share their Public Input comments. Meeting participants were asked to turn off their cell phones or set them on vibrate.

INTRODUCTIONS/CONFIRM QUORUM • In attendance: Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme (via speaker phone), Angel Hale, Dodie McKenzie, Stephaine Parrish-Taylor, Randy Samuelson, Sherry Stock, Frank Synoground, Dean Westwood. Ann Balzell, Brad Collins, and Wendy Howard were not available to attend this meeting. The SILC currently has 11 voting members; staff confirmed a quorum of 51%, or 6 voting members initially; 7 voting members were present shortly after the meeting began.

Staff: Tina Treasure, Shelly Emery, Joette Williams, and Lynelle Wilcox. Cascade Sound staff: Mark Beasley. Guests: Kirt Toombs and Heidi Eidler of EOCIL, Darren and Jeremy Umbarger. Additional guests attended the Public Input portion of the SILC meeting.

AGENDA REVIEW

- 1) **SILC applicant Q/A**, scheduled for 11:00 a.m. is not necessary. The individual opted not to apply to serve on the SILC at this time so was not present.
- 2) Topics to be added to the end of "Action Items":
 - ♦ **Conference sponsorships** (SILC Congress, Building Futures)
 - ♦ **NCD letter recommendation**

SILC GENERAL ACTION ITEMS

Review/approve June 2009 SILC meeting minutes • *A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft June 2009 SILC meeting minutes as submitted. Motion, Randy Samuelson. Second, Sharon Coverstone. Votes in favor: Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme, Dodie

McKenzie, Randy Samuelson, Sherry Stock. Dean Westwood was not yet present. No abstentions or votes in opposition. Motion carried unanimously.

Accept Executive Committee recommendation to approve the proposed FY 2009/2010 SILC Budget • *A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed FY 2009/2010 SILC Budget as submitted. Motion, Sherry Stock. Second, Sharon Ely. Votes in favor: Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme, Dodie McKenzie, Randy Samuelson, Sherry Stock. Dean Westwood was not yet present. No abstentions or votes in opposition. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget highlights:

- ♦ The budget reflects the same category changes that appeared in the June 2009 budget.
- ♦ The majority of the budget is comprised of expenses related to SILC responsibilities as outlined in Section 705 of the Rehab Act.
- ♦ \$5,000 is included in a separate section of the budget, for activities and expenses that might come up that are outside of the Section 705 responsibilities.
- ♦ CIL funding and associated contracts are no longer in the SILC budget. They are included in the OVRs IL budget; the SILC budget now reflects funding that relates only to SILC operations, non-705 activities, and Special Projects.
- ♦ Revenue previously listed as Title I Part C funds will be listed in future budgets as "Innovation and Expansion" funds, based on a title change at the federal level.

Review/approve SILC FY 2008/09 financial report through 7/15/09 • *A motion was made and seconded to approve the SILC financial report as submitted. Motion, Sherry Stock. Second, Randy Samuelson. Votes in favor: Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme, Dodie McKenzie, Randy Samuelson, Sherry Stock. Dean Westwood was not yet present. No abstentions or votes in opposition. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial report highlights:

- ♦ The "SPIL Development" line item is overspent by \$671.23 due to additional activities necessary to develop the SPIL Amendment. However, the overall "State Plan Activities" section has a balance of \$15,369.91 available to spend.
- ♦ The SILC tracks STEPS expenses on the financial report; however, STEPS funds are part of the Home Care Commission's (HCC) budget.

The SILC charges against that budget as STEPS expenses are incurred but the STEPS funds and balance available remain in the HCC budget.

Review/approve proposed FY 2009/2010 Calendar • *A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed 2009/2010 SILC Calendar as submitted. Motion, Sharon Ely. Second, Dodie McKenzie. Votes in favor: Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme, Dodie McKenzie, Randy Samuelson, Sherry Stock. Dean Westwood was not yet present. No abstentions or votes in opposition. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff reported that the SILC Calendar includes SILC meeting and Retreat dates, and Executive Committee meeting dates. The SILC Calendar will be updated to reflect new committee meeting dates, based on the outcomes and decisions of tomorrow's Retreat.

Accept Executive Committee recommendation to approve the Membership, Development, and Training Committee (MDTC) Policy Revisions Proposal •

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommended MDTC's Policy Revisions as proposed. Motion, Frank Synoground. Second, Sharon Coverstone. Votes in favor: Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme, Dodie McKenzie, Randy Samuelson, Sherry Stock. Dean Westwood was not yet present. No abstentions or votes in opposition. Motion carried unanimously.

Annual IL Award • There was discussion about whether the SILC wants to create an IL award; several options were identified:

- ♦ **Annual IL award coordinated by the SILC** • The SILC could develop IL award criteria for an annual IL award, to acknowledge an individual or organization for exemplary work on cross disability systems change, with the award presented at the Mega Conference or other event each year.
- ♦ **Mega Conference IL award coordinated by the Mega Conference planners** • The SILC could develop IL award criteria and a process for the Mega Conference planners to implement in time for each Mega Conference awards banquet.
- ♦ **IL award coordinated by the SILC as desired/needed** • The SILC could develop IL award criteria and a process to implement as applicable for various conferences and/or IL events.

SILC members agreed by consensus to designate a SILC work group to develop IL award criteria and an award nomination and selection process. Sharon Ely and Sherry Stock will serve on the IL Award Work Group and

will recruit others to participate in this work group – SILC members not present, and possibly prior SILC members, including Connie Kramer.

SILC Officer Elections

Three officer positions are up for re-election at this SILC meeting: 1) Vice Chair, 2) CIL Representative, and 3) Member-At-Large, currently filled by Brad Collins, Wendy Howard, and Dean Westwood respectively. Each of those individuals are interested in re-election. No other nominations had been made prior to the meeting however, nominations will be accepted from the floor.

An overview of the nomination and voting process was shared: The first vote will be for SILC Vice Chair. Depending on those results, other votes may be necessary to fill the position being vacated by the new Vice Chair. Officer ballots reflect language from the SILC by-laws. Based on each current officer expressing interest in continuing to serve in their current position, the ballots include the names of incumbent officer positions, with space available to add nominations that might be offered from the floor.

- ♦ **SILC Vice Chair** • Sherry Stock nominated Brad Collins for SILC Vice Chair. Sharon Coverstone nominated Sharon Ely for SILC Vice Chair. Randy Samuelson made a motion to close SILC Vice Chair nominations. SILC Vice Chair ballots were distributed, completed by SILC members, and collected and tallied by staff - 4 votes for Brad Collins (Barry Fox-Quamme, Dodie McKenzie, Randy Samuelson, Sherry Stock); 1 vote for Sharon Ely (Sharon Coverstone); 1 abstention (Sharon Ely). **Brad Collins was elected SILC Vice Chair.**
- ♦ **SILC EC CIL Representative** • Sherry Stock nominated Wendy Howard for SILC CIL Representative on the EC. Dean Westwood nominated Barry Fox-Quamme for this officer position. Dean Westwood made a motion to close EC CIL Representative nominations. SILC EC CIL Representative ballots were distributed, completed by SILC members, and collected and tallied by staff - 6 votes for Barry Fox Quamme (Barry Fox-Quamme, Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Randy Samuelson, Sherry Stock, Dean Westwood); 1 vote for Wendy Howard (Dodie McKenzie). **Barry Fox-Quamme was elected SILC EC CIL Representative.**
- ♦ **SILC EC Member-At-Large** • Frank Synoground nominated Dean Westwood for the EC Member-At-Large position. Randy Samuelson made a motion to close EC Member-At-Large nominations.

SILC EC Member-At-Large ballots were distributed, completed by SILC members, and collected and tallied by staff - 6 votes for Dean Westwood (Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme, Dodie McKenzie, Randy Samuelson, Dean Westwood); 1 abstention (Sherry Stock). **Dean Westwood was elected SILC EC Member-At-Large.**

Conference Sponsorships

SILC Congress ~ January 3-7, 2010 ~ Las Vegas NV • This annual conference focuses on SILC infrastructure and common SILC and IL issues. The conference enables SILCs to meet, mentor, and learn from their peers, connect at regional and national levels, participate in work groups on various SILC issues, and enables key opportunities for SILCs to have a shared voice on some major issues. Donation options range from \$325 to \$5,000 to sponsor a delegate, a reception, luncheon, speaker, or other aspect of the conference.

Building Futures ~ October 26-27, 2009 ~ Salem OR • This annual conference targets transition aged young adults with disabilities, their parents, teachers, and professionals. The conference has many IL related presentations each year, with different tracks targeting the various conference participants. This conference is an avenue for CILs to connect with parents, young adults, and partner agencies to share about free IL services, and IL fee-for-service possibilities such as VR and/or schools that might contract peer mentoring and other IL based services. This conference offers Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Diamond sponsorship packages, for contributions of \$250, \$500, \$1,000, and \$5,000 respectively. The \$500 package includes a free vendor table and the contributor's name on the conference website. ILR plans to have a presence at this conference whether or not the SILC contributes and has a free vendor table.

The SILC has funds available to contribute to one or both conferences; however, staff is researching how to reflect sponsorship expenses in ways that are consistent with EDGAR accounting rules and with the SILC's responsibilities as reflected in Section 705 of the Rehab Act. There was discussion about the tight fiscal climate, with cautionary input about the risk of negative perception about contributions to out of state conferences.

After considerable discussion, *a motion was made and seconded to contribute \$500 to the Building Futures conference, and \$325 to the SILC Congress, contingent on the results of staff research on how to charge contributions in ways that are consistent with EDGAR and Section 705 of the Rehab Act. Motion, Sharon Ely. Second, Dean Westwood. Votes in

favor: Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Dodie McKenzie, Randy Samuelson, Sherry Stock, Dean Westwood. Barry Fox-Quamme was not present. No abstentions or votes in opposition. Motion carried unanimously.

NCD Letter Recommendation • The National Council on Disability has the responsibility of advising the President and Congress on disability policy issues. NCD is currently gathering information and trend data to include in their upcoming Congressional Report. The due date for submissions is September 15th. Staff and EC members discussed this opportunity to share input on some current and critical IL issues that have been addressed, but not resolved yet through NCIL or other advocacy efforts. Possible topics for a letter were discussed:

- ♦ **Challenges:** Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Centralization
 - As a result of the closure of regional RSA offices several years ago, Rehab Act program technical assistance and monitoring have been consolidated. RSA workload is heavy and staffing levels are not adequate to meet the current demands of reviewing and approving State Plans for Independent Living (SPILs); reviewing and approving SPIL amendments; conducting state on-site reviews, issuing reports and follow-up activities; providing IL technical assistance to CILs across the country; advising states about frequent process changes or policy decisions, and the recent added work of reviewing and approving states' ARRA allocation proposals.

RSA also has a limited number of staff members who are knowledgeable about IL philosophy and programs, and the individuals who do possess that crucial knowledge seem not to have adequate time or haven't been delegated the authority needed to respond independently to state IL program and CIL questions. This has resulted in states often working with RSA officials who might not have the level of IL understanding to advise and implement decisions that reflect consistency with both federal requirements AND approved state SPILs, nor often time consideration of the mandates and cross program requirements and relationships in the Rehab Act.

The high RSA workload, existing staffing level, and expertise, has RSA staff stretched thin, leaving many states with unanswered questions, unresolved issues, and IL programs that are in transition due to direction about operating only within the roles delineated in the Act, without adequate support nor time, to implement those transitions effectively. This situation is having a significant impact on the IL program nation-wide.

IL programs were working hard to demonstrate their accomplishments and effectiveness, and the current situation has resulted in a need for many states to shift their focus mostly to administrative issues that are not easily or quickly resolved. In spite of the intended benefits of RSA program streamlining and the availability of ARRA funds, states and RSA are mired in paperwork and approval processes, instead of being able to focus on the provision of IL services needed by individuals who want to increase their independence and implementation of SPILs.

Proposed resolutions: 1) RSA add more staff that are knowledgeable about IL in the planning and decisions about IL programs, with them empowered to implement aspects of IL philosophy as applicable; 2) When requiring changes in state structures around the specific roles and responsibilities of CILs, DSUs and SILCs, consider program transition over a longer time period, to lessen the chaos, delays in IL service delivery and making changes without the needed TA and consultation from RSA.

- ♦ **Challenge:** The Rehab Act itself has become outdated as aspects of the program have grown and developed. In some cases, the Rehab Act language was ambiguous in areas of intent vs. the letter of the law; in other situations, interpretation of the roles and responsibilities of partners have differed over time with some creating barriers to achieving the major intent of the Act, which is strong, innovative collaboration. The comprehensiveness of the Act is lost when individual sections are interpreted in a vacuum.

These issues create a challenge for states to implement IL programs in ways that meet the letter and intent of the law, and in ways that maximize collaborations, as required, while also implementing appropriate activities based on the legal role of each agency.

Proposed resolutions: 1) Consider engaging seasoned, knowledgeable and experienced IL leaders in development of language changes.; 2) Consider NCD pushing for Rehab Act changes as developed by a collaboration of IL advocates so that the law is current, consistent, and easier for RSA and states to implement effective IL programs.

SILC members discussed these issues, NCIL's action to date on these issues and the level of results so far, NCD's role and why it might be more effective to offer specific input to NCD, and the importance of conveying issues in as positive a style as possible if the SILC opts to submit a letter to NCD. It was also noted that Congress promised a review of the RSA restructuring after it had been in effect for a year, and thus far, that review has not occurred as far as we know.

*A motion was made and seconded to draft a letter to NCD outlining these concerns and proposed resolution, submit the draft to the SILC Executive Committee and to Stephaine and Frank on September 14th for their immediate review and input, and to submit the final letter to NCD on September 15th. Motion, Randy Samuelson. Second, Dean Westwood. Votes in favor: Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Dodie McKenzie, Randy Samuelson, Sherry Stock, Dean Westwood. Barry Fox-Quamme was not present. No abstentions or votes in opposition. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW/APPROVE SPIL PROGRESS REPORTS

Committee chairs and/or staff provided verbal updates to the various committee reports as applicable.

Advocacy Committee (AC) • The AC has not been active lately due to challenges in attaining a quorum.

Education, Outreach, Leadership Development Committee (EOLDC)

• The EOLDC is updating a list of internet resources, leadership training materials, FAQ sheet questions, and some marketing materials based on input from committee members at meetings and via email.

Executive Committee (EC) • Current EC topics have already been discussed or are scheduled later in this SILC meeting.

Membership Development Training Committee (MDTC)

• The MDTC currently has no committee chair, yet they completed SILC Bylaw and Policy review and revisions, developed a recruitment tool outlining SILC representation gaps and ideas for effective recruiting, improved SILC mentoring processes, and have been actively recruiting and encouraging SILC members and CILs to participate in recruiting SILC candidates.

Although membership is currently low, there is a renewed emphasis on recruiting qualified, knowledgeable candidates. Kristi Svendsen at CORIL has been referring applicants and Dean Westwood has a potential candidate for staff to follow up with. Staff is updating the SILC matrix database so that it can be easily updated as membership shifts.

Staff report • Staff offered some additional updates:

- ♦ There was general consensus that it is good to stay under the radar in this fiscal environment and it was noted that the SILC is not very visible now that the SILC budget reflects only SILC operating expenses, with state IL funds reflected in the OVRS IL budget.
- ♦ SILC staffing continues to have the AS1 and OS2 positions vacant. Joette Williams has been engaged as a temporary administrative

specialist, partially as a way to address the staffing gaps in the interim, and partially to see how SILC administrative tasks might be delegated effectively, possibly with the two vacant positions re-structured into one position. It is unclear whether any position filled would be split with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC).

- ♦ The EC approved the SILC nominating Scott Lay for a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Portland Commission on Disability. If Scott is nominated, his widow has agreed to accept the award on Scott's behalf at the Connecting Communities 2009 Conference.

REVIEW/APPROVE AGENCY REPORTS

OCB, Frank Synoground • There was brief discussion about the Governor's recent review of state boards and commissions, his apparent interest in reducing the number of state councils, commissions, and boards, and his proposal to disband OCB.

The interest appears to be driven by intent to reduce governmental agencies, as opposed to saving money, since many of his proposed agency reductions do not reflect a savings to the General Fund or other state funds.

Based on the Governor's proposal to disband OCB, 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. It also appeared that legislators did not want OCB to be combined with VR.

It was questioned whether the Governor's proposal to disband OCB was based on a misunderstanding about the structure and purpose of OCB. Federal law mandates that a "VR" agency exist for states to access federal VR IL funds, yet the law doesn't prescribe whether a state must have a separate agency to deliver VR services to persons with blindness as a disability. A portion of states have separate blind and VR agencies and other states have a general VR agency, serving all disability populations.

Unlike some of the other agencies the Governor proposed eliminating, OCB is a working commission, with a 7 member board, 5 of whom are blind. OCB receives less than one-half of one percent General Funds (GF), so eliminating OCB would result in very minimal GF savings, if any.

Although this proposal is off the table for now, the Governor appointed a Task Force to review the issue of reducing governmental agencies, so OCB may be at risk again in the future.

OVRs, Stephaine Parrish-Taylor • OVRs continues to be in Order of Selection, however they have been able to get 1,400 people off the wait list and expect to take many more off the wait list this month. The wait list has a little over 3,000 individuals, but with fewer people applying for services and the ARRA allocation, OVRs is hopeful about being able to handle priority 1 individuals as they come in the door as of spring 2010.

Priority levels are determined by three factors: 1) client's number of functional limitations, 2) length of time client has been involved with VR, and 3) the client's extent of functional limits. About 90% to 96% of OVRs clients fall into priority 1. Stephaine attributes the quick progress in reducing the waitlist partly to the infusion of GF and ARRA funds.

OVRs also is monitoring the implementation of a 2009 legislative bill that implements a DHS structure change that divides DHS into a Health Division and OVRs/CAF as a separate division, with both sharing business and infrastructure aspects such as IT and facilities. Dr. Goldberg is likely to head both divisions. Some aspects of SPD, Mental Health service delivery, and Medicaid are being discussed to see how they will be addressed in the new structure. The legislative bill includes the formation of an advisory group to track, monitor, and report on the progress of the new structure. The DHS website includes links to the structure transition activities.

Home Care Commission, Sharon Ely • The HCC report is enclosed as part of the SILC meeting packet. Sharon reported that Mike Volpe is now the HCC Chair. The HCC met last week and received a new fiscal forecast that reflects a 50% cut to the HCC training budget. The Training Committee is looking at ways to save money. Options under consideration include an end to providing meals at Homecare Worker trainings, no longer providing stipends for HCWs to attend repeat sessions of any specific training, and creating less expensive marketing materials.

In spite of the cuts to the HCC training budget, STEPS project support continues to be strong even though the transition plan is now uncertain (see STEPS update later in this agenda). In order to insure continuous service, CIL contracts need to be in place by October 1st. The HCC is aware of this and will move forward with whatever contract and transition activities are necessary to insure a smooth transition with no gaps in STEPS service.

ODC, Tina Treasure • ODC is preparing a legislative wrap-up report that will be shared with SILC members via email when it is available.

SRC, Ann Balzell • The SRC report is enclosed as part of the SILC meeting packet.

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the SPIL Progress Reports Staff Report, and Agency Reports as submitted. Motion, Dean Westwood. Second, Randy Samuelson. Votes in favor: Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme, Dodie McKenzie, Randy Samuelson, Sherry Stock, Dean Westwood. No abstentions or votes in opposition. Motion carried unanimously.

TBI PROJECT PROPOSAL • Tina and Sherry Stock updated SILC members about HB 2413 that applies \$2 of all moving traffic violations into a TBI trust fund, creates a TBI advisory council, and provides about \$50,000 to fund salary and associated benefits for a half time DHS staff person to provide administrative support for quarterly meetings of the advisory council.

Although this bill was held up in Ways and Means during the legislative session, the proposed bill now has support of five legislators. Sherry is finalizing language of the bill so it can be reviewed and approved in the February 2010 legislative session. She is requesting the SILC's permission to include language naming the SILC as the entity that would house and manage the TBI advisory council's staff person. In that scenario, the TBI staff person can provide administrative support to the SILC in between times they are working for the TBI advisory council, so the SILC would gain some staff support, funded directly through HB 2413.

If the bill is approved, the staff person would mainly work for the SILC during the first year while the trust fund accrued money to cover the cost of conducting TBI advisory council meetings. The staff person would submit an annual report to DHS, but during the first year, that might be their only task aside from processing council member applications and Governor appointment paperwork to build an advisory council of ten members.

Once enough funds had accrued that meetings were feasible, Sherry estimated that meeting planning, packet preparation, logistics, and minutes would equate to about one-sixth of an FTE's time devoted to TBI advisory council work, with the SILC benefitting from the remaining two-sixths time that the staff person could devote to SILC administrative assistance. The bill's funding is adequate to also cover cost of the SILC ED's time to hire, train, and manage the new staff person.

There was discussion about the process and approvals needed to acquire position authority, the logistics of adding a staff person, the level of oversight that would be needed to manage the bill's staff person, whether contract development and administration would be needed, how trust fund dollars have been raided in other states and the potential for that to also happen in Oregon, Sherry's trust in the SILC to administer trust funds without raiding them, Sherry's existing connection to CILs and how that enables opportunities for TBI clients to connect to CILs and their support groups that may benefit TBI clients, and whether the SILC workload can handle the addition of managing another project and staff person.

These issues will be discussed further based on the EC directing Tina to pursue further discussion with Sherry, and Angel as applicable to develop a recommendation for the EC in time for Sherry to have the revised bill to LC well before December 2nd.

*A motion was made and seconded to empower the SILC Executive Committee to approve HB 2413 staffing through the SILC if the research and details indicate that the partnership is mutually beneficial. Motion, Dean Westwood. Second, Randy Samuelson. Votes in favor: Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Barry Fox-Quamme, Dodie McKenzie, Randy Samuelson, Sherry Stock, Dean Westwood. No abstentions or votes in opposition. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATES

RSA 2008 Review Findings Update • The SILC continues to correspond with RSA - responding to their requests with information and/or inquiries, and then awaiting RSA's response. Communication continues to be a challenge, with complications occurring when RSA insists that they will only speak to OVRs even relating to issues where the SILC has the specific information and/or background that addresses RSA's requests.

DHS auditors will be speaking to RSA directly about RSA's request for scanned copies of at a minimum 3,500 SILC invoices, dating back to 2002-03. DHS Archives is the official record-holder of those documents, and the workload to pull and scan those documents would be huge in time and cost. The SILC will determine how to proceed based on the results of DHS Auditors' discussion with RSA.

SILC/OVRs Transition • Recruitment for the OVRs IL Compliance Manager position closed on August 27th. The list of qualified candidates will be provided to Stephaine once scored by DHS-HR staff, and then OVRs can proceed with application review, candidate screening, interviews, and hiring with the SILC involved as applicable.

Meanwhile, CIL contract amendments are in progress to extend existing CIL contracts through December 31, 2009 at current funding levels. Upon a decision about ARRA fund allocation, CIL contracts will be adjusted accordingly; however, it's likely that ARRA funds will not be available until sometime in December anyway.

IL ARRA Allocation Update • Tina has prepared and submitted spreadsheets and analysis regarding Oregon's ARRA fund allocation proposal that was developed by the work group described in the SPIL Amendment. At this point, Oregon is still awaiting RSA response. Other states, including Virginia, have experienced similar delays and challenges in having their proposals approved. In spite of IL philosophy and long-standing intentional philosophy to fund existing CILs to sustainable levels before allocating funds to new CILs, RSA has so far continued to push for some ARRA funds to be used for new CILs, even though doing so doesn't meet the criteria of using stimulus funds in ways that remain sustainable after the stimulus period expires.

We're still hoping that RSA's review of the Oregon proposal and supporting documents results in approving the proposed ARRA funding plan. Dave Equith of RSA seems to be the person who will make the final decision on RSA's behalf and he so far has been encouraging states to use ARRA funds for new CILs. Although it looks good to add CILs, many states consider the risk too great to fund a center with dollars that will not be available in the near future. In the announcement of ARRA fund availability, it stated that states needed to address how they would sustain the CILs and/services after ARRA ends and Oregon has been quick to say that we can't and so that the main reason we refuse to start new CILs with Part c ARRA time-limited funds. Thus, the long term effect of allocating ARRA funds for new CILs results in dividing future federal IL funds among more CILs, diluting CIL funding and associated services. Oregon and many other states believe that the resulting fund reductions would destabilize existing CILs and thus, have a negative impact on the clients of each CIL.

If RSA opts to ignore our SPIL and ARRA fund recommendation, the SPIL Partners would need to agree to a next step. If RSA agrees to our Oregon Amendment, they will also advise us about the changes they see needed in the SPIL. To amend the SPIL by putting into such, RSA's decision regarding ARRA funds, is seen as a significant conflict. That is due to the SPIL being required to be developed based on diverse and broad public input, and Oregon's input has strongly and repeatedly maintained the philosophy of attaining fiscal security of existing CILs before allocating federal IL funds to new CILs.

Although one Oregon CIL has recently expressed dissatisfaction with that approach, the funding priorities in past and the current Oregon SPIL consistently reflects the majority of public input that supports stabilization of existing CILs before allocating funds to new CILs. Ironically, the Oregon proposed ARRA fund allocation plan DOES result in funding non-C funded CILs; however, they would receive a combination of Title VII Part B, Part B ARRA and state general funds versus the RSA recommendation of having one or both receive Part C dollars. While the Oregon proposal would allocate ARRA funds to supplement existing CILs' Title VII Part C funds, that action frees up the state IL and Title VII Part B funds for the non-C funded CILs.

Although the bottom line CIL funding levels would be similar whether ARRA funds are allocated to existing CILs or non-C funded CILs, the strategy of using ARRA funds for established CILs does not result in dividing Part C funds among more CILs at the end of the ARRA period, and thus, does not result in a drop in IL funds for the long-standing CILs, which would risk the stability of the Network of CILs.

It's been a challenge to encounter resistance to a proposal that so clearly meets federal sustainability criteria, as well as other ARRA program criteria. Yet in spite of the Oregon ARRA fund allocation proposal conflicting with RSA and one Oregon CIL about CIL IL funding priorities, discussions have remained courteous and respectful, while still conveying strong views about the philosophy, history, and reasons involved in Oregon's ARRA fund allocation proposal.

Stephaine shared that an Executive Order was issued from the White House that waives the requirement to use ARRA funds to start new CILs. Only a few states have agreed to use ARRA funds to fund new CILs with a majority of states opting not to do that due to the short term nature of these funds. Even though recent information provided, allows Part C ARRA funds to be spread across 5 years, instead of the originally stated 2 years, the funds are short term and the White House Executive Order supports states' opting not to fund new CILs with ARRA dollars.

If RSA continues to propose a plan that conflicts with the state's long-standing IL priorities and federal sustainability criteria, the SILC and OVRS have agreed, upon agreement of OCB, that it may be necessary for Oregon to develop a letter that outlines the conflict, the reasons and benefits of the state's proposal, and the risks of funding new CILs with temporary funds. Virginia has shared a similar letter with us that they sent to OSERS, the head of the Department of Education, and their legislators.

STEPS Program • Tina shared a STEPS update with SILC members via email, which contained the background and resulting decision for STEPS to be transferred to the Home Care Commission. This decision was based on the fact that by the program residing inside the HCC, more dollars and other resources would be available to sustain the program closer to its current operational level. The concerns originally expressed about the STEPS program being transferred included retention of the IL philosophy and CIL based local service provision. HCC has expressed a definitive preference to continue to utilize CILs as service providers and it looks like the current STEPS Program Coordinator, Joan Claypool, will also be transferring with the program which will also assure programmatic stability and philosophy.

STEPS contracts have been developed based on the transition plan and Joan was ready to implement her transfer. Tina reported that she just learned today that the HCC position Joan would fill is not a union position, and thus, Joan's transition might result in a loss of some union benefits, transfer rights, and other protections that she has had for more than 30 years. Research is in progress to identify the specifics so that Joan can make an informed choice about whether she will transition to the HCC.

EC members had discussed how their decision regarding STEPS project transition was contingent on staffing that enabled project consistency, integrity, and the means to assure the ongoing implementation of consumer control and IL aspects of the program. Sharon, Tina, and EC members also discussed the aspect that HCC members also approved the STEPS transition plan based on similar views about the importance of retaining program integrity and IL philosophy.

EC members agreed by consensus that if Joan elects not to transfer, the SILC should contact the HCC Chair and possibly other HCC members to update them about the situation and to ask them to reconsider the STEPS proposal that incorporated a 40% project cut, while retaining project administration through the SILC. This option compensates for the aspects that the HCC does not have an alternate STEPS Project Manager; nor does the HCC have the long term background and experience of implementing and teaching IL philosophy and the key project element of peer mentoring.

Although 40% is a significant cut, that budget scenario had Executive Committee, HCC, and CIL support, and incorporated a necessary marketing strategy of SPD providing eligible individuals' names to CILs so they could devote as much time and funding as possible to training consumers versus conducting recruitment at the local level.

Sharon will try to provide Tina with updated HCC training figures in case those might be useful for updating the 40% cut proposal, in case the actual cuts might be less. With this strategy, if Joan decides that accepting the HCC non-union position is not feasible, the SILC will ask the HCC to reconsider the budget cut proposal, with the project staying with the SILC and with Joan as the Project Manager. Plans could still continue for a transition to the HCC over a longer time period, with mentoring and support to facilitate an eventual transition of STEPS to the HCC. Staff will update the EC and SILC as soon as a decision has been made.

Conference Updates • Conference reports are enclosed in the SILC meeting packets as informational updates.

Consumer Survey Summaries • Consumer Survey Summaries are enclosed in the SILC meeting packets as information. CIL Directors received reports specific to their CILs, with names listed as applicable. The SILC member Consumer Survey Reports are generic consolidated reports.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT PLANNING • The SPIL Committee identified that a Needs Assessment work group would be useful for locating, planning, and/or developing needs assessment tools and resources for use in developing goals and objectives for the 2011-2013 SPIL. As SILC Chair, Angel Hale appointed Sherry Stock and Ann Balzell to serve on this work group, with Shelly serving as the work group staff person and active participant.

The Needs Assessment work group has compiled a list of partner agencies that have already conducted recent Needs Assessments so that their research and results may be considered in the SILC's Needs Assessment tool and/or process. SILC staff has already begun collecting names and contact information of individuals that are willing to participate in upcoming Needs Assessment activities and/or surveys. Names have been collected at the Building Futures Conference and there will be a sign-up sheet for today's Public Input participants to also participate in the upcoming Needs Assessment. The work group will begin to develop survey questions for individual and agency Needs Assessment surveys.

SILC APPLICANT Q&A • The scheduled SILC applicant opted not to pursue SILC membership at this time, so this agenda item is no longer applicable.

EOCIL PRESENTATION • Kirt thanked the SILC on behalf of EOCIL, for visiting eastern Oregon and soliciting input from EOCIL and their clients. Kirt shared some little known history about how EOCIL started. They began with no money, just passion about IL philosophy. EOCIL slowly grew, and they incorporated in 1998, with minimal funding through various grants that required a lot of time to research, write, and report on grant goals/objectives progress. EOCIL had their first office in 2000 - a small cubicle within another agency that was provided to EOCIL staff.

In early 2000, Kirt worked with Heidi –a volunteer, as the only EOCIL staff. Together, they planned big in trying to serve all of eastern Oregon - almost half the state, geographically. Since eastern Oregon is a very rural area, and the CIL was not known within many communities yet, they traveled to the clients' homes while also working hard in the community to increase awareness about the CIL. Funds were not available to cover travel, meal, or hotel costs, so they served individuals by coordinating road trips to visit various clients along a planned route. The road trips often involved staff leaving their homes at 5 a.m., serving clients in Ontario, then heading to Boardman and other cities, and ending at Baker City, getting back home around 3 a.m. the next day.

In 2000, EOCIL joined the Oregon Association of Centers for Independent Living (AOCIL) and was welcomed as an equitable peer. EOCIL continues to value their partnership with the SILC and CILs.

EOCIL continued to research and apply for various grants to develop a level of sustainable funding to cover operating costs. Over time, EOCIL earned the opportunity to receive some IL funding through OVRs/SILC contracts. However, those contracts and their amounts were contingent on the availability and level of state IL funding, which fluctuates significantly.

The time involved in doing outreach and the resulting fatigue led them to finally establish a centralized office in Pendleton in 2003, in addition to the Ontario office. The current Pendleton office space is in a residential area with limited parking. Although it's not an ideal neighborhood or office, staff have decorated the office nicely and it serves the purpose of being a low cost centralized location that enables EOCIL to serve clients and use most funding for IL service provision instead of having large overhead costs. In spite of having two offices, with such a huge service area and minimal public transportation, EOCIL staff can still drive long distances to serve clients in their own areas or homes.

As a result of ongoing IL funding cuts, EOCIL experienced several contract amendments and funding reductions from 2003 through 2008 that necessitated staffing reductions and/or layoffs at various times. Heidi was

one of the EOCIL staff who was laid off, just after she'd been successful in promoting more community awareness about EOCIL.

Many EOCIL staff members accepted work reductions and layoffs as necessary, often while continuing to volunteer at the CIL so that their clients were able to receive the IL services they needed, even when staff funding levels were minimal. Time and time again, whether or not funds were available to cover staff salaries, staff often opted to volunteer, rather than leaving, because they saw how their services change lives and save lives.

At the suggestion of CORIL's Executive Director, Kirt recruited and hired a manager for the Pendleton office, to shift from the revolving door of hiring temporary staff. As a result of this recruitment, Heidi Eidler returned to manage the Pendleton office. She and Kirt resumed planning about how to bring more disability resources to eastern Oregon, and identified that one avenue is to encourage disability conferences to be held in eastern Oregon. The CIL mentoring project led EOCIL to utilize Skype to connect staff from the Ontario and Pendleton offices, and connect EOCIL staff with computer literate IL clients throughout their large rural service area. EOCIL is considering connecting further via social networking sites. Stephaine suggested that they also consider the e.gov website for discussion, articles, and reports on disability issues with peers across the country. Based on SILC input, CIL representatives might also consider using Skype for AOCIL meetings.

EOCIL has many clients who speak Spanish and they have a brochure available in Spanish and they hire a Spanish translator as needed. One translator wrote clients' comments in Spanish. Oregon Health Division reviewers commented that they could not read some client records because the comments were written in Spanish.

Note: During the EOCIL site visit, Heidi Eidler shared that EOCIL has connected to the tribal communities in their area. That is a significant accomplishment since the cultural practice involves pride in taking care of each other and not needing outside assistance. However, Heidi stated having been born in Germany has worked to her advantage she thinks since some people automatically see her as an outsider as well and she seems to have earned trust and friendship with individuals in the local tribes; they even regularly invite her to attend tribal events.

Both Kirt and Heidi conveyed huge appreciation of their many clients, their dedicated staff and board members, and of the SILC and their CIL peers.

PUBLIC INPUT • Staff distributed a public input handout and SILC Chair, Angel Hale welcomed guests, thanked them for attending, requested that they sign the Public Input sheet, encouraged them to also sign up to participate in the upcoming Needs Assessment, and reminded guests of the 5 minute per person limit for public input.

Pendleton guests: Heidi Eidler (EOCIL staff), Darrin Umbarger, Jeremy Umbarger, Robert Woodend, Gary Simonis, Pat Chavez.

Ontario guests: Kirt Toombs (EOCIL staff) Colleen Toombs (EOCIL Board member; not related to Kirt), Raquel Kuchne (EOCIL staff), Virginia Martinez, Frankie Martinez, Marisela Marks, Jennifer Bonwell (WIN staff), Linda Valentine (EOCIL staff), Jo Ann Crocker (EOCIL Board member).

Representative Greg Smith of District 57 also attended the Public Input portion of the SILC meeting.

Darrin Umbarger shared materials for public input in advance so that accessible format requirements have been met for the input he shared at the meeting. Darrin owns and operates Clearview Mediation and Disability Resource Center. His work there includes partnering with VR regarding employment of people with disabilities, operating a small medical equipment loan closet, working with Emergency Management planners in Umatilla County, serving on a local Special Transportation Fund Committee and a Mental Health Advisory Committee, visiting schools to share about disability issues, and successfully advocating for increased accessibility at the Pendleton Roundup event. Darrin shared that he spent his first seven years with a disability at home, not realizing the independence that he could attain. Now saying "nothing can keep me home!"

Colleen Toombs and Jo Ann Crocker (EOCIL Board members), thanked the SILC for their support of EOCIL. Coleen also conveyed excitement about the future and looks forward to continued growth of EOCIL.

Other EOCIL staff and clients thanked the SILC for their support and many conveyed huge appreciation of EOCIL staff and the valuable services they provide.

A Pendleton EOCIL client shared his experience of seeking help to attain SSI based on ongoing medical issues and denial of OHP services three times. He shared details of his history and ongoing affirming experiences at EOCIL, where he was always treated with kindness, respect, courtesy, and compassion. As a result of the IL services he received at EOCIL, he learned of resources, opportunities, VR orientation, and gained awareness and confidence that he had marketable skills beyond what he realized. He shared that he is doing emotionally, physically, spiritually, and financially better than he ever has been. He learned about EOCIL from a friend and

predicted that if he had not found EOCIL, he'd be in jail or an institution by now.

Another EOCIL client shared that his experience with EOCIL enabled him to find stable residence in spite of ongoing health issues, bad credit, and ineligibility for Section 8 housing. He also received medical referrals that resulted in reducing his chronic pain by about 90% with a 50% reduction in pain medication! As a result of his residence and pain issues being addressed, he was able to move forward with three pages of personal goals, including reinstating his previous 12 step program for valuable support, getting past suicidal feelings, attaining fiscal security via a credible representative payee program, and feeling touched, valued, and listened to in a way that he had never experienced before.

Many individuals traveled THREE HOURS to share five minutes worth of input. Although the initial plan was to limit public input to five minutes per person, the stories were so touching that it became more important to hear the stories than it was to time the stories.

Representative Greg Smith sat among the other guests during the Public Input session. He repeatedly offered support, compliments, and encouragement to individuals who shared their stories. He shared that he serves on the House Ways and Means Committee and emphasized how touched he was by the stories and the ongoing evidence that CILs save hearts and lives as they also save money in the long run. He offered his ear and support of IL services and funding.

WRAP-UP/ADJOURN • Staff and SILC members thanked Representative Smith, and EOCIL guests for traveling and taking the time and effort to attend the meeting and/or share their stories. Staff encouraged interested individuals to submit their stories electronically so they can be shared more widely upon individuals' consent. Kirt shared directions and SILC members coordinated logistics to visit EOCIL's Pendleton office open house after the meeting. The SILC meeting was adjourned.