

Approved March 5, 2010
State Independent Living Council Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 4, 2009 • 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Renaissance Inn • 5188 Wittenberg Lane North • Keizer, OR
Phone; 503-390-4733 or 1-800-299-7221

Members Present: Stephaine Parrish-Taylor, Frank Synoground, Sherry Stock, Randy Samuelson, Ann Balzell, Brad Collins, Angel Hale (Chairperson), Dodie McKenzie and Barry Fox-Quamme. Dodie and Barry arrived late, but prior to the first action item. Wendy Howard, Sharon Coverstone, Dean Westwood and Sharon Ely were not available for this meeting. **Staff Present:** Tina Treasure, Shelly Emery, Lynelle Wilcox and Joette Williams, Mark Beasley (Cascade Sound).

Guests Present: Joan Claypool (OVRs), Ted Wenk (Disability Rights Oregon).

AGENDA REVIEW

Due to the resignation of Sharon Ely from the Executive Committee, election of an Executive Committee member was added to the action items. Due to the late arrival of some members, update items on the agenda will be moved ahead of action items, until a quorum is present.

SPIL PROGRESS REPORTS

Tina Treasure and Angel Hale have reviewed and approved the committee work plans developed after the last meeting, without change. Approval memos were sent to the committee chairs and staff.

1. Collaboration Committee:

The Committee has contacted a few individuals who were suggested as possible additional committee members. The Committee will also be developing a Center for Independent Living (CIL) fact sheet, which they hope to complete in the next month or so, as a tool to assist members in generating collaboration between community partners and CILs.

2. Executive Committee:

No verbal report was added to the written report in the meeting packet.

3. Membership Development Committee:

The State Independent Living Council (SILC) is really challenged in recruiting members. Frank Synoground asked members to be aware and assist in seeking potential members. Membership must focus on people with disabilities, so as not to be out of compliance with RSA. Though knowledge about CILs and the IL philosophy is needed, recruitment may need to focus on those who live the IL philosophy, even though they may not have heard of that terminology. Individuals with CIL affiliations would not be eligible, as we already have the three CIL representative positions filled.

4. SPIL (State Plan for Independent Living) Committee

The Committee is working in cooperation with their Needs Assessment work group to gather information about the needs of people with disabilities in the state. Their Monitoring and Evaluation work group is working to see what the SILC already does, with the idea of comparison to the SPIL.

REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (RSA) REVIEW/IL TRANSITION UPDATE

Stephaine Parrish Taylor reported that, in the last Federal visit, RSA took exception with some of the ways in which the SILC, OVRS (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services), and the CILs were partnering, while complimenting us on our collaborative approach. As a consequence to the review, OVRS needed to take back some of the responsibilities in an obvious way. To that end, OVRS hired Joan Claypool to work with them half time. She will have the responsibility for working with the CILs, conducting the CIL reviews, processing the payments and administering contracts. Joan hopes to visit all of the CILs soon.

Tina Treasure indicated that she and Shelly Emery will continue to be on the OVRS payroll for limited hours for a couple of months in

order to transfer processes, databases, documents and knowledge to Joan, as well as introducing her to Department of Human Service (DHS) financial personnel she will need to connect with. An Action Plan has been developed for the transition, with the Executive Committee receiving progress reports.

OVRS-IL PROGRAM

Joan Claypool reported that she visited HASL and UVDN earlier this week, as she begins her visits to all of the CILs. Reviews are part of the responsibility of her position. She plans to be more collaborative than authoritative in the review process. She has been busy learning about the different funding streams, and preparing grants to be put in place with CILs by January 1. In working with the IL program, she has started to realize that not every state has as good of a working relationship between the Designated State Unit (DSU) and the SILC, as Oregon does.

STAFF REPORT

Tina Treasure acknowledged that the staff report was lengthy. She shared the following updates to the staff report.

The SILC has also hired Joan Claypool, on a half time basis, to be their community partner liaison. Initially, she will be shadowing Tina in community activities. They will soon draft a fact sheet comparing what Joan does for the SILC versus OVRS, and what her schedule will be for each organization.

Joette Williams, who has been a temporary employee for the SILC for the last 4 months, has been offered the position of SILC Administrative Specialist, and will be starting, hopefully on Monday December 7, 2009.

Tina is struggling to provide SILC members with information about the many partnerships that the SILC has without taking up hours of time. She would like to have the staff report be just a short document. Angel Hale suggested that there be a "Did you know?" format, and maybe post it on the Web page.

Staff is looking into changing the structure of the SILC Web page, so that it demonstrates greater autonomy.

The National Council on Independent Living is pushing the concept of breaking off the IL program in the law from RSA and creating an Independent Living Administration within the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS). Senator Harkin's office is very interested in supporting this idea. This would change the role of the SILC, and reverse the VR/IL transitions we have been involved in. Tina was authorized by the Executive Committee to join a NCIL subcommittee addressing this issue, so she will keep the SILC updated. A blog address on the Web has been developed for sharing information about the issue.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION

Sharon Ely has resigned from the Executive Committee as of December 3, 2009. The vacated position is an at-large position, with a term ending in September, 2010. Angel Hale asked if any SILC members would be interested in being on the Executive Committee to fill the rest of Sharon's term. Sherry Stock indicated interest. Ann Balzell would be interested, but isn't sure if she would have the time.

ACTION • Frank Synoground nominated Sherry Stock for the Executive Committee. Brad Collins seconded, and nominations were closed. Votes in favor: Sherry Stock, Dodie McKenzie, Brad Collins, Ann Balzell, Randy Samuelson, Barry Fox-Quamme. There were no votes in opposition or abstentions.

SILC MEMBER ACTIVITY UPDATES

In the packet are two logs for the members to fill out. The intent is to capture three different things.

1. What kinds of presentations SILC members do that could have anything to do with IL.
2. Access to collaborative partners SILC members have through the groups they belong to and meetings attended where IL played a big factor.
3. An overall picture of member involvement in other kinds of committees.

Shelly Emery explained the difference of the collaboration and presentation logs. When doing a formal presentation or vendor table, it would go on the SILC Presentations and Community Activities log. If you are part of a committee or an advisory/project group, these involvements go on the collaboration log. Sherry Stock noted that, if a grant is ever written that requires matching funds, these types of recorded activities can be used to replace matching funds.

SILC GENERAL ACTION ITEMS

1. September 2009 SILC meeting minutes

ACTION • A motion was made by Frank Synoground and seconded by Sherry Stock to approve the September 2009 SILC meeting minutes, as submitted. Votes in favor: Sherry Stock, Dodie McKenzie, Brad Collins, Ann Balzell, Randy Samuelson. Barry Fox-Quamme abstained. There were no votes in opposition. Motion carried.

2. Review/approve September 2009 SILC Retreat minutes

ACTION • A motion was made by Stephaine Parrish Taylor and seconded by Sherry Stock to approve the September 2009 SILC retreat minutes, with typographical corrections noted by Shelly Emery. Votes in favor: Randy Samuelson, Brad Collins, Ann Balzell, Dodie McKenzie, Sherry Stock. Barry Fox-Quamme abstained. There were no votes in opposition. Motion carried.

3. 2008/2009 Financial Report

The SILC Resource plan shows a balance of \$169,969.21 to carry forward. There were a couple of categories that had overages. The youth leadership training last January caused the Education and Partner Outreach column to be a couple of hundred dollars over budget. Also, the Administrative Contractor expenses went over budget due to staff vacancies, for which Wilcox Business Services picked up the slack. Having to do a SPIL amendment caused an overage of about \$600 in SPIL development costs. Overall, budget section was still within budget. Tina Treasure explained that the \$169,969.21, which

was not expended, is the Title I, Innovation and Expansion dollars matched by the IL State General Funds. The SILC will be able to carry these over, because the 09 fiscal year grant providing these funds is still available. This will diminish the need for matching State General Funds in the next year, as well as reducing our draw of new Title I funds for the 2010 budget year.

ACTION • A motion was made by Stephaine Parrish Taylor and seconded by Sherry Stock to approve the financial report. Votes in favor: Sherry Stock, Dodie McKenzie, Brad Collins, Ann Balzell, Barry Fox-Quamme, Randy Samuelson. There were no votes in opposition or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

SPIIL AMENDMENT ITEMS

1. **ARRA Part C Allocation Report:** RSA approved the ARRA (American Reinvestment and Recovery Act) Independent Living dollars allocation, recommended by Oregon's ARRA Committee after a fairly long negotiation struggle, in which RSA pushed for the opening of a new Part C grant, using ARRA funds, in order to demonstrate good outcomes. Oregon countered with the argument that current CIL funding could be destabilized, due to the short term nature of this funding, and its effect of changing the per CIL allocations at the end of the ARRA period.
2. **Revised SPIIL Amendment Overview:** Prior to submission of the SPIIL amendments, approved in June, it was decided to hold up the SPIIL Amendment until the ARRA fund allocation was determined. After RSA's agreement to Oregon's allocation plan, RSA offered to do a pre submission review of the amended SPIIL, before sending it out for public comment. RSA's review comments on the final amendments have not been received, so the November 30 public hearing was cancelled. When RSA provides their comment, 30 day notice for a new hearing will be given. During the 30 day period, OCB, OVRS and the EC will review RSA's input to determine if there is any significant change needed, and then release the draft. The SILC and members of the public will have time to review the draft and

ACTION • A motion was made by Barry Fox-Quamme that the SILC grant authority to the SILC Executive Committee to take all action necessary, on their behalf, to review and approve, as one of the three SPIL partners, the SPIL Amendment for submission to RSA. Motion seconded by Sherry Stock. Votes in favor: Sherry Stock, Brad Collins, Ann Balzell, Barry Fox-Quamme, Randy Samuelson. There were no votes in opposition or abstentions. Motion carried. Dodie McKenzie was not present during this vote, or for the remainder of the meeting.

2011-2013 SPIL PLANNING

Sherry Stock and Ann Balzell met and developed a strategy for a needs assessment. A list of categories was established for assessment, such as employment issues, education issues, etc. Staff has been working to build databases of agencies and individuals that have let us know they would be willing to help with a needs assessment. There are 8-10 organizations from which we have solicited needs assessment data, and three have shared their needs assessments with us. This data will be reviewed, to see if it answers any of the questions in the list of categories. Any remaining categories to assess will have survey questions developed, possibly using assistance from one of the universities, in order to craft the questions appropriately. The survey would then be distributed broadly to organizations and individuals, with data compiled in a report during February, to have it ready for SPIL partners and CILs to utilize at a March SPIL Evaluation and Planning meeting. The full SILC will have opportunity to comment on the draft SPIL during the public comment period, and will vote on final approval. The Executive Committee would have full oversight over the development phases, to the point of having a draft ready. In order to put this plan into action, formalization of a decision to give the Executive Committee this authority is needed.

ACTION • A motion made by Sherry Stock to authorize the time line and the EC role in management of the processes and approving the various steps and drafts until the final draft to be approved by the full SILC is developed. Motion second by Brad Collins. Votes in favor: Sherry Stock, Brad Collins, Ann Balzell, Barry Fox-Quamme, Randy Samuelson. There were no votes in opposition or abstentions. Motion carried.

CIL PRESENTATION - ILR

Barry Fox-Quamme came to ILR about four and a half years ago. About four months into his tenure there was a change in the Executive Director. The Board asked him to serve as Interim Director. After a search, he became the permanent Executive Director. During the last four years, they have had to address a number of management and financial issues. They made some changes both programmatically and financially. In the last two and a half, years they have seen a significant change in the type of revenue that is supporting the organization. Originally, 80% of funding came from their federal grant and the balance from donations and reserves. This year they have about 50% from the federal grant and 50% from a combination of diversified contracts, grants and fee for service arrangements. A few years ago a commitment was made by the Board to not take on special projects or grants unless they tracked them as a separate cost center, which was revenue neutral or revenue positive. During the last three years, they have seen their operational budget grow from about \$600,000 to where they have ended this fiscal year, just under \$800,000.

This financial shift means half the work they do is around the IL core services, with supplemental services consistent with the IL mission. These supplemental services include their two Work Incentive Network (WIN) coordinators, with services extending into the Sherman, Wasco and Hood River Counties; and the STEPS program, which extends into Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia Counties.

Last year ILR took the lead with "On the Move in Oregon". ILR is the fiscal agent and the training center for implementing the On the

Move peer support and counseling services, contracted through all the centers for independent living. It was launched in May and continues to grow. They have a commitment from On the Move to renew the contract for 2010.

ILRU continues to collaborate with Oregon Health and Sciences University and the Oregon Office on Disability and Health in implementing Healthy Lifestyles Workshops in the region, and to some extent around the state. They have expanded into collaboration on a curriculum for emergency preparedness for people with disabilities, and that spun off into a grant to the City of Portland to implement five different customized curriculums for emergency preparedness for different groups of specific populations of people with disabilities.

ILR continues to be in the same location in southeast Portland. They had planned to obtain a building that would about double the size of their facilities. Unfortunately it was tied to the ARRA funds and since they were delayed, the building deal fell through. A sight task force is evaluating whether to stay at the current location, open a second location or look at having just one central sight at a different location.

They have expanded a training program that employs seniors who have had disabilities and are trying to become job ready and get back in the work place. It is up to an 18 month placement, and they work 20 hours a week. They are paid by a program called Seniors Make Sense. ILR has 5 or 6 placements, providing a good opportunity for entry level training on reception and clerical, but also an opportunity to step up as program support people for programs like On the Move or STEPS.

ILR continues to be involved in the Association of Centers for Independent Living (AOCIL) network, developing their identity as directors around the state.

AGENCY REPORTS

- 1. OVRS, Stephaine Parrish-Taylor** • OVRS has cleared all clients off of the priority 1 wait list. Any new client that comes in and is determined to be priority 1 goes immediately into service with a counselor. They have taken about one half of the priority 2 individuals off of the wait list. They have some extra resources due to the ARRA dollars and some re-allotment dollars, but there are places to spend that money. House Bill (HB) 2009 divides the current DHS into the Oregon Health Authority and a new DHS. Stephaine thinks this is an opportune time to make proposals about where the SILC might be placed.

She is very pleased that people are looking at the things OVRS has done. They have been invited to go to Vermont to talk with them about the work that they are doing in support of employment around mental health. There are people coming from Michigan to look at what they are doing with Ticket to Work. She had an opportunity to go to New Orleans recently to talk about what they are doing with their employer engagement and the work they are doing around motivational challenges for consumers. They are going to have a federal site visit in December or February to look at what is going on with Project Access.

There has been some discussion about moving VR out of the Department of Education into the Department of Labor. There is interest on the Hill to do this. There doesn't seem to be a position coming out of the White House on this. Her concern is that the Department of Labor is an employer driven model. She is concerned about losing the individualized focus on services.

- 3. OCB, Frank Synoground** • There is talk again that the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act could get passed. All agencies have been asked to take a 10% cost reduction, at the State level. OCB took theirs out of service funds. In years past

They have been able to take priority 1 and priority 2's off the wait list.

They are in process toward completing their 704 report and the Older Blind program report.

4. **Home Care Commission, Sharon Ely** • The Home Care Commission report is enclosed as part of the SILC meeting packet.
5. **ODC, Tina Treasure** • The ODC report is enclosed as part of the SILC meeting packet.
6. **SRC, Ann Balzell** • The SRC report is enclosed as part of the SILC meeting packet. Ann wanted to point out that regarding HB2009, there is a web site that has a place for public comment. Special care is taken to honor each of these comments.

REAL CHOICE SYSTEMS GRANT – Department of Human Service, Seniors and People with Disabilities Division (SPD), Elaine Young, Manager State Unit on Aging • Elaine works with the 17 Area Agencies on Aging with respect to the Older Americans Act, receiving federal funds and then allocating those funds to the 17 area agencies, as well as doing monitoring and oversight of these funds. They also have administrative oversight of Oregon Project Independence (OPI), which is a state funded in-home services program, created by the Oregon State Legislature, in 1975.

The Older Americans Act reauthorization, in 2006, included language around Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs). ADRCs are an envisioned service that the aging community and disability community have shared, in order to have a single entry point to

information, assistance and services, from a well trusted, visible entity within a geographic area.

Five or six years ago, at the federal level, the US Administration on Aging became a closer partner with Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). Through that closer relationship, they were able to show CMS that, if they resourced the prevention services side of the service delivery system for the older adults and people with disabilities, they could realize savings of a lot of money on the Medicaid and Medicare health care costs that are increasing.

ADRCs are to provide information and assistance to older adults and people with disabilities. It is a single entry point, but not necessarily a single location for access to public benefits, as well as counseling and advocacy, to overcome barriers to using those benefits. This would be a clearing house for long term services and supports information. Services would be provided via the internet or telephone and be available for face-to-face visits, either in someone's home or through a community center. ADRCs should be a catalyst for community prevention strategies to help prevent or delay the use of publicly funded long term supports, so they can avoid people having to spend down to Medicaid and having to impoverish oneself in order to receive those public benefits, as well as avoiding unnecessary institutionalization.

In 2008, SPD applied for and received a grant as one of six states for a pilot project. The main object for the grant was to work with healthcare systems to evidence a person-centered, hospital discharge model. There was a second option for the grant, to fund an ADRC, if it could be shown how the two could work together. The grant provided for two years of planning and one year of implementation.

They are focusing in Lane County and partnering with Lane County Council of Governments, Lane Independent Living Alliance (LILA), Peace Health and Lane Independent Physicians Alliance (LIPA), the Medicaid managed health plan. They are working with the hospital and have been pilot testing a high risk screening tool, because the focus population is Medicaid or Medicare eligible. They are taking the

Medicaid eligibility very broadly and using a risk tool that would also identify people at risk for re-hospitalization, which are similar risk factors for nursing home placement. There will be a hospital based case manager from Area Agency on Aging to intervene early with those identified people. If they are a person with a disability, then LILA will be coming in, as well. The hospital will place a follow-up phone call post discharge to make sure the discharge plan is working, that the patient understands their medication and the signs and symptoms of their health condition, and that they are keeping their follow up appointments with their doctor.

The ADRC needs to be simple for the consumer, at least for that first phone call. If the people can get the information easily, maybe they will seek it earlier. The problem has been not having good community outreach. There are 17 Area Agencies on Aging and none of them use that term in their name.

PATHWAYS PROJECT UPDATE - Randy Samuelson and Lizzi McNeff • Lizzi McNeff is a senior researcher at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) and Portland State University. She is currently working on three research projects. Two of the three projects deal with mental health issues for women with physical disabilities. There are two funding sources for those projects. One is Project Rise, which is funded by the National Institute of Disability Research and Rehabilitation (NIDRR). This is a cognitive, behavioral therapy intervention for women with physical disabilities that have depressive symptomology. It is a clinical trial. They have developed the curriculum and are field testing that and examining efficacy.

The other project is called Healing Pathways. It is a combination of a strength based, cognitive behavioral therapy intervention. This is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

Lizzi talked to Randy Samuelson about starting the Pathways Project in Grants Pass, with HASL. They decided to expand to the south coast, as it was underserved. HASL was almost too successful in their recruiting efforts. There are 80 women involved in the project, with a waiting list of 56. They do not have the funds or capacity to take the

women off the wait list. The Pathways Project has just started, but they are getting phenomenal response from the consumers.

The Pathways Project is paying for a van to go to the coast once a week, and have committed to do this for one year. Since the van was going anyway, and the staff that are going are trained in different areas such as IL, On the Move, and STEPS, it made sense to provide enhanced services for consumers in that area of the coast, who have been underserved for a while.

WIN UPDATE – Sara Kendall • Sara shared information regarding the Work Incentives Network (WIN), as well as a project called Think Beyond the Label. After the first informational hearing before the Health and Human Services Committee, the interest has continued for WIN, on the Republican side. The Republicans have renamed it the Jobs or Employment Bill. They are almost certain that the bill will not be introduced in the February session. They need another informational hearing before the Health and Human Services Committee, which will not be difficult to get. They also want to get an informational hearing before the Workforce Committee. It is up to partners to get the word out, and packets are available which supply information and action steps that individuals can take now.

There is funding for the WIN project staff, housed in CILs through Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program, through the next biennium. However, the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) ends December 31, 2011, which ends funding for the program coordinators. MIG will also be writing grants during the next two years to try to sustain the coordinators through the biennium.

They are going to do a full research project that will have quantitative and qualitative data on the project. It will not be just a cost benefit analysis of the program, but will have information about the social benefits of the program. The data already demonstrates that 682 out of 1348 people, who have a social security number in the database, went to work as a result of WIN services. An additional half staff position at Umpqua Valley Disability Network is being added to cover Roseburg and Coos Counties.

Think Beyond the Label is a national marketing campaign. The 36 states that have MIG have collaborated to raise over \$6,000,000 in funding for the campaign. This is a television, radio, print, multi-media and web based campaign that will go out at the beginning of February to raise the awareness of CEO's, Senior Executives and owners of medium and small businesses regarding hiring people with disabilities. In January they are going to have state-wide video conferences with as many service providers, that provide disability services, as they can, asking them to fill out a very simple excel spreadsheet each week and sending it to a point person in a VR office. When an employer calls who is interested in hiring somebody, the point person will call the VR office in the area of the employer first. If VR has somebody that is motivated, reliable, dependable, job ready and has the skills needed, then VR will refer that person. If they have nobody ready, then the point person will call the first provider on the list and give them the name of the employer that has the job. Even if their person does not get the job, the provider has started a relationship with the employer.

SILC MEETING PLANNING

The next meeting is planned to be at Keizer Renaissance Inn. The day before the meeting OCB, OVRs, the CILs will be invited to join SILC representatives to discuss issues around the SPIL. There will be a report from the Needs Assessment provided to start doing some planning. At the same time, we will be evaluating the current implementation. The regular quarterly meeting will be the next day.

In June, it looks like the Mega Conference will be held the same week end as our meeting. There is potential that we could incorporate our meeting with the Mega Conference, in Eugene. The Executive Committee will be taking a look at that.

MEETING ADJOURNED