

Approved June 3, 2010
State Independent Living Council Quarterly Meeting
Friday, March 5, 2010 • 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Renaissance Inn • 5188 Wittenberg Lane North • Keizer, OR

Members Present: Stephaine Parrish-Taylor, Frank Synoground, Dodie McKenzie, Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely, Angel Hale (Chairperson), Brad Collins, Randy Samuelson, Ann Balzell, Wendy Howard, and Barry Fox-Quamme. Dean Westwood and Sherry Stock were not available for this meeting.

Staff Present: Shelly Emery, Lynelle Wilcox, Joette Williams, Tina Treasure, and technician from Cascade Sound.

Guests Present: Joan Claypool (OVRs), Ted Wenk (Disability Rights Oregon), Glen Van Cise (CORIL), Susan Melero (applicant), Mike Volpe (applicant).

SILC APPLICANT INTRODUCTION

Susan Melero introduced herself and shared about her background and interest in the SILC. Susan is a member of Self Advocates as Leaders (SAAL) and attended the public hearing for the SPIL amendment, where she learned more about the SILC. She does secretarial work for SAAL.

AGENDA REVIEW

Claypool's Designated State Unit (DSU)/IL report and comment on the Collaboration Committee will be moved to the first thing on the agenda.

There is another applicant, Mike Volpe, who will be arriving around 11:30, so he will introduce himself at that time.

OVRs-IL PROGRAM

There are no additions to the written DSU/IL report in the meeting packet.

Joan Claypool staffs the Collaboration Committee, and shared the new CIL Services Available Sheet, which was developed by the Collaboration Committee and sent to the Centers for Independent

Living (CILs) for their review and comment. The intent is to have one sheet of paper that shows the core services that the CILs provide and to also show the specialized services each CIL provides. She requested input from SILC members prior to finalization by the Collaboration Committee. The Committee's plan is to distribute it to partners, to CILs, and to allow it to be distributed as people see fit.

CORIL PRESENTATION

Glen Van Cise, from CORIL in Bend, presented the services his CIL provides. CORIL covers Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes counties. They also work with Warm Springs, which is in both Jefferson and Wasco counties. They started out in 1980 as an organization doing outdoor challenge trips. In 1988 they started doing independent living services. CORIL currently has about 30 employees. CORIL's services include the independent living core services, STEPS, Brain Train, Living Well with a Disability, On the Move in Oregon, Leveraging Loss, Supported Living and some employment programs.

IL skills training includes money management and household responsibilities, social skills, health and hygiene, dietary nutrition, time management, stress and anger management, medical support, medication regulation, volunteer training, transportation, education, and safety plans and responsibilities. CORIL also does a lot of employment IL skills training. They have a job club that does resumes and cover letters and covers employer expectations, applications, interview skills, food safety and food handlers card training, computer training, driver permit training, cashier training and job coaching, along with public transportation.

CORIL's community education program goes into classrooms throughout central Oregon with 4 or 5 peers with different disabilities, to focus on awareness. There are teachers that ask them back often. The program helps eliminate the "can't" stigma. Students are able to experience a person with a disability, who has a positive attitude, and apply it to their own life.

Each year CORIL has a community partnership luncheon, inviting around 225 partners to participate in the celebration.

Also every year, in partnership with the college, CORIL has a Christmas program as a fund raiser.

SILC GENERAL ACTION ITEMS

December 2009 SILC meeting minutes

ACTION • A motion was made by Stephaine Parrish-Taylor and seconded by Wendy Howard to approve the December 2009 SILC meeting minutes, as submitted. Votes in favor: Ann Balzell, Wendy Howard, Randy Samuelson, Brad Collins, Sharon Coverstone and Dodie McKenzie. Sharon Ely abstained. There were no votes in opposition. Motion carried. Barry Fox-Quamme was not present during the vote.

Proposed 2010 Budget Revisions

The following revisions were proposed for the SILC budget. Hours would be added for the SILC's newly hired Community Partner Liaison. While looking for sufficient staff to cover duties, the SILC has been utilizing an administrative contractor. Now that the SILC is fully staffed, the hours of the administrative contractor are being reduced. Also, with training complete for VR's new IL Program Coordinator, the split time for the SILC's Executive Director and Operations Coordinator set aside to fill in for that position, will shift to one hundred percent SILC hours. To keep the budget balanced, costs to date were reviewed and adjusted to align with the current need. The training budget was reduced by \$4,000.00, general expenses were reduced by \$1,000.00 and the amount set aside in case there was a need of a cost allocation payment was reduced by \$15,000.00. The bottom line has not changed due to these proposed revisions.

ACTION • A motion was made by Wendy Howard and seconded by Sharon Ely to accept the budget revisions. Votes in favor: Dodie McKenzie, Sharon Ely, Sharon Coverstone, Brad Collins, Randy Samuelson, Wendy Howard, and Ann Balzell. There were no votes in opposition. Motion carried. Barry Fox-Quamme was not present during the vote.

Financial Report (10/1/09 – 1/15/10)

A copy of the first period financial report was included in the meeting packet. It shows that to date the SILC has spent 18 percent of its budget. This is well below the quarterly budget. Expenditures are below forecast in all areas except staffing, due to the line item for the Community Partner Liaison not being in place for this quarter. Expenses to date have been \$77,608.85 leaving a balance of \$354,191.15 out of the \$431,800.00 total expected revenues. This budget runs through September 30, 2010.

ACTION • A motion was made by Wendy Howard and seconded by Ann Balzell to approve the financial report as submitted. Votes in favor: Ann Balzell, Wendy Howard, Randy Samuelson, Brad Collins, Sharon Coverstone, Sharon Ely and Dodie McKenzie. There were no votes in opposition. Motion carried. Barry Fox-Quamme was not present during the vote.

2008-2010 SPIL AMENDMENT UPDATE

Shelly Emery reported, according to communication received from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), that the SPIL Amendment is almost at the point of approval, and approval should happen within this next week. At that point the C funded CILs would be able to submit their budget reports, get them approved and start drawing down their American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Part C funding.

A question was asked regarding the status of RSA's pre-SPIL submission review. Shelly Emery stated that RSA reviewed the amended SPIL, made a few comments and if those were acceptable changes or clarifications, then the amendment was approvable. There were no substantial changes made by the State except removing the requirement that a new State grant to a CIL not be less than \$100,000.00, unless the CIL has at least \$100,000.00 of alternate based funding. That paragraph was removed, since it was determined that it had no impact on the rest of this SPIL period.

2008-2010 SPIL PROGRESS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Executive Committee

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

2. SPIL Committee

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

3. Collaboration Committee

The Collaboration Committee is working on partnering with different agencies, and looking for additional grant opportunities that fall under the IL umbrella.

4. Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is working on strategies to bring in new members.

Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) contacted the SILC office regarding our membership materials. They want to do a statewide training on membership development and support. They asked Oregon, along with Rhode Island, to present a webinar on March 8, 2010.

2011-2013 SPIL PLANNING, Shelly Emery

In the amended state plan it stated that the SILC would meet twice a year with its SPIL partners to work on evaluation and monitoring. This month was one of the scheduled meetings. The first half of the day was spent on evaluation of the current SPIL and the last half was used to plan for future SPIL development. All of the CIL Directors were there, along with the SPIL Committee, DSU representatives (OVRs and OCB) and the SILC Executive Committee (EC). The SPIL Committee is drafting language based on SPIL development discussions, and gather then will gather input from participants. This was the development structure written into the current SPIL.

Wendy Howard spoke about everybody being in a room together and

learning how each CIL is working to accomplish their SPIL objectives. They went around the room and heard the progress being made toward their communities becoming more assessable, whether it is physically or attitudinally.

Angel Hale stated that everyone had a common interest in seeing that systems become more assessable to people. It looked like the new SPIL is heading toward a focus on access to services, access to resources and giving people the tools to communicate.

Shelly Emery reported that one thing she noticed in the needs assessment was that people needed more peer support. They need to see and talk to someone that has been through the same thing, to talk about their barriers and how to avoid steering into the same barriers that a peer experienced.

There was not time in the evaluation process to talk about each objective, so they picked some of the key areas that would be most beneficial to discuss. They talked about the following:

- ADA implementation objective - on target to meet this goal
- IL leadership development and mentoring grass root leaders – also on target to meet this goal
- Disability Mentoring Day activities – successes and barriers i.e. youth transition and the inconsistencies between different school districts and even schools in the same district
- Staff training around IL philosophy and history – consistent materials being used by CILs and partner organizations for the training

In the afternoon the group moved on to planning the next SPIL. They started out fresh, looked at data, then later went back and looked at what had been done before. The SILC did a fast-track needs assessment survey this year. Partners indicated that over 3,000 people and 67 organizations were sent one of the surveys. There were two surveys developed, one for people with disabilities and one for providers or professionals working with people with disabilities. The SILC worked with various groups to gather data, including the

Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program, Transportation programs and NW Senior & Disability Services, whose State Plan coordinator is also on the SILC's SPIL Committee. These organizations shared data from their own needs assessments. After looking at the data of the needs assessments and hearing anecdotal information from the group, a mission and four separate goals were developed. The mission is similar to the previous SPIL mission, but was shortened – The mission is to support the ability of Oregonians to direct their lives, access their communities and fulfill their responsibilities. Goals include:

1. People with disabilities can access housing.
2. People with disabilities can access healthcare.
3. People with disabilities can access transportation.
4. People with disabilities are empowered and have the skills to communicate their needs effectively.

SPIL objectives were discussed next. One objective was to increase access to information for people with disabilities and for service providers. Another was to increase access to resources for people with disabilities and for service providers. Another was to promote collaboration. In order to have good communication skills, training will be needed. Empowerment will require work to change attitudes.

The next step will be for the SPIL Committee to take this information and begin discussions with CILs, the other SPIL signatories, and other partners to develop activities. A draft will then be provided to the EC and SILC for comment and suggestions. This could happen several times as the draft is revised. The SILC will hold a public hearing, with potential secondary revisions, in order to have a document that everyone is comfortable with for approval at the June SILC quarterly meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVRs), Stephaine Parrish Taylor

OVRs was told a couple of weeks ago that the Association of Maternal and Child Health determined the OVRs Youth Transition Program (YTP) to be a best practice. Their association annually reviews programs and activities from across the nation and makes one of three determinations. You are either, an emerging practice, a promising practice or a best practice. OVRs received the only best practice award this year.

Oregon was one of the six leadership states out of thirty Medicaid Infrastructure Grant states that were involved in putting together a new disability awareness campaign called Look Beyond the Label, targeted at employers, specifically mid to upper level managers. It premiered in February on the national news, in national publications and on the Web. There was a story on the front page of the Wall Street Journal's business page lauding the campaign. The Canadian government has contacted the consultants that did the ground work for the campaign. They have also been contacted by Australia as well as countries in Europe and other states in this country.

OVRs has applied for federal earmarks. They submitted two earmarks to each member of the Congressional delegation asking for funds to do a state level campaign for Look Beyond the Label, allowing OVRs to buy TV time, radio time, signs on buses, and print ads throughout the state.

The second request that was made was to support the Work Incentive Network (WIN). OVRs asked for two years of funding to operate the program at its current capacity.

OVRs received the first research report back for WIN, which showed that people went to work as a consequence of WIN. The national average was about .02%, but in Oregon it was at 4%. The report showed a decrease in medication use, as well.

To maintain the current level of service, Department of Human Services will go into the 2011-2013 legislative session \$140 million in the hole.

Oregon Commission for the Blind (OCB), Frank Synoground

Frank reported that OCB has the number 1 and 2 priority consumers off of the wait list, but there may be a challenge to that in the future, due to funding.

During the past year, OCB has been working on a project called "Kicking it up a Notch" with the realization that more is expected with no additional funds. In this program, one of the areas worked on was the tech center. In the past, their philosophy was to teach people how to access technology, thinking that with that skill alone, they would be able to go out and get the training necessary for employment. In reality, even with knowledge of how to access the technology, they were not job ready. In March, OCB's tech center is starting to teach programs such as word processing and how to work with Excel.

Another program they have developed in "Kicking it up a Notch" is in consideration of looking at results over the years. To be successful, the priority is for an individual to believe in achievement; that there is life after blindness. OCB has taken that idea and developed a belief scale. It is being vetted by Mississippi State University, which has a program of research in blindness. The belief scale includes a pre and post test as to whether people believe in what they can achieve, and if they don't, what can be provided by way of input to reach that level.

Frank announced that, after twenty years of working first with a State IL Committee then the State IL Council, he is retiring sometime in June or July of this year.

State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), Ann Balzell

Ann reported the SILC has been invited to inform the SRC about the SILC's role at their next meeting, on April 30. She will be making the presentation, and invites members to give her ideas and suggestions

on what to include. This will be an opportunity to speak about the IL philosophy.

The suggestion was made that the SILC and SRC collaborate on a project. Stephaine Parrish Taylor suggested a joint legislative committee as a project, since the two councils have shared consumers and shared philosophies. Both at the State level and the National level, people coming together to speak with one voice is powerful. There are some current issues that could be discussed, such as the combining of the IL grants, reauthorization of the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, and IL becoming a separate bureau, and if there is an agreement on an issue then there could be joint letters and joint advocacy. The SRC will be going to do Hill visits in April and could carry a point or two from the IL community.

The SRC has reformed its committee structure and now has a Legislative Committee.

Oregon Disabilities Commission (ODC), Tina Treasure

The ODC report is enclosed as part of the SILC meeting packet. No verbal update was given.

SILC APPLICANT INTRODUCTION

Mike Volpe introduced himself to the SILC members. He has Multiple Sclerosis and has been involved in advocacy for a long time. He has been receiving services in his home for 16 years. He has been pushing for education for people that receive services and believes the STEPS program is a huge step forward. His first step into advocacy was with the Disability Services Advisory Council of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties. He has been a member there for 15 years.

He is interested in the SILC because, to him, the SILC epitomizes the promoting of independence for people with disabilities and one of the central issues for the SILC is that disability is just a normal part of life and shouldn't be the reason for anyone to be held back. It should not be the main issue in a person's life and people with disabilities deserve everything that anybody else does.

STAFF REPORT & UPDATES

This report and the updates are included in the meeting report. Tina Treasure did not include any verbal updates.

Barry Fox-Quamme had a couple of announcements to make. The first is that RSA has sent word that the ARRA Fund Awards have now been made to Oregon. This would indicate the SPIL Amendment has been approved.

Within the week, ILR will know if they will lease a new property, under favorable conditions, which would increase their size by 60%. If they get through plan review with the city next week, they will be moving in late May.

SILC CONGRESS, Shelly Emery

There is a report on the SILC Congress enclosed as part of the SILC Staff Report. A report from Sherry Stock was also provided.

Shelly reported that the training presented on ILRU's new Guide for Developing the SPIL was very helpful. The session was video taped and is available on the ILRU wiki site.

FEDERAL INDEPENDENT LIVING STRUCTURE PROPOSALS, Tina Treasure

The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) and some key legislators have been working on an Independent Living Administration (ILA). That would take Title VII completely out of RSA, though nobody is sure yet where it would end up. There was interest from Health and Human Services (HHS) in housing the ILA. It was thought that this discussion might come to a halt after the release of the President's 2011 budget. The budget proposed consolidation of Parts B and C of Title VII. This means that the funds that come to the State and the funds that go to CILs directly from RSA would be combined and given directly to the State, along with full responsibility for administration. The State would then have to guarantee services throughout the state with few to no extra funds. The State would be responsible for monitoring all the CILs.

There is a possibility they would stop the grandfather clause that is in the law. The effect of this would be that CILs that have received funds and stabilized their organization would have to compete in an open competition. This would destabilize independent living in every state.

Tina will follow what happens with the President's proposed budget and alert the Executive Committee if an impact statement should be sent.

FEBRUARY OREGON LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY, Tina Treasure

Tina will send out a summary of what did and did not happen in the February session.

Tina reported that in talking with the Seniors and People with Disabilities Division (SPD) she learned SPD will have a 29.5 million dollar deficit this year. The federal government increased the match rate with American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds for every dollar spent in Medicaid, for all states. They are considering continuing the increase for another nine months for the states that have the highest unemployment rate. With Oregon's high unemployment rate, there is a good chance it will be one of the states to get the extended increase. If that happens, SPD would be okay with their budget.

They have started looking at SPD key performance measures that affect people with disabilities for the next legislative session. The Department feels it is important to represent to the Legislature actual need, so is going forward with submission of the Policy Option Packages for the 2011 session.

One bill that passed, which the SILC and ODC opposed was Bill 3618. It expanded the current home care provider pool, which is governed by the Home Care Commission, to include people with mental health and development disabilities. All of the programs this will affect have not been identified, but one program is Independent Choices. This

gives the money for home care to the consumer, to spend as it is best for them.

DISABILITIES MEGACONFERENCE, Shelly Emery

The Disabilities MegaConference will be in Eugene during the first week of June, at the Hilton hotel. They have lost Oregon Parent Training Information Center (OrPTI) as a sponsor this year, but funding commitments are not far off from the past years. SPOKES Unlimited is planning to do a presentation. The MegaConference planning committee is currently working to secure keynote speakers.

SILC APPLICANTS

ACTION • Dodie McKenzie, on behalf of the Membership Committee, recommended Mike Volpe's name be forwarded to the Governor for membership to the SILC. This was seconded by Sharon Ely. Votes in favor: Brad Collins, Randy Samuelson, Ann Balzell, Dodie McKenzie, Sharon Ely and Sharon Coverstone. There were no votes in opposition. Recommendation carried. Barry Fox-Quamme was not present during the vote.

ACTION • Sharon Coverstone, on behalf of the Membership Committee, recommended that Susan Melero join a committee to learn more about the SILC before further consideration of full membership. Her name would be resubmitted later for membership. This was seconded by Sharon Ely. Votes in favor: Brad Collins, Randy Samuelson, Ann Balzell, Dodie McKenzie, Sharon Ely and Sharon Coverstone. There were no votes in opposition. Recommendation carried. Barry Fox-Quamme was not present during the vote.

WORK INCENTIVE NETWORK, Sara Kendall

Sara is the project manager for the Oregon Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG), Competitive Employment Project, housed in the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

The Work Incentive Network (WIN) is a benefits/work incentive planning and support service, which is provided through six Centers for Independent Living. Currently the CILs have eight employees that

are WIN benefits coordinators. Since November 1, 2007 they have provided services to over 2,700 Oregonians with disabilities.

A study is being done for WIN by the Division of Medical Assistance Program's Research and Analysis Unit in the Department of Human Services. The Research and Analysis Unit has provided a preliminary report, which the Competitive Employment Program gave to the Business and Labor Committee of the Legislature. They had an informational hearing with the Business and Labor Committee on February 17, 2010. One of the highlights of the study was that WIN services appear to be associated with an increase in employment rates for participants, as well as post enrollment. After people started receiving benefits, there was a decrease in both Medicaid and TANF usage. There was a 4% gain in employment outcomes within a year of starting WIN services. The Social Security Administration only asks for a .5% increase.

Sara recently went to San Francisco to testify before the Office of Disabilities and Employment Policy about reauthorizing the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant and the Work Incentives Network and demonstrate how important they are. The MIG is appropriated through the Ticket to Work Incentive Act of 1999, through December 31, 2011. When WIN ends on December 31, 2011, if there is no funding for it, it may disappear. They have been looking for grants and other sources of funding. They have also applied for federal earmarks for WIN and Think Beyond the Label. Sara has widely circulated CDs with draft letters to Oregon Representatives, with a request that individuals to send a letter of support for the earmarks.

Sara also wanted the SILC to know that there are two openings for Benefits Counselors. One full time position is in Salem, employed by Lane Independent Living Alliance (LILA), and one part time position is in Roseburg, housed at Umpqua Valley disAbilities Network (UVDN).

ON THE MOVE, Julia Huddleston

Julia is the Director of the On the Move in Oregon Project, which is the State's Money Follows the Person Project. She works for the Seniors and People with Disabilities Division. The project became operational on April 8, 2008 and as of March 5, 2010, 192 people have been moved through the On the Move Project. Of the 192 people, five were children. Of the remaining 187, 25% were seniors, 30% were people with developmental disabilities and the rest were people with physical disabilities. Most of the moves have happened in the last eight months. As of June 30, 2009, only 67 people had been moved.

A lot of work around the state has been involved in home modification; single family dwellings and apartments. They have also developed small specialized congregate settings that are being licensed as adult foster homes, but foster homes for four people, only. All residents have private rooms. To date they have opened homes for people with Alzheimer's and other dementia, for people with brain injuries, for people with neurological diseases and, in just over a week, they will be opening their first home for people whose needs are primarily related to bariatric conditions.

Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) issued guidance to project directors on how projects can use assisted living services as qualified residences in their Money Follows the Person Program.

They chartered an Housing with Services Committee as part of the On the Move in Oregon, Money Follows the Person Grant. They have been working for over a year to define and develop models of scalable, replicable and affordable housing with services for Medicaid and non-Medicaid populations.

There is a good chance that, in Federal Fiscal Year 2010, there will be a grant opportunity through the Administrations on Aging and Housing and Urban Development. They want to use five states as demonstration sites for models of housing with services, with multiple pilots throughout these five states. They would like Oregon to be one of the five and Oregon would like to be one of the five.

Beginning January 1, 2010, they added another population to those already being served. They added people currently living in the Oregon State Hospital, who are seniors or people with disabilities.

NEXT MEETING

The next SILC meeting will be in Eugene, in conjunction with the MegaConference. The Executive Committee would like to have the meeting on the first day of the conference, June 3. The business would be conducted in the first half of a four hour meeting; then members of the public, LILA consumers and staff would come in to speak during the second half.

Shelly Emery is going to research which day would be best, considering the venue and the Mega Conference agenda. She will work with the SILC Executive Committee and the MegaConference Executive Committee.

Angel Hale reported that the Executive Committee, in their meeting on March 3, 2010, made a decision to no longer hold an in-person meeting the day before the quarterly SILC meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED