

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) convened a virtual meeting via ZOOM on Thursday April 22, 2021.

Attendance

Council: Dora Easterling, Denise Wardle, Sandi Klink, Clarissa Williams, Jack Spencer, Edward Mitchell, Nicole Craig, Rhonda Crenshaw, Grayson Jennings, Sidney McDonald.

Public: Beth James, Brandon Brown, Janie Hadley, Cindy Miles DRS Liaison, Cheyenne Lindsay as sign language interpreter, Kathy Foley, Ben Schwartzman, Cheryl Zuckerman VR, Amanda Ackers from Amerigroup CHOICES, a person from Alexandria, Virginia popped in his name was not legible.

Welcome

Chair Sandi Klink called meeting to order at 9:05 am Central time. Sandi had Dora Easterling introduce Ben Schwartzman to further discuss the ACL Transition funded project.

Ben Schwartzman facilitated a discussion for Community Based Transition Grant. One of 10 UCEDDs nationwide to get the chance. The grant is to address 4 main areas of transition.

1. Employment
2. Education
3. Community Living
4. Health Care

There are 8 substantial barriers:

1. Lack of awareness/education about disability and working with people with disabilities
2. Few options for community living supports
3. Poor quality transition planning from educators
4. Lack of higher education options
5. Transition services are difficult for individuals and families to navigate
6. Lack of knowledge of transition supports/ resources
7. Lack of communication between organizations and professionals
8. Lack of accessible transportation options

There are 6 components identified for the transition plan that needs to be collected by 9/2021 and have model ready to start in Davidson and Dickson Counties:

1. Form local transition teams
2. Create "One-Stop-Shop transition resource for individuals and families
3. Map resources available in local communities
4. Implement common person-centered planning practices across services
5. Educate community members/increase awareness
6. Formalize agreements between local agencies/ service providers.

Denise from TARP, would like to be included in Dickson's transition teamwork

Components: -#2 should involve Pathfinder, "is pathfinder already the one stop shop"

-VR is not currently funding CILs; would be helpful to have Transition TN's voice in helping make that happen

-Person from Ohio on the call has had experience connecting CILs to VR funding

-Establishing one stop shops for transition needs to be cross-disability; core tenant of CILs is cross-disability

Who should be involved:

CILs need to be active voice in person centered planning, leading the way in that, something they can help implement; comprehensive planning and goal setting with transition aged youth; transition isn't from system to system it's from one part of life to another part of a person's life; how can that be well implemented through resources that are already available?

Isn't about giving resources to someone, it's about empowerment, planning and equipping young people for transition, already doing person centered planning and have shown success

MCOs

Medical community, doctors, healthcare providers

Making sure that there's a parent group to help other parents through it, parent to parent mentoring

Youth advocate on the team that has recently been through transition

CILs are up 119% this year in number of consumers receiving services, as compared to last year

Call to Order

Chair Sandi Klink called for roll call and call to order at 9:32 am.

Minutes

Council reviewed minutes from February meeting. Dora stated that Katherine had stated there was a change to the number of interns that were at dRC; and Dora said she would make those changes to reflect the correct numbers. No other changes were called for. Denise Wardle made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Jack Spencer made the second. All voting members voted by voice all members accepted the minutes, zero opposed. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

FY 2021 Budget/Financials: Denise Wardle presented the Financial report for the 1st 6 months. She explained the grant started with, what was spent, what was left and the variance for the first 6 months. She explained some of the travel money has been moved to supplies and professional fees and used by the CILs. Jack Spencer made the motion to accept the treasurers Report, Edward Mitchel seconded it. The vote was taken by roll call with all in favor, zero opposed. Financial report was accepted.

Director Report:

Dora Easterling (ED) stated she moved the meeting up from June to April to keep the virtual option. With that being said the final SPIL update is not ready to hand out. She stated there were some

fantastic numbers. The first she wanted to point out is that CILS are up 119.78% this year in number of consumers receiving services, as compared to last year. This applies to apples. Dora also stated Food insecurity still seems to be a major issue for the people CILs have served. Emergency Preparedness started out to be helping to give plans to individuals to prepare in case of a local emergency. This is work that still needs to be done, however a shift in emergency preparedness went first to how can CILS help. Now the shift is how can we help get the vaccination numbers up for persons with disabilities. Many conversations are working from numerous organizations to see what can be done. Dora said getting back to monitoring the CIL reports for the SPIL update, there needs to be a deeper look at the information that is required to monitor as a whole.

Old Business: The February new business was to start a social media committee. And SILC Social hour. Jack Spencer was named chair of this committee. The committee met on March 4th, 2021. The notes are attached. It was deemed at this time by committee chair the goals of the social media campaign need to be tabled until further notice.

New Business: No new business for this meeting.

CIL Directors Reports:

Empower Tennessee: Brandon Brown stated they too are running as fast as they can on a fast treadmill. He stated they do direct service approval on Wednesdays and that on 4/21/2021 they approved about \$3000.00 in direct services for 5 individuals for housing needs, transportation needs, and technology needs. Brandon says he heard a success story from a lady who needed help with housing issues. She was excited to get a home and she cried for about 20 minutes; it was rewarding to hear that directly. He said that Empower Tennessee has its Youth Leadership Academy in June. If you follow us on social media, you have probably begun to see the postings. It will be a 2–3-day virtual event that will be statewide. If anyone knows of a youth who would like to be a part of this, please have them reach out. Brandon stated that they are working on voter access initiatives and CIL Directors are aware. They will be working with other organizations for voter access, registration, identification and etc. Empower Tennessee has been working with the WIPA Project for Middle and West Tennessee for almost 20 years. Empower Tennessee will be ending that project as of June 30th, 2021; another organization will be taking that over. Empower Tennessee will still be giving benefit counseling in smaller ways mostly in Middle Tennessee for folk who are not WIPA eligible.

TARP: Denise Wardle reported that TARP is continuing direct services using Part B funds and CARES funds, that has not changed. They have teamed up with JCIL on Emergency Preparedness and have provided two fire events with presentations from The Jackson Fire Department and all participants received fire blankets. We also have teamed up to do 2 weather events with Chief Meteorologist Joel Burns with WBBJ Channel 7 in Jackson and all participants have or will receive a NOAA weather radio. They are also in the middle of creating the personal emergency plans for individuals and those will be ready to start handing out on 5/3/2021 in conjunction with Leah Gray with NAMITN and she is a wealth of knowledge. The plans are lengthy but need to be. Participants will receive their personal plans, emergency backpacks and document protectors. The team of JCIL/TARP also provided a virtual tour of Jerusalem earlier in the season and continue to do Fitbit classes and book club meetings. JCIL and TARP consumers are similar and close, and it works for us.

JCIL: Beth James reported that on the Fitbit class, which has been popular they even had a dance class on zoom. We are working on things coming up on gardening, and stress management. JCIL is also working on a statewide project with all the CILs/SILC that may be very different and fun showcasing all the accessible recreational places across the state. JCIL will also get the funding for helping to further the vaccination process and has been working with the health department on a marketing campaign and provide interpreters during specific times for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

MCIL: Sandi Klink reported that MCIL is doing very similar things. MCIL will have their first live event May 16th in her church parking lot Broadway Tunes. And this is to have fun and enjoy spring weather. MCIL is also collaborating with the local transit authority to help transportation for people to vaccine sites. MCIL sent 5000 postcards to MATA last week to let all present and former subscribers of MATA know about this. It will be a free ride.

DSU Membership Report, DSE Report & Update:

Cindy Miles stated update for membership concerning the 6 nominees still pending, they are still being reviewed. She stated the first part of the process is to reach out to them and she hoped they would have some decisions soon.

She stated she would email the VR stats for the minutes. They are:

- VR applications completed, since 7/1/20 - 2,741
- Active VR customers: 7,687
- Average Caseload size:
 - General caseload - 115
 - Sensory Caseload - 81
- Successful Closures count: from 7/1/20 current - 929
- Average wage per hour for successful closures: \$ 11.72
- Average hours worked per week: 30 hours


Announcements/Public Comment: Dora Easterling announced that the SILC and CIL Directors are meeting next Friday to have their annual best practices/funding meeting and also to further discuss the ADA statewide event. The next meeting is scheduled for August 26th, 2021. It is up in the air at this time awaiting Governor Lee's decision about virtual meeting ability. Place to be determined.

Christina Clift mentioned she had heard that Governor Lee had stated he was not continuing the virtual meeting executive order.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m. CST. Jack spencer made the motion to adjourn. Denise Wardle seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.



Jack Spencer SILC Secretary



Date