

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) convened an in-person (at JCIL) and virtual hybrid meeting via ZOOM on Thursday September 22, 2022. Council Members via Zoom requesting a virtual appearance as a reasonable accommodation and because we obtained an in-person quorum, virtual Council Members could vote.

Attendance

- Council: Denise Wardle, Sandi Klink, Jack Spencer, Kathy Foley, Lee Brown, Carrie Carlson, and Dora Easterling in person, also Amelia Roehm and Cathlyn Smith attended virtually.
- Public: Beth James, Brandon Brown, Mark Woolfall, Janie Hadley VR, Cindy Miles DRS Liaison, Cheyenne (Interpreter),

Welcome

Vice Chair Denise Wardle called meeting to order at 10:00 am Central time to start visitor presentation.

Call to Order and Roll

Denise Wardle took roll and started meeting at 10:00 am CST.

Brandon Brown with Empower Tennessee spoke about PHWF dollars that came into the state and particularly those that were contracted to Empower Tennessee through the State of Tennessee to provide mental health services to people with disabilities. These dollars were meant to raise public health workers in relation to COVID. Empower Tennessee's plan is to promote mental health and emotional support to their community from a peer base model. But at the same time use licensed mental health professionals to provide an enhanced level of services. When the I L Network discovered money would be coming through the state like Part B dollars do, they decided to utilize those dollars through Empower Tennessee to make those services more widely available across the state.

At this point we (Empower Tennessee) have been thinking about the different needs and populations that we know about that have told us they need and want more emotional support because of COVID. Brandon stated they have been very cognizant of how to provide these services through both group and individual methods. These services will be mostly virtual but will be in person when it is reasonable and available. Utilizing the I L Philosophy allowing our community and clients drive how these services are done. Empower Tennessee has hired a mental health professional in the Nashville area named Dan Dumont. He is a licensed clinical social worker with a history of working in non-profits. He has a true interest in working with people with disabilities. He (Dan Dumont) also is interested in making this an on-going service across the state. They came onboard just this month and are in planning stages of formal assessments and research on similar work across the I L Network, so as not to make things up as we go.

Brandon stated that Empower Tennessee has been reaching out to their clients, to those in peer groups, and to people that have expressed an interest in such services to get more information from them. Then Empower Tennessee will reach out to other CILs to do similar work and get a sense of what needs that have been expressed are.

The contract has been executed by the state and those monies start flowing 10/1/2022. One of the first things to do is come to the other CILs and executing a memorandum of understanding. This MOU will help everyone be clear about eligibility of the program, referral process, and use of space. We are hopeful to be up and running in the next few months. We have been given great input that these are needed services. We would like this to be a standing service we will continue to provide. We are excited to be doing this and want to thank all involved especially the sister CILs in our state.

Minutes

Council reviewed minutes from the May meeting. Sandi Klink found a needed correction she stated she is in attendance twice. Sandi motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Jack seconded the motion. All voting members voted by roll call; all members accepted the minutes, zero opposed. Minutes were approved. Cathlyn Smith gave a vote, but it did not count, she is an ex-officio member.

Treasurer's Report

FY 2022 Budget/Financials: Jack Spencer presented the Financial Report for the period of 10/1/2021-8/31/2022. He went over all the categories, explained how funds had been used and asked for questions. Dora Easterling mentioned there was \$450.00 in unrestricted funding. It is being used for Montgomery Bell meeting because of the limited food available at the Lodge. With no questions, Carrie Carlson made the motion to accept the Financial Report, Kathy Foley seconded the motion. All voting members voted by roll call; all members accepted the financial statement, zero opposed. Financial report was accepted. Cathlyn Smith gave a vote, but it did not count, she is an ex-officio member.

Director Report:

Dora Easterling stated she wanted to start with an introduction to our new SILC members Lee Brown and Amelia Roehm. She also introduced Carrie Carlson who is in person for the first time. Dora presented the SPIL Update to everyone. Dora explained that all the SPIL participating CILs send quarterly reports to the SILC and that information is turned into a statewide report. This report covers goals, numbers, and results of the CILS. It discusses outreach, and SILC business. The back pages of graphs show the services the CILs have done, demographics, and combined statewide Consumer Needs Assessment (CNA) results. The CNA results show the issues trending across the state.

Dora went on to say that an Executive Director (ED) meeting held on 9/19/2022. The first part of the meeting covered an annual meeting that are part of the SPIL goals. This meeting looks at capacity building and best practices and funding. This is a place that Eds can discuss what works and what is not working.

The meeting then turned into brainstorming about the upcoming SPIL. We discussed what did not work which is a survey from people for whom we have presented about the I L Network. In the time of COVID it is difficult to get that survey out there when many of the presentations are impromptu, or when another group is sponsoring the event where we present especially virtually. That survey needs to be changed or go away. There are difficulties about the monitoring of the SPIL, and we discussed that in length. We looked at our current goals and discussed what we could do to tweak them to where they would be meaningful and easier to capture the right data. We covered the SPIL timeline that explains the process and how it will go.

We started talking about funding, but there was two CIL Directors who had to get off the call, so those talks needed to quit. Dora went on to say that Mark Woolfall from TRAC was at the table for the SPIL engineering. Mark does want to participate in the SPIL process but does not want to come onto the SPIL at this time and not the next; but will look at it after that. Mark also stated in the meeting that he enjoyed the peer support he received during the meeting.

As for an ex-officio update: In San Diego at SILC Congress there was mention that the SILC needed at least 3 ex-officio members. This has been corrected and determined that we need at least two.

Dora went on to say we need a SPIL committee. The SPIL committee is composed of myself, the CIL Directors, Cindy Miles, and some of the Council. Dora asked for SILC members who would like to join the SPIL committee. Kathy Foley and Jack Spencer volunteered. Dora stated we would like to also start an outreach committee. Are there any volunteers? Lee Brown volunteered. Sandi volunteered her outreach committee, Amelia Roehm volunteered for the outreach committee. Beth James volunteered, and Denise Wardle volunteered Amy Flinn. Denise Wardle stated we should have a virtual training in November. We discussed the membership committee where Denise Wardle, Amelia Roehm, volunteered. Beth James volunteered Edward Mitchell. Dora stated that if any EDs on zoom would like to add representation to these committees please do so. Kathy Foley stated that she would like to see youth get involved as well. The youth is the future of I L. Sandi Klink volunteered to help with the training on the I L Network. Kathy Foley asked if we would reach out to consumers and stakeholders about the SPIL. Denise Wardle stated we should have a nice flyer on the SPIL for contributions. Dora Easterling explained the process of gathering input from stakeholders. Denise Wardle asked if a draft was started. Dora explained that goals and action steps have been rewritten, but nothing was in stone at this time. Denise Wardle stated she wanted to start a draft of the SPIL and to have Track Changes and have comments listed on the SPIL to monitor changes. Janie Hadley volunteered to be on the SPIL committee.

No Old Business.

VR contacts are fully executed.

New Business:

Proposed Business Dates were discussed They are 11/15/2022, 2/23/2023, 5/25/2023, and 8/24/2023. Carrie Carlson made the motion to approve the meeting dates, Sandi Klink made the second. All were in favor of the proposed dates, zero opposed. New meeting dates accepted. Cathlyn Smith gave a vote, but it did not count, she is an ex-officio member.

Election for Chair. Denise Wardle nominated Kathy Foley; Sandi Klink seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Kathy Foley is the new Chair. Cathlyn Smith gave a vote, but it did not count, she is an ex-officio member.

Election for Vice Chair. Kathy Foley nominated Denise Wardle; Carrie Carlson seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Denise Wardle is the Vice Chair. Cathlyn Smith gave a vote, but it did not count, she is an ex-officio member.

Election for Treasurer. Carrie Carlson nominated Jack Spencer; Sandi Klink seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Jack Spencer is the Treasurer. Cathlyn Smith gave a vote, but it did not count, she is an ex-officio member.

Election for Secretary. Kathy Foley nominated Rhonda Crenshaw; Carrie Carlson seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Rhonda Crenshaw is the Secretary. Dora Easterling made mention that Rhonda Crenshaw was not here to accept and left a clause she could decline next meeting if she so chose, all agreed. Cathlyn Smith gave a vote, but it did not count, she is an ex-officio member.

CIL Directors Reports:

dRC: (Dora Easterling read the report Katherine Moore sent in her proxy) had a small ADA celebration in Knoxville at our dRC offices on Friday, July 22nd. We presented our annual Spirit of ADA Awards to people in the community who go above and beyond advocating for disability rights, hiring people with disabilities, creating equal access, etc. Our Advocate of the year was Becky Allen, who works for Disability Rights TN in Knoxville. All in all, including the people who came and said hi, had some of our light refreshments, but did not stay or the whole celebration, we had approximately 50 in attendance, including Stephanie Cook and Carly Pearson, the ADA Coordinators for the City of Knoxville and Knox County. Plus, our own SILC Director, Dora Easterling! Our Knoxville celebration was small this year because we had our grand ADA Anniversary event in Perry County Kentucky with our Hazard center staff on Tuesday, July 26th.

Our Long Term COVID program is growing through our PHWF grant with our Support Specialist, Ciara Teasley. We have a long term COVID support group that meets on the third Thursday of each month, in-person and virtual. We have a licensed therapist who participates free of charge to talk with our support group members. We are planning a large Wellness event with the City of Knoxville in the Spring of 2023 with other community health care service providing partners we have gained to bring further awareness to the effects of Long COVID and the health care services available in our area. We are also starting to address the public health disparities among minority groups, along with assistance from the TN Disability Coalition.

We received \$6,000.00 from the City of Knoxville through their Community Agency Grant program to go toward the supplies for our Emergency Preparedness trainings. We are planning to hold two more trainings before June 30, 2023. Two of our partners for the trainings are the Knox County police and fire departments who provide natural disaster, active shooter, public safety, different types of fire safety trainings, etc. to our staff and participants.

An update on our Disability Awareness Campaign... Mike Scripa has almost completed his trainings through our Knoxville Community Media where dRC will provide 4 monthly 30-minute shows on all types of disability issues. We have many plans in the works for our shows to bring education and awareness about disabilities and disability issues. Our newly developed Disability Awareness and Etiquette Brochure is now in print. These brochures cover numerous disabilities and addresses 5 common myths and facts regarding each disability covered on the brochure. We are excited about having these updated brochures circulating in our community.

That's about it for now... dRC Knoxville has been spending many hours as a donation sight for the flood disaster victims in our service areas of Southeast Kentucky and traveling up to our Hazard KY center to deliver the supplies that are donated to us for those we serve in Breathitt, Letcher, Knotts, and Perry counties to assist with the flood relief efforts.

Empower Tennessee: In addition to mental health work, we are looking to expand services for people who are experiencing homelessness especially in the Nashville area and moving into permanent supportive housing. We are working with housing organizations to further help with the transition and also wrap around services. Empower Tennessee was sought out to be a partner in this endeavor. We have several vibrant peer groups going on. Empowered Men, Empowered Ladies, BLAST, Housing and Employment Peer Group. Empower-Con is on hold until perhaps next spring due to many staffing changes. We are working on revenue development ideas, including actual events in the spring, and several different grant opportunities as well as sponsorships. Our partnerships are growing, and we are very excited to work with all of them. Empower Tennessee is coming out of the pandemic with a new sense of direction and knowledge which is helping us to forge ahead.

TARP: Denise Wardle stated they had their first virtual ADA celebration. Traditionally they are in person, and last year we had a drive through ice-cream social. But it is just too hot this year. The virtual ADA celebration was a great success. We played a disability alphabet game. We would give a letter and the participants would think of a word linked to disabilities. It opened up a great conversation. It turned into a great peer support session. We had drawings for gift cards and the grand prize was an Insta-pot. We did career days with Henry County High Schools. It was very interesting. Everyone though we were hiring. We had 15 people register to vote. Tonight, we have a Parent/Teacher/Student event with the SPED. We are planning a Halloween event. We are having the Fire Department present on winter fire safety. We have several events for the upcoming year with JCIL. It works well for our CILs.

JCIL: Beth James stated that JCIL and TARP have overlapping counties with different programs, so teaming up together on events really does work well for both centers. We have been jointly working on peer-to-peer support much of it will be health related. Healthy eating, journaling, and such. There are two events planned for every month. Beth said she is excited to begin those events. JCIL has movie night coming up on 10/21/22. We will be showing Hocus Pocus 2 in the parking lot. JCIL is having American Sign Language classes one is an 8-week session the other and at the library and on Facebook live. Beth said she did a presentation to a rapid response nursing team, who are sent out to shelters. This is a great way for us to get involved with emergency preparedness. There is a team for every county in the state. Cheyenne is going to present about American Sign Language in December. She will show them different techniques that can be used such as laminated cards. Next month Jackson Fire Department will hold an online training for CPR and how to use a defibrillator. She invited people out of the area to please sign up for this or any of our training. This coming weekend we have been asked to provide interpreting services at Discovery Park in Union City. They are having a Freedom of Speech, First Amendment event with speaker Brett Baur and the Gatlin Brothers will be there. Tickets are free. You can get up to six free tickets. Beth said Holiday Brownie Trays are coming up. We do ship. It is our fund raiser for JCIL for our mission and services. Last year they sold over 100 trays. Local trays can have free delivery.

MCIL: Sandi Klink have been busy; we have a fund raiser in two weeks. It is Broadway Tunes that we have been doing with a church. We have a recorded singer who has agreed to come sing with us, so Susan Marshall is going to be part of our fundraiser. We will be selling spaghetti dinners to go. MCIL also had the opportunity to participate in a couple events. I presented IL History to the new Policy and Partners class. MCIL has started deaf outreach. We had a three-day event that had a speaker every day and other activities to go along with it. MCIL's new outreach person who also speaks ASL, because her son is deaf. Our rebranding is moving along well. We are hoping to take our top three choices to our event on the 9th and come up with the final selection. We have developed a collaboration with two art classes from the University of Memphis. They are going to be working on a new logo. We are hoping to do a mural in our new home. We are still under negotiation, but we are wanting to join other organizations that do advocacy and outreach to our local area. One of the art teachers will be working with our new outreach coordinator on a couple of videos explaining the importance of vaccines. Our vaccine money was extended through this year, and we are excited about this opportunity. We are wanting to expand into Tipton and Fayette Counties.

TRAC: Mark Woolfall said he serves 10 counties in Southeast Tennessee. We have recently launched our Yearn to Learn Program which is able to reach potentially three goals per consumer. We just started this in August, and we already have enrollees and seeing progress. We are still working on Pair and Share Program which matches people up to share housing accommodations. It is still growing. Our Feed the Need Program (Food Program) has obtained more donors due to a 600% increase in need for food security. We did a 12-month experiment (9.21-8.22). We wanted to educate individuals who especially if they wanted to participate in peer support groups. They need to know there is more than just the word disability. We wanted them to understand the different disabilities, the statistics on disabilities, and detailed information on different disabilities so they could better understand when they are in peer support groups. Each month we took disabilities that were slated to be awareness for the month and highlighted them. We gave the names of disabilities, information on the disabilities, mortality rates, a detailed account of how many people have that disability, so everyone could understand more about different disabilities. This makes people more understanding and sensitive to people with different disabilities. We had graphics and listed what to expect if people had disabilities that were external. People told us it was very informative. We believe that will make them better peers. We continue to expand with our collaborators who like us during COVID became overwhelmed. We have strengthened as a unit to help reach goals. We are all very proud of the goals we could reach together.

DSU Membership Report, DSE Report & Update:

Cindy Miles reported that we have two new members. We are excited to have two more! But we did lose two council members. Chasidy Buchanan got married and left VR. Our leadership has identified Amy Howe as the next ex-officio member. She is a program coordinator in the same policy department as Chasidy Buchanan was. Amy has her undergraduate in social work and her master's in counseling. She is pursuing her master's in public administration. She has over 20 years' experience in working in the human service field working with people who have disabilities.

Amelia was appointed to a vacant term that expires in November. Dora is working to submit nominees. Dora also mentioned that Clarissa Williams also resigned from the Council.

Two VR updates to share today is 503 VR applications completed in July and August, currently 8948 active VR participants working towards employment. Average case load size for general case loads is 123 participants. The average caseload size for sensory caseloads is at 85. There were 181 successful closures in July and August. The average wage for participants was \$13.17 in July, and \$14.75 in August. Average hours worked per week in July and August was 30 hours.

I do want to share that Julie Johnson was promoted to Director of Operations which was Kevin's old position before he was promoted. Julie's position has been posted.

Announcements/Public Comment

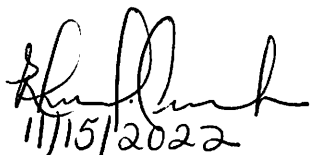
Carrie Carlson with TDC has a grant right now through Rev-Up. We are working with universities who have inclusion programs to teach about voting and the importance. We are hiring 20 self-advocates to create content between now and the end of December to promote voting to peers on social media or how they see fit. The application process is out there, they must be 14 plus with a social media. The requirement is to post to social media at least four times.

Jack Spencer stated he would be doing a seminar for the Obion Regional Library Board on accessibility. I have been working with the Martin Library as well on accessibility. I am running for Sharon City Alderman Board. They need to know more about accessibility.

Kathy Foley met with UT Arboretum. They had questions about accessibility, and I furnished them information. They also have really cool virtual programs on birds, butterflies, beards, plants, and pollinators. They have several a month. I made them understand the importance of adding closed captions to these because they can reach more people.

Adjourn:

Denise asked if there were no further comments, she needed a motion to adjourn. Jack Spencer made the motion to adjourn. Sandi Klink seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:32 p.m. CST.

 SILC Secretary
11/15/2022