

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) convened an in-person and virtual hybrid meeting via ZOOM on Thursday August 19, 2021. Council Members via Zoom could not vote.

Attendance

Council: Dora Easterling, Denise Wardle, Sandi Klink, Clarissa Williams, Jack Spencer, Edward Mitchell, Nicole Craig, Rhonda Crenshaw, Grayson Jennings, Sidney McDonald, Kathy Foley, Cathlyn Smith, and Chasidy Buchanan.

Public: Beth James, Brandon Brown, Mark Woolfall, Katherine Moore, Janie Hadley VR, Cindy Miles DRS Liaison, Cheyenne Lindsay as sign language interpreter, Cheryl Zuckerman VR, Amelia Roehm, Richard Acree

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Sandi Klink called meeting to order at 10:06 am Central time.

Minutes

Council reviewed minutes from the April meeting. Denise made the motion to accept the minutes as written, Sidney McDonald 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 period of 10/1/2020-7/31/2021 and asked for questions. Sandi Klink asked if any money could roll over. Dora explained our DSE has said that money can roll over according to US law, and the SPIL. Dora stated the money cannot be used past the project period which is 9/30/2022. However, the DSE stated this has never been attempted before and should be done so cautiously. Dora went on to say she would speak the matter over with the treasurer and go from there. Denise further explained that because travel was restricted the funds were moved to supplies or fees and was offered to the CILs to further the SPIL. Denise stated TARP used that funding for DME. Rhonda Crenshaw made the motion to accept the treasurers Report, Clarissa Williams seconded it. The vote was taken by voice. All approved, zero opposed. Financial report was accepted.

Dora asked the Chair Sandi Klink if we could move New Business up and hold onto the Director's report for a few minutes because Rhonda Crenshaw needs to leave. The Chair granted moving the voting areas up on the agenda.

New Business:

Sandi Klink asked for nominations for Chair:

Denise nominated Nicole Craig. Nicole seconded with approval for the nomination but did want to disclose she sat on the Board for disABILITY Resource Center. The Council stated that was alright. The vote was taken by voice, all approved zero opposed: Nicole is the New SILC Chair.

Sandi Klink asked for nominations for Vice Chair:

Jack nominated Denise Wardle. Denise seconded with approval for the nomination. Sidney McDonald nominated Jack Spencer, who turned down the position. Sidney then nominated Edward Mitchell, Edward explained he was rolling off but gave his recommendation for Denise. The vote was taken by voice, all approved zero opposed: Denise is the new Vice Chair.

Sandi Klink asked for nominations for Treasurer:

Rhonda Crenshaw nominated Jack Spencer. Jack seconded with approval for the nomination. The vote was taken by voice, all approved zero opposed: Jack is the new Treasurer.

Sandi Klink asked for nominations for Secretary:

Edward nominated Rhonda Crenshaw. Rhonda seconded with approval for the nomination. The vote was taken by voice, all approved zero opposed: Nicole is the New SILC Secretary.

Edward Mitchell stated that Dora should call DevSource to get the emails all switched about, Dora agreed to do so.

Meeting Dates: The suggested meeting dates are 11/16/2021, 2/17/2022, 5/19/2022, 8/18/2022.

Denise asked if meetings could be at JCIL. Dora stated she would give Beth the chance to speak to that privately.

Sandi asked for a motion to accept the dates, Nicole made a motion, Denise seconded the motion. Votes were by voice, all accepted zero opposed. Dates accepted.

ED Evaluation. Sandi stated that she was proud to do the evaluation and asked for her goals. Dora stated goal 1 was to better use social media... technology in general to spread the I L Philosophy throughout Tennessee. Goal 2 was to even further and build collaboration, and Goal 3 was to help build and engage in a more active Council to build the I L Network across the state.

Sandi stated the Executive Council agreed to match the dollars Dora puts into her HSA. Sandi stated her insurance has a huge deductible and larger copays. Denise motioned to accept that plan, Jack seconded the proposal. All voted by voice all approved, zero opposed. Proposal accepted.

Director Report:

Dora Easterling (ED) stated she wanted to discuss the SPIL. She explained the two tools she used. A larger report with detail and a birds-eye view that is used to capture year long numbers. It makes it easier to compare quarters. Dora asked for everyone to see the great momentum that the SPIL goals are gaining on all goals. She explained that collaboration is climbing in Goal 1, surveys are all very positive throughout the I L Network, capacity is growing statewide with technology, and that emergency preparedness is booming. This goal was penned before COVID, before the tornado in Nashville. The numbers are growing and are impressive. Kathy asked if consumers who received services was tracked. Denise explained the data is captured by hour and by person, the larger report mentions the service numbers as does the PPR. Dora agreed.

Dora also spoke about vaccination collaboration. All Tennessee CILs are working on “moving the needles”. She explained the SILC has joined with all ACL grantees in Tennessee who have the same objective to find answers about barriers to the vaccine and hesitancy. Some of the answers came quick and seemed phenomenal for in-home vaccines. This program is not working as quickly as needed so the collaborative grantees are searching for an alternative solution. The health departments may be the next move.

Dora also spoke about the ADA celebration about “Making Our Way With the ADA”. It was a total collaboration for the Network and was a great success.

Old Business: None

CIL Directors Reports:

Empower Tennessee: Brandon Brown stated that Empower Tennessee has been busy, they had a very successful Youth Academy with 16 youth from around the state on a three-day virtual event. This was the 4th year. We are working on Empower- Con 2. This will be the weekend after APRIL. It will be virtual, and registration will open after Labor Day. We are striving that the majority of presentations be done with peers. The theme will be around resiliency. A party in the middle and learning on the side. It is a convention, not a conference. Empower Tennessee continues to be part of the vaccination efforts and we are facing quite a bit of resistance, so we continue to educate hesitancy and link up people who need vaccinations. We also continue to work on technology and digital equity work. The SILC helped to support the ASL interpreters for the Youth Forum. Housing is very important part of what we are doing, helping homeless people into housing with positive outcomes. We are moving into strategic planning for Empower Tennessee. Hope plan is in place by 2022 and plans will align with the SILC and SPIL.

TARP: Denise Wardle reported that TARP has been collaborating with health departments because of the difficulties with TCAD. TARP scheduled 8-10 folks for vaccinations and none of them have received their vaccinations. So now we are working with the health department and a local pharmacist to get those vaccinations completed because those people that we signed up through TCAD should have been vaccinated and have their immunity. We have had 4 events in Montgomery County with the health department at African American churches because they have hesitancy. TARP gave out 500 color books, giving out 40 vaccinations and came back last Saturday for second vaccinations. They all received t-shirts. TARP started a campaign where if they would take a picture of themselves out in public wearing their shirts, they would be in a drawing for a \$100.00 food card. TARP brought COVID supply bags for the Council that they give to their consumers. TARP continues to collaborate with JCIL on events. Beth will explain the schedule. TARP numbers have definitely not had numbers go down.

JCIL: Beth James reported that JCIL has seen a huge influx in requests for PPE and disinfecting products. We have given out bags, we have over 100 bags ready. Maddison County positivity rate is over 22% of people tested, COVID is rapidly growing here. 15-20% of children are out and JCIL has 2 staff out on quarantine. JCIL still participated with The Down Syndrome Camp. They normally meet here at JCIL for 2 weeks. We could not provide the space, but they went to a camp in the country and JCIL provided each camper a tablet and did classes with them virtually. We are getting ready to start ASL classes they will be virtual; we will also have educational classes about stress reduction and

management. There will be 2 OT/PT that will teach that. The first 10-15 that sign up for the class will receive a great massager that we have had donated. There will be air fryer cooking class with recipes, then some fun things so we will do in September a fall wreath class, in October we will do a bath bomb class with supplies and samples. The participants can make their own. We will have a virtual Halloween party with pumpkin decorating, escape room games, trivia and etc. We will do a Christmas party where people will have an interactive experience. People need a break, and we are going to try to bring the community together that will be fun. We did have a in-person movie night where we watched Jurassic Park. It was a lot of fun. We planned more live events but cancelled them because of COVID. We are busy and are always getting more requests. We are thinking heavily on how to use CDC money for incentives, but it will need quite a bit of thought. There are shirts there for the Council and for family members. Please take them. Shirts can be mailed to anyone, please ask.

MCIL: Sandi Klink reported that MCIL is in the process of going back remote. They have been in a small high-rise office for 3 years and their lease is coming to an end in September. So, they are going remote until they can find the right home for MCIL. This small office did allow MCIL to get their financial feet back under them. They also are not thinking now is the time to go find a new home for MCIL because of COVID. Hospitals are full even Le Bonheur is filled with children with COVID. No one wants to pass COVID around. Home work was successful before and will be again. We are working on the home vax program and also Tipton, Fayette, and Lauderdale successfully. Sandi has a direct number to the ED to get the shots carried out. We are working with Medicare Counseling Program; we are sending out 500 letters from the CIL and Aging Commission stating we are working with the SHIP program. It will be a virtual program reaching out to the younger disabled generation to make them aware of this program. September 1st MCIL is doing their emergency preparedness training that will be virtual. Anyone who completes the class will get a backpack of emergency preparedness equipment and staples. We thank the SILC for those. We are going to take the fun things that Beth mentioned and try some to get our Gray Panthers back to being active again or start new chapters. They are in their prospective housing complexes. There is educational needs and recreational needs for these groups. We are still working to get transportation to people who need their vaccines.

DSU Membership Report, DSE Report & Update:

Cindy Miles reported good news! No vacancies on the Council! She introduced herself as our liaison. The SILC has 5 vacancies coming up 12/15/2021. Cindy stated that she understands that the packets are coming together. Cindy read a brief VR update, as of the beginning of the state year:

- VR applications: SFY: 409
- Active customer count: 8,067
- Average Caseload size: Region 1-9: 111
- Region 10-11: 81
- Successful Closures count: SFY: 84
- FFY: 1,152

Announcements/Public Comment

Sandi asked if anyone wanted to give an announcement:

Kathy Foley stated that she is excited with the collaboration and fun things that people with disabilities can participate in.

Dora then introduced the new Council members.

Jack Spencer stated he moved to Greenfield, and he has new advocacy work to do.

Cindy mentioned that she is not on an 865 number but a 423 number. We asked again if Katherine is there and she spoke up and gave the dRC update.

dRC: Katherine stated that they have started a program for children 0-5 through collaboration with Tennessee Wesleyan University with level 2 (Master's Level) students ready to graduate. They will do their internship at dRC providing free OT services to consumers 0-5. There will be parenting classes and service coordination as well. These will be in person with social distancing. There is also a graduate of Psychology who will help us start giving educate the community that there needs to be accessible help for women who have experienced domestic abuse. As far as vaccination, most people in Knoxville have has their vaccines and are not experiencing barriers. We will have our September tailgate party; it will be virtual. We are hoping to have a live Halloween party, according to what is happening with COVID. We are also hoping to have our Thanksgiving/Christmas Party in person, but if COVID says that is not possible we will figure out how to do it virtually.

Sidney McDonald stated he was happy to be in person and he wants to see Chattanooga move forward. He has learned quite a bit and is looking forward to learning more. He is looking forward to stronger communities.

Mark Woolfall (TRAC) stated he did not prepare a presentation, he needs to be prepared, he does not do well on the fly; but he would have a lot to say.

Denise Wardle stated he (Mark) will have another opportunity in November.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m. CST. Denise Wardle made the motion to adjourn. Edward Mitchell seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by voice, zero opposed, meeting adjourned.

SILC Secretary signature

Date