

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) convened a virtual meeting via ZOOM on Tuesday October 27, 2020.

Attendance

Council: Dora Easterling, Denise Wardle, Sandi Klink, Clarissa Williams, Alicia Cone, Janie Hadley, Jack Spencer, Edward Mitchell, Nicole Craig and new member, Grayson Jennings.

Public: Beth James, Brandon Brown, Cheryl Zuckerman VR of Chattanooga, Cheyenne Lindsey as sign language interpreter, Christina Clift of Memphis, Katherine Moore, and Cindy Miles, DRS Liaison.

Welcome

Chair Sandi Klink called meeting to order at 9:04 am Central time. She welcomed attendees and thanked them for attending virtually.

Minutes

Council reviewed minutes. Nicole Craig had a comment regarding RHA. Their CQL Certification for IDD in Tennessee is a statewide certification, and this was not listed. Jack Spencer made the motion to approve the minutes as reviewed. Denise Wardle seconded. Motion passed unanimously through roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

FFY 2020 Budget/Financials

Denise Wardle presented an update on FFY 2020 end of year financials. The SILC did expend all of the funding that was allocated. There were no questions or comments. Clarissa Williams made motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented and Edward Mitchell seconded. Motion passed unanimously through roll call vote.

Director Report:

The SPIL update: Dora Easterling reported the new SPIL went into effect October 1, 2020. For the end of the FFY 2020; great numbers were reported, and many great services were provided to consumers. Some of the items previously measured were not included in the new SPIL; however, those numbers will carry over. SPIL Monitoring: Ms. Easterling recommended that each CIL Director review their grant contract Scope of Services thoroughly, as this is what VR will be looking for data on. We have reported accessible information such as large print, Braille, and interpreter services that are provided for SILC meetings. We will set up a call with Cindy Miles to further discuss the monitoring tool that was sent to the CILS.

Ms. Easterling reported that this is the last meeting for Lisa Suttles, Alicia Cone, and Janie Hadley; as their council membership term is expiring. SILC had asked if ex officio members could continue to serve until new members are appointed by Governor Lee, but this is not permitted. We had it in our bylaws that this was permissible, and Paula McElwee recommended a change to our bylaws, because that is against federal regulations. We would like to welcome our newest appointed member, Grayson Jennings. He completed his training day last week. His term actually started last November, even though we did not get notification of his approval until August 2020.

Ms. Easterling noted that there will be upcoming amendments made to the current CIL grant contracts. Information has been sent to the DSE regarding the financial status. The contracts had been written based on an amount of \$364,111 and then late in July the amount was changed to \$371,657 but VR had already submitted the grant contracts for processing. There will be an additional amount added to the CILS once the Notice of Award verification is received and forwarded to VR. The funds previously awarded can be spent now.

SILC Training: Ms. Easterling reported that they were able to send anyone interested to both APRIL and NCIL this year due to the conferences and trainings being virtual. Over 100 hours of council training was provided, not counting the APRIL conference hours and Ms. Easterling's own training. Those trainings were recorded and are available until January if anyone is interested in this education. Please let Ms. Easterling know what training you completed, so she can keep a record.

Due to Executive Order #60 which ends 10/28/2020 regarding Virtual Meetings, this quarter's SILC meeting was moved up to today's date so that it could be conducted virtually for the safety of our members and public attendees. We reviewed the Meeting Act of TN that states that city or state government can have a virtual meeting if the Office of Open Records Council approved it. We asked about reasonable accommodations for voting and they replied no. Members can call in or participate by Zoom; but they cannot vote after the current Executive Order expires. The attorney will ask the ADA for clarification. Tennessee Policy Alliance referred SILC to Stephanie Price, attorney. She feels that she can make a valid case that electronic transmission is a reasonable accommodation. SILC will call the Open Records Council again if the Executive Order is not extended prior to our next meeting.

SILC Update: We have looked at how the PPR can be put into a word document and when the tool is ready, SILC will be ready to report. It focuses on SILC not collaborative report, with all CILS input as they have to submit their own report.

Bylaws: As recommended, we will need to revise our bylaws to be in line with WIOA wording. Jack Spencer moved to accept bylaw language change. Grayson Jennings seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous.

CIL Directors Reports:

Empower Tennessee: Brandon Brown reported they will be holding their first Empower Con, virtual conference on November 17-18 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. There will be many learning opportunities such as mental health, COVID concerns, skillset and education for youth, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the ADA, as well as award presentations. The Floyd Steward Citizenship Award will be presented. There will also be breakout groups, music, arts, and play. "How to play and have fun, party in the middle with learning around the edges." This event is free and will be an annual event. Please register to attend and share the invites with others.

JCIL: Beth James reported they have distributed over 350 food cards, 240 wellness kits, 170 iPad/kindles. They have conducted Zoom training on how to connect and interact. On 9/29, they had a virtual pizza party to celebrate the ADA. Frozen pizzas and brownie mix were mailed to those who registered online. People got online, baked their pizza, and ate together. Prizes were awarded for the best-looking brownie. JCIL is working on three virtual events; two of which will be with TARP. There will be a cooking class, some filmed, some live on 11/5. On 12/1 we will have our first ever book club.

Ten people have already signed up and we have shipped them their book or audio. On 12/10, we will Zoom the old cartoon How the Grinch Stole Christmas. This includes a sugar cookie mix set to be sent to all participants. In the spring, we will offer three classes in Emergency Preparedness. These classes are better in person, than on Zoom, so we are hoping the quarantine will be over by that time. We are offering Stress Reduction classes with 80 Shiatsu massagers to send out. We are working on a Step into Spring program with master gardeners presenting. Our numbers are soaring. We have many new consumers and are using our funds effectively in our communities. If you have any programs you would like to partner with us on, please let me know.

TARP: Denise Wardle reported TARP had their ADA celebration on 9/29. They had a drive through ice cream social and forty people participated. They offered ice cream and personal protective equipment for COVID. We also had a virtual Zoom escape room with goodie bags. We will be doing a Christmas program; however, those plans are not yet finalized. Denise Wardle reported 208 intakes for the quarter, over 452 intakes for the year, 108 assistive technology devices, and 375 food cards. Ms. Wardle also reported that the TARP office is still closed to the public; however, they do have phone and website intake. They have people in all of their counties. Several in Dickson, Montgomery, Humphreys and Houston. They are building relationships across their areas.

dRC: Katherine Moore reported dRC is continuing their home deliveries on Friday. She noted there are a considerable number of consumers with limited mobility and they take them the supplies they need and call to check on them. They are still social distancing and wearing their masks. They have over 200 in Knoxville; they have not yet provided this service in Sevier or Blount. They will meet with the VR counselors in those areas. dRC is providing virtual presentations in the community. They have had several recent requests for service animals and for disability awareness with businesses. In November, they had their first meeting with UT advocacy workshop and legislative meetings. dRC is planning Emergency Preparedness training for the spring and are collaborating with the local police and fire departments. We hope to provide this training in person for the hands-on portion. We provided Knoxville Police with disability training and situations last month at their new officer training class. We are planning a virtual training for our consumers on Holiday Happiness, though the date has not been set. We have heard that a lot of our consumers don't like the virtual classes. We no longer provide ECF Services, as this program did not financially support itself and was very time consuming for our staff. We are building up our IL services in collaboration with SPARK.

MCIL: Sandi Klink reported MCIL is utilizing the CARES Act funds. They have had several home modification projects. They built 8 ramps last month. MCIL staff have been working from home for the past seven months. Christina Clift is doing a fabulous job. She works with the SRC and several other groups. We are hosting our annual holiday silent auction virtually this year. Several of our previous contributors are not able to provide this year or they are closing due to COVID. We are still finalizing our site for the silent auction. We have gift certificates and items. We hope to get to Beth's store once we get a new van. MCIL numbers are also growing. We have over 300 consumers in our database. Every Monday at noon, we have "lunch with the boss" on Zoom. We have been delivering skills training virtually. Memphis area have many agencies to offer food banks and rental assistance; so, we are attempting to plug the gaps for other services needed.

DSU Membership Report, DSE Report & Update:

Cindy Miles reported that she has not yet received confirmation from the Governor's office regarding the November 2019 council vacancy submission. The packets have been submitted to the Governor's

office and are “under review”. Ms. Miles would like to give a “shout out” to Dora for her patience in this process. She has quickly submitted any revisions requested and this is appreciated. There was no DSE report to provide at this time.

Announcements/Public Comment:

Jack Spencer stated that he was honored to speak to the Obion River Library on disability advocacy, IL movement, CILS, and People First Language. He was contacted by an individual with behavior disorders who was being evicted. He was told that some directors want to collaborate in funding options on how to improve accessibility. He is currently writing a paper on how COVID is creating more issues for those with disabilities.

Christina Clift stated that she is the chair of the SRC, and Dora Easterling has visited these meetings. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for December.

Cheryl Zuckerman noted that the CIL of Southeast TN is in process. They are working on their bylaws and should have these completed tomorrow. They have applied for their 501c3 status. They are working on their ACL funding. They are rolling forward to do IL services! She knows of someone with UT Chattanooga who has conducted virtual silent auctions and will connect Sandi with this person.

Edward Mitchell reported that the UT Stoneybrook School of Social Work with the National Disability Institute are researching the cost of living with a disability. They presented a live webinar last week with over 1,000 views signed up. This is sharing CILS, SILC, what I’ve learned from working at a CIL, as well as having a disability myself. I am honored to be nominated for the Jefferson local award.

Nicole Craig reported that RHA Health Services is providing statewide services with IDD. They also serve North Carolina and Georgia. The Memphis unit has a person who got a job with Dollar General during COVID. Their CQL certification was accredited for three more years. The ECF surveys as preferred.

Dora Easterling: We’d like to say to Janie and Alicia that they have an incredible wealth of knowledge and we thank you both for your service to the SILC. You are always welcome to stop by.

Janie Hadley: VR has a couple of openings in our Personal Care Assistance Subsidy program. Please contact me for application information.

Denise Wardle asked if the CILS 1st link has been updated on the new report goals. Ms. Easterling replied that she had reached out to Nathaniel and will follow up for updates.

Cheryl Zuckerman reminded everyone to go vote.

Sandi Klink reminded that it is to be determined whether the next SILC meeting will be in person or virtual. Information will be provided as we learn more.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m. CST. Jack Spencer made the motion. Clarissa Williams seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Jack Spencer SILC Secretary

Date