**The Kentucky Statewide Independent Living Council**

Minutes

June 4th, 2013

The Hilton Garden Inn

Georgetown, KY

**Members Present:** Lonnie Cowan, Mike Freholm, Benita Lind,

Gay Pannell, Danny Perry, Shari ‘George’ Polur, Sandra

Radford; Chairperson, Ann Smits, Elsie Speed; and Jimmy Wise

**Members Absent:** Shannon Caldwell

**Guests Present:** David Allgood, Center for Accessible Living, Jennifer Burchett, Attendant, Steve Burchett, Disability Resource Initiative, Sandra Goodwyn, Pathfinders, Keith Hosey, Center for Accessible Living, Marilyn Mitchell, Disability Resource Initiative, Pamela Roark-Glisson, Independence Place, Andrew Saylor, Pathfinders, Patrick Shirley, Cabinet Attorney

**Staff Present:** Dr. David Beach, Erin Hopper, Dave Matheis, Germaine O’Connell, and Nanci Soard

**Interpreters:** Judy Gooch and Lisa Hunter

Sandra Radford called the meeting to order at 9:13am. There is a quorum.

**Welcome and introductions:** Introductions were made and guests were recognized.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Read aloud.

Moment of silence was taken.

**Agenda Overview and Additions:**

Sandi Radford had some additions: CyberCil presentation; Project Safe; Vote for Regional NCIL Representative; Members-at-large replacements and NCIL representation at the upcoming national conference.

**Public Comment:** Elsie Speed thanked the members of the council for the encouraging words regarding her diagnosis.

**Review of the March 2013 Minutes:**

A motion to accept the March 2013 minutes as printed and to accept the agenda as presented was made by Elsie Speed, Lonnie Cowan second. No discussion. No abstentions. No oppositions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

**SILC Congress Report:** Lonnie Cowan provided a report on the SILC Congress that he attended. He named the states in which were in his region as he is the region representative. He discussed the website and where the meeting will be held next year.

**Evaluation of September SILC:** The last meeting evaluation was not sent out to the full council and it was agreed upon how to receive the evaluation. The evaluations will start back after today’s meeting. It was suggested council members get with Germaine before they leave today to tell her in what format they would like to receive the meeting evaluation.

**CyberCil:** The new CyberCIL is Resources4Independence.com. Steve Burchett from Disability Resource Initiative in Bowling Green provided a brief background on the CyberCIL. Sandra Radford said she had a resource to include on the website. Mr. Burchett provided a presentation on the CyberCIL. Discussion was held. It was well received.

Pamela Roark-Glisson provided a brief background about the ARRA funding and the CyberCIL development. Discussion was held regarding the Cyber CIL and transitions services.

**Committee Reports:**

**Executive Committee:**

The Executive Committee report is on page 20 – 23 of the SILC meeting booklet. There have been changes since the written minutes. The new business of the Executive Committee is the committee lost two members and according to the bylaws the chair will appoint one of the at large members. Elsie Speed agreed to serve as the vice chair of the SILC yesterday. Sandi said she spoke to the nominating committee and they nominated Benita Lind and Lonnie Cowan to serve as Members-at-Large. The full council will be taking a vote on those two members at a later time. Motion to accept the minutes as presented made by Lonnie Cowan, Danny Perry second. Motion carried unanimously.

The NCIL national conference is coming up in July. Sandi asked for discussion regarding sending a SILC member to this national conference. The budget to do this was on page 29 of the meeting booklet. Sandi Radford described NICL’s activities. A motion to send a council member to the NICL conference with the understanding that it was contingent on Cabinet approval of the travel funds was made by Lonnie Cowan. Elsie Speed, second. No discussion. No abstentions. No oppositions. Motion carried unanimously. Anyone interested in being considered as that representative, give your name to Germaine O’Connell by COB June 4, 2013.

The council took a break at 10:13am. The council reconvened at 10:29am.

**Nominating Committee:**

Benita Lind provided the Nominating Committee report. She said there was 100% attendance yesterday when they met. Benita reported that due to the resignation of Deborah Blake, t causing Elsie Speed to move to Vice-Chair, and the term ending for Darrell Mattingly, we have lost both our Members-at-Large and that the full council will need to vote on two new Members-at-Large to fulfill the terms ending at the conclusion of the September meeting. Elsie Speed made a motion to suspend Roberts Rules and do a verbal ballot. Danny Perry, second. No discussion. No abstentions. No oppositions. Motion carried unanimously.A motion was made to accept Lonnie Cowan and Benita Lind as Members-at-Large through the rest of the term – until the end of the September meeting, made by Elsie Speed. Danny Perry, second. No discussion. Lonnie Cowan and Benita Lind abstained. No oppositions. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the two candidates, Peter Carmack and Debra Harding (alternate), from the Nominating Committee to replace Deborah Blake and submit to the Governor’s Office made by Lonnie Cowan. Elsie Speed, second. No discussion. No abstentions. No oppositions. Motion carried unanimously.

Benita Lind read aloud a proposed questionnaire to give to all members to learn of their interest in serving as an officer. This questionnaire will be filled out by all members and used for future candidates. She concluded her report.

Sandi Radford has re-instated the By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee to address some inconsistencies in the By-Laws regarding several issues including a few with Nominations and voting. This Ad Hoc Committee will report at the next SILC meeting.

**SPIL Ad Hoc Committee:**

Sandra Radford said there was a public forum to gather input on the SPIL that was conducted in person, over the phone, and via video link-up. There was plenty of conversation and it was very well attended. The report starts on page 96 of the SILC meeting booklet. Sandra said she was present online and on the phone. There were two letters of input submitted from Pathfinders and a County Judge Executive. There was an additional letter in support of Pathfinders that will be in the next booklet.

The final draft of the SPIL was included in the book. In order to be in compliance with the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the full SILC needed to vote on the SPIL to make it the official State Plan for KY SILC. Overall the plan was accepted with the following two discussion points: First the issue regarding the requirement for the SPIL to address a recommended threshold amount needed to start a new CIL in KY. RSA said the SILC will need to have a threshold. Sandra Radford looked at other SPILs and their thresholds. The lowest was a $100,000. The highest was a $350,000 threshold. Dave Matheis provided a background on why there is a threshold. Sandi Radford discussed the differences between a Part B and Part C center. David Beach clarified. Sandra said we need to set the threshold high enough that a center could function on it but not exclude ourselves to what RSA could offer. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the threshold. It was suggested at the SPIL Ad Hoc committee to lower the threshold but the final amount has to be decided upon today. Sandi Radford gave each CIL Director present the opportunity to come up with an amount for the threshold and justify it. Sandra Goodwyn suggested the council set it at a point where it is fairly low. Keith Hosey suggested deciding on a reasonable amount. Marilyn Mitchell stated the council cannot set it so high that it is going to preclude the Part B Centers from ever getting any money and that the council should reduce the threshold to a realistic number. Pamela Roark-Glisson agreed with the other representatives but added that the council strengthens the capacity of what currently exists. Chairperson Sandra Radford said she was open to suggestions from anyone about the amount. Council member, George Polur asked, what is a realistic number? Pamela Roark-Glisson said $50,000. Marilyn Mitchell said $50,000. Sandra Goodwyn clarified on the Part C allocations. Overall, the general feeling was that we do not have enough information to realistically determine a threshold. Sandra Radford suggested setting the threshold as low as the council can. Mike Freholm clarified that we are setting a plan for the future. Council member, Lonnie Cowan said that he would $50,000 would be a reasonable. Sandra attempted to explain the threshold further for clarification. Dr. David Beach provided clarification. More or less it’s a guide for us and what we want to do. Sandra Goodwyn commented and suggested including a mixture of Part C and Part B funding. Staff Liaison, Dave Matheis, asked for a justification. Sandra provided a justification for staff in that it would increase to half of what Harlan is running on. Germaine read aloud the goal. It said, “KY’s Goal is to support the existing Part B centers by supplementing their current funds with $50,000 Part C funds as they become available.”

Lonnie Cowan made a motion to recommend that the threshold be set at $50,000 and to include the language in the SPIL to support the existing Part B centers by supplementing their current funds with the $50,000 Part C funds as they become available. Danny Perry, second. A roll call was taken:

Elsie Speed - Yes

Mike Freholm - Yes

Danny Perry - Yes

Ann Smits - Yes

George Polur - Yes

Lonnie Cowan – Yes

Jimmy Wise – Yes

Benita Lind - Yes

No more discussion. No abstentions. No oppositions. Motion carried unanimously.

Second issue is in regards to determining a percentage to be agreed upon in the event any new money should come into existence and a recommendation to RSA how to split those funds. Dave Matheis provided an explanation of the percentage. Discussion was held regarding the minimum amount.

Shari ‘George’ Polur, made a motion that Part C funds coming in be treated as follows: A) Any additional annually renewable funds are allocated to the current Part C centers at those current ratios. B) Special, temporary, or one time additional funds be allocated amongst the current Part C centers proportionally as those centers provide the requested services. Lonnie Cowan, second. A roll call was taken:

Elsie Speed - Yes

Mike Freholm – Yes after he asked for clarification.

Danny Perry - Yes

Ann Smits - Yes

Shari ‘George’ Polur - Yes

Lonnie Cowan – Yes

Jimmy Wise – Yes

Benita Lind - Yes

No more discussion. No abstentions. No oppositions. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Matheis said the agency had an issue with the current objectives related to Benefits Planning. The plan states the agency will pay a fee for benefits planning services. Now that the WIPA programs will be returning to CAL and Independence Place, he does not want KYOVR put in the position of potentially paying for a service covered by the WIPA programs through the Social Security Administration. It was agreed the state plan would read OVR would not pay for benefits planning if it was provided through other grant funding.

Dave Matheis brought up the fact that, with sequester and the dimishment of the Part B carry forward, there will not enough Part B funds available in the three years of the new SPIL to cover the obligations of two $90,000 and two $60,000 contracts for independent living services.. After some discussion of alternatives, Dr. Beach committed to fund the eventual shortfall with Social Security reimbursement funds. The SILC will have to revisit the lack of adequate funding in the newt SPIL.

Motion to accept the plan with the amendments as planned made by George Polur. Elsie Speed, second. A roll call was taken:

Elsie Speed - Yes

Mike Freholm - Yes

Danny Perry - Yes

Ann Smits - Yes

George Polur - Yes

Lonnie Cowan – Yes

Jimmy Wise – Yes

Benita Lind - Yes

No more discussion. No abstentions. No oppositions. Motion carried unanimously.

The full council took a break for lunch at 12:01pm.

The full council reconvened from lunch at 1:04pm.

**Public Awareness Committee:**

Pamela Roark-Glisson provided the Public Awareness Committee report. She said the brochures were printed and to let her know if any council member would like to be trained on the PowerPoint presentation.

**New Business:**

**NICL Representative:**

Sandi Radford said the council needs to vote on one name for the NICL Regional Representative out of three names on the ballot. She read aloud the three names and their qualifications. The names were Natalie Waylon, Jack Franklin and Jan Day. The KYSILC’s vote will be combined with other SILC’s across the nation.

Ann Smits made a motion to submit Jan Day’s name as NICL representative. Elsie Speed, second. No discussion. No abstentions. No oppositions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Standing Staff Reports:**

**SILC Staff:**
Germaine O’Connell provided the SILC staff report. She said she spent the majority of her time on the SPIL and coordinating the meeting, arranging the public hearing, etc. There were over 75 people at the public hearing. She said she is starting to use the PowerPoint presentation and marketing materials for exhibit booths, etc. There have been several nominations for new members that have come out of attending the conferences and exhibiting opportunities. She stated she is looking forward to training SILC members.

**DSU/OVR:**
Dave Matheis provided the DSU/OVR report. He said the report was on page 124 of the SILC meeting booklet. He began the report by announcing the Summer Assistive Technology Workshops will be held in June at the Kentucky State Research Farm in Frankfort, KY. Protection and Advocacy and the Kentucky Assistive Technology Services Network will be sponsoring 20 consumers to attend this year’s event. Dave Matheis then reported that Dr. David Beach formed two teams – consumer engagement team and an autism team. He announced that the migrant and seasonal farm workers program ended on April 30th, 2013. He also announced that Project Caret finished its first year successfully. He stated on page 126 of the SILC booklet there is a quarterly report that the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation compiles. The corporation as distributed $700,000 loans for people with disabilities. Mr. Matheis concluded by stating on page 127 of the meeting booklet there are May invoices and contract updates for the Centers for Independent Living. He informed the council there is monitoring responses from Centers in the booklet as well.

**Office for the Blind:**
Gay Pannell provided the Office for the Blind report. She informed the council there are some staff changes in the agency. Richard Nesbitt of Central Office retired at the end of April. Jack Kennedy will be responsible for Mr. Nesbitt’s duties until the position has been filled. She informed the full council that critical positions will not be vacant long. She stated the Bowling Green office has moved and stated the agency continues to provide DeafBlind services to individuals and this is a bust part of the agency.

**Centers on Independent Living Reports:**

**Disability Resource Initiatives:**

Marilyn Mitchell provided the Disability Resource Initiatives report. She said the Center is responding to the letter regarding last year’s monitoring report and is almost due for another monitoring visit. She informed the full council there are three paid staff members from Part B funding from KY works a new administrative assistant. She announced they are very knowledgeable and a good addition to the Center. She announced the Center staff is making extra efforts to collaborate with other Centers to provide services to individuals with disabilities, for example, the CyberCIL website. She encouraged the council to get information to them from their local areas to post on the CyberCIL.

**Center on Accessible Living:**

Keith Hosey provided the Center for Accessible Living report. He stated there have been two outreach coordinators in Northern, KY that live in Covington attempting to get the name out about what services the Center provides, etc. The outreach coordinators are involved an empowerment conference in Covington and continue to visit clinics, etc. The Center has a couple of new peer groups that have started to form as well as a Facebook page and a Twitter account to get resources out there to individuals with disabilities.

**Independence Place:**

Pamela Roark-Glisson provided the Independence Place report. She said that she remains excited and committed to the work that the Centers do and for the real collaboration with the other Centers for Independent Living. She said she appreciates the developments that have occurred over the few months and also appreciates Germaine O’Connell and staff. She then continued to say that Independence Place remains active in so many areas. One area in particular is the Newsline service. Other magazines will come along soon as well as emergency weather alerts on the Newsline. She reported the ‘Friends for Life’ program continues to grow and become successful.

**Pathfinders:**

Sandra Goodwyn provided the Pathfinders report. She began by discussing the hardships some of the staff has faced over the few months. She said a report was submitted and should be located in the SILC meeting booklet for review. She assured the full council that the staff is helping each other and that hopefully the numbers will be a little higher next quarter.

**New Business:**

Sandra Radford described the Project Safe Network to the full council. The next meeting will be held on June 12th, 2013. With permission from council, SILC Coordinator, Germaine O’Connell, will attend on behalf of the SILC. Ann Smits made a motion that Germaine O’Connell attends the Project Safe meeting. Lonnie Cowan, second. No more discussion. No abstentions. No oppositions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

Benita Lind thanked everyone for the cards, etc. and provided an update on her condition.

**Next meeting date and location:**

September 16th and 17th

Location: To be determined.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

George Polur made a motion to adjourn. Lonnie Cowan, second. No more discussion. No abstentions. No oppositions. Motion carried unanimously.