**The Kentucky Statewide Independent Living Council**

Minutes

December 9, 2014

Embassy Suites

Lexington, KY

**Members Present:** Bobby Begley, Tony Carmack, Mike Freholm, Corey Kennedy, Gay Pannell, Sandi Radford, Stephanie Sharp, Elsie Speed, and Jimmy Wise

**Members Absent:** Benita Lind, Jeff Merrill, Marilynn Mitchell, Paul McKee, Shari George Polur and Danny Perry

**Guests:** Lonnie Cowan, Jan Day, Michael Fein, Pamela Roark-Glisson, David Wickstrom, and Valerie Wise

**Staff:** Dave Matheis, Germaine O’Connell, and Kari Skaggs

**Interpreters:** Cheyenne Jennings and Tom King

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Chairperson Elsie Speed called the meeting to order at 9:09am.

A quorum was recognized.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Introductions were made and guests were welcomed.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Read aloud by all in attendance.

Chair, Elsie Speed, called for a moment of silence. A moment of silence was taken.

**Agenda Overview and Additions:** Elsie Speed called for any additions or changes to the agenda. Germaine O’Connell requested to add “SILC Congress” under unfinished business.Mike Freholm moved to accept the agenda as typed with the addition Germaine asked for. Stephanie Sharp, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:**  Pamela Roark-Glisson stated that she very much appreciated everyone who attended the open house at Independence Place; she introduced Michael Fein and David Wickstrom. Elsie Speed referred to page 53-54 of the meeting booklet, noting that Andy Barr was to be in attendance, but he sent his regrets as he is in Washington D.C.

**Review/Approval Sept 9, 2014 Minutes:** Sandi Radford moved to accept the minutes as printed in the book. Mike Freholm, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Unfinished Business:**

**September Evaluation Report:** Germaine O’Connell reviewed the September Evaluation Report located in the meeting booklet with the full council. Sandi Radford moved to accept the report. Stephanie Sharp, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**SPIL Review Report:** Germaine O’Connell directed the council to the SPIL Review Report in the meeting booklet and explained the details of the report. She stated that fifteen of the twenty-nine activities of the SPIL were completed in Year 1; on-going activities are not counted in that total. Ms. Connell then discussed Year 2 and the progress that has been made in the first quarter. Gay Pannell noted for Year 1, OFB activity “Provide IL services to at least 300 individuals who are blind or VI”, this goal was met. Sandi Radford mentioned that pertaining to the Year 1, CILs activity: “Provide ongoing training to CWIC and benefits counseling staff”, CWICKs are required to take internet courses so that activity should be marked completed as well. Germaine will update the report with the revisions. Mike Freholm observed that the format provides a good look at the status of the SPIL progress. Jan Day commended the staff and council members for undertaking this task and reporting the SPIL Monitoring in this format. Sandi Radford moved to accept the report. Stephanie Sharp, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**By-Laws Issue SCVR & OFB:** Elsie Speed directed the council’s attention to the SILC By-Laws in the meeting booklet, Article IV-Officers, Section A. The Chair. Ms. Speed noted that number 2 states, “The Chair or designee, shall serve on the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Council and the Office for the Blind Council as liaison for the SILC”. She stated that the Executive Committee felt that the current by-laws addressed the issue of appointments from the Governor’s office and therefore no action is needed at this time. Elsie Speed deferred to Dave Matheis to discuss further. Mr. Matheis explained that each state’s SILC is required to be represented on the Vocational Rehabilitation Council and the council is Governor appointed; however, the term of the SILC Chair is for one year and the appointments to the SCVR and OFB are for 3 year terms. Mr. Matheis further stated that it is not federally mandated that the SILC Chair serve as the liaison and the SILC By-Laws had been revised to reflect this. Stephanie Sharp moved to accept the current by-laws as noted. Mike Freholm, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**DRI (Disability Resource Initiative) Update:** Dave Matheis updated the council regarding the non-profit status of DRI; there hasn’t been an active contract with DRI since October 1, 2014. Per Mr. Matheis, Executive Director, Marilyn Mitchell, has submitted the 704 report and continues to work with the IRS on the non-profit status. Sandi Radford noted her concern regarding DRI housing the server for Resources4Independence.org and what would happen to website if they closed. Mike Freholm questioned who owns the equipment and Dave Matheis noted that since it was purchased with state funds, it belongs to the state. Jan Day, regarding the server, noted that the server can be stored at a secure location in Louisville, where the CFAL is stored. Dave Matheis stated that there is a meeting later today where they will discuss housing Resources4Independence.org on the KATS Network server. Pamela Roark-Glisson agrees with Jan Day regarding the server and other equipment, but also mentioned that center directors are without a representative on the SILC council. Mike Freholm suggested the council craft a statement so that OVR is approved to take care of the situation since the council will not meet again until March. Elsie Speed polled each council member present for their views on the situation. Mike Freholm suggested that the council obtain a list of the clients, and then other centers can serve them. Stephanie Sharp relayed that the Executive Director of the Murray Satellite Center has stated that they are getting referrals from the Bowling Green area. Peter “Tony” Carmack, no comment. Corey Kennedy agreed that a plan needs to be in place if DRI doesn’t get their non-profit status by the date OVR sets and that there should be a letter drafted to let people know where the consumers can receive services. Gay Pannell stated she’d like to see a restructuring of the monitoring of the centers and the council should have a plan in place whether the center remains in operation or not. Bobby Begley, no comment. Jimmy Wise, no comment. Sandi Radford began by saying that DRI lost it’s not for profit in February of 2014 and that there has been plenty of time for them to respond to the SILC or to the DSU. Ms. Radford wondered if there was a way to allow one or two of the other centers to take over DRI’s location. Elsie Speed called for any additional comments. Germaine O’Connell reported that during a conference call for Resources4Independence.org, Steve Burchett, a DRI staff member, verbally stated that the paperwork has been turned in to the IRS and that the IRS has 30 days to respond. Elsie Speed recommended to the council that there should be a plan in place and deferred to Dave Matheis. Mr. Matheis discussed equipment located at DRI and the services in the Bowling Green area, then suggested that the council make a decision on setting a deadline for DRI to resolve this matter. Elsie Speed called for motions on the topic of DRI. Sandi Radford moved that Designated State Unit (DSU) be given permission from the SILC to check on utilities, rent, and how to get stuff out of the building. Stephanie Sharp, second. No oppositions, 2 abstentions. Motion carried. Sandi Radford moved that SILC open the grant process up to serve the same grant area that was being served by DRI and that the contract go to one of the other centers to provide services to those in that area, through an open RFP bid. Dave Matheis clarified that Sandi’s motion stay in the Bowling Green area. Mr. Matheis also noted that the bid process can’t be restricted to just current CIL’s and will consult with Patrick Shirley on the legalities. Sandi Radford amended the motion to state the SILC authorize the Chair to write a letter to DRI, giving them 30 days to respond in writing as to their non-for-profit status with IRS. Mike Freholm, second. Dave Matheis interjected that he received an email from Marilyn Mitchell which states that she has been trying to contact the IRS unsuccessfully and that DRI remains open for business. No oppositions. One abstention. Motion carried. Sandi Radford moved SILC to ask current CIL Directors to appoint a new representative to council to represent the CILs. Ms. Radford clarified by stating that Ms. Mitchell will still be a member of the SILC as appointed, however the directors need to be represented in the SILC to be in compliance with the by-laws. Stephanie Sharp, second. No oppositions, one abstention. Motion carried. Sandi Radford moved to authorize the move of the server out of the DRI building to the KATS building if DRI is going to close. Stephanie Sharp, second. Mike Freholm clarified that this motion is if DRI closes. Jan Day requested that since it is purchased with state funds, should it be moved anyway. Dave Matheis noted that a meeting is taking place later today regarding the website. No oppositions, 2 abstentions. Motion carried. Stephanie Sharp moved in the event DRI closing, other CIL’s or OVR obtain a client list from DRI to send letters out to clients to let them know that they can be served by other CIL’s. Sandi Radford, second. No oppositions, one abstention. Motion carried.

**NCIL Membership:** Germaine O’Connell informed the council that the membership dues have been paid.

**SILC Congress:** Germaine O’Connell stated that registration for the SILC Congress held in San Diego is open and that in order to send someone, OVR needs 30 days notice. Elsie Speed has made note that she is trying to work it out that she attend. Sandi Radford moved to approve Elsie Speed or her designee to go to the Congress in San Diego and to get the paperwork in immediately to Dave Matheis. Tony Carmack, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Committee and Partnership Reports:**

**Executive Committee:** Stephanie Sharp moved to accept Executive Committee report. Sandi Radford, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Chair Report:** Mike Freholm moved to accept the Chair’s report. Sandi Radford, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Awareness Committee:** Tony Carmack reported that the Public Awareness Committee was to meet right after full SILC meeting but since there isn’t a quorum, it will have to be rescheduled.

**Nominating Committee:** Bobby Begley gave the Nominating Committee report. Mr. Begley directed the council’s attention to the draft applications located in the meeting booklet, calling attention to question 4. Stephanie Sharp moved to accept the draft application questions on page 61 of the standard meeting booklet. Sandi Radford, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Begley discussed the age of the SILC members being 18 but doing an outreach so that youth and young people can be involved such as youth council or youth mentoring. Germaine O’Connell suggested that the Public Awareness Committee tweak the canned presentation to be able to gear it more towards a younger audience. Stephanie Sharp moved that all new members must be at least 18, and to create a youth outreach program to be determined at a later date. Mike Freholm, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Bobby Begley noted that it is the duty of every council member to try to recruit new members for the council.

**SCVR Council:** Elsie Speed reported that she attended new member orientation and has been duly sworn in. Ms. Speed also mentioned that she attended their December meeting. Dave Matheis thanked those that attended the Joint Meeting the previous day.

**OFB Council:** No report given.

**Transportation Ad Hoc:** No report at this time.

**New Business:**

**704 Report and** **Training:** Germaine O’Connell directed the council’s attention to page 62 of the standard meeting booklet, 704 Report. Ms. O’Connell called for the council members to prioritize the topics from the most important to least and collected the responses.

**874K:** Germaine O’Connell reported that 2015 is an election year for governor and that the 874K sponsors a gubernatorial forum for any candidate to discuss their vision for Kentuckians with disabilities. Ms. O’Connell informed the council that the event will take place on Thursday, February 15, 2015.

**Resource Development:** Item to be tabled until the next meeting.

**Centers on Independent Living Reports:**

**Center for Accessible Living (CAL):** Executive Director, Jan Day, gave the CAL Report. Ms. Day reported that they have a new employee in Northern Kentucky and they are working with OVR to use some space as they don’t have an office in Northern Kentucky yet. Ms. Day informed the council that CAL is partnering with Goodwill on a CARS Program that is very similar to the Car IDA and that the first individual will get the keys to a car soon.

**Independence Place:** Executive Director, Pamela Roark-Glisson, gave the report for Independence Place. Ms. Roark-Glisson began by stating that the house was packed for the Friends for Life Holiday Social the previous evening. Pamela noted that the 3rd quarter report is in the meeting booklet and in addition to the report, three people who were homeless now have a place to live, to sleep, and have income after receiving independent living services. She also reported that during Thanksgiving in Ashland, they were able to help seventeen families have Thanksgivings meals. Pamela concluded by saying the two satellites centers can access the CFAL database remotely.

**Disability Resource Initiatives:** No report given.

**Southeast Kentucky:** Executive Director, JoEllen Hale, reported that while there isn’t a report in the meeting booklet, that they are up and running. Ms. Hale noted that one of their goals is public housing in Leslie County and they have been in touch with the ADA Coordinator. Germaine O’Connell stated that she is visiting the center next week.

**Standing Staff Reports:**

**SILC Staff:** SILC Coordinator, Germaine O’Connell, directed the council’s attention to her report in the meeting booklet. Along with her usual duties, Ms. O’Connell reported that she attended and helped facilitate the OVR Public Hearing this past quarter and the Ashland Asset Development Summit. She stated that she assisted the DSU on several monitoring visits. Germaine concluded her report by informing the council about the APRIL Conference she attended, which stands for Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living.

**DSU/OVR:** Staff Liaison, Dave Matheis, gave the DSU/OVR report. Mr. Matheis began by stating that the Ashland Asset Development Summit was very successful. Dave reported that the CAR IDA program gave out the first check to a participant in Murray. He informed the council that the KATS Network has now collected over 150 used Hearing Aids to be refurbished and are developing a process as to how the program will work. Mr. Matheis completed his report by discussing Project Carat’s recent grant application; he noted that if the grant is not funded that the KATS Network will expand the project statewide.

**Public Comment:** Jan Day commented that the best presentation she has ever seen was a PowerPoint by Dave Matheis with his cats. Elsie Speed thanked everyone for their participation in today’s meeting. Germaine O’Connell informed the council that the Executive Committee will be meeting on February 9, 2015.

**Next Meeting Date:** Mike Freholm moved to have the next meeting on March 10th, 2015 at 9am. Sandi Radford, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Wrap Up/Adjourn:** Stephanie Sharp moved to adjourn.