**The Kentucky Statewide Independent Living Council**

Minutes

September 9, 2014

Embassy Suites

Lexington, KY

**Members Present:** Benita Linda, Mike Freholm, Jimmy Wise, Gay Pannell, Sandra Radford, Shari “George” Polar, Bobby Begley, Jeff Merrill, Danny Perry, Corey Kennedy, Elsie Speed, Stephanie Sharp

**Members Absent:** Marilyn Mitchell, Paul McKee

**Guests:** David Allgood, Jessica Lohrey, Pamela Roark-Glisson, Joellen Hale, Keith Hosey

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

**Interpreters:** Tom King, Amy Gruenwald

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Chairperson Elsie Speed called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

A quorum was recognized.

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

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

**Agenda Overview and Additions:** Sandra Radford motioned to accept the agenda as printed. Mike Freholm, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Elsie Speed recognized Joellen Hale, from Harlan, KY. Ms. Hale, previously employed at Pathfinders, stated that she has opened a new center for independent living in Harlan, KY, called Southeast Kentucky Center for Independent Living, and hopes to get the grant money relinquished by Pathfinders.

**Review/Approval 6-3-2014 Minutes:** Elsie Speed requested the change on page 10, paragraph 3 of the standard meeting booklet from “Dave Matheis updated the council that Elsie Speed as Chair has requested that she be the representative of the OFB (Office for the Blind) and SCVR (Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation).” to “Dave Matheis updated the council on the SILC representative for OFB (Office for the Blind) and SCVR (Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation). Elsie Speed as Chair is in compliance with the current language found in SILC’s by-laws by consenting to allow her name to be entered as representative to the aforementioned organized groups.” Jeff Merrill motioned to accept Ms. Speed’s change to the minutes. Sandra Radford, second. George Polur requested a rereading of the motion. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Per Germaine O’Connell, “Jane Day” as it appears will be corrected to “Jan Day”. Stephanie Sharp motioned to approve the minutes as stated in the booklet with the corrections. Jeff Merrill, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Unfinished Business:**

**June Evaluation Report:** Germaine O’Connell directed the full council to the June Evaluation Report in the September meeting booklet and summarized the report. She also reported on the New Member Orientation evaluation: new members felt that the materials were helpful and orientation gave them a good start on their membership on the council.

**National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) Update:** Elsie Speed thanked the council for allowing her to represent SILC at the NCIL conference and reported that there were a lot of young people in attendance. Ms. Speed stressed the importance of voting at NCIL, noting that the representative of the council counts as 10 votes. Elsie discussed Convention Rights for People with Disabilities, which was an important topic as NCIL.

**Committee Assignments:** Elsie Speed referred to Germaine O’Connell regarding the Committee Assignments. Ms. O’Connell noted that all council members did receive their first choice for committee assignments. Benita Lind questioned if there were chairs for both committees. Elsie Speed reported that the chair for the Nominating Committee is Mr. Bobby Begley. Elsie requested that those on the Public Awareness committee think about chair.

**State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Language:** Elsie Speed deferred to Dave Matheis and directed the council to the RSA letter in the meeting booklet. Mr. Matheis reprised the council of the situation regarding the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) and Pathfinders’ relinquishment of the grant. Dave stated that the letter to RSA stated the council’s amendment to Section 3.2 of the SPIL and made note of the Public Hearing on July 10, 2014.

**June Orientation Evaluations:** Germaine O’Connell spoke on the June Orientation Evaluations previously, during June Meeting Evaluation.

**Committee and Partnership Reports:**

**Executive Committee:** Elsie Speed directed the council to review the Executive Committee Minutes located in the meeting booklet. Mike Freholm requested to change on line three under By-Laws Issue with SCVR and OFB: “, the By-Laws state that the SCVR and Office for the Blind (OFB) representatives must be the chair of SILC” to “, the By-Laws state that the SILC Chair must serve as the representative to the SCVR and Office for the Blind (OFB)”. Dave Matheis made a point of order that because these minutes are draft minutes this is a matter for the Executive Committee and not the SILC at this time. Ms. Speed tabled the discussion until the next Executive Meeting. Benita Lind motioned to accept the report from the Executive Committee. Jeff Merrill, second. No oppositions. One abstention. Motion carried.

**Chair Report:** Elsie Speed directed the full council to the Chair Report in the SILC meeting booklet and pointed out the revision to the Motion Form for the council’s consideration. Ms. Speed then discussed the letter to the Office for the Blind and deferred to Dave Matheis to explain the appointment process. Germaine O’Connell reported that the Executive Committee has taken the By-Laws under consideration and will have an action item at the December meeting. George Polur motioned to amend the draft recommendation motion form to add one more line so that the name of person who seconded the motion would be directly underneath the “properly moved” line, making one line into two. Sandi Radford, second. Dave Matheis questioned who will be writing the motions and if all motions will need to be written down. Elsie Speed noted that the maker of the motion will be responsible for writing the motions and it will be business items only. One opposition, no abstentions. Motion carried. Sandi Radford motioned that the first line “All motions must be in written form:” be stricken and that the language at the bottom of the old form which state “Only motions for major or complicated topics and for motions that are long and/or need to be specific.” be added to that. Danny Perry, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Elsie Speed called for a motion to accept the Chair Report. Sandi Radford questioned if there were items that needed actions at this time. Elsie Speed stated that these items will go before the Executive Committee, but that she wanted to apprise the council of her actions at this time. Discussion was held regarding compliance issues with voting SILC members being employed at the Centers for Independent Living. Patrick Shirley assured the council that they are in compliance. Jeff Merrill motioned to accept the report given by the chair. Danny Perry, second. No oppositions, one abstention. Motion carried.

**Public Awareness Committee:** Germaine O’Connell gave the Public Awareness Committee report in lieu of the chair as the new Public Awareness Committee hasn’t identified a chair and this report comes from the previous Public Awareness Committee. Germaine stated that there are two items that the Public Awareness Committee would like to address. For the first item, Germaine discussed the CIL (Center for Independent Living) SILC Report which will detail how the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) will be accomplished. Stephanie Sharp agreed that this would be a great way to record the activities. Sandi Radford questioned if each CIL would answer this form individually. Germaine stated yes. Mike Freholm, as a member of the previous Public Awareness Committee, gave the reasons why the committee decided on this form. Mike Freholm motioned to accept the form and begin to use it in the December meeting. Jimmy Wise, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Germaine then directed the council’s attention to the next form for consideration, SPIL Monitoring, and detailed how the form will work to monitor how the SPIL activities are being met. Mike Freholm noted that it is a quick look at what is going on. Benita Lind pointed on page 67 “recruit” is misspelled. Pamela Roark-Glisson questioned timing of when to use the CIL report. Germaine noted that the 1st Quarter, Oct – Dec, would be reported at the March meeting. Sandi Radford motioned to accept the SPIL monitoring form as it is in the book and begin using it for the next federal fiscal year. Jeff Merrill, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Transportation Ad Hoc:** Germaine O’Connell spoke regarding the Car IDA with Sarah Richardson, noting that the committee is awaiting official word from Sarah Richardson. No official report at this time.

**Nominating Committee:** Germaine O’Connell reported that the Nominating Committee met the previous evening and will be working towards nominations for those committee members rotating off the council. She stated that as of right now there are no action items for the council. Germaine then referred to committee chair, Bobby Begley, and he confirmed Germaine’s report.

**SCVR Council:** Dave Matheis stated that Elsie Speed’s first meeting as representative will be Monday. Dave Matheis noted that SCVR gave out Employer Recognition Awards and stated that he will send out a report on those businesses that received awards. He also stated that the SCVR Executive Committee has formally endorsed the joint committee meeting with SILC for December. Ms. Speed noted that Congressman Andy Barr has committed to attend.

**OFB Council:** No report at this time.

**National Advisory Council:** No report at this time.

**Update on Harlan RFP:** Dave Matheis updated the full council that he had contacted Corrina Styles of the RSA (Rehabilitation Services Administration) who stated that they haven’t awarded the grant at this time.

**New Business:**

**By-Laws Re: SCVR and OFB Reps:** This topic was addressed earlier in the meeting.

**New Federal Law:** Elsie Speed deferred to Pamela Roark-Glisson to speak on the topic of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Ms. Roark-Glisson stated that she participated on a conference call regarding the new law and its changes, including the additional core service: Transition. She encouraged the council to stay in tune with what is happening as the changes may have a wide impact. Dave Matheis informed the council that the new core service, Transitions, is threefold: transitioning from nursing homes and other institutions to home and community based services, to provide assistance to individuals with significant disabilities at risk of entering institutions so they can remain in the community, and finally helping youth with significant disabilities transition to post-school life. Dave noted that Independent Living (IL), at the federal level, is moving from Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to the Health and Human Services (HHS) effective immediately. Mr. Matheis mentioned that he contacted RSA regarding the changeover at the federal level and was assured that HHS has given RSA the authority to run the IL program until the transition could be made and that the Part B funds received by OVR, distributed by SILC to the CILs, will continue without interruption into the new fiscal year. Dave told the council that the new law doesn’t state where IL and Assistive Technology, also moved to HHS on the federal level, will be on the state level; it is up to the Governor to decide. Dave informed the council that SILC, in the new law under Authorities subsection B, can: “conduct resource development activities to support the activities described in this subsection,” which describes Independent Living, “or to support the provision of independent living services by centers for independent living;”. Dave reported that under the new law the Designated Stated Entity (DSE) can spend 5% of the Part B funds on administering those funds, and in Kentucky the DSE spends just under that amount. He also stated that under the new law, no more than 30% of the Part B funds can be used with costs associated with SILC; in Kentucky all the part B funds go to support the CILs, funds to support SILC are from OVR’s Title 1 funds. Per Dave, Dr. Beach has committed to the 2015 fiscal year, but it will need to be addressed in the coming fiscal year.

**Joint Meeting:** Dave Matheis updated the council that the tentative date for the joint meeting is afternoon of December 8th and the full SILC Council meeting on December 9th;SCVR meeting will be held Monday, September 15th, to confirm the dates.

**Centers for Independent Living Reports:**

**Center on Accessible Living (CAL):** Keith Hosey gave the report for CAL, stating that there has not been a lot of activity for the past quarter due to staff illness. Mr. Hosey announced that they have a new employee, Benita Lind. Keith stated that October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and CAL is the official partner of the Louisville area with the American Association of People with Disabilities for the 2nd annual job fair for people with disabilities on October 21st at the Crown Plaza and the flyer will go out mid-September. He reported that three employers have already registered. Along with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Keith reported that the third Wednesday of October is Disability Mentoring Day and there are events scheduled with both Jefferson and Oldham county schools.

**Independence Place (IP):** Pamela Roark-Glisson gave the report for IP. Ms. Roark-Glisson began by introducing Jessica Lohrey, who has been with them for one month in the Lexington office. In the Lexington center, Pam reported that they continue to have their Friends for Life meetings and their socials which are growing. She stated that they have had seminars throughout the quarter on Identify Theft, Nutrition, Health and Wellness. Ms. Roark-Glisson informed the council that IP hosted the annual ADA rally in July, which was attended by Allison Flanagan of OFB and Dr. David Beach of OVR. Pamela stated that have participated in planning the Eye Opening Symposium that will be held on October 8th, and they can offer CEU’s (continuing education units) for attending. At the centers in Eastern Kentucky, both Ashland and Williamsburg, Pam reported that they continue to be busy providing services and participating in community events and activities. She informed the council that the Ashland center has been helping to organize the Asset Development Summit to be held on October 29th in the Ashland area.

**Disability Resource Initiatives (DRI):** No report given.

**Standing Staff Reports:**

**SILC Staff:** Germaine O’Connell directed the council’s attention to the SILC Staff report in the meeting booklet. Ms. O’Connell stated that along with her routine duties, she helped facilitate and attended the SPIL Public hearing. Germaine noted that she is helping set up the Asset Development Summit in the Ashland area and will be attending that event at the end of October. She reported that she attended a webinar on the new WIOA law given by the aides of the two representatives that championed the law. Ms. O’Connell informed the council that at the national level, the NCIL group has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Red Cross, to understand NCIL’s role in the three phases of a disaster and that they are working at the state and local level to create memorandums of agreement to create plans to eliminate barriers for sheltering individuals with special needs during disasters. Germaine updated the council on the SPIL Year 1 goals. She concluded by reporting that she attended the ADA rally in Frankfort on July 28th.

**DSU/OVR:** Dave Matheis began his report by stating that the Part B contract funds are in the booklet and that the money should be spent by the end of the contract. Mr. Matheis informed the council that IP and CAL’s contracts have gone out for the new fiscal year, but DRI’s hasn’t been sent out since the state’s finance department won’t let OVR sign a contract without DRI’s non-profit status being in good standing. Dave stated that the Car IDA program is continuing on and OVR just signed a contract with Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence for ten new accounts. He continued by notifying the council of the upcoming Asset Development Summit, on October 29th at Ashland Community College Campus in Grayson and will send out an agenda to SILC. Dave noted that OVR is partnering with Louisville Metro on a small grant from the National Disability Institute to make sure financial education and counseling services in the Louisville Metro area are accessible to individuals with disabilities. Dave reported that Louisville Metro, partnered with OVR and CAL, will be conducting their 2nd Financial Empowerment Summit for Case Managers on October 30th. He stated that the SILC sponsored website: ResourcesforIndependence.org continues to progress. Dave informed the council that the KATS Network’s 11th Annual Summer Institute in Assistive Technology went very well this year. He also told the council that CAL and IP will receive $30,000 in KATS Network funding. Dave concluded his report by discussing SHARP, a project to refurbish used hearing aids.

**Public Comment:** Bobby Begley extended his thanks for the council’s noting of the braille page numbers and the use of the microphones. Danny Perry reported that he is on the Murray Transit Authority Board, which recently got the prices down for people over 55, veterans, or individuals with a disability.

**Wrap Up/Adjourn:** Benita Lind motioned to adjourn SILC for this meeting. Danny Perry, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.