**The Kentucky Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

Executive Committee Minutes

August 12, 2015

Human Development Institute (HDI)

Lexington, KY

**Members Present:** Bobby Begley, Mike Freholm, Benita Lind, and Danny Perry

**Guests Present:** Tony Carmack, Jennifer Dudinskie, Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL), Casey Ramsey Johnson, Department of Aging and Independent Living and Tonia Wells, Department of Aging and Independent Living.

**Staff:** Dave Matheis, Germaine O’Connell, and Nanci Soard

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:02pm.

**Minutes Review and Approval:** Chairperson, Benita Lind, called for any additions or corrections to the May 13, 2015 and July 20, 2015 Executive Committee minutes.

Dave Matheis noted a change on the May 13, 2015 minutes on page one under the heading ‘WIOA Update’.

The change should have read, “…on the federal administration level”. Mr. Matheis also explained there was a misquote on page two that should have read, “…the move will be the SILC’s decision rather than that of the Governor’s”.

Bobby Begley made a motion to accept the May 13, 2015 minutes with the said corrections by Mr. Dave Matheis. Tony Carmack, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson, Benita Lind, read aloud the July 20, 2015 special called meeting minutes to the group.

Danny Perry made a motion to accept the July 20, 2015 minutes as written. Bobby Begley, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Signed Resignation from Paul McKee:**Chairperson, Benita Lind, informed the committee she sent a ‘thank you note’ to Mr. Paul McKee for his time served. Along with the note, she sent Mr. McKee a resignation letter which needed to be signed by him and returned to the SILC Coordinator, Germaine O’Connell. Mrs. Lind announced that no letter has been returned to Mrs. O’Connell as of this day. In addition, Ms. O’Connell had contact Mr. McKee and also requested returned signed resignation with SASE and as of this date no response.

**Appointment Updates:**

Staff Liaison, Dave Matheis, informed the committee, Tony Carmack, Danny Perry and Shari ‘George’ Polur were all reappointed by the Governor. A new SILC member, David Thompson, was also appointed to serve on the council. Mr. Matheis informed the group all members received word of their appointment via phone by the Governor’s Office. He concluded his report by announcing the agency hopes to receive the official press release on Friday, August 14, 2015.

**Office for the Blind Council Representative:**

SILC Coordinator, Germaine O’Connell, informed the committee the Governor did affirm the recommendation of Stephanie Sharp to the Office for the Blind State Advisory Council. Mrs. O’Connell said the SILC now as a representative on the Office for the Blind Advisory Council and the Kentucky Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation.

**Committee Assignments:**

SILC Chairperson, Benita Lind, explained to the committee the process of how committee assignments would be conducted during the SILC meeting on September 1, 2015. She said she would appoint a Chairperson to each committee once SILC members chose the committee they wish to serve on.

**Mentoring Assignments:**

SILC Coordinator, Germaine O’Connell, pointed out that a new member, David Thompson, has been appointed and reminded the Executive Committee of the mentoring program policy.   
As per the policy, Benita Lind appointed Tony Carmack to become mentor to Mr. David Thompson. Mr. Carmack accepted. Mrs. O’Connell agreed to assist Mr. Carmack with mentoring David Thompson.

**Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Update:**

Dave Matheis provided an update on Part B contract.  CAL has spent $44,400 of $60,000, DRI $49,000 of $65,000,   IP Central KY $79,000 out of $90,000, and IP Eastern Kentucky $50,000 of $60,000.  Annual monitoring visits have been scheduled.  Dave anticipates that if the reconciliation of the forward funding occurs when the independent living program moves to DAIL, IP and DRI may have issues meeting their obligations.

Dave said the SGA research project that started on May 1st is meeting its targets to date.  Individuals who receive SSDI only receive expedited services from a team consisting of the vocational rehabilitation counselor, a benefits specialist and a job placement staff member.

OVR now has three regional administrators:  Jason Cole is the Western Kentucky Regional Administrator, Ryan Henson is the Central Kentucky Regional Administrator and Brent Surgill is the Eastern Kentucky Regional Administrator.

OVR is focusing many of its efforts on implementing WIOA.  Although the final regulations have not been issued, the agency is planning on how to implement services based on the proposed regulations released this summer. Pre-employment Transition Services (PETS) requirements have the biggest implications.

Project CARAT now has four refurbishing sites. Sites at Lourdes Hospital in Paducah and EnTech in Louisville have been added to the Rehab Center in Thelma and the UK Physical Therapy program in Hazard.   Large donations of equipment have been recently received and refurbished equipment is available.  Interested individuals should go to the Assistive Technology Locator on the KATS Network website.  Recent donations include13 hospital beds, used DME from Gould’s in Louisville, and a variety of new canes.

The KATS Network had committed $60,000 to the SHARP Hearing aid project. $22,000 has spent to date to help 92 individuals to acquire 172 hearing aids at an estimated cost savings is $600,000.  The KATS Network is only supporting half of the Hear Now application fee starting this summer although exceptions can be made.  The KATS Network has collected 330 used hearing aids for a credit of over $3,000 with the Starkey hearing aid company to be used for refurbished hearing aids or repairs.

KATLC has submitted its annual report to the Governor. KALC loaned $359,000 in state fiscal year of 2015.  Loans have slowed down over the last few years, part of a nationwide trend. KATLC has been more careful to avoid defaults.  Since it began lending in 2000, KATLC has made1,096 loans for $9,000,000.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**NCIL Report:**

SILC Chairperson, Benita Lind, reported that a written report regarding her attendance at NCIL will be included in the SILC meeting booklet for the September meeting. Mrs. Lind touched on the highlights of the conference and thanked the agency and support for the council.

**DAIL Request:**

The Committee discussed the potential move to the Department of Aging and Independent Living. SILC does have to make a recommendation and governor does have to approve as to where the SILC is housed. Germaine reported that Commissioner Anderson will be attending the September 1 SILC meeting and has asked for time on the agenda to speak to the SILC about the potential move. Danny Perry made the motion to include the DAIL request on the September SILC agenda. Mike second. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Matheis announced the KYOVR is supported of the move at this time and finds that SILC would benefit from the services and collaboration with DAIL.

**IP Email Concerns:**

Benita Lind reported that Sandra Radford resigned from IP in Ashland. Some Executive Committee members are concerned about the closing of both Ashland and Williamsburg offices and IP serving those areas only remotely. Dave explained the SILCs role is to make sure the CILs are doing what they’re supposed to do according to the SPIL. Dave reported that OVR will be doing a monitoring visit on September 9th at IP and these issues will be discussed with them at that time to ensure that they are providing the four core IL services throughout that region.

It was suggested by Mike Freholm to invite Dave Wickstrom to the next SILC meeting in November 2015 to share with us his vision for IP.

**Steve Burchett’s Request on the Agenda:**

SILC Chairperson, Benita Lind, announced that Steve Burchett from Disability Resource Initiative has requested to present before the SILC on September 1, 2015. Vice Chairperson, Mike Freholm, suggested a time limit for Mr. Burchett to present. The committee agreed to allow Mr. Burchett to present during the SILC meeting on September 1, 2015 for approximately 10 minutes.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Nominating Committee:** Will have a verbal report to give on the recent appointments. In addition they are meeting later this date to discuss a replacement for Mr. Paul McKee.

**Public Awareness Committee:** No report at this time

**Transportation Committee:** No report at this time

**SPIL Ad Hoc Committee:** They will have a verbal report to give at the September meeting.

Next Executive Committee Meeting will November 4th, 2015 – 1:30 pm.