**The Kentucky Statewide Independent Living Council**

Minutes

September 17, 2013

The Hilton Garden Inn

Georgetown, KY

**Members Present:** Dr. David Beach, Lonnie Cowan, Mike Freholm,Benita Lind,Paul McKee, Marilyn Mitchell, Gay Pannell, Danny Perry, George Polur, Sandra Radford, Stephanie Sharp, Ann Smits, Elsie Speed, and Jimmy Wise

**Members Absent:** Shannon Caldwell, Tony Carmack

**Guests Present:** Jan Day, Pamela Roark Glisson, Keith Hosey, Andrew Saylor

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

**Interpreters:** Judy Gooch and Amy Greinwald

Sandra Radford called the meeting to order at 9:08am. There is a quorum.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Read aloud by guests.

**Agenda Overview and Additions:** Dr. David Beach will be speaking sooner than expected. Elsie Speed made a motion to accept agenda as is. Benita Lind, second. No discussion, oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Swearing in of the New Council Members:** SILC Chairperson, Sandra Radford, swore in new council members.

**Public Comment:** Elsie Speed asked for a moment of silence. A moment of silence was taken.

**Review of the June 2013 Minutes:** George Polur made a motion to accept the June SILC minutes as written. Danny Perry, second. No discussion, oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Congressional Issues:** Dr. David Beach welcomed new council members to the SILC. He provided information to the full council regarding the role of the Independent Living Program and the Rehabilitation Act as well as the Workforce Investment Act. He informed council members that in the spring, the SKILLS Act (SB 1356) was introduced. He said that a point of contention with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) has been that people with disabilities do not receive the services they need to become employed. He emphasized the importance of training of VR counselors to help people with disabilities become employed. He would like to make it clear OVR counselors are highly trained and skilled. He said according to SB 1356 as now written, OVR would move under the Department of Labor in the Office of Disability Employment Policy where it might not be as high a priority. Dr. Beach then provided a brief description of Independent Living Services to the full council. Discussion was held between Dr. Beach and council members regarding the Independent Living Services Administration and transitions services. He concluded his report.

**Presentation by Protection and Advocacy**

A presentation was given by Sarah Johnson of the Protection and Advocacy Office. Discussion was held. It was well received.

Sandra Radford presented Deborah Blake’s plaque to the full council and said a few kind words about her time on the SILC. Benita Lind accepted the plaque on her behalf and provided an update on her.

**Old Business:  
Evaluation of June SILC:** Germaine O’Connell provided the results of the June 2013 meeting evaluation survey to the full council. She said the results are on page 21 and 22 of the SILC meeting booklet. Germaine read the results aloud. Ann Smits suggested going over the state plan at every meeting. SILC was invited to go to Harlan, KY for a meeting. It was said that travel issues may exist in the winter months. A motion to accept the report as received concerning the evaluation of June SILC meeting made by Elsie Speed. Ann Smits, second. No discussion, oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**CyberCIL:** OVR Staff Member,Dave Matheis provided a report on the CyberCIL. He provided background information for the new members. Disability Resource Initiative staff member, Steve Burchett, provided a presentation at the June SILC meeting on the CyberCIL. Mr. Matheis said the presentation was well received. He said he sat in on a conference call in August 2013 with the Center Directors in regards to the CyberCIL to discuss the development of policy and procedures of the CyberCIL. Mr. Matheis said the main issue was there were no additional funds to pay for the development of the CyberCIL. He told the full council the CyberCIL was constructed by existing staff or other funds because all of Part B funds are tied up in contracts. He informed the council that currently there are no additional funds for the CyberCIL. Regardless, he said he believes the current CyberCIL has the potential to provide the four core services and to do able to do information and referral online. He stated there will be another conference call with Center Directors regarding the CyberCIL in October 2013 to discuss further and hopefully move forward. Marilyn Mitchell said she spoke about the CyberCIL at the local RIT. She has some postcards that she hands out to presentations and has it in electronic format as well. Benita Lind asked for some postcards to distribute at the Disability Empowerment Conference. Dave Matheis suggested sending them to him to incur the expense of printing.

**SPIL Overview:** Germaine O’ Connell provided the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) overview to the full council. She went through the four goals and their objectives. It was determined the council has either met or exceeded all of their goals and objectives.

**Committee Reports:**

**Executive Committee:** Sandra Radford provided the Executive Committee report. She said the committee met on August 21st, 2013 in Lexington, KY. She directed the full council to the report on page 25 of the SILC meeting booklet. She went over the information and said it will be discussed in the next few reports. A motion was made to accept the report and all it entails by Elsie Speed. Benita Lind, second. No discussion, oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Policy and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee:** Germaine O’ Connell provided the Policy and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee report. She said there was a recommendation from the committee. The committee’s recommendation was that the travel policy be more clear and concise when members are chosen to attend out-of-state conferences, events and meetings. She informed the council the committee decided that the initial policy is one statement. She said the committee suggested separating the two ways of travel so it will be clearer. Discussion between council members regarding the recommendation was held. Council member, Lonnie Cowan, questioned the length remaining of the term on SILC. Elsie Speed stated she can understand where the recommendation is coming from. Council member Ann Smits questioned about the member’s attendance in the past. Mike Freholm agreed that these are just things to be considered when choosing a SILC member to be represented at out-of-state conferences, etc. Discussion was held regarding the wording of the travel policy. Lonnie Cowan said that Kentucky was well represented at the SILC Congress. Chairperson Sandi Radford said she prefers not to travel due to the difficulty. Elsie Speed suggested the language be reworked on and looked at by the committee at a later date. She agreed the language is very vague and needs to be re-written. Lonnie Cowan made a motion for the Policy and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee to re-visit this recommendation. Elsie Speed, second. No discussion, oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Germaine O’Connell then discussed the SILC by-laws changes on page 28 of the SILC meeting booklet. Gay Pannell said to make sure the Office for the Blind is correct throughout the document. Germaine reviewed the by-laws with the full council. She asked for questions and/or comments. No discussion was held.

Benita Lind made a motion to accept the by-laws as printed in the SILC meeting booklet. Elsie Speed, second. No discussion, oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made to delay the SILC elections until March 2014 by Danny Perry. Benita Lind, second. No discussion, oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Nominating Committee:** Benita Lind provided the Nominating Committee report. Sheannounced she does have a slate of officers, but it becomes null and void at this time due to the previous motion. She said she will submit a short questionnaire to the new council members in March 2014. A motion was made to accept the Nominating Committee report with the removal of the ballot by Elsie Speed. Danny Perry, second. No discussion, oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**SPIL Ad Hoc Committee:** Germaine O’ Connell stated that the SPIL was submitted by the deadline and we are now waiting for RSA response and approval.

**Public Awareness Committee:** Germaine O’ Connell provided the Public Awareness Committee report. She announced there are seven SILC members trained to provide the canned PowerPoint presentation. She stated all of them agreed to go back to their communities and share information about SILC. If they do so, there will be 21 entities reached within the year provided the council members do three presentations a year. Pamela Roark-Glisson thanked the committee for their hard work and thanked SILC members for participating. Lonnie Cowan made a motion to accept the Public Awareness Committee report and all it entails. George Polur, second. No discussion, oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

**Motion Process:** SILC Chairperson, Sandi Radford said it was suggested council members write the motions down and turn it in when making your motion in an effort to properly record it in the minutes correctly. She said this will be especially beneficial if there is a complex issue being discussed and voted on. Stephanie Sharpe made a suggestion that a scribe be elected to help those who have trouble writing. Benita Lind suggested writing the detailed motions instead of motioning to accept the reports. Sandi said it can also be included in the minutes in exact verbatim format. Elsie Speed agreed. Germaine O’ Connell suggested using a flip chart to record the motions properly. Elsie Speed made a motion that SILC incorporate the method of making a new motion with the use of a form. Marilyn Mitchell, second. Lonnie Cowan, abstained. Motion carried. Germaine O’Connell suggested putting the form in the book for future meetings.

**Committee Assignments:** Sandi Radford said that all council members need to be assigned to a committee. Germaine O’Connell distributed committee forms to the full council. Sandi provided an explanation of the committee meetings and gave a description of how the meetings were conducted. Germaine said video-conferencing is allowable now. Germaine discussed the Public Awareness Committee to the new council members.

**Partnership for Kentucky’s Future Council:** Germaine O’Connell said the SILC has been asked to be included in the Partnership for Kentucky’s Future Council to promote a tax overhaul. Sandi Radford said she feared if it is political in nature the SILC should probably not be attaching their name to it. Discussion was held about this. Lonnie Cowan made a motion to not do this due to lobbying. Ann Smits, second. Elsie Speed, abstain. Motion carried.

**874K:** Sandi Radford and Germaine O’Connell described the event to the full council. Germaine said the event has been going on for around 15 to 20 years. She described how it was conducted last year over the period of three days. She said people of disabilities all across the state of Kentucky can meet and discuss disability-related issues with their legislators. She announced the 874K event will be just one day this year and it is currently set for January 29th, 2014. Germaine said 874K members would like some guidance and the SILC always has someone there to speak on the council’s behalf. Benita Lind announced she has attended and exclaimed it was a wonderful experience for her. It was said that Pamela Roark-Glisson and Sandi Radford spoke at past 874K events. Germaine said council members travel expenses will be covered by the SILC budget. Lonnie Cowan made a motion for the SILC to be involved in the 874K event in some way on January 29th, 2014. Germaine said she will let council members know what they can do to help as she is on the 874K Planning Committee. She also said OVR will pay for interpreting and captioning services. Benita Lind, second. No discussion, opposition or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**December Joint Meeting:** Sandi Radford discussed the possibility of a joint meeting with the Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR). Lonnie Cowan made a motion to have a joint meeting in December 2013 with SCVR and all details be discussed at a later date. Benita Lind, second. No discussion, no oppositions and no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Centers on independent Living Reports:**

**Disability Resource Initiatives:** Center Director, Marilyn Mitchell provided the Disability Resource Initiative report. She said the center continues to provide the four core services to consumers in their area. She informed the full council the center continues to partner with the American Red Cross as well as other organizations. She announced the center is continually becoming more involved in community activities. She stated she got the opportunity to speak to a reporter at the Kentucky Downs Breast Cancer Seminar. She said she hopes to work more with Stephanie Sharp in the Owensboro area and make better connections.

**Center on Accessible Living:** Center for Accessible Living (CAL) staff member, Keith Hosey, provided the CAL report. He discussed the sequestration cuts which are in October 2013. He said the center cut five to six people because of the sequestration. He said CAL is still trying to provide the four core services in individuals with disabilities. He then announced that the WIPA program is back and the center serves a particular part of the state. Mr. Hosey said CAL continues to work with the Louisville Ramps Program. He stated he has attended and participated in several conferences, job fairs and events including the Northern Kentucky Disability Empowerment Conference. He said in Northern, Kentucky there are peer groups being developed including an Autism group.

**Independence Place:** Pamela Roark-Glisson provided the Independence Place report. She began by thanking the council members and welcomed the new members. She said her reports are located in the SILC meeting booklet. She announced she attended a successful ADA rally in July and heard a man speak who uses assistive technology as well as a veteran’s speech. Pamela said it was a very rewarding experience. She provided a description of the White Cane Safety Act.

**Pathfinders on Independent Living:** Andrew Saylor provided the Pathfinders on Independent Living report. He stated the center is also providing the four core services and are in the process of reviewing its policies and procedures. He was pleased to report the center has distributed a newsletter to the community. Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, staff has taken a 5% salary cut he said. He said the center is beginning to help consumers answer questions and concerns about healthcare laws. He announced that Rand Paul had a town hall meeting in Harlan and he was in attendance.

**Standing Staff Reports:**

**SILC Staff:** Germaine O’ Connell provided the SILC staff report. She said her report was located in the SILC meeting booklet on page 75. She began by discussing the routine activities which include, arranging meetings, etc. She stated she attended the FAN group. She facilitated a meeting with HDI’s evaluation team and CAL. HDI is assisting CAL with their strategic plan. HDI offers free expertise to CILs regarding evaluation and assessment. The other thing she attended is Project Safe. These meetings are in regards to safety needs of people with disabilities. She said she will be attending these meetings on behalf of the full council. She attended the 874K Planning Committee meeting. She concluded her report by announcing she conducted a new member orientation to SILC the previous night and welcomed new members once again.

**DSU/OVR:** Dave Matheis provided the DSU/OVR report. He said his report is located in the SILC meeting booklet on page 76-78. He briefly described the KATS Network and the KATLC program. He announced on page 76 of the SILC booklet is a look at the four contracts at the beginning of August. He said he is pretty confident all contracts will be billed out this month and that we will spend all the funds. He said the $49,000 carry forward monies to pay bills and is quickly being diminished. However, Mr. Matheis announced if there is a shortfall we will use social security reimbursement for contracts in accordance with the SPIL. Stephanie Sharpe asked about social security reimbursement for the OVR costs. Dave explained how social security reimbursement funds come to light. He said he has still not heard whether or not the SPIL has been approved by the Rehabilitation Services Administration. The new Car IDA was discussed. OVR Program Administrator, Sarah Richardson is responsible for the program.

The SILC Congress was discussed by the full council. Dave said they can identify that person soon because the December meeting will probably be too late to approved anyone to go. Lonnie Cowan made a motion to send the Vice Chairperson, Elsie Speed as delegate to the SILC Congress. Ann Smits, second. Vice chairperson, Elsie Speed, expressed she would like to attend the SILC Congress. A roll call was taken.

Lonnie Cowan – yes

Mike Freholm– abstain

Benita Lind– no

Paul McKee– yes

Marilyn Mitchell– no with respect to the rules which read the SILC chairperson needs to make the decision.

Danny Perry– no

George Polur– no

Stephanie Sharpe– no

Ann Smits– yes

Jimmy Wise– no

Elsie Speed– abstain

Motion did not pass.

Marilyn Mitchell made a motion that SILC send a representative to the SILC Congress in January 2014. Benita Lind, second. No discussion, oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Elsie Speed suggested if any council member would be interested in being considered for the 2014 SILC Congress in San Diego, California on January 15th – 18th, to submit in writing, your name, today before you leave because time is of the essence. Lonnie Cowan suggested that whoever may be selected to go to the SILC Congress be prepared to submit a detailed report to the full council upon return. Lonnie Cowan made a motion for council members wishing to attend the 2014 SILC Congress, submit their name, in writing, to the Chairperson today before leaving. George Polur, second. No discussion, no oppositions and no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Office for the Blind:** Ann Smits and Gay Pannell provided the Office for the Blind (OFB) report. Gay Pannell announced that Allison Flannagan was named new Director of the Office for the Blind on July 26th and that several other new staff was hired for the agency as well. She announced that funding is a major concern. Gay said the OFB State Rehabilitation Council has six committees that meet before every meeting. She read aloud those committees. Each committee meets 30 minutes before the actual full council meeting. The next meeting will be held on October 25th, 2013 at the McDowell Center in Louisville, Kentucky. Gay discussed issues regarding Independent Living services and the Office for the Blind.

**Public Comment:** Germaine O’Connell announced that committee sheets need to be turned in to her at the end of today’s meeting.

**Next Meeting:** December 3rd or December 2nd, 2013th. Location to be determined at a later date.

**Adjourn:** Danny Perry made a motion to adjourn. Benita Lind, second. No discussion, oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.