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

**Minutes**

**June 3, 2014**

**Embassy Suites**

**Lexington, KY**

**Members Present:** Dr. David Beach, Bobby Begley, Mike Freholm, Corey Kennedy, Benita Lind, Paul McKee, Jeff Merrill, Marilyn Mitchell, Gay Pannell, Danny Perry, Shari “George” Polur, Sandra Radford, Stephanie Sharp, Elsie Speed, and Jimmy Wise,

**Members Absent:** Peter “Tony” Carmack

**Guests:** David Allgood, Prentice Begley, Jordan Branham, Jan Day, Sarah Faulkner, Allison Flanagan, Pamela Roark-Glisson, and Laura Tapp

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

**Interpreters:** Tara Eversole and Judy Gooch

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Chairperson Elsie Speed called the meeting to order at 9:15am.

A quorum was recognized.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Read aloud by all attendees.

**Agenda Overview and Additions:** Elsie Speed called for any additions to the agenda. Sandra Radford motioned to add to the agenda that the matter be discussed of DRI’s (Disability Resource Initiative) non-for-profit status and what that means to the consumers. Jeff Merrill, second. No oppositions. Disability Resource Initiative’s Executive Director, Marilyn Mitchell, abstained. Motion carried. Benita Lind motioned that the council leave the matter of Lonnie Cowan on the table to include discussion and followed by a vote on this matter. Stephanie Sharp, second. Shari “George” Polur requested a rereading of the motion. Benita Lind amended the motion to read that the council discusses this matter to be followed by a vote of the council. Paul McKee seconded the amended motion. Elsie Speed called for a roll call of the votes: Corey Kennedy yes, Marilyn Mitchell abstained, George Polur no, Bobby Begley no, Stephanie Sharp no, Benita Lind yes, Sandra Radford abstained, Jeff Merrill no, Mike Freholm no, Danny Perry abstained, Paul McKee yes, Jimmy Wise abstained. The motion failed to pass. Stephanie Sharp motioned to accept the agenda as printed in the meeting book plus the addendum. Bobby Begley, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Swearing in New Members:** Elsie Speed swore in new members: Corey Kennedy, Bobby Begley, and Jeff Merrill.

**Public Comment:** Elsie Speed requested a moment of silence. A moment of silence was taken. No further comments were made.

**Review/Approval 3/4/14 and 4/29/2014 Minutes:** Elsie Speed directed the full council’s attention to the minutes of the 3/4/14 and 4/29/14 meetings from pages 8 to 24 of the meeting booklets. George Polur stated having received a draft of SILC minutes of March 4, 2014 and SILC Minutes of April 29th, 2014 well in advance of the June 3, 2014 meeting, that she motioned that the SILC council members read the SILC Minutes of March 4, 2014 and April 29, 2014 each to him/her self and not force Madame Chair to read said minutes consisting of 16 pages aloud, prior to vote to accept said minutes. Sandra Radford, second. No oppositions or abstentions. The motion carried unanimously. Elsie Speed noted that according to Roberts Rules of Order, the minutes of the previous meeting needs to be read at the meeting before approval by the council.

Benita Lind requested a five minute recess. Council adjourned for five minutes.

**Old Business**

**SILC Congress Report:** Danny Perry thanked the council for sending him to San Diego, California to the SILC Congress. He stated that he attended several good workshops and heard good speeches. Danny reported that the new chair is David Sharp and the new representative for Region 4 is Jack Franklin of Alabama. George Polur motioned to accept Danny’s report. Stephanie Sharp, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Danny Perry displayed a shirt created by past Council Member, Lonnie Cowan.

**FAN Update:** Benita Lind discussed the FAN (Functional Accessible Needs) Report, Kentucky Functional Needs Collaborative, a branch off of FEMA. She reported that the most recent endeavor is to include the functional needs of Kentuckians in times of disaster and rules and procedures for handling accessible needs for consumers that enter shelters in time of disasters. She informed the council that they work really closely with the Red Cross and different organizations across the state. George Polur motioned to accept Benita’s report. Stephanie Sharp, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Member Update:** Staff Liaison, Dave Matheis, stated that the update is the new member appointments have come through and they have been sworn in at the beginning of the meeting: Bobby Begley, Corey Kennedy, and Jeff Merrill.

**OFB & SCVR Nominations:** Dave Matheis updated the council on the nominations. Elsie Speed, Chair, in accordance with the current language of the SILC By-Laws, has been nominated as the SILC representative to both the OFB (Office for the Blind) and SCVR (State Council for Vocational Rehabilitation); along with the required alternates. Dave stated that for SCVR, the names have been submitted to governor’s office and they are awaiting a response. Gay Pannell of OFB referred to guest Allison Flanagan, the Executive Director of OFB, who stated that they are also awaiting a response from the governor’s office.

**March Evaluation Report:** SILC Coordinator, Germaine O’Connell, directed the council’s attention to page 25 of the Meeting Booklet for the March Evaluation Report and summarized the report for the council.

**Travel Request:** Tabled at this time per the motion made by Benita Lind during the Agenda Overview and Additions.

**Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee:** Elsie Speed directed the council’s attention to the Executive Committee Report on page 35-40 and called for any questions concerning the report. None were noted.

**Nominating Committee:** Germaine O’Connell informed the council that the Nominating Committee’s report is on page 43 of the meeting booklet, and it was reported at the April 29, 2014 meeting. She noted that at this time, the Nominating Committee has nothing further to report, as their busy time is late summer/early fall when they will be taking nominations for officer positions. Germaine called for any questions. None were noted.

**Public Awareness Committee:** Germaine O’Connell informed the council that there are no minutes to review in the meeting booklet, but there was a meeting the previous day which will be discussed at the September meeting and there will be some action items on the agenda at that time. Mike Freholm added that the canned presentation is a good way to go out to the community and get people interested in the group and to share with people what the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) do. Germaine stated that she will send the canned presentation out to the new members, but that the Committee will be updating it. Germaine noted that the committee spent a lot of time discussing a format for the Centers and Members to report their actions so that SILC meets its federal and state obligations of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

**Transportation Ad Hoc:** Sandra Radford referred to Germaine O’Connell to give the Transportation Ad Hoc report. Germaine reminded the council about Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Program Coordinator Sarah Richardson’s presentation regarding the Car IDA at the March meeting and noted Sarah’s request that the SILC appoint some members to sit on the Advisory Council. Benita Lind and Danny Perry had requested to serve on the committee. Sandra Radford motioned to reconstitute the Transportation Ad Hoc Committee and that those members to be allowed to serve on that IDA Advisory Board. Benita Lind, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Dave Matheis requested that this committee meet this summer with Sarah Richardson, information will be forthcoming. Elsie Speed requested that if there are any additional volunteers for this council to please see Germaine O’Connell. Elsie Speed discussed the new changes regarding the local (Fayette County) fine for unlawfully parking in an accessible space. Elsie Speed referred to Pamela Roark-Glisson to discuss this matter further. Pamela noted that they worked for some time with the Lexington Fayette County Urban Government (LFUCG) and the People with Disabilities to get an ordinance approved that raises the fine for illegally parking in an accessible parking space from $15, which was the lowest in the country, to $250.

Elsie Speed took a moment to honor Sandra Radford’s time as the SILC Chair and presented her with an engraved gavel.

Elsie Speed called for a motion to accept the Nominating Committee Report and Executive Committee Report. George Polur moved. Danny Perry second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Elsie Speed called for a motion to accept the 3/4/14 and 4/29/2014. George Polur motioned to accept the minutes from 3/4/14 and 4/29/14. Stephanie Sharp second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

**New Part C Money:** Elsie Speed referred to Dave Matheis regarding the New Part C Money. Dave stated that Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) notified OVR that due to a new budget, Kentucky would receive an additional $5,000 of Part C money. Per Dave, the SPIL states that new Part C money under $50,000 will be divided amongst existing Part C centers in the state; which are Center for Accessible Living (CAL) in Murray and Pathfinders in Harlan. Dave noted that this interpretation was confirmed by Elsie Speed as the SILC Chair. Dave made the council aware that since Pathfinders has been terminated, it is possible that a new grant will go out for the Part C Funding that is being relinquished. He stated that the $5,000 will probably go to a new Part C Center and Center for Accessible Living, but he will need to get confirmation.

**Pathfinders Letter from RSA:** Elsie Speed referred to Dave Matheis regarding the Pathfinders Letter from RSA which is on page 48 of the meeting booklet. Dave informed the council that RSA had given Pathfinders an opportunity to develop a corrective action plan regarding their audit; however, Pathfinders has chosen to relinquish their grant and is in the process of closing down. Dave disclosed that the current SPIL section 3.2 is inadequate as it should address what would be done in the case of a center grant being relinquished or terminated. Per Dave, RSA would like to put out a new request for proposal for a new Part C grant in Kentucky; however they need the SPIL to reflect that request and it needs to be approved by the full SILC. Discussion was held by the council about amending the current SPIL. George Polur motioned to amend section 3.2 of Kentucky’s SPIL to address what would happen to Part C Funds when a Center relinquishes a grant or a center is terminated. Sandra Radford, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. George Polur motioned that Section 3.2 of the SPIL be changed to include the following statement: “In the case of a Part C grant being relinquished or terminated, it is the desire of the state that a competition be held so that a new Center for Independent Living can be established in the relinquished/terminated grant’s service area.” Bobby Begley, second. Sandra Radford requested that if with this language can an existing Center for Independent Living (CIL) apply for the grant. Dave confirmed with RSA that existing centers can apply for the grant. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Added to the agenda, Disability Resource Initiatives (DRI) non-for-profit status and what that means to the consumers:** Elsie Speed referred to Dr. David Beach. Dr. Beach informed the council that Disability Resource Initiatives recently lost its 501c3 designation by the federal government which is required to be a Part B or Part C recipient of those funds. DRI’s Executive Director, Marilyn Mitchell, stated that they just recently received this notice and it is due to paperwork being filed or was misplaced by the IRS. Marilyn told the full council that once this is resolved, DRI will file a request to be reinstated retroactively to the date of the suspension. She did confirm that Kentucky still has their status listed as not-for-profit. Sandra Radford motioned to table the discussion on the DRI’s non-for-profit until a special meeting that will be called in the month of July or August. No second. Motion fails. Elsie Speed referred to Dr. David Beach who recommended that the council give DRI time to remedy the situation. Staff Attorney, Patrick Shirley, recommended the council give DRI a chance to sort out the matter and let OVR review the matter. Sandra Radford made a motion to table DRI’s non-for-profit status to allow the state’s DSU (Designated State Unit) and DRI to remedy the situation to be addressed at the next SILC meeting. Bobby Begley, second. Discussion was held concerning timeframe of the “next meeting”. Sandra Radford amended the motion to table the discussion on DRI’s non-for-profit status to allow the state’s DSU and DRI to remedy this situation to be addressed at the next SILC meeting, replies to be in writing to the SILC staff in the next 6 weeks. George Polur, second. Marilyn Mitchell abstained. No oppositions. Motion carried.

**New Committee Assignments:** Germaine O’Connell addressed the council regarding committee assignments. Germaine passed out a Committee Preference Sheet which needed to be turned back in prior to the close of the meeting.

**Centers on Independent Living Reports**

**Disability Resources Initiatives (DRI):** Marilyn Mitchell, Executive Director, gave the report for Disability Resources Initiatives. Marilyn stated that along with their normal daily activities, there is a constant stream of requests for information by people with disabilities, providers, and friends/relatives of people with disabilities. She directed the committee to page 61 of the meeting booklet to the report on Resources 4 Independence which is a joint project of the centers. She informed the council that Resources 4 Independence is an on-going, ever- evolving website that addresses the needs and questions regarding persons with disabilities. <https://resources4independence.org>

**Independence Place (IP):** Independence Place Executive Director, Pam Roark-Glisson, began her report by thanking the council for their work and commitment regarding independent living for people with disabilities in Kentucky. She gave a brief overview of IP for the new council members, including their service area which is the seventeen counties of the Bluegrass District and two satellite offices in Ashland and Williamsburg, each serving eleven counties in those areas. Pam stated that they manage the Kentucky Newsline Project which serves anyone that cannot access conventional print, including individuals with visual impairments, learning disabilities, or fine motor skill restrictions who cannot hold or turn a page. Pam informed the council that as of January 1, they are managing the Newsline in Georgia as well. Pam stated that they continue to develop community partners in Lexington, Ashland and Williamsburg at their Friends for Life meetings and providing the 4 core services in their service areas. Pam mentioned the Statewide Annual ADA Rally on July 28th in the rotunda. She concluded by saying that they are continually watching for opportunities for more funding to expand on their services.

**Center for Accessible Living (CAL):** Jan Day, Executive, gave the center report. Jan informed the council that the center has moved to 501 South 2nd Street and they have a new phone number which is 502-792-0620. Jan stated that the center has hired a new CWIC (Community Work Incentives Coordinator) and hired an individual though the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation’s PACE program, which provides On-The-Job Training (OJT). She noted their advocacy efforts with the kynect program (Affordable Care Act). Jan discussed Louisville’s rejuvenation of downtown area and their participation in making sure it is all accessible, which includes the Walking Bridge that goes into Indiana. Jan mentioned that the center is partnering with Ford Motor Company to build 100 ramps by years end. Jan also mentioned working with the city on the Parade of Homes to ensure accessibility. She mentioned their involvement in the TARC (Transit Authority of River City) Sensitivity Training. Jan concluded her report by saying that she is the regional representative for National Council on Independent Living and will be going to Washington at the end of July.

**Pathfinders:** No report given. Their Customer Satisfaction Survey is in the meeting booklet from pages 84-92.

Sandra Radford motioned to accept the reports. Benita Lind, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Standing Staff Reports**

**SILC Staff:** Germaine O’Connell directed the council to the full report on page 111 of the meeting booklet. She stated that along with her routine duties, she participated on two nation-wide conference calls: Expanding CIL Capacity though Engagement of Consumers with Mental Illness and Managing Emergency Shelters for all Individuals. She mentioned that she facilitated and participated in the Asset Development Summit in Bowling Green. Germaine told the council that she is the representative on Project Safe Coalition whose main focus is that individuals with disabilities are safe. She inquired if any SILC Members would be interested in serving for Project Safe on a local level in Louisville and Northern Kentucky, in which Keith Hosey of CAL (Center for Accessible Living) has been instrumental in getting those councils together. Upon being questioned by Stephanie Sharp regarding the Asset Development Summit, Germaine pointed out the main issues from attendees are concerns regarding how employment will affect their benefits and alternatives to Pay Day Lenders. Dave interjected that the main focus of the Summits to educate people on their options.

**DSU/OVR:** Dave Matheis directed the council to his report on page 113-114. Dave reported the Part B Contract updates as of May 14, 2014. He mentioned that the Part C allotment has changed and there is $5000.00 additional funding beyond the Cost of Living increase for the Part C Centers. He stated for the new budget that Kentucky lost $10,000 in the Part B funds from the federal government plus 10% in state match. Per Dave, Part B contract commitments are $300K. He stated that this year Part B is covered, however, next year agency funds may be needed to make up the small difference. Dave informed the council that for the CAR IDA, there is eight people in the program and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Program Coordinator, Sarah Richardson, is still traveling to those sites, Murray and Ashland, to provide financial education to the participants. Dave reported that the next Regional Asset Development Summit will most likely be held in Ashland, KY and requested Sandi Radford’s help in planning. He informed the council that Project CARAT continues to collect, refurbish, and redistribute in Appalachian Kentucky. He stated that the KATS Network is still working on setting up a hearing aid program for those individuals who can’t afford the devices and they are awaiting RSA approval. Dave concluded that the AT (Assistive Technology) Summer workshops will be held on June 17th and 18th.

**Office for the Blind (OFB):** Gay Pannell reported for Office for the Blind. Gay began by reporting that at the last meeting the Advisory Council didn’t have a quorum and couldn’t meet according to their by-laws; however they did go ahead with the Independent Living training. She informed that council that the McDowell Center is undergoing a curriculum adjustment; accepted a curriculum that will further the consumer’s employability skills. Gay reported that she will be hosting an Independent Living Staff Training at the McDowell Center for their counselors from across the state. Gay stated that OFB and OVR are preparing for RSA’s monitoring visit, which will highlight Transitions. Gay alerted the council of their Florence office’s upcoming move to the new One Stop in Covington; phone numbers will remain the same, address will change.

George Polur motioned to approve these reports and make them a part of SILC’s permanent record. Bobby Begley, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Elsie Speed called for any other business. Bobby Begley stated that he is very happy that he has been appointed.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on September 9th, 2014 at the Embassy Suites. Discussion was held regarding a joint meeting with SCVR to be held in December. Sandra Radford motioned to have a joint meeting with SCVR. Benita Lind, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding scheduling the committee meetings the day prior to the full council meeting. Sandra Radford motioned to move the committee meetings to a month prior to the full SILC meeting using both face to face and appropriate technology for a duly constituted meeting. Danny Perry, second. No oppositions. Roll call: Sandra Radford yes, Jeff Merrill yes, Mike Freholm yes, Danny Perry yes, Paul McKee yes, Jimmy Wise yes, Corey Kennedy yes, George Polur abstained, Bobby Begley abstained, Stephanie Sharp yes, Benita Lind yes. Motion carried.

**Wrap Up/Adjourn:** Sandra Radford motioned to adjourn. Jeff Merrill, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.