**The Kentucky Statewide Independent Living Council**

Minutes

March 4, 2014

Embassy Suites

Lexington, KY

**Members Present:** Peter “Tony” Carmack, Lonnie Cowan, Mike Freholm, Benita Lind, Shari “George” Polur, Marilyn Mitchell, Sandi Radford, Ann Smits, Elsie Speed, and Jimmy Wise

**Members Absent:** David Beach, Shannon Caldwell, Gay Pannell, Danny Perry, Stephanie Sharp, Paul McKee

**Guest:** Milton Tyree and Sarah Richardson

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

**Interpreters:** Judy Gooch and Paula Ginter

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

A quorum was recognized.

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

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

**Agenda Overview and Additions:** Sandi Radford called for any additions to the agenda, none were noted.

**Public Comment:** Sandi Radford asked for a moment of silence.A moment of silence was taken. No public comments noted.

**Car IDA Presentation:** Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Program Coordinator, Sarah Richardson, gave a presentation on Car IDA. Car IDA is a program to help persons with disabilities purchase a car through a savings program. The program is offered in Ashland and Murray. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Staff Liaison, Dave Matheis, noted that they are using Social Security funds to fund this program. Dave also noted that as this is a pilot program, they will want the SILC Ad Hoc Transportation Committee’s input on what regions of Kentucky that the program goes next. SILC Coordinator, Germaine O’Connell noted that regarding the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), SILC would need to be kept up-to-date. The presentation was well received.

**Kessler Foundation Presentation:** Human Development Institute Project Director, Milton Tyree, discussed Putting Faith to Work Initiative. This program is designed as a way for people with disabilities to use their natural supports in their faith communities to find opportunities for employment. Milton asked the council for names of faith communities that might be interested in participating in the initiative. Germaine O’Connell noted that SILC wrote a support letter for this grant last year for two reasons: it is getting out word about SILC and it’s another group of individuals and communities that would learn about what the centers do. The presentation was well received.

**Old Business:**

**Motion Form:** Sandi Radford directed council members to page 15 of the meeting booklet, the Motion Form, and encouraged the full council to use this form to write down motions.

**Review of the December 2013 Minutes:** Member at Large, Benita Lind, made a motion to accept the minutes from the December meeting held in Georgetown, KY. Vice Chair, Elsie Speed, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Evaluation of December SILC Meeting:** Germaine O’Connell verbally provided the results of the December 2013 meeting evaluation survey. Eight of a possible sixteen members responded to the survey. A majority of the responders felt the meeting room space and lodging was excellent. Comments included: “We should keep the meetings at the Hilton Garden Inn” and “I have difficult time hearing and following conversation especially in a large crowd. Could we possible have hearing phones, a print out of the agenda, and closed captioning?” Germaine noted that microphones were added to the meeting and the agenda is always in the meeting book. All responders stated they received the materials on-time and in alternate formats on-time. All responders felt they were given an opportunity to participate in the meeting. Those who requested travel had no difficulty filling out the travel forms and they received their reimbursement in a timely manner. Future meeting comments: “doing one in the western part of the state”, “except for a little bit of hearing difficulty I thought it was excellent and look forward to the next meeting”, “coffee and snacks in room”. Germaine noted that federal law prohibits Office of Vocational Rehabilitation from paying for food. Future topics liked to discuss: “can’t answer this now, maybe after next meeting” and “low IQ clients”. Elsie Speed made a motion to receive the report submitted by Germaine concerning the December meeting. Council Member, George Polur, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**One Country Report:** Previously, One County requested that SILC add its name to their membership list and the SILC asked for clarification of their organization. The reply from One County is on page 25 of the meeting booklet. Discussion was held regarding One County’s purpose which is to get broadband internet to rural areas. Sandi Radford recommended SILC not add their name to the One Country support list due to lack of information. Member at Large, Lonnie Cowan, made a motion to not add our (SILC’s) name to the list. Council Member, Mike Freholm, noted that the state is passing or has already passed a bill that landline phone companies are moving to wireless technology anyway. Mike Freholm, second. No further discussion. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**SILC Congress Report:** Due to Council Member Danny Perry’s absence, the official report is tabled until next meeting. Lonnie Cowan gave an informal report, noting that he lead the March. Lonnie Cowan stated that the conference will be held at the same place next year and there is a new regional representative who will be contacting the SILC.

**NCIL Membership:** Germaine O’Connell stated that the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) dues are paid and the SILC are current members.

George Polur noted that there was a tabled item from the September meeting, the Air Carrier Webinar. Sandi Radford stated that it fell through and there is nothing to report at this time.

**Committee Reports:**

**Executive Committee:** Sandi Radford noted that the committee met but were unable to vote due to no quorum. Sandi Radford, Benita Lind and Germaine O’Connell were in attendance. Lonnie Cowan made a motion to accept report as stated. Benita Lind, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Nominating Committee:**  Germaine O’Connell reported the Nominating Committee meetings have been canceled due to no quorum or cancelled due to weather. Germaine offered several suggestions as how to proceed including: that the Committee meet as soon as possible, offer slate of new officers at the beginning of the next full council meeting, have the full council vote on the new officers, and those elected would preside over the meeting at that time. Discussion was held regarding the issue of the nomination of new members and the council’s need to get the nominations in as soon as possible to the Governor’s office. George Polur made a motion to that the Nominating Committee reduce its size by members dropping off or resigning today in order to achieve a quorum immediately and thus be able to conduct meeting business soon with primarily Lexington based members. Discussion was held regarding number of members needed. George Polur withdrew the motion. Council Member, Ann Smits, made a motion that the Committees, except the Executive Committee, meet before the SILC quarterly meetings. Staff Liaison, Dave Matheis, made a point of clarification to mean Standing Committees, Ann accepted clarification. Lonnie Cowan, second. Discussion was held regarding current meeting time policy. Council Member, Marilyn Mitchell called for clarification on “before”. Language agreed on is “in conjunction with”. The motion is the Standing Committees, except the Executive Committee, meet in conjunction with the SILC quarterly meetings. No further discussion was held. No oppositions. Benita Lind, abstained. Motion carried.

Elsie Speed requested a report on the slate of officers. Germaine O’Connell verbally reported that since the Committee did not officially meet, there were not minutes and only notes taken. She reminded the group that the Nominating Committee discussed a time line based on what was discussed at the last full SILC meeting in order to get the voting cycle of the Chair, Vice Chair, and two Member at Large positions in sync with this slate of officers. Germaine reported that the suggestion by the Nominating Committee is that Sandi Radford remain for one year as Chair, that Elsie Speed be nominated for Vice Chair which moves to Chair after one year, Benita nominated as Member at Large one year term, and Danny Perry as Member at Large two year term, with additional nominations of Tony Carmack for Member at Large and Benita Lind as Vice Chair. Policy states that a written ballot must be counted. Elsie Speed made a motion to accept the slate of officers that was discussed and do a vote immediately after. Lonnie Cowan, second. No abstentions or oppositions. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair: Sandi Radford was recommended by the Nominating Committee. Sandi Radford asked if there are any nominations from the floor for Chair. Jimmy Wise nominated Mike Freholm for Chair. Mike Freholm has accepted the nomination. Sandi Radfordd-6 votes, Mike Freholm-3 votes. Sandi Radford will remain as Chair.

Vice Chair: Elsie Speed and Benita Lind were recommended by the Nominating Committee. Sandi Radford called for nominations from the floor. George Polur nominated Mike Freholm. Mike accepted. Elsie Speed-3 votes, Benita Lind-4 votes, Mike Freholm-2 votes. Benita Lind is Vice Chair.

Member at Large, 1 year term: Tony Carmack was recommended by the Nominating Committee. Sandi Radford called for nominations from the floor. Benita Lind nominated Mike Freholm. Mike accepted. Tony Carmack-3 votes, Mike Freholm-6 votes. Mike Freholm is Member at Large, 1 year term.

Member at Large, 2 year term: Danny Perry and Tony Carmack were recommended by the Nominating Committee. Lonnie Cowan nominated Elsie Speed. Elsie accepted. Danny Perry-2 votes, Tony Carmack-4 votes, Elsie Speed-2 votes, Abstentions-1. Tony Carmack is Member at Large, 2 year term.

New officers will preside over the next meeting.

New Members slate:

There are 3 individuals whose term is ending but can be nominated for another term: Mike Freholm, Shannon Caldwell, and Elsie Speed.

There are 2 individuals whose term cannot be re-nominated: Lonnie Cowan and Ann Smits.

Member demographics were discussed by Germaine O’Connell. Applications were put out for members to review.

Sandi Radford discussed re-nominating the 3 individuals whose term limits are up. She has asked that when voting on re-nominating to take attendance into consideration. Shannon Caldwell has not submitted an application to be re-nominated. Lonnie Cowan made a motion to not re-nominate Shannon Caldwell to the SILC C. Benita Lind, second. No oppositions. Marilyn Mitchell, abstained. Motion carried.

Ann Smits made a motion to accept Elsie Speed. Benita Lind, second. No oppositions. Elsie Speed, abstained. Motion carried.

Benita Lind made a motion to accept Mike Freholm. George Polur, second. Mike Freholm, abstained. Motion carried.

George Polur made a motion to consider Becky Clark as part of the list, as she sent her application directly to the Governor’s Office. Lonnie Cowan, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried.

Sandi Radford made a motion to not accept incomplete applications. Lonnie Cowan, second. No opposition or abstention. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the State Representative position applicant: Greg Statton of Franklin County, from the Department of Aging and Independent Living. Marilyn Mitchell made a motion to accept Greg Stanton. Benita Lind, second. No opposed or abstentions. Motion carried.

Sandi Radford read the names of the applicants for membership:

Barbara Davis of Jefferson County

Bobby Bagley of Perry County

Todd Joseph Crawford of Jefferson County

Deborah Hardin of Scott County

Daryl Mattingly of Fayette County

Jeffrey Marrell of Hopkins County

Pat Dressman of Kenton County

Becky A. Clark of Fleming County

Patrick Edwards of Jefferson County

Sandi Radford called for votes by ballot nominating two individuals.

SILC will submit Bobby Bagley and Jeffrey Marrell as first choices with alternates Pat Dressman, Darryl Mattingly, Todd Crawford, and Deborah Hardin.

Discussion was held regarding when to have the vote on who will represent SILC on the Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR) and Department of the Blind State Rehabilitation Council. Benita Lind made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Marilyn Mitchell, second. No opposed, Ann Smits and Elsie Speed, abstained. Motion carries.

**Public Awareness Committee:** No Report Given.

**Transportation Ad Hoc:** Sandi Radford opened the discussion on having this Ad Hoc committee active to be a part of Car IDA. Dave Matheis stated that the CAR IDA contract expires in June and will look into the new contract being open ended so the full SILC can discuss locations at the next meeting. The locations must be near a Center for Independent Living and have limited or no public transportation.

**Policy and Procedures Committee:** Germaine noted that the latest policies and by-laws are in the March meeting booklet on pages 28-40.

**New Business:**

**Attendance:** Sandi Radford stated that if members are unable to attend a meeting, notify her or Germaine as soon as possible.

**New Stipend Form:** Dave Matheis discussed the new stipend form for the honorarium.

**President’s Letter:** Sandi Radford referred to the President’s Letter on page 45-46 of the meeting booklet. She encouraged individuals to think about sending a similar letter to the President to advise him that people with disabilities should be paid a decent wage.

Sandi Radford referred the council to Lonnie Cowan’s letter on Page 64 of the meeting booklet. She noted that any changes can be addressed at the next meeting.

**Joint Council Meeting:** Sandi Radford advised the council on the importance of being in cooperation with all committees and other councils. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

**Outgoing Members:** Staff Support, Nanci Soard was thanked for her service to the council. Outgoing members, Ann Smits and Lonnie Cowan, were given plaques in recognition for the service on the SILC.

**Centers for Independent Living Reports:**

**Disability Resource Initiatives:** Council Member and Center Director, Marilyn Mitchell, gave a verbal report from the center. She informed the council of the recent change in the Part B funding budget due to an agreement with Independence Place to share the cost of an Information Technology employee’s salary. Marilyn stated they have loaned two Mac computers to Independence Place who has partnered with a group to train persons with low vision or blindness on how to operate a computer and they will go into the workplace once the training is complete. Per Marilyn, Disability Resource Initiatives is hoping to set up a computer in their lab to start a similar program.

**Independence Place:** Branch Director of Independence Place in Ashland, Serena Thornsberry, gave the verbal report from the center. Serena informed the council that the center in Lexington has been working with the Mayor’s Commission for People with Disabilities and the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) recently voted to increase ticketing of illegally parked vehicles in accessible parking spots from $15 to $250. Per Serena, Cumberland has been networking with community partners to start Friends for Life meetings in Corbin and London. She stated that Ashland has been working with getting consumers connected with the KYNect.ky.gov to obtain health insurance.

**Center for Accessible Living (CAL):** No report given

**Pathfinders for Independent Living:** No report given

**Standing Staff Reports:**

**Office of the Blind:** SILC Member, Ann Smits, gave the Office of the Blind State Rehabilitation Council Report. She informed the council that there are issues with nominating individuals to the council and there are budget concerns. Ann reported an interesting fact from the last meeting: Out of 120 counties, 26 have one or no OFB consumers. Ann noted that one of the goals on the strategic plan is to increase the opportunity for independent living and the quality of VR services to consumers to obtain or regain competitive employment. She requested that if anyone is interested in attending the April meeting, Ann’s contact information is in the meeting booklet. Ann reported that Germaine O’Connell attended the meeting and gave information on the Independent Living Centers.

**Designated State Unit/Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (DSU/OVR) Report:** Dave Matheis referred the council to his report on page 60-63 of the meeting booklet. He began by discussing the Part B Contract Updates on page 60 of the meeting booklet which is through January, noting that there will be a meeting with Independence Place to discuss their expenditures to date. He announced to the council that the next Regional Asset Development Summit is scheduled for Bowling Green on May 15, 2014 and is partnering with Barren River Asset Building Coalition. Dave noted that Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) is one of three state VR programs selected to receive a grant through the Institute on Community Inclusion (ICI) to enhance services to individuals who receive SSDI; the program will provide just in time services to 500 individuals using a team consisting of a Rehabilitation Counselor, a Job Placement Person, and a Benefits Counselor (Community Work Incentives Coordinator - CWIC). Dave informed the council about KYOVR being one of four states selected to participate with Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)’s program VisionQuest, focusing on improving transition services in the state. He told the council that Project CARAT is still looking for people or organizations that need assistive technology or medical equipment. Dave reported that the KATS Network is investigating the possibility of a Statewide Hearing Aid Bank, following a model from the Fayette County Lion’s Club. He also noted that the KATS Network has some carry forward funding available in which Independence Place submitted a proposal for one time one year funding for its NEWSLINE program and Center for Accessible Living submitted a proposal to extend Project CARAT to the Murray and Western Kentucky; KATS Network approved a $30K expenditure for each center. Dave stated that KATLC applications have slowed down as they have been more careful about making loans.

**SILC Coordinator Report:** Germaine O’Connell referred council members to her report on page 59 of the meeting booklet. Germaine briefly highlighted her time since the December meeting. Along with her normal duties, Germaine stated she attended four planning meetings for the 874K Event and then attended the event itself. She noted that the Governor was also in attendance at the 874K Event, in addition to several legislators. Germaine announced that she attended the Office for the Blind’s State Rehabilitation Council and feels this is an excellent venue to network as there were a lot of people in the audience and a lot of members.

**Public Comment:** Dave Matheis apologized that the officer elections were controversial. Germaine O’Connell asked that if any have questions regarding the vote, please notify her or Dave Matheis.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting date is for Tuesday, June 3rd, 2014 at 9:00am at Embassy Suites in Lexington, KY. The committee meetings will be on Monday, June 2nd at Germaine O’Connell’s office, times to be determined at a later date.

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