**The Kentucky Statewide Independent Living Council**

Minutes

March 10, 2015

Embassy Suites

Lexington, KY

**Members Present:** Bobby Begley, Tony Carmack, Mike Freholm, Benita Lind, Jeff Merrill, Marilyn Mitchell, Gay Pannell, Danny Perry, George Polur, Sandra Radford, Elsie Speed, Jimmy Wise

**Members Absent:** Corey Kennedy, Paul McKee, Stephanie Sharp

**Guests:** Jimmy Brown, Jan Day, Mike Fein, JoEllen Hale, Valerie Wise,

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

**Interpreters:** Amy Gruenwald, Paula Ginter

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Chair, Elsie Speed, called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

A quorum was recognized.

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

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

Ms. Speed called for a moment of silence. A moment of silence was taken.

**Agenda Overview and Additions:** Ms. Speed called for any additions to the agenda. Germaine O’Connell noted that during Centers for Independent Living (CILs) Executive Director’s meeting, the executive directors requested time on the agenda to discuss the Resources4Independence.org website, to be placed under “Unfinished Business”. Mike Freholm moved to accept the agenda with the addition. Benita Lind, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Elsie Speed presented outgoing member Sandra Radford with a plaque honoring her service to the SILC.

**Review/Approval Dec 9, 2014 Minutes:** Marilyn Mitchell made a motion that the word motioned used throughout the December 2014 Minutes be corrected to read “moved to” or “made a motion to”. George Polur, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Sandra Radford made a motion to accept the revised minutes. Benita Lind, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**KATS – SHARP Project:** Jimmy Brown, KATS Network Program Coordinator, gave a presentation on the Kentucky Assistive Technology System (KATS) Network and Statewide Hearing Aid Assistance and Reuse Program (SHARP). It was well received by the council.

To learn more about the programs:

KATS Network: 800-327-5287, [www.katsnet.org](http://www.katsnet.org)

KATS Assistive Technology Locator: <https://katsnet.at4all.com/>

SHARP, email: sharp@katsnet.org

Hear Now: [www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/programs#/hearnow](http://www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/programs#/hearnow)

JoEllen Hale, Executive Director for Southeast Kentucky Center for Independent Living (SEKYCIL), informed the council about the New Eyes for the Needy Program; more information can be found at [www.new-eyes.org](http://www.new-eyes.org/).

**Unfinished Business**

**December** **Evaluation Report:** Germaine O’Connell stated that due to a technical glitch, the evaluation survey was not sent out.

**SPIL Review Report:** Elsie Speed called the council’s attention to the SPIL Report in the meeting booklet. Ms. Speed shared a three pronged approach for evaluating the SPIL that she learned about at the SILC Congress, which consists of implementation, progress on objectives, and consumer satisfaction. Ms. Speed stressed the importance of the CILs involvement in the rewriting of the SPIL. She deferred to Germaine O’Connell to report on the current SPIL Report. Ms. O’Connell stated that pertaining to the rewriting of the SPIL, the council needs to select a taskforce. Ms. O’Connell then read the report located in the meeting booklet and informed the council regarding the goals that need attention, such as giving the Powerpoint Presentation to increase numbers and work to increase SILC’s autonomy. Discussion was held regarding the regulations of Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act 2014 (WIOA). Mike Fein of Independence Place gave some suggestions regarding the SPIL Review Report such as color coding the goals: green for the completed tasks, yellow for the tasks missing the target, and the overdue tasks in red. He also suggested a task list of who specifically is assigned to each task.

**DRI Update:** Dave Matheis provided an update on the status of Disability Resource Initiative (DRI). Mr. Matheis stated that Executive Director Marilyn Mitchell informed Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) that the IRS has reinstated the nonprofit status retroactively. He reported that OVR is in the process of signing the contract and authorizing a two month upfront payment to DRI which is standard practice when a contract is signed.

**874K Report:** Elsie Speed reported that along with Germaine O’Connell, she attended the 874K Event. Ms. Speed noted that this gubernatorial event took place on February 5, 2015. Ms. Speed noted that the theme was “We count! We matter! We vote!” Germaine O’Connell said that there were over 750 people in attendance. She reported that Speaker of the House Representative Greg Stumbo wasn’t able to attend but that he did make House Resolution 93 which makes February 5th Disability Awareness Day. Ms. O’Connell stated that several legislators were in attendance: Senator Julian Carol, Representative Terry Mills, Representative Will Coursey, Representative Tom Riner, Representative Mike Denham, and Representative Jim Wayne. She stated that as this was a gubernatorial event, all those running for governor were invited to participate and those in attendance were Senator Chris McDaniel, Justice Will T. Scott, and Mr. Jeffrey Young. You can view the pictures from the event at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/4-5-43-pat/15904403793/in/photostream/> Dave Matheis commented that Elsie Speed represented the SILC very well as one of the questioners and Keith Hosey and David Allgood represented the CILs. Mr. Matheis noted that there was a video on the Community Living shown: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1nceibdrX8&feature=em-share_video_user>

**WIOA Update:** Germaine O’Connell informed the council about a conference call she participated in called “Rule Making” which was on creating regulations and policies when a new law passes. She noted that regulations are approximately two years away. Ms. O’Connell stated they announced the Acting Director of Independent Living is Jamie Kendall and Aaron Bishop is the Commissioner. Germaine stated that Corrina Styles is the Kentucky Liaison and that Elsie Speed is the Region 4 Representative for the SILC Congress.

For more information: <http://www.ilru.org/topics/wioa-implementation>

**Agenda Addition:**

**Resources4Independence.org**: Dave Matheis began by explaining the Resources4Independence.org (R4I) website had been moved to a server that the KATS Network uses due to DRI’s inability to enter into a contract with OVR so that everyone would have access to the site. He continued by saying that as stated previously, DRI has since renewed their contract and Steve Burchett of DRI has asked that the website be returned to the DRI server. Dave informed the council that DRI hired Steve Burchett as part of their Part B Contract, which was approved by OVR, which is the only funding provided for the website; all other CILs’ participation is covered by their other funding sources. Dave stated that funding has been an issue; SILC cannot provide funding for R4I specifically. Dave told the council that OVR recommends that R4I become a DRI website and suspend other development of a collaborative CyberCIL at this time. DRI’s Executive Director, Marilyn Mitchell, stated that they are fully committed to developing the R4I website to make services available to the unserved and underserved areas of the state, as mandated in the past and present SPIL. Ms. Mitchell disclosed that Independence Place (IP) used to pay half Steve Burchett’s salary, but they are no longer involved and DRI pays his full salary and benefits. Ms. Mitchell then stated that since DRI wasn’t able to sign the contract with OVR until recently and OVR cannot reimburse them for those months, she requested that SILC consider using a portion of those unused funds to pay Mr. Burchett’s wages to further develop the site. Dave Matheis clarified that with the state match, there is $311,000 committed to the centers, minus administrative costs, which takes the total to below $300,000, noting there was not additional funds, but in actuality shortage in the allotment. Sandra Radford stated that any shortage would have been covered by the Social Security Reimbursement Funds as stated previously by Dr. David Beach, former Executive Director of OVR, and since DRI will not draw down the full amount, it saved OVR from having to dip into those funds. Dave Matheis confirmed that this was correct. Benita Lind moved to table the issue until the council hears from the new Executive Director. Jeff Merrill, second. Sandra Radford questioned which issue is to be tabled, moving the website from KATS Network server back to DRI server, or the issue of funding regarding costs to the website. Elsie Speed clarified that it is the entire matter: the website will remain on the KATS Network server until the council hears from the OVR Executive Director. Jan Day discussed funding sources. Marilyn Mitchell stated that DRI has totally supported this SILC project mandated in the present SPIL but she is unsure if they can continue with their limited budget. Dave Matheis stated that he will have to discuss the matter with OVR’s Executive Director. Sandra Radford questioned whether Steve Burchett can work on the website where it’s at or if it needs to be moved back to DRI to make it easier and more cost effective. Marilyn Mitchell confirmed that Steve Burchett can work on it where it is; however Mr. Burchett has come across a few glitches such as with the receiving email. Ms. Mitchell reiterated the issue of Mr. Burchett being DRI’s employee, not SILC’s and that the R4I website is a SILC project, not DRI’s. She informed the council that DRI is committed to supporting the SILC by continuing to do this project, but not willing to commit to further development the site, expansion and improvement without input from the SILC and without making it convenient for Steve Burchett. Mike Freholm questioned on if it can remain up and running for the next 90 days. Ms. Mitchell confirmed that it will remain up and running. No further discussion. No oppositions, 3 abstentions. Motion carried.

**Committee and Partnership Reports**

**Executive Committee:** Elsie Speed directed the council’s attention to the Executive Committee report in the booklet. Dave Matheis addressed a motion in the Executive minutes on page 45 of the standard meeting booklet, “to ask OVR legal counsel to address the SILC’s option in regards to its authority to reinstate part B funds or not, and if SILC chooses to not reinstate funds what is the process to use those funds elsewhere”. Mr. Matheis stated that he conferred with Staff Attorney Patrick Shirley regarding this issue. Mr. Matheis informed the council that at the last visit by Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), it was stated that the role of the SILC is to develop, monitor, and implement the SPIL but that monitoring the specific centers and contracts is the responsibility of OVR. Mr. Matheis reported that OVR decided to reinstate the contract as soon as possible. Elsie Speed pointed out that under Center Updates, Pam Glisson is no longer the Executive Director for Independence Place (IP) and that Southeast Kentucky Center for Independent Living (SEKYCIL) has experienced personnel issues. Mike Fein of IP confirmed they are looking for a new director this summer. Executive Director of SEKYCIL, JoEllen Hale, explained that they are in the process of hiring two individuals to replace two terminated at the beginning of the year. Sandra Radford made a motion to accept the executive committee report. Benita Lind, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Chair Report:** Elsie Speed called for any questions regarding her report located in the meeting booklet. She thanked SILC for allowing her to attend the SILC Congress in which there were 121 people were in attendance. Ms. Speed made note that she is the new Region 4 Representative and that the meeting place for the next national SILC Congress will be Phoenix, AR. Danny Perry moved to accept the chair’s report. Tony Carmack, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Awareness Committee:** Tony Carmack reported that the Public Awareness Committee will be meeting after the full council SILC meeting.

**Nominating Committee:** Elsie Speed read from the Robert’s Rules of Order regarding the Nominating Committee. Elsie Speed deferred to Committee Chair, Bobby Begley. Mr. Begley directed the council’s attention to the Slate of Members in the meeting booklet. Sandra Radford moved to receive the report from the Nominating Committee report and its chair. Benita Lind, second. Benita Lind noted that by recruiting David Thompson, currently listed as an alternate, the council will meet a SPIL goal of recruiting youth to be on the council and made a motion to switch David Thompson from alternate to a first choice nominee and place Todd Crawford as the alternate for Shari “George” Polur. Voting on Ms. Radford’s motion is as follows: 6 oppositions, 3 abstentions. Motion failed. Germaine O’Connell informed the council of the background of the slate of new members. Benita Lind reiterated her motion to switch David Thompson from alternate to a first choice nominee and place Todd Crawford as the alternate for Shari “George” Polur. George Polur, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

Bobby Begley then directed the council’s attention to the Officer’s Ballot. Mr. Begley noted that the Nominating Committee suggested John “Mike” Freholm for Vice Chair then called for any new nominations for Vice Chair from the floor. No additional nominations from the floor were noted. Mr. Begley stated that the Nominating Committee suggested Elsie Speed for Member at Large and then called for any new nominations for Member at Large. Sandra Radford nominated Tony Carmack for Member at Large. Tony Carmack accepted the nomination. No other nominations came from the floor. Germaine O’Connell collected the completed ballots from the council and tabulated the results of the voting. Ms. O’Connell reported that out of a possible 10 votes for Vice Chair: Mike Freholm 9 votes, 1 abstention. Ms. O’Connell reported that out of a possible 10 votes for Member at Large: Tony Carmack received 7 votes, Elsie Speed 3 votes.

**SCVR Council:** Elsie Speed stated that in her Chair Report in the meeting booklet, she reported that she went to SCVR new member orientation attended the meeting in December 2014. Dave Matheis noted that SCVR will be meeting on Monday, March 16, 2015 in Georgetown.

**Office for the Blind Council:** No report given. Gay Pannell announced that at the end of September, the Independent Living Counselor in Somerset retired and they recently hired Amber Watts for that position.

**Transportation Ad Hoc:** Germaine O’Connell read a report sent in by Sarah Richardson of OVR regarding the Car IDA which the Transportation Ad Hoc acts as an advisory council. Dave Matheis reported that the next area is the Bluegrass Area and Ms. Richardson will be working with IP.

**New Business**

**NCIL Conference:** Germaine O’Connell reported that the NCIL Conference is scheduled for July 26th-July 30th. Ms. O’Connell informed the council that she would like to attend this year so that she may get information on the WIOA and that it is in her budget to do so. Tony Carmack moved to request Cabinet approval to send a representative of SILC to the NCIL Conference. Marilyn Mitchell, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Bobby Begley moved to have Germaine O’Connell, SILC Coordinator, to attend the NCIL Conference. Danny Perry, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**SPIL Ad Hoc Committee:** Germaine O’Connell noted that the Executive Committee passed a motion to have a SPIL Ad Hoc Committee and asked for volunteers from the SILC and CILs.

**CAL Request:** Tabled until next meeting.

**Centers for Independent Living Reports**

**Center for Accessible Living (CAL):** Elsie Speed noted that the report is in the meeting booklet. Benita Lind mentioned that CAL is partnered with Goodwill in the Cars for Work Program and that a consumer got her first car in Northern Kentucky.

**Independence Place (IP):** Mike Fein called for any questions regarding the report in the meeting booklet. Additionally, he stated that Linda Grubbs, Internal Policy Analyst from OVR, will be visiting the site next week to go over Plan B funds. Mr. Fein reported that they are working with Jan Day of CAL to form a cohesive plan to cover the whole state for the WIPPA Grant. He informed the council about Adaptive Recreation, which provides PE Teachers and Special Education Teachers training on providing Adaptive Recreation to make gym class accessible for all students. Sandra Radford added that they are now using the CFAL which will make reporting easier to do.

**Disability Resource Initiatives (DRI):** Marilyn Mitchell reported that the IRS has retroactively reinstated their 501(c)3 status and she had gone to the state to get the contract completed. Ms. Mitchell made note that the IL Specialist had been laid off during that time, but along with her, had volunteered many hours and is now back full time. Ms. Mitchell stated they have now returned to full time full service, going back to a 5 day a week schedule but will continue to see consumers by appointment, after hours if necessary. Benita Lind thanked Ms. Mitchell for her service during this time.

**Southeast Kentucky Center for Independent Living (SEKYCIL):** In JoEllen Hale’s absence, Germaine O’Connell read Ms. Hale’s written report. Ms. O’Connell stated that SEKYCIL targeted to serve 225, served 578, and they had 75 Part B referrals from SSA. She noted that 318 were served in Peer Counseling. Ms. O’Connell informed the council that SEKYCIL used their Facebook page extensively, especially during the weather emergencies.

**Standing Staff Reports**

**SILC Staff:** Germaine O’Connell reported that along with her normal duties, most of her time was spent with the 874K event and the upcoming Asset Development Summit. She noted that she met with IP Staff and will be meeting with them the following week to discuss Independent Living.

**DSU/OVR:** Dave Matheis began his report by discussing the monitoring visits to CAL and IP. Mr. Matheis noted that Part B funding is frozen at the federal level until it is moved to the new agency, but will be covered from the state funds. Dr. David Beach has resigned from state government and is now the new Disability Coordinator at UK. Dave informed the council that the new Director of OVR as of March 1, 2015 is Buddy Hoskinson, formerly the Director of the Office of Employment and Training. Mr. Matheis summarized the ABLE Act which was passed at the federal level which allows people with disabilities to establish savings accounts for disability related items, including housing, and won’t affect their Social Security asset limits. He informed the council about the Summer AT workshops, June 17th and 18th; KATS Network will pay registration fees for SILC council.

**Public Comment:** Elsie Speed called for any Public Comments. Vice Chair, Benita Lind, presented a commemorative gavel to Elsie Speed for her service as Chair.

**Future SILC Meeting Dates:**

June 9, 2015, Sept. 1, 2015, Dec 8, 2015, March 8, 2016

Benita Lind made a motion for the council to consider having a joint meeting with SCVR preferably in September but no later than December. Marilyn Mitchell, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Dave Matheis noted that if the Joint Meeting occurs in September, the meeting date of September 1st might need to be changed to September 15th.

**Wrap Up/Adjourn:** George Polur moved to adjourn the meeting.