**The Kentucky Statewide Independent Living Council**

Minutes

September 1, 2015

Marriott Griffin Gate

Lexington, KY

**Members Present:** Bobby Begley, Tony Carmack,Mike Freholm, Benita Lind, Dave Matheis, Jeff Merrill, Marilyn Mitchell, Gay Pannell, Danny Perry, George Polar, Stephanie Sharp, Elsie Speed, David Thompson, Jimmy Wise,

**Members Absent:** Corey Kennedy

**Guests:** David Allgood,Deborah Anderson, Jan Day,Willis Deitz, Jennifer Dudinskie, Christina Espinosa, Mike Fein, Jo Ellen Hale, Keith Hosey, Buddy Hoskinson, Kelli Sheets, Dave Wickstrom, Valerie Wise

**Staff:** Germaine O’Connell, Kari Skaggs

**Interpreters:** Paula Ginter, Hillary Riley

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Chairperson Benita Lind called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

A quorum was recognized.

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

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

Agenda Overview and Additions

**Agenda Overview and Additions:** Benita Lind noted that Steve Burchett is absent but Marilyn Mitchell will give his presentation. Dave Matheis requested an addition under New Business regarding Part B Funding asking SILC to make a change in the state plan. Germaine O’Connell stated that APRIL stands for Association of Rural and Independent Living. Elsie Speed made a motion to accept the agenda with the changes. Danny Perry, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** New Council Member, David Thompson, introduced himself. Benita Lind passed out some give-aways from NCIL to the Council Members.

**Review/Approval June 9, 2015 and July 21, 2015 Minutes:** Ms. Lind called for any corrections or additions to the minutes. Marilyn Mitchell stated that she has given a book with grammatical corrections to Germaine O’Connell. Elsie Speed made a motion to accept the (June 9th) minutes as presented. Mike Freholm second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Stephanie Sharp made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 21st meeting. Elsie Speed, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

**Phone Proposal – DRI:** Marilyn Mitchell informed the council that Steve Burchett has been working with their phone carrier to link all the Centers with one phone number. She noted that this activity is in the SPIL. She stated that she will get the information to the CILs.

**Dept. of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL):** Deborah Anderson gave a presentation on the Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL). The presentation was well received by the Council.

George Polur made a motion to (number 1) hear the Executive Committee’s recommendation on move to DAIL; and (number 2) continue discussion and vote upon move to DAIL. Jeff Merrill, second. No oppositions, one abstention. Motion carried. Benita called for the Executive Committee, which consists of Mike Freholm, Tony Carmack, Danny Perry, Bobby Begley, and herself, to give their recommendation to the full council. Marilyn Mitchell made a motion that effective as soon after October 1st, 2015 which is the beginning of the fiscal year as it can be arranged, so that we make the move both SILC and CILs to the DAIL Administration so that we can include this move in the next SPIL which would need to make the amended SPIL. Elsie Speed called for clarification, asked to restate motion. The maker of the motion amended it to delete “after October 1st, 2015 which is the beginning of the fiscal year”. Stephanie Sharp and Jeff Merrill, second. Roll Call Vote: Bobby Begley, yes; Tony Carmack, yes; Mike Freholm, yes; Jeff Merrill, yes; Marilyn Mitchell, yes; Danny Perry, yes; George Polur, yes; Stephanie Sharp, yes; Elsie Speed, yes; David Thompson, abstain; Jimmy Wise, yes. Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business**

**June Evaluation Report:** Germaine O’Connell read the report located in the meeting booklet.

**WIOA Update:** Germaine O’Connell gave the WIOA Update to the full council which is located in the meeting booklet.

**Hal Rogers Letter:** Dave Wickstrom noted that this issue is being addressed in the SPIL Ad Hoc Committee.

**SPIL Update:** Benita Lind informed the council of the SPIL Update.

**Committee and Partnership Reports**

**Chair Report:** Benita Lind noted that her report is in the meeting booklet and called for any questions. She thanked the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and Dave Matheis for making the arrangements for her to attend the NCIL Conference and stated that report is also located in the booklet. Ms. Lind informed the council that the largest group of youth was in attendance at the conference and there was a delegation from Japan.

**Executive Committee Report:** Benita Lind directed the council to the report in the booklet and called for any questions.

**Public Awareness Committee:** Tony Carmack stated that there is no report at this time.

**Nominating Committee:** Bobby Begley gave the report for the Nominating Committee. He informed the council that there were three reappointments and one new appointment to the council. Mr. Begley then discussed the resignation of Paul McKee. He stated that the committee has recommended, as a replacement, Darrell Mattingly as the first choice and Todd Crawford as the alternate. Mr. Begley concluded that Stephanie Sharp is the SILC Representative for the Office for the Blind. Elsie Speed made a motion to accept the nomination set forth by the Nominating Committee of prospective member Darrell Mattingly to fulfill the office vacated by Paul McKee on SILC Council. Stephanie Sharp, second. No oppositions, one abstention. Motion carried.

**Mentoring Program:** Benita Lind again welcomed David Thompson and noted that his mentor is Tony Carmack.

Benita Lind swore in David Thompson for his first term, and Polur, Danny Perry, and Tony Carmack for their second terms.

**Transportation Ad Hoc:** Germaine O’Connell that there was no report at this time and deferred to Dave Matheis and his report on the Car IDA.

**SPIL Ad Hoc:** Germaine O’Connell reported that there were several volunteers for the committee and that all the CILs are represented. Ms. O’Connell noted the committee nominated Benita Lind is the chair and that the next meeting is October 14th at Germaine’s office. She stated that there will be a report in the December Booklet.

**SCVR Council:** Elsie Speed reported that SCVR has not met since the SILC June meeting. She stated that the next SCVR meeting is September 21st to be held at the Griffin Gate Marriott.

**SILC Congress:** Elsie Speed updated the council on the SILC Congress. Ms. Speed informed the council that the theme is “The Path Forward to Greater Independence” and that the conference will be held in Phoenix, AR from January 16 – 19, 2016 at the Sheridan Downtown Phoenix.

**OFB Council:** Benita Lind noted that as per Bobby Begley’s Nominating Committee Report, Stephanie Sharp is the representative for the OFB Council.

Stephanie Sharp made a motion to accept all committee reports as they have been presented. Jeff Merrill, second. No oppositions; one abstention. Motion carried.

**New Business**

**DSE Determination:** This topic was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Committee Preference:** Benita Lind called for all Committee Preference sheets to be turned in by the end of the meeting.

**APRIL meeting:** (Association of Programs for Rural and Independent Living) Stephanie Sharp made a motion that the council send a SILC representative to the APRIL Conference. Marilyn Mitchell, second. No oppositions; two abstentions. Motion carried. Dave Matheis noted that OVR will need 30 days notice to submit it to the cabinet and will need an attendee name as soon as possible. Germaine O’Connell noted that she has money in her budget to attend if the council approves. Stephanie Sharp made a motion that the council send a SILC Staff person to the conference along with a SILC member. George Polur requested an amendment to the motion to send a Staff Member even if a SILC member doesn’t go. Ms. Sharp amended the motion that in the event that a SILC member cannot attend, a SILC staff member can attend. Jeff Merrill, second. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Dave Matheis noted that both will need to go through the cabinet approval process. Benita Lind explained that since the By-Laws state the chair will go unless unable, she will attend the APRIL conference if approved by the cabinet.

Discussion was held regarding the SILC Congress. Deborah Anderson, DAIL Commissioner, would like the names of those individuals that would like to attend so that she can check the budget. Benita Linda stated that an email/letter will be sent out to see who would be interested in attending SILC Congress in January in Phoenix, AR.

**Agenda Addition, Part B Funding:** Dave Matheis reported to the council regarding the Part B Funding. Mr. Matheis explained that there is $300 thousand in Part B Funding allotments to the 3 CILs annually over three years. He reminded the council that there were anticipated problems meeting that obligation over the three year period and former Executive Director, Dr. David Beach, committed to making up the difference in the third year using Social Security funds which was noted in the SPIL. Mr. Matheis informed the council that WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act) commits 15% of the OVR Budget to PETS (Pre-Employment Training Services); there are no funds available to honor that commitment by Dr. Beach. He requested direction from the SILC on cuts for the coming year. Mr. Matheis also requested the SILC consider removing the line from the SPIL that calls for $100 thousand to be used from the social security funds when the SILC changes the SPIL to have DAIL as their DSE. Discussion was held by the council regarding the budget and changing the SPIL. Stephanie Sharp made a motion for the council to table this issue for today and add it to the agenda during the Special Called Meeting in mid-October to give the centers time to meet with the Commissioner (Commissioner Debbie Anderson of DAIL) to discuss their options and report to SILC their final decision. Danny Perry, second. Discussion was held noting that the motion is acceptable for OVR. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Dave Matheis asked the council to make a motion that when the SILC makes the change in the SPIL to move to DAIL that they also remove the sentence from the SPIL that commits OVR to using social security reimbursement funds; George Polur so moved. Danny Perry, second. Mike Freholm clarified that this is to change the State Plan that they are working on. Per Dave Matheis, this is to change the current state plan, which runs another year. No further discussion. No oppositions, one abstention. Motion carried.

**Centers on Independent Living Reports**

**Independence Place:** Dave Wickstrom directed the council to his report located in the meeting booklet and went over some highlights for the council. He reported that he is the chair for the Veteran’s sub-committee on Legislation and Advocacy for NCIL. Mr. Wickstrom stated that they have been focusing on partnerships. He informed the council they the Lexington office is moving as of October 1st, 2015 and they will be sending out invitations for the open house which is to take place in mid-October.

**Disability Resource Initiatives:** Marilyn Mitchell informed the council that the report is located in the meeting booklet and read from her report, noting that some of the numbers don’t accurately show what they’ve done. She noted that in her report under core services, the numbers include computer literacy training and that one person may come to the center three times a week. She also reported that it doesn’t accurately show the number of individuals in Peer Counseling as they have seen seven individuals one-on-one but they have a group that meets three times a week and that group can have anywhere from ten to forty people on any given day. She mentioned that several groups use their facilities to hold meeting, which is also Peer Support. Ms. Mitchell concluded by thanking the council for anything they can do to keep the doors open.

**Center on Accessible Living:** Keith Hosey stated that the report is in the booklet. He seconded Marilyn’s statement regarding the reports not reflecting accurately as it is on-going. He then highlighted a few activities from Northern Kentucky. He mentioned they have been working on getting a consumer advisory council for Transit and Para Transit. He informed the council that they have started a peer support group for people living with HIV and AIDS. Mr. Hosey let the council know that they are working on the Empowerment Conference. He also reported that they sent a letter to KY Housing Corporation (KHC) to change the rule that if a builder gets 50% KHC money to build a single family home, then they must make it universally designed; CAL advocated to change it to 10%. Ms. Hosey let the council know that a CAL employee recently had their comic book published which features a positive female character with a disability: “Ms. Molecule” is available on Amazon in “Unusual Suspense No. 1”. He concluded by stating they did receive the WIPPA Grant.

**Southeast Kentucky:** Jo Ellen Hale reported that they served 43 new consumers for the month of August and 81 goals met. Ms. Hale mentioned Corrina Styles’ visit. She informed the council that she was appointed to an advisory board for UK and that she might be getting some donated money from UPS. Ms. Hale informed the council that they are working with ARC to get public housing in Leslie county and that she is on SOAR (Shaping our Appalachian Mountains) to get grants though them. Ms. Hale concluded by stating they are also working with homeless veterans.

Dave Wickstrom stated that IP currently has four grant applications out and if they receive these grants, they will do what they can to help the other CILs. Keith Hosey added that in the WIOA, SILC can now advocate and might consider adding a Committee to oversee this. Benita Lind noted that at the next Executive Committee meeting, they will discuss partnerships with legislators. Marilyn Mitchell informed the council that DRI’s building has been bought and she gave the new landlords a presentation on the center’s services. She stated that the new landlords are interested in helping DRI obtain more funding.

**Standing Staff Reports**

**SILC Staff:** Germaine O’Connell noted that the report is in the meeting booklet and highlighted some of her tasks. She stated that a lot of her time in the future will be spent preparing and facilitating for the SPIL Ad Hoc. Ms. O’Connell discussed the FEMA Conference call she participated in. She announced that in each local area is the Statewide Conference for Preparedness for Individuals with Disabilities and has sent out information to the council via email. Ms. O’Connell concluded by summarizing her experience at the NCIL conference.

**DSU/OVR:** Dave Matheis informed the council that his report is in the book and noted that the forward funding is not accounted for in the booklet. He informed the council that Project CARAT has received huge amounts of donated equipment, including a large donation of new canes. Mr. Matheis explained the status of Project SHARP, which pays the application fee for low income individuals to get hearing aids through HearNow which is currently taking donation for Kentucky. Benita Lind asked how the move to DAIL will affect the CAR IDA. Dave stated CAR IDA was funded with Social Security Reimbursement funds which are needed elsewhere. He stated that the plan is to finish the ones already in the program but that the program won’t have any more funding.

**Public Comment:** Marilyn Mitchell stated that she was disappointed with KATS DME refurbishing, and the consumer was asked to pay for a portion. Dave Matheis informed the council that the Bluegrass Technology Center was partnered with OVR’s KARAT, but that OVR’s KARAT has split due to Bluegrass Technology Center’s request for a donation for its items. He stated that OVR’s KARAT is centered at the Rehab Center, Lourdes and that people should contact the KATS Network. Germaine O’Connell informed the council of the timeline for the move to DAIL and SPIL amendment. Benita Lind has requested that the CILs contact information be in each book. Marilyn Mitchell requested that the R4I website be added to the front of the booklet.

**Future SILC Meeting Dates:**

Dec 8, 2015

March 8, 2016

**Wrap Up/Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm