

Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council

Approved

Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2019

State Services for the Blind, 2200 University Ave West, St. Paul, MN

Members Present: Anita Olson, Linda Lingen, Melissa Doherty, Gloria Lafriniere, Rianna Johnsen, Judy Sanders, Mohamed Mourssi-Alfash, Tom Reed, Jessica Andrist, Mark Smaaladen, Larry Lura, Brian Baker

Members Absent: Mary Koep, Nichole Meyer

Ex-Officio Members Present: Annette Toews, Brad Westerlund

Ex-Officio Member Absent: David Fenley

Staff Present: Jo Erbes

Call to order: Chairperson Anita Olson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. with a quorum present.

Agenda: Jessica Andrist made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Melissa Doherty seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Minutes – September 12, 2019 meeting minutes, October 10, 2019 meeting notes – Jessica Andrist made a motion to approve the September 12 meeting minutes and the October 10 meeting notes, Linda Lingen seconded the motion. There was discussion about the vague information pertaining to carry forward funds. It was noted that actual amount of carry forward funds was not known at the time and the intent is to pass carry forward funds to the CIL's. The motion passed.

Member Survey – Members were encouraged to complete the member survey to help MNSILC meet our federal requirements.

Mohamed shared a concept to have unique email addresses for each council member that would allow private data to be shared. The idea was forwarded to the Executive Committee to review.

Panel Presentation:

Brad Westerlund, DEED/VRS, discussed the role and responsibilities of DEED/VRS as the designated state entity (DSE) and their role in distribution of funds to centers for independent living.

Annette Toews, State Services for the Blind (SSB), presented information about SSB services.

Judy Sanders talked about consumer directed option of providing services for people with blindness.

Jesse Bethke Gomez, MCIL, talked about core services of centers for independent living and the 8 centers for independent living in Minnesota, each center is an independent 501c3 organization as identified in MN Statutes 268A-01. In 2019, MCIL received a Bush grant to look at certified PCA positions based on independent living; to attract federal funds for a livable wage and a pathway to sufficiency for PCA's.

Gloria Lafriniere provided background on services provided by OPTIONS Center for Independent Living to help people with disabilities on the White Earth reservation remain independent and to provide referrals.

Anita Olson talked about why it's important to know about challenges at the centers and how the SILC can address the challenges. The SILC does not get into the business of the how the centers deliver services. One of objectives in the state plan is for universal recognition of CIL's, which is why the SILC will review the MNSILC website and social media opportunities.

Presentation – Cindy Kaufman, SSB Aging Eye Program, provided information about training to 600 community partners around the state who work with seniors and can provide access to information and low vision aids`. In 2018 the program won the Governor's innovative award. Cindy noted seniors are 55 years and up and the Aging Eye program doesn't need a medical determination for services.

Announcements:

- There is a free ILRU webinar on resources scheduled for December 17th.
- On January 13th MN Council on Disability will hold a legislative forum. The Executive committee will determine if member attendance is considered council business eligible for reimbursed. Members were encouraged to attend or participated through the live streaming.
- A chart of 2020 meeting dates and a 2020 Council Roster were distributed.

Recruitment – There are vacancies on the council for parents and service providers especially from outside the metro area. The appointment process was discussed

Public Comment:

Brad Westerlund noted that a notice of award for FFY 20 has not been received. There is a continuing resolution until December 20th. As the DSE, DEED/VRS has received \$76,000 in funds for MNSILC operations. There was discussion about continued operations of SILC. DEED/VRS will delay sending carry forward funds to the centers until the notice of award is received

PPR – 704 report – Linda Lingen and Anita Olson reviewed the goals and objectives for year 3 of the SPIL. Tom Reed made a motion to submit the completed goals as part of the PPR/704 Report. Larry Lura seconded the motion. The Coordinator was directed to add approval of the By-Laws to the completed goals. The Chair and Coordinator will add information about the amount of time needed to complete each goal. The motion carried.

Committee Reports –

Executive Committee: During the recent appointment process it was determined an amendment to the By-Laws is needed to reflect that people can be reappointed to the council after they have been off the council for a year. The term of office for ex officio members needs to be addressed.

Judy Sanders made a motion to hold the SPIL meeting on January 8 and 9th. Linda Lingen seconded the motion. The motion passed. (Side note: due to challenges with the contract with the facilitator, the meeting was scheduled for February 20 and 21, 2020)

Finance Committee: in FFY 2019 MNSILC received an allocation of \$338,717; after SSB expenses of \$56,837 and SILC expenditures of \$166,506, there is a carry forward amount of \$115,837 to be distributed to the 8 centers in Minnesota.

SILC Congress – anyone interested in attending SILC Congress should let Jo or Anita know as soon as possible.

Outreach: Linda Lingen reviewed the goal in the SPIL that would involve youth in the CIL's and SILC. She talked about the program available through APRIL to provide mentorship to SILC's and their proposal to provide mentorship to Minnesota. The Outreach Committee will present the mentorship application for council approval in January. The goal is to discuss ways for youth to make a difference, not just attend meetings; learn what the centers are doing with youth; and how can we reach out to colleges and universities to discuss possible internships for college students. Linda made a pitch to recruit new committee members for the December 18th meeting.

Reports: Linda Lingen noted the theme for the annual report is advocacy; stories have been received from centers about advocacy. The goal is to have printed by the beginning of the legislative session. Linda make an appeal for new committee members for the next meeting on December 19th.

Adjourn – Having completed the agenda the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Recorded by Jo Erbes