

State Independent Living Council
Quarterly Meeting
Hilton Garden Inn –Mukilteo WA
July 27, 2007

Meeting called to order at 9:10 am by chair Shelley Hawkins

Present: Shelley Hawkins, Romel Mackelprang, Linda McClain, Libby Winzer, Lynnae Ruttledge, Sandra Carr, Bob Roberts, Rob Honan, and Grace Doyle

Audience Members: Debbie Cook, Jim Baker, Jeanette Murphy, Robert Blumenfeld, Trina Forrest, Dick Winzer

Interpreters: Sarah Rasmussen and Michael Kosanovich

- 1. Approval of minutes**
 - a. Motion made by Linda McClain**
 - b. Seconded by Libby Winzer**
 - c. Discussion**
 - d. Vote: Approved as written**

- 2. Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Motion made by Libby Winzer**
 - b. Seconded by Linda McClain**
 - c. Discussion: A change in the motion was discussed to add discussion of executive director raise to Executive Session (along with Tort Suit).**
 - d. Original Motion to approve was withdrawn**
 - e. Motion to adopted amended agenda made by Libby Winzer**
 - f. Seconded by Linda McClain**
 - g. Vote: Unanimous in favor**

- 3. Public Comment**
(No public commentary)

- 4. Closed Executive Session**
 - a. Tort Filing**
 - b. Executive Director raise**

Executive Session ended at 10:43 a.m.

- 5. Don Okazaki –Washington Accessible Taxi Program**

Introduction of council members as an FYI
King County is running a demonstration project for accessible taxi cabs. Most of King County's taxis are privately owned. King County has an Accessible Taxi Advisory Committee. Because of this it's difficult to require the drivers to buy a 25,000 accessible vehicle. We started this demonstration project to

test two things; one the economic viability of the taxi due to the cost of the vehicle and the insurance. Taxi drivers put on a minimum of 75,000 miles a year and much more if they lease out their second shift. The average taxi cab is a used Crown Victoria from the police department at a cost of \$ 5,000. The usual used accessible vehicle can cost a minimum of 25,000.

Secondly, we are assessing the need of accessible taxi cabs to find out how many such vehicles we need to meet the demand.

Our project started in November of 2006 with 8 accessible taxi vehicles. We provided sixteen hours of training (with the same organization that trains access drivers.)

The Wheel Chair Accessible Taxi Demonstration Project is a partnership between King County Metro, King County's Licensing Division and the City of Seattle to provide accessible taxi cab service for people who use wheelchairs in King County. Through the demonstration project, King County will provide eight accessible taxi cab vehicles to be operated within the county by an independent taxi cab driver group. They will charge the same rates as non-accessible taxis and will prioritize use for people using wheelchairs, but will also be available for others.

The new Standard Taxis will roll out in 2008; they had to be built from the ground up.

Our project will definitely run 'til the end of this year; we are collecting the data. The 8 taxis represent 1 % of our fleet. A regular taxi wait time is 10 minutes, but the response time for an accessible taxi can take anywhere from 38 minutes to two hours or no show at all. We are already at capacity. 1 % is not close enough to being enough accessible taxis. King County is zoned into 200 districts, so the closest cab will take that call. We definitely need more than 8 accessible taxis in King County.

The feedback we're getting is that our accessible drivers are conscientious and caring.

Most taxi cabs are averaging 5 to 20 rides a day.

Linda McClain brought up the point that in Spokane people needing accessible rides on a regular taxi are paying much more than other people. For example, people with disabilities are paying about 80.00 for a ten mile ride. Don said that was illegal and that she needed to contact the City of Spokane to find out who regulates the cab industries and who regulates their licenses. If the vehicle has a meter, it's regulated; if it does not have a meter, it's a 'for hire' vehicle and those are not regulated.

Shelley: Do the taxi vehicles have to advertise that they are a taxi instead of a 'for hire'. Don said all taxi cabs must have the light on top, the meter, the posting of fees, their license posted; they must have a criminal background check and a vehicle check.

Lynnae: We just finished the DVR State Plan; one of the four core concerns was transportation. I would suggest that we put this information on our website; that if you have concerns about 'fare gouging' that you put the information up for people to know.

Don (in response to Romel's question) *We received our grant from the Department of Transportation Paratransit Grant.*

Further discussion ensued as to whether or how the SILC or CILs could or should be involved in obtaining additional funds to run pilot projects in other Washington Cities. The next cycle of RFPs will be in 2009; the person to talk to would be Don Chartok; Washington ACCT (get clarification on this.)

Access is more cost effective, but this service would give us more choice. Top issue is about time. Universal access, so regardless of my DA, I can get a ride. (Shelley)

Living in the city, cab service is better, the further out you live, the harder it is. This is true for accessible cabs, too.

Will create a summary and a list of recommendations for long term. Advisory committee will write their comments and their goals for permanent solution. My goal is have new licenses next summer, so there's no gap in services. How to afford the vehicles, 1 city in the US has subsidies, we don't.

Don's contact information is:

206 263 3453 don.okazaki@metrokc.gov)

6. Washington Assistive Technology Act Project (WATAP) – Debbie Cook, Program Director

The last authorization of the Act was in 2004. Debbie has been with the program since 1996 and the director since 1998. One of the federal measurable goals in independent living is to get assistive technology into the hands of people. In the beginning, money was just thrown out at people, but once the money was gone, the program was gone.

In 1994 they revised the Act and put most of their focus on helping DVR, Dept. of Education, Workforce systems, etc. to better help people to obtain assistive technology.

In 2004 they authorized it again with the programs we have today.

We're supposed to be a statewide program, but in truth we are quite small. We want to make sure that you have some clear goals and that you can measure what you do. If you don't have a way to measure what you do in terms of change, how do you know if you are being successful?

One of the major things consumers ask us to do is get an opportunity to try the technology and base our choices on what people tell us we need. Also, the consumers don't get to experience the devices because they are in a catalogue and not 'in person.' One of our objectives is to provide people with trials in hands-on settings with knowledgeable people. We can also travel to your center on a pre-planned arrangement. We do mini-consultations- primarily for k-12 students, but it can certainly be for others- whereby we do an assessment to walk the person through the decision-making process to obtain the best assistive technology for that person. The difference between an assessment and a consultation is we don't write a full blown assessment report, nor do we charge for consultations. We do device loans for up to six weeks for individuals; the only charge we have for that is our actual shipping cost. However, we do not turn anyone down if they can't afford the shipping fee. We loan the high end technology to someone who has support to help them utilize the device. We are doing a pilot project in conjunction with King County Library (the traveling library), whereby we loan out the smaller assistive devices to people that way; i.e. assistive listening devices.

Another program we have is monitored through Easter Seals in Spokane; this is a computer loan program.

Washington Assistive Technology Foundation receives some support from us; they provide low interest loans to people to purchase assistive technology for self-start businesses as an example.

We provide some support with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and also Individual Plans for Employment (IPEs) in an advocacy role.

We sit on the state National Information Materials Center and provide technical assistance to them.

We do collaborative projects with others, as well. We do all of this with a small staff and small budget, so we're stretched pretty thin.

The website address is: www.watap.org

Rob: *I encourage the center directors to work closely with Debbie to get assistive technology into the hands of consumers.*

7. **Executive Director's Report – Rob Honan (As taken from electronic copy.)**
- A. State Plan for Independent Living- SPIL**
- A. Nine public forums since March 27, 2007
 - B. SPIL submitted on June 28, 2007
 - C. In process of making revisions per Sean Barrett's (RSA or Rehabilitation Services Administration) suggestions
 - D. SPIL is effective on October 1, 2007 (runs through September 30, 2010)
 - E. A great deal of time and effort went into the SPIL. I am very appreciative of all the hard work that ACIL-WA, the individual CILs, the SILC, and Grace Doyle put into the writing the SPIL.
- B. Region X IL conference- Tacoma, April 18-20, 2007**
- A. 41 consumers, board members, and staff from the seven CILs were registered for the conference
 - B. The unofficial registration expenses are \$4,750. This amount to be paid out of the ACIL-WA support funds.
 - C. I was very impressed with the quality of ALL of the presenters. It was well worth it to attend.
- C. Budget meeting with Lynnae- Council Chair Shelley Hawkins and I met with Lynnae Ruttledge, DVR director, to discuss the SILC FY 2008 budget on June 12, 2007.**
- D. I attended Boards and Commissions Training on June 4, 2007 with Linda McClain of the Council.**
- E. I attended NCIL Conference with Shelley Hawkins, Sandra Carr, Linda McClain, Libby Winzer, Dick Winzer, and Bob Roberts. Jim Baker of the DARSW was also there. There were many very good workshops and presentations, but the best part of the conference were the visits on the Hill. Visiting the 11-member Washington state Congressional delegation was really informative for us, but also the legislators and staffers.**
- F. SB 5340, the piece of legislation redefining disability in the Washington state statutes was passed and signed into law. I attended the signing ceremony with about 50 other disability-rights advocates.**
- G. Money Follows the Person/ Roads to Community Living. Actively involved in the shaping of this program for Washington. I attended meetings on April 26th and May 31st. I am currently in the process of "interviewing" individuals that have had experience in institutional care.**

- H. I assisted RSA in their review of The Alliance of People with Disabilities, May 7th
- I. Working with the Governor’s Committee on Disability Issues and Employment in their sponsorship of the **Youth Leadership Forum**. I’ll attend the forum, act as a “counselor”, and make a presentation. The Forum takes place from August 12th through 17th.
- J. **Washington Assistive Technology Foundation**. I joined the board in May. Have attended one in person meeting and have taken part in two conference calls. Working with them will assist in the furthering of the State Plan for Independent Living.
- K. **Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing**. Presentation to their Advisory Committee on Saturday May 19th. I am also working with their executive director, Eric Raff, on additional SPIL collaboration.
- L. **ACIL-WA**. I attended May meeting. The main thing that I am working on with the CIL directors and staff is the advancement and adjustments of the SPIL.
- M. **SILC appointments**. Shelley Hawkins and I have been actively working with Shana Melanson of the Governor’s office to fill the holes on the SILC. We hope to have two SILC appointments in the very near future.
- N. **SILC Website**. (www.wasilc.org.) The website has a host of great Council-related information. Please share with others and check out the site.

We do have a potential Tribal 121 representative who we’re hoping will apply. Debbie Cook, Kevin Nathan’s replacement, has also submitted her application materials. We are also trying to get two other individuals on the board by October.

Romel asked if there was a plan for transition to train the newly appointed council members. Further discussion on the layout of the October meeting in Spokane, to include an orientation for new members the evening prior to our Friday meeting. Several members gave examples of other committees they were on and how orientation was handled.

8. Committee reports

DSB – Debbie Cook Lewis

Kevin will be working in a new capacity at DSB, thus Debbie will be the new DSB representative on the council, pending appointment.

We are looking at ways to do business differently.
We have served 2,300 individuals this year.
In addition, we are looking to collaborate with the Centers differently, per Sean Barrett's recommendation. (Sean is with RSA)

Thank ACIL-WA for the meeting yesterday.

Charley: We had a wonderful meeting yesterday; got the opportunity to get to know each other and a little about each center. We brainstormed on ways to build capacity at each center and got specific ideas on how to better collaborate.

Linda: It was a candid and open meeting where we were able to talk freely. It was a learning experience and a time to be very honest about our capacities.

Romel asked if the funding SILC had given them had been beneficial and put to good use.

Further discussion about yesterday's productive session and the future collaboration and work of the centers.

ACIL-WA – Linda McClain

The CILs are planning a training at Seatac on September 17-18th of ACIL-WA and other partners.

- a) William and Victoria Bruckner, the principals of Bruckner Consultants, LLC, and have three decades of experience in the disability field, will be the keynote presenters.
- b) Training activities designed with measurable outcomes and indicators of best practices. i.e. History, what is peer support, how to make an organization consumer driven... The goal is to create high quality CILS across the state of Washington.
- c) Working preliminary budget has been presented to Rob Honan covering the remaining 20,500.00.

Linda handed out a copy of ACIL-Was Training Activity Plan.

Rehabilitation Council for the Blind – Libby Winzer

WSRC –Sandra Carr

The Public Forum is far more positive and less angry than it has been in the past. The climate of the forum has changed; people are asking more questions and are not so angry and frustrated. We also started adding some helpful information about other resources available to people who are on the waiting list.

About a thousand people a month are coming off the DVR waitlist. It's currently down to a little over six thousand people waiting, down substantially from the over 14,000 who were on the wait list.

Rob and Lynnae both got feedback on the state plan; it needs to change the vocabulary a little bit, but the structure is good.

Lynnae also wants to establish a Director's Advisory Committee to have a meeting every quarter just to keep apprised of what is going on with everyone.

There is a DVR newsletter going out now to people on the waitlist.

We had a representative from WATF speak to us about their low interest loan program for Assistive Technology. She also talked about the PREVAIL program. Sandra would like Kelly Robinson come to our next meeting and talk further about this program.

Some of the people on DVR's waitlist have significant health issues that make it difficult for them to wait for services.

Budget Report – Rob Honan

We have gone back to the table to increase this year's budget due to the increased costs during a SPIL year.

Next year we have asked for \$ 219,836.00

Executive Committee – Shelley Hawkins

“Kudos to everyone who attended the NCIL Conference recently in Washington, D.C. We had a fine representation and showing. Thank you from Linda McClain for the opportunity to go and network. She would also like to see some support for other center directors to go next year.”

Romel mentioned that Mike Collins (from NCIL) could be a great resource for us in making connections and furthering beneficial relationships with other organizations.

Motion to approve the FY 2008 Budget

Romel Mackelprang made motion to approve propose FY 2008 Budget

Seconded by Libby Winzer

Discussion: Linda would like on behalf of ACIL-WA, to thank you for putting it as a budget item.

Approved unanimously

Motion for a 5.6% raise for Rob and a 3.2 % raise for Grace

Sandra Carr made motion provide raise to Rob Honan and to Grace Doyle

Second: Linda (May be in error here; I had my hand up to get clarification.

Discussion:

Grace asked for clarification from the Executive Director. Was he asking the council to vote on the state mandated COLA for her? (The COLA was voted on for all employees; most effective on July 1st; exempt employees in September.)

Rob replied yes, it was the COLA. She added that the COLA was state mandated and not subject to council approval.

Council asked that Grace's be a raise, not just the COLA. Rob replied that the council could not vote on a raise for Grace without discussing it with the WSRC as she was a shared employee.

Further discussion ensued.

Council charged Rob to talk with the WSRC to consider a raise for Grace in addition to the COLA. Follow up discussion in October.

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Motion to raise Rob's salary to 63,500 effective November 1, 2007

(60,000 x 3.2 % state COLA = 61,920.00. Balance of raise effective November 1st will be 1,580.00 for a total of 3,500.00. Total of 5.8%)

Romel Mackelprang made the motion to approve

Second: Linda

Discussion:

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Motion to approve the SPIL as presented

Libby Winzer made motion to formally approve the 2008-2010 SPIL as presented

Seconded by: Sandra Carr

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Motion to send Romel and Grace to attend the APRIL conference in Missoula from October 6 -8th. (As the two who did not attend NCIL.)

Discussion: Linda would like to support sending the entire council to the conference to have a powerful presence in Missoula in Montana, as well as CIL directors if possible.

Motion withdrawn to further discuss sending additional members.

Open for public comment. (No public in attendance)

Meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Grace Doyle

Executive Assistant

** Note: All commentary is paraphrased and not meant to be direct quotation.*