



WASHINGTON

State Independent Living Council

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Chair Romel Mackelprang called the November 6, 2009 State Independent Living Council meeting to order at 8:40 AM.

Council Members attending: Sandra Carr, Robert “Bob” Roberts (WSRC Representative to the SILC), Lynnae Rutledge, Diane Hansen, Jana Finkbonner, Linda McClain, Trina Forest, Gilbert Garza, Al Nelly, and Romel Mackelprang.

SILC staff: Rob Honan, Executive Director and Barbara Hathaway Executive Secretary

Guests and others: Don Dew, Executive Director ReachOut USA; Andrew Arana, Volunteer at Alliance of People with disAbilities; Lucille Walls, Executive Director The Alliance of People with disAbilities; Von Elison, Executive Director Central Washington Disability Resources; and Jim Baker, Executive Director of disAbility Resources of Southwest Washington, Brenda Boles; DSHS/DVR, Community Program Administrative; Andres Aguirre, DVR,

Interpreter/CART Provider: Gina M. Diaz and Felice Shays (interpreters) and Elizabeth Archer (CART)

Approval of July 10, 2009 meeting minutes: The meeting minutes from the July 10, 2009 Seattle meeting were approved by the Council (as read with corrections).

The meeting agenda was approved by the Council members. It was suggested that the presenter be moved up before the Chair’s report.

Presentation. Jim Baker of dARSW, in consultation with the SILC, invited Don Dew to provide the SILC and guests a brief presentation about Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered individuals (GLBT or LGBT) with Disabilities. As a gay man with a disability himself, Mr. Dew has experienced a dearth of services for LGBT with disabilities. He sought to rectify this situation and founded ReachOut USA. The main purpose of ReachOut USA is to educate the public about this very important issue as well as to encourage LGBT with disabilities to be proud of being both gay and disabled. Further, the agency seeks to connect LGBT with disabilities with services that can be of benefit.

Chair Romel Mackelprang's report.

- Mackelprang reported that all of the Council members, besides himself, who were up for reappointment were reappointed. He stated that he would stay on until the Governor replaced him. The following were reappointed: Sandi Carr, Lynnae Ruttledge, Gilbert Garza, Al Neely, Jana Finkbonner, Trina Forest, and Linda McClain (Diane Hansen, Devin Beach and Debbie Cook's terms did not expire on 9/30/09)
- Rob Honan, Linda McClain, Trina Forest, Jim Baker, and Romel Mackelprang went to Puerto Rico to attend the APRIL conference from October 8-11. The Chair showed his appreciation to the Centers who pitched in for Rob Honan's flight and hotel.
- The Chair stated that will be going to South Africa to help people there for 10 months, starting around in September 2010, and this will impact his potential continuation on the SILC.
- ARRA update: Mackelprang stated that there has been relatively little to update since the July meeting. Washington submitted its proposal (including funding proposal) to RSA in September, but to date there has been no reply on whether the proposal was accepted.
- dRC Closure in Everett, WA. dRC closed its doors in July 2009 due to funding and programmatic issues.
- At the current time, the RFP (Request for Proposal) for a new CIL in NW WA has not been released by RSA. Mackelprang reported that he and Honan met with potential CIL supporters in Everett in late August. The purpose of the trip was to educate members of the disability community (mainly agency representatives) about CILs and the SILC. Mackelprang stated that Honan has also been meeting with interested groups in Bellingham to educate service providers and advocates on IL. Lastly, Mackelprang stated that the SILC is in no position to recommend where a CIL should go. That will be up to the applicant and RSA. The SILC will support the new CIL, wherever it may end up.
- In the wake of Lynnae Ruttledge leaving DVR, Mackelprang commissioned Honan to write a support letter on behalf of Ruttledge to Senator Tom Harkin (Chair of the US Senate HELP Committee). In addition, using the letter to Harkin as a backdrop, Mackelprang directed Honan to write another letter to the new DSHS Secretary, Susan Dreyfus, informing her about the SILC, and inviting her to a meeting in the future. Part of the letter was to advocate for inclusion on the DVR director interview team.

Committee Reports:

- DSB. Debbie Cook was not available to give a report. Honan indicated that he would contact her and email the report to SILC members.
- DVR. Lynnae Ruttledge. Ruttledge acknowledged that she was nominated by President Obama to be the new RSA Commissioner, and is tremendously excited about this possibility. She'll be sad to leave Washington, though. Ruttledge provided information on the revenue situation, and how that might potentially impact DVR but also rest of state government. In addition, Ruttledge stated DVR would be staying in DSHS for the foreseeable future. Lastly, Ruttledge suggested that Andres Aguirre would be the interim ex-officio member of the SILC until a new DVR director was hired.
- Rehabilitation Council for the Blind. Diane Hansen. Hansen reported that she did not attend the last RCB meeting. Therefore, she does not have a report.
- WSRC. Sandra Carr. Carr reported that the WSRC is continuing to do great things. Their next meeting is January 15th in Olympia. The Council recently had five new members appointed and two were re-appointed.
- Budget/ Expense Report. Rob Honan. Honan handed out the written budget/ expenses report. To recap, the report was the unofficial year-end report (fiscal year 2009 was Oct. 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009). Unofficially, the SILC spent \$208,947 out of its approved budget amount of \$207, 998.

- **ACIL-WA. Linda McClain**
 - APRIL conference. Jim, Linda, Trina, Patt Buff, Romel and Rob attended from WA. There were many good workshops, including the ones put on by Rob, Romel, Linda (explaining WA position papers) and the sexuality workshop by Romel. McClain also reported that she really got a great deal out of the HUD grant writing workshop.
 - ACIL-WA Legislative Day: The CILs believe that it will be more effective for them to do their advocacy day on a different day than the larger advocacy day. The plan is to have a march and meet with legislators on March 12th (Friday)
 - SPIL Amendments. There was broad consensus from the CILs on the submission of the SPIL amendments.
 - Don Dew of ReachOut USA made a very interesting and worthwhile presentation to ACIL-WA and several SILC members yesterday (Nov. 5th).
 - ACIL-WA was pleased at the outcome of Referendum-71, which provides benefits and other protections to those in domestic partnerships.
 - SPIL Progress Reports. McClain reported that Honan visited each of the CILs to get a sense of how they were making progress on the various elements of the SPIL.
 - Many of the CILs have hired benefits specialists with their Part B ARRA funds.
 - A NCIL federal legislative update was provided to the SILC and guests.

Executive Director, Rob Honan Report. Honan gave an oral report based on his written report. As with the past meetings, the report follows the SPIL outline of: Outreach/ Education/ Marketing, Housing, Transportation, Transition, Assistive Technology, Emergency Preparedness, and Deinstitutionalization. For details, he suggests going to the SILC Website at: <http://www.wasilc.org/Events/RecentEvents.html> to view the report in more detail.

SPIL Progress. After the Executive Director report was given, Honan then handed out the “SPIL or State Plan for Independent Living” progress report for 2009. He prefaced this by stating that one of the major functions of the SILC is “develop the SPIL in conjunction with advocates, the SILC, the CILs, and other interested parties.” In addition, there is a monitoring and review function to this. This is what the “SPIL Progress” attempts to capture.

In 2008, the SPIL review took place during a meeting that was facilitated by Kathe Matrone of TACE. Many of the strengths and barriers and SPIL achievement were discussed. For 2009, Honan took a different approach. He contacted each of the CIL directors (including ex-ED of dRC, Charley Lane) to see how they fared in the areas of: Outreach/ Education/ Marketing, Housing, Transition, Transportation, Emergency Preparedness, Deinstitutionalization, and Assistive Technology.

The upshot of his report is that each of the CILs has their own strengths and challenge areas, and all of them are working to meet the needs of their communities. The 2009 SPIL Progress will be used as a basis for the 2011-2013 SPIL. The SPIL progress report can be found by going to: <http://www.wasilc.org/documents/StatePlan.html> (see: “SPIL Progress Report 2009.”)

Lunch Break

12pm-1pm

Meeting Resumed at 1:07pm

Election of officers for 2010.

Sandra Carr made a motion to nominate the following slate of officers

- Romel Mackelprang: Chair
- Jana FInkbonner: Co-Chair (vice-chair)
- Sandra Carr: member-at-large

Al Neely seconded this motion. The motion unanimously carried.

Meeting dates and locations for 2010 (January, April, July, and October)

After a great deal of discussion on the meeting dates and locations for the 2010 calendar year, it was decided to have the first meeting on January 21st in Olympia. This meeting will take place after the Legislative Forum, which is slated for January 20, 2010. During the January 21, 2010 meeting there will be a decision on dates and locations for the April, July, and October meetings. In addition, options on whether to have remote (conference call and/or CART streaming) meetings will also be discussed during the January meeting.

Plaque presentation to Lynnae Ruttledge.

Romel Mackelprang presented a plaque to Lynnae Ruttledge to thank her and recognize her outstanding work on the Council. The plaque and pen holder had a SILC logo on it with her dates of service: 2005-2009. Everybody thanked for her involvement and gave her a hearty ovation.

New Business:

- Sandra Carr brought up a potential By-laws issue. This relates to hiring and firing procedures of the executive director.
 - **Action:** Romel Mackelprang asked Sandra if she's willing to take on and identify issues and the weaknesses in the areas needed to address. Linda McClain mentioned that she would be willing to work with Sandra. Carr accepted Romel's request to work with Linda.
- The SILC needs to address the issue around sexual orientation and gender identity (LGBT and Intersexes). Jim Baker is willing to assist in writing a position paper on this issue. Trina Forest agreed to assist.
 - **Action:** Jim Baker and Trina Forest were assigned to author a position paper for the SILC's review and potential ratification.
- Jim Baker office is working with a non-profit housing in Clark County on an "81 Project", a complex unit for people with physical disabilities. They are asking for a letter of support from SILC to go in with their HUD application. Jim is asking for permission for Honan or Mackelprang to write a letter in support of this project.
 - **Action:** Romel directed Rob to go to Vancouver to meet with Jim and learn more about the project and the non-profit housing, and write the letter of support on behalf of the SILC.

Announcements:

Lucille Walls informed the SILC that the “Healthy People 2020” meeting will be held in Seattle on November 20th, and will attend. She indicated that there needs to be people with disabilities talking about health issue that concern people with disabilities. Some of the health indicators and outcomes, such as higher suicide rates and others, must be more adequately addressed.

Jim Baker plans to send out an invitation to everybody to invite to Center’s Christmas party in Vancouver on December 15th from 3pm – 5:30pm.

Sandra Carr made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm by Romel Mackelprang.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Hathaway and Rob Honan