



## WASHINGTON

### State Independent Living Council

---

P.O. Box 45343 Olympia, WA 98504 360-725-3695 [www.wasilc.org](http://www.wasilc.org)

**Washington State Independent Living Council Quarterly meeting  
January 21, 2010  
The Olympia Center: Olympia, Washington**

Chair Romel Mackelprang called the meeting to order at 9:20 am. The first order of business was introductions. Those present were:

**Council Members:** Romel Mackelprang, Chair, Cheney; Jana Finkbonner, Co-Chair, Bellingham; Gilbert Garza, Toppenish; Diane Hansen, Elk; Debbie Cook, Ex-Officio: DSB, Seattle; Al Neely, Yakima; Devin Beach, Ellensburg; Andres Aguirre, Ex-Officio: DVR, Olympia; Linda McClain, Spokane; Trina Forest, Lakewood; Bob Roberts, WSRC Representative, Spokane; Sandra Carr, Spokane.

**SILC Staff:** Rob Honan, Executive Director, Olympia; Barbara Hathaway, Executive Assistant, Lacey

**Visitors:** Von Elison, Central Washington Disability Rights, Ellensburg (by telephone); Lucille Walls, The Alliance of People with Disabilities, Seattle; Jim Baker, Vancouver Cheryl Monk, advocate, Olympia; Robert Blumenfeld, Branch Manager Alliance of People with Disabilities/ East King County office, Redmond; Ruth Halverson and Charity Drummond, Alliance of People with Disabilities, Seattle; Liz Prince, Project Manager Roads to Community Living (ADSA), Olympia; Brenda Boles, DVR Contracts Manager, Olympia

**Service Providers:** Mike Kosanovich, ASL interpreter; Roxie Andrews, ASL interpreter; Darlene Pickard, CART provider.

**Public Announcement/ General Comments:**

1. Linda McClain publicly thanked the SILC for their support in allowing her to attend the Legislative Reception at the Capitol the night before.
2. McClain also stated that most of the SILC members are aware that GA-U (General Assistance for Unemployable) will potentially be significantly cut and it will impact the community, especially in the area of housing. She encouraged the SILC to be more proactive in legislative and executive (with the Governor's office) advocacy on this and other issues.

3. Jana Finkbonner learned from the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCED) that there were at least 136 bills affecting people with disabilities. She is wondering where she can get information on the bills. Rob Honan indicated that he is on the Governor's Committee of Disability Issues and Employment Legislative Subcommittee, and can get information out to Council members. (Action)

*Diane Hansen moved the November 6, 2009 meeting minutes be adopted with two corrections. Al Neely seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

- The July Meeting minutes (due to lost information from unsaved CART Transcription, the Council member who made motion and the member who seconded the motion was lost) reads "The Council approved the meeting minutes."
- On page 2, Patt Buff's name was changed from "Duff" to "Buff"

The Council approved, with one small adjustment, the agenda as presented. Mackelprang suggested that an additional item be added to address SILC approval of the SPIL amendments for Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

## **Guest Speaker**

Mackelprang proposed that Liz Prince go first in order to facilitate her schedule.

Prince introduced herself as the Project Manager of the Washington's Money Follows the Person (Roads to Community Living in WA) grant and spent approximately 45 minutes providing information on the program and answering questions. Here are the highlights.

- The state of Washington received a five-year grant from CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) to pay for services to help eligible individuals transition from institutional care back into the community.
- Funding for the program will last until December 2012, but individuals can still receive services until December 2013. Washington is currently in the second year of the grant.
- In terms of numbers, Prince reported (latest available), 349 individuals have been transitioned. The projected number for this date was 298. The total projected numbers over the life of the five-year grant is 660. Prince is hoping to exceed this number (the 660 figure).
- Prince reported that 184 individuals with disabilities, 140 seniors, and 25 individuals with developmental disabilities have been transitioned.
- In order for this program to be a success, housing must be available. Prince reported that there has been progress in this area. CMS and HUD have collaborated to come up with a proposal to fund new housing vouchers for nonelderly disabled, though only approximately 2,000 vouchers will be funded nationally. Prince reminded audience members that this was the number provided in the Pre-NOFA (Notification of Funding Availability), so it is not yet "gospel."
- Prince continued her presentation by stating that nursing facility and institutional relocation is up on the top of the radar for legislature this session due to a number of factors, including cost saving issues.

- Some of Council members and CIL directors wanted to follow through with Prince to see if she could make suggestions on bettering the CIL-Home and Community Services (HSC) relationship. Prince agreed to assist in this process.
- There was discussion on the numbers of DDD and Mental Health population transitioned, and the various policies and programs that either assist or do not assist these groups of people. Prince indicated there are federal and state funding differences when dealing with individuals with mental health issues.
- Honan asked for a regional breakdown of program participants; Prince will follow up on this.

**Break for 10 minutes**

### **SILC Chairperson, Romel Mackelprang**

- Mackelprang crafted his report around the need for the SILC to approve the latest SPIL amendments in order for the CILs to receive ARRA Part C Funding.
- The Chair gave a brief history of the process, starting with the \$787B Stimulus (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: ARRA) bill signed by President Obama in February 2009. Washington CILs were awarded \$1.8M Part C ARRA Funds (Part B ARRA funds were significantly less and have already been provided to the CILs by DVR) to be spent within a two to five-year time frame. The WA IL network has been working with David Esquith and Sean Barrett of RSA since July 1, 2009 to get the funding released from RSA to the state. At the present time (Jan. 21, 2010), none of the CILs have received their ARRA Part C funds. To date, there have been at least three proposals provided to RSA as well as a public forum to satisfy their concerns and requirements. RSA still is not satisfied with the WA response. The latest request from RSA was that the WA IL network needs to address the expansion of IL network (Section 3.2 of the State Plan for Independent Living).
- At that point, Mackelprang deferred to Linda McClain who reported that ACIL-WA came up with a viable plan on the expansion of the CIL network (Section 3.2 of the SPIL) issue. Here are highlights of that discussion (This was part of the official ACIL-WA report.):

There were four priorities established:

1. Re-establish IL in NW WA with the start of a new CIL in Snohomish, Skagit, San Juan, Island, and Whatcom counties. This would be funded at a “full share” (\$269,000 of the \$1.8 M state total ) Region # 1. Population: 1,100,500.
2. The existing CILs would be provided no less funding than they currently receive in any potential future re-allocation of funding or expansion of CILs in the state.
3. The third priority is to fund a CIL in the Tri-Cities area, which would include these counties: Klickitat, Benton, Franklin, Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla, and Asotin. Region #5, Population: 343,200,
4. The fourth focus is to assign each of the “Regions” various counties so that the entire state is covered.
  - **Center for Independence:** Pierce, Thurston, Gray’s Harbor, Jefferson, Clallam, Mason, Kitsap. And South King (Region #2). Population: 1,522,700.
  - **Alliance East and West:** King County (Region #3). Population: 1,884,200

- **dARSW:** Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific, Wahkiakum, and Skamania (Region # 4). 634,500
- **CORD:** Spokane, Whitman, Lincoln, Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille (Region # 6). Population: 576,000
- **CWDR:** Kittitas, Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan, Grant, Yakima and Adams (Region # 7). Population: 524,000.

Mackelprang continued his report by thanking Linda for the work that the individual Centers and ACIL-WA have done.

Mackelprang then instructed Honan to read the proposal (listed above) for the Council. The proposal was to include the four priorities listed above for consideration to RSA as WA's SPIL amendment to satisfy section 3.2 of the SPIL. *Devin Beach made a motion to "approve ACIL-WA's plans and empowers Rob Honan and Executive Committee to draft language (for submission to RSA) that would reflect what we've discussed in these four areas."* Diane Hansen seconded the motion. This motion carried unanimously.

### **Lunch break was taken**

### **Chair's report (Continued)**

- Mackelprang continued his report by giving an update on his status as an official member of the SILC. He stated that he had a really productive conversation with the Governor's Office, and that he and the Governor's office hashed out their differences. Mackelprang reported to the Governor that the SILC has been very active in national legislation (a solid reason for out of state travel) and the SILC's position papers have been influential. He was officially reappointed in January.
- Mackelprang also addressed the lack of Council representation in King County. Recently, two individuals from King County applied for membership to the Council, and there was a brief discussion on how to handle this. Mackelprang suggested that he and Honan would make contact with the Governor's office to discuss the possibility of expanding the Council- or at least how to include King County and even Southwest Washington.

### **Committee Reports**

- Andrès Aguirre: DVR. Aguirre made a few comments about his recent marriage and home purchase. He was recently appointed the interim director at DVR and will be the ex-officio member to the SILC during that time. He reported that the level of DVR assistance to the SILC and the CILs will not change. In fact, in the short run, it is possible that the existing CILs will receive additional support due to the closure of dRC.

Aguirre also commented that he has been dialoguing with the CILs about the 504 contract (Part B) on how to make it better. He also mentioned that the new DVR calendar is out, and Jim Baker's CIL (dARSW) was recently featured in it for their successful Summer Youth Program.

- Debbie Cook, DSB: Cook began her report by stating that the state legislature and Governor have proposed moving DSB (it is currently an independent department) to the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). The major concern shared by clients, staff members and advocates of DSB would be the loss of program autonomy. An additional concern was whether or not DSB would be folded into DVR, and Cook stated that Governor's office mistakenly listed DSB as moving into DVR (it keeps getting written down) but this is really not the intent. The bill number is: HB 2953. Cook added that \$100,000 might be cut for the Older Blind Program (a 20% cut).
- Diane Hansen, RCB (Rehabilitation Council for the Blind): Hansen did not have a full report and promised to email it to Honan, who would then forward it to members. She did provide information on a bills of interest: SB 6465, dealing with roadside vendor programs.
- Sandra Carr, WSRC. Carr provided some information on numbers of clients DVR served (e.g. 332 people under 22 years of age). She also stated that several DVR counselors are retiring in Spokane, and this could be problematic. Carr also spoke about the needs assessment that will be going out to employers, DVR employees themselves, and others. A brief discussion on the results of the client questionnaire was also provided (78 % were satisfied with DVR services). Client suggestions included: 1. Timeliness, 2. Job Placement, and 3. Additional availability of educational training.
- Rob Honan: Budget Report. He handed out the one-page report. Highlights included: 24% of budget spent (\$42,555 out of \$ 179,679). Additional expenses will be needed to cover costs for the Public Forums and Reasonable Accommodations.
- Romel Mackelprang, Executive Committee Report: No Report Given.
- Linda McClain, ACIL-WA: The bulk of the report provided earlier. Linda asked Rob Honan to email the centers the copy of SILC 704 Report. Rob stated that he already emailed out to all the centers this past Tuesday night, but would it on the SILC website as well. **(ACTION)**
- Rob Honan, Executive Director Report and Legislative Agenda: Honan handed out his report (available on the SILC website) and noted that there was a short period between the last meeting and the current meeting, so the number (but not importance) of activities was limited. The highlights: completing the 704 Report, working with RSA to address the SPIL amendments, and the December 2, 2009 Public Forum. Honan also provided some federal and state legislative information. On the federal side, the Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act is still a key issue. It has not been re-authorized in over 10 years. On the State level, many bills are being discussed (included are the ones earlier dealing with potential move of DSB to DSHS): HB 1739 (Accessible Communities), Respectful Language (Change "mental retardation" to intellectual disability), Potential

elimination of GA-U), Homeless/ Landlord issues (changing eviction Notice from 20 days to 60 days if person has been resident for one year). McClain, Mackelprang, Finkbonner, and others contributed to this section. Honan mentioned that the GCED has a very good legislative list they frequently update throughout the session, and he will forward to members as he receives them.

### **Old Business**

- By-Laws. Linda McClain and Sandra Carr are working on updating and improving the by-laws and will have proposals ready for the next meeting.
- LGBTQI (Lesbian Gay Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning and Intersex) position paper proposed to the Council for consideration of adoption. This paper would increase the number of SILC position papers from eight to nine. Mike Bailey (dRSW staff), Jim Baker and Trina Forest wrote the draft paper. *Devin Beach proposed that the paper be adopted and Linda McClain seconded the motion.* The discussion centered around several changes:
  - Honan suggested adding Equal Protection Laws of WA to the paper to strengthen it
  - Garza stated that spelling out the entire title (yes, it is long!) would be beneficial
  - Mackelprang believes changing bullet number 2 to broaden it from “fear of discrimination” to “lack of access, lack of knowledge etc.” would strengthen the paper.

*The motion to accept the paper, with the changes, was approved unanimously.*

- Meeting plans for the upcoming year were the last item on the agenda  
The Council came to a consensus Rob Honan and Barbara Hathaway to email/call each center to see when it would be a good time to set up a date and then for Rob to get with Darlene, our CART provider to see if it would fit in her schedule.
  - Gilbert Garza will work with Rob for Tri-Cities Public Forum in May.
  - Jana Finkbonner, quarterly meeting and a public forum in Bellingham in April.
  - Lucille Walls, a public forum in Seattle in April.
  - Trina Forest, a public forum in Lakewood in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57pm by Chair Romel Mackelprang.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Hathaway and Robert Honan  
02/25/2010

