



# WASHINGTON State Independent Living Council

## WASILC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, April 13, 2017**

Holiday Inn Express

8606 36<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Marysville, WA 98270

### **Members Present:**

Mark Leeper, Center Director Representative, Pullman  
Jana Finkbonner, VR Tribal Representative, Bellingham  
Rob Hines, Ex-Officio DVR, Olympia  
Ryan Nabors, CIL Representative, Tumwater  
Sheila Turner, Parent Guardian Representative, Pasco

### **Per Phone:**

Kayla Victor, Private Business Representative, Vancouver  
Keith James, Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities, Seattle  
Deb Cook, Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) Ex-Officio

### **Members Absent:**

Almir Trejo, General Public Representative, Tacoma

### **Council Staff:**

Kim Conner, Executive Director  
Alex Hatcher, Disability Integration Manager  
Cassi Villegas, Executive Assistant

### **Guests:**

Teesha Kirschbaum, Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC)  
Michael Richardson, Northwest ADA Center  
Erin Monroe, Workforce Snohomish  
Patt Kosier, Center for Independence (CFI)  
Pam Wilson, Center for Independence (CFI)  
Von Elison, Central Washington Disability Resources (CWDR)  
Kimberly Heymann, Alliance of People with disAbilities  
Robert Blumenfeld, Alliance of People with disAbilities  
Jessica Williams-Hall, Alliance of People with disAbilities  
Margaret Langedahl  
Samantha Crooks  
Kelsey Severson  
Shawn Latham

### Call to Order:

- Called to Order: Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 9:08 by Mark Leeper, SILC Chair
- January 2017 Minutes- Motion for Approval

**Motion:** Ryan Nabors “I motion to approve the January 2017 minutes.”

**Vote:** All in favor, motion passes unanimously

### Icebreaker: Mark and Kim

- Each council member and guest answered the question: “If you could have lunch with anyone, living or dead, who would it be.”

### Snohomish Workforce Council- Effects of WIOA on the local level: Erin Monroe, President/CEO Workforce Snohomish

- Workforce Snohomish is one of 12 Workforce Councils in Washington State. Workforce helps people find jobs and helps businesses find people to employ. There is a 3.7 % unemployment rate in WA State as of February 2017.
- Snohomish is the fastest growing county in the state. Currently they are focusing on youth graduating from high school.
- Workforce oversees Work Source Centers. There are three in Snohomish County. They aided in the Oso slide by hiring 89 temporary workers.
- Workforce has multiple grants. Some of these grants include decreasing homelessness through employment training/opportunities, helping individuals with disabilities and homeless veterans obtain employment, and supporting those seeking employment in healthcare or retail work.
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)- formally WIA, JTPA, CETA. etc. passed in July 2014; this transition to WIOA has been described as “challenging”.
- WIOA intends to inspire innovative strategies to keep pace with changing economic conditions. It has improved coordination across workforce development, adult education, and vocational rehabilitation. WA State organizations have supported this act.
- WIOA Core Programs that impact the efforts of Workforce Snohomish:
  - employment and training services for adults, dislocated workers, and youth through formula grants to states; and
  - adult education and literacy programs and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) state grant programs that assist individuals with disabilities in obtaining employment
- Target groups and barriers to employment. WIOA serves 14 barriers specifically:
  - Displaced Homemakers; Low- Income Individuals; Native American, Alaska Natives, and Hawaiians; Individuals with Disabilities; Older Individuals; Ex-Offenders; Homeless Individuals; Youth in, or formerly in, Foster Care; English Language Learners; Migrant/Seasonal Farmworkers; Single Parents/Pregnant Women; Long-Term Unemployed; Veterans; Individuals within Two Years of Exhausted TANF Eligibility; and Other Groups as Designated by the Governor.
- Under WIOA, there are Mandated Committees, such as Barriers & Accessibility

Subcommittee (BASC). Snohomish created the Access and Inclusion Committee (AIC). AIC is an advisory group that informs the Workforce Snohomish Board of Directors on issues related to access and generating equitable outcomes for all populations in the workforce development system.

- Services for people with disabilities have always been available; WIOA has mandated the partnerships that offer these services.
- Erin took questions:
  - Jana: “WIOA feels similar to WIA; how is it different?” Erin: “WIA, required collaboration, the big change that is occurred there is now a mandatory system partnership, and paying into/leveraging the system. WA did not see many changes because our state was working well together before the mandate. WA has seen bigger changes in strategic workforce development councils, more money, and more focuses on youth.”
  - Pam (CFI) asked about the Ticket to Work Program. Erin: “The Ticket to Work Program has been very slow moving. They have been discussing it since 2013. The State is the Employment Network (EN). The EN started working well about a year, a year and a half ago.” Pam (CFI): “It has been a substantial funding source. Five years of funding per individual, is the funding going to be spread out across all of the partnerships?” Erin: “Whatever funding they receive is being utilized for the system. We are looking at how to best use the funds.” Pam: “Is it required for you to list those networks/individuals in the grant for the Ticket to Work Program?” Erin: “Yes, well we have a report but it is a draft. I will provide the report electronically. It is a detailed report. IL centers should be a part of that list.” Erin apologized that she has not reached out to the centers, but feels it is critical that they are a part of the system
  - Kim: WIOA Title VII speaks specifically to SILC/CILs, Kim will be happy to share that info with Erin. CILs are directly connected to the IL Philosophy. Kim addressed the data provided, specifically the proposed statistic that 1/5 people with disabilities do not want to work. Kim thinks this statistic needs to be investigated and worded differently. Erin agrees that this is a perception that is not necessarily a fact and claims this number includes more than just those with disabilities (including homeless individuals, etc.)
- Erin closed with asking those in attendance “what are the challenges, and what do you want to see?” We will follow up with Erin with these concerns.

#### **DVR: Rob Hines, Director**

- Rob introduced himself as the new Director of DVR and provided his background and experience.
- DVR is going through many transitions due to WIOA. WIOA has brought DVR in as a core system for the state, and DVR is no longer, as Rob describes, “The best kept secret”.

- Rob has not worked with Independent Living (IL) Councils or Centers. He is very excited to be working with IL. He would like to leave these relationships better than when he arrived, and he has a very positive outlook on these relationships.
- DVR has around 300 employees and is not massive, but he is very big on communication. Rob would like to be educated on IL and is open and available.

### **Workforce Development & BASC Update: Teesha Kirschbaum**

- BASC tasked with looking at how well the system is doing at making everything open and accessible to those who really need help. They ask “Are there barriers that make it harder for people?”
- Teesha believes the local advisory committee in Snohomish is successful and is doing a great job meeting the needs of those in the county.
- Teesha addressed Jana’s question to Erin about the differences between WIOA and WIA. Teesha states that WIA was written well but the collaboration that was intended did not happen. The measures of judgement/critiques are the same for all systems. The question is now, “how well is the entire system doing at addressing these problems? And it is specific to those with disabilities.” Another difference is the State Plan is more inclusive; WIOA is about collaboration and coordination.
- BASC takes one of the different 14 focus populations (listed above) and addresses how to ensure the system is helping each population.
- Service providers will present on how they help people. BASC holds facilitated conversations on barriers that have been addressed, and then discusses solutions and how to remove barriers.
- Teesha used some of her time asking those present what barriers they have seen and helped provide solutions. Different barriers brought up were:
  - Low-vision/blind people not having access to computers at IL Centers or other disability centers.
  - Lack of staff knowledge on how to use assistive technology for those who require it. As well as, lack of general training on helping people with specific disabilities.
  - Pushing people with a specific disability to a specific group that focuses on that disability, even if the consumer does not want that. Which often leads to a consumer not receiving the services they desire
  - Stigmas in the workplace.
    - VR advocates to all businesses using the Dual Customer Model (Consumers and Businesses) and educated businesses on how employable people with disabilities are.
- Combined State Plan: Public Workforce Development System has to come together on plan. Teesha provided a handout of the summary of the plan. There are four key parts. This strategic plan has an intended path for an inclusive system that serves all. As disability advocates, we have to stay involved to continue this progress. You are

urged to get involved in local advisory committees. Teesha can be a contact for partners to introduce them to their local advisory committee.

#### **Part B, October 2017 Program Funding: CIL's proposal for program funding- Kim Conner**

- Our SPIL has some flexibility due to it being broadly written
- DVR, as the DSE, can retain 5% of funds for administrative purposes.
- SILC and CILs have been meeting to discuss upcoming Part B funding programs. The first step for the new funding cycle is determining what proposed programs meet the objectives/activities outlined in the SPIL.
- The next step will be to engage with DVR contracts department to work on the upcoming contracts. In particular the Statement of Work and
- The proposed CIL programs outlined each request for Part B dollars. They were read aloud.
- Contracts are expiring and new contracts need to be developed. SILC is collaborative in determining the contracts as they pertain to the SPIL, and will help determine the reporting/review process for these programs.
- In the past, the DSE would determine the Part B programs, now under WIOA, the SILC and CILs are directed to determine where the funds are going, as aligned with the SPIL.
- SILC's role is to ensure the programs align with the SPIL, and nothing else. SILC will work on peer-review process, measurement, and review process. This is not currently in place.
- All CIL program outlines were discussed. The Council feels they align with SPIL objectives and outcomes.
- The SILC does not have power over the contract. However, it has the ability to be collaborative.

**Motion: Jana "I motion to accept these proposals as the starting point and move forward with the DVR Contracts."**

**Vote: All in favor, motion passes unanimously.**

#### **Executive Committee: Mark Leeper**

- Mark announced Krysta's resignation from the council.
- Mark announced the Councils' interested in new membership.

#### **Finance/Budget: Kayla Victor/Kim Conner**

- Kim created a report that broke down budget more specifically, as requested at a previous meeting.
- We are currently under budget by 7% (currently at 43% for the fiscal year). Kim went through the budget. She discussed the line items, this includes space rental, admin, travel, etc.

#### **Executive Director Report: Kim Conner**

- Kim is the Co-Chair of the Whole Community Subcommittee; the next meeting is in May.
- Kim has been attending and working with BASC, other advisory panels; she uses these opportunities to meet partners and network.
- SCIL- Kim worked with SCIL to get IL contracts through DVR.
- Kim completed DSHS training for managers.
- The intent to have a cross-training event with the SILC and CILs was introduced.

#### **Tribal Report: Jana Finkbonner**

- Yakima tribe has an upcoming training.
- Quadra Island in BC: tribes working on their tribal journey.
- Working with Worksource centers
- MOUs are moving forward

#### **Marketing and Outreach Committee Report: Kayla Victor**

- Committee has met with RiseCX to discuss collaboration and using their platform. There is an opportunity to create a pilot program for better content, deeper public engagement, etc. it is a real time engagement tool. We would like to include CILs if this platform works.
- Web-site mockup has been created and will be discussed further.
- Rob has met with DSHS Communications and found that we are not allowed to have our own social media page.

#### **Legislative and Policy Committee Report: Ryan Nabors**

- Ryan and Keith have been working with their junior elected officials.
- Ryan had a meeting with Christine Reeves.
- There is interest in holding working lunches with staffers to get word out to elected officials.
- Ryan will be more involved in Olympia due to his new position with the VA.

#### **Coalition Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP): Alex Hatcher**

- CIEP is currently working on storming, forming, and educating the Coalition emergency management.
- Scope work: call down exercise with Department of Health (DOH) using Everbridge. Alex is currently collecting information for this call down exercise to take place in May.
- Alex supports and helps Kim with her work in the Whole Community Subcommittee.
- She is currently working on the work plan for the following year.
- Everyday tasks include providing technical assistance for statewide agencies, working closely with DOH, as they provide the funding for CIEP; working on daily

accessibility issues, expanding the program by attending workshops and conferences.

- Alex attended FEMA's reunification conference.
- Working with Emergency Management Department (EMD) at the local and national level.
- Working with Portlight; Disasters Strategies Division.
- Sheila- asked if Alex has built more relationships within Pasco, she would also like to be a part of the coalition in her region. Alex said they are doing well but could be doing much better in Eastern, WA.

#### **Public Comments/Questions: Mark Leeper**

- Pam, Associate Director for CFI: Staff is interested in speaking about what they have been working on.
  - Sean, IL Coordinator for CFI, Skagit, Whatcom, Snohomish Counties- Group events, walks, bowling, fairs/events. Brings in guest speakers, person centered planning, telling their story, accessing services, benefits to different health related focuses (i.e. massage therapy). Upcoming events include advocacies and system changes.
  - Margaret-Youth Coordinator for CFI. Facilitated youth workshops. Has been working with the mayor in Marysville. The Mayor has a committee for creating and sustaining opportunities for people with disabilities. Joined group with Strickland and the diversity group. Margaret represents people with disabilities. Is working on completing a Ted Talk. Rising Above Disabilities is a group she created. Attending Youth Transition Training in Denver. Mayor's committee provides plaques to businesses that hiring people with disabilities. Creating a proposal for the rotary club to fund a computer lab.
  - Kelsey, IL Coordinator at CFI. Whatcom. She is working on the Arts Walk in Whatcom. Does legislative advocacy work, hosts an autism support group in Bellingham. Would like to be connected with Roads to Community Living.
  - Sam, Intern with CFI. WWU Student. Spec Ed major. Interest in Disability Law. Attended Legislative Outreach in Olympia.
  - Kyle, experience with Out and About. Group gets together and has social experience.
- CFI will be delivering curriculum to WWU students.

#### **Disability Action Center (DAC): Mark Leeper**

- Asotin and Whitman counties in Washington get services from DAC.
- Blue-Path Map-a-thons have been taking place; WSU students are helping DAC complete these surveys.
- DAC has a Career Mentoring Project, funded out of Idaho.
- They respond to individual contacts- ex. visually impaired persons would like to be a

peer counsellor.

#### **Center for Independence (CFI): Patt Kosier**

- Currently gearing up for their summer youth program.
- Programming is offered to help people get out of institutions and into homes.
- Todd Holloway is working with emergency preparedness, on local and national levels.
- Accessible Communities Access Committee; working on accessible taxis in Pierce County.
- Pam at Marysville CFI: SNOCAD SNOHOMISH county organization activates in a disaster. Hosting events on disasters and how to prepare. They will have a tent during the Strawberry Festival- there will be police, fire, etc. training classes.
- CFI offers meeting room spaces and collaborates with organizations to conducting trainings.
- Alumni Club in Marysville School District, they are addressing the gap between graduation and life events.
- Working with Wounded Warriors Program. Ryan Nabors has helped with finding a contact.
- CFI Prom- 3 schools districts. Putting together prom for kids with disabilities.

#### **Central Washington Disability Resources (CWDR): Von Elison**

- More people are seeking services now that winter is over.
- CWDR has completed their 704, but had some struggles due to technical difficulties.

#### **Alliance of People with disAbilities (Alliance): Kimberly Heymann**

- Community work- Alliance is finding that people prefer services from organizations that are disability or ethnicity specific. Offering training to these programs for IL services. They are working on maneuvering this occurrence.
- Bent Not Broken is working with LGBTQIA+ community members. MEETUP is being utilized for this program and outreach.
- Alliance will be working with City of Seattle to train their staff and provide training on accessibility.
- Kimberly joined a group working with SEATAC Airport. SEATAC desires to be the most accessible airport in the nation. They received a bond to create new terminal that will be fully accessible. Alliance is helping create a group to offer opinions. Special Olympics is coming to WA in 2018.
- They will be participating in PRIDE in June this year.
- Hosting Getting it Right Program. Working with Portlight, invited THIS group to partner with Alliance. They will be hosting an event in March or May of 2018. Alliance is currently looking for volunteers or funding/sponsorship.
- King County metro has approached them to be a part of the advisory council for the metro fairs.

#### **WSRC: Teesha Kirschbaum**

- Teesha recently attended a national meeting in DC that hosted all VR agencies. She visited the Hill in D.C. and spoke on the importance of health care to individuals with disabilities. At the national meeting, a big topic of discussion was that the current administration is making cuts to programs like Medicaid. These cuts will affect those with disabilities. The general population does not understand what Medicaid is and what it covers. It is important for everyone in the disability and advocacy field to keep the Medicaid conversation and basic education going on a daily basis.
- The new DVR Director believes in inclusion and reaching out to people. Teesha urges everyone to take Rob at his word that he wants to collaborate, “VR is supposed to be consumer driven and consumer led so we should continue to remind him.”

#### **Department of Services for the Blind (DSB): Deb Cook/Kim Conner**

- DSB is continuing to serve about the same amount of people this year as last year. DSB is working on outreach and building potential provider relationships.
- They are about to receive new technical assistance through a new technical assistance grant and are planning to set national parameters on these outcomes since it is innovative.
- Deb let us know she is retiring at the end of next March.

#### **Washington Assistive Technology Act Program (WATAP): Kimberly Heymann**

- Kimberly is the IL Rep to WATAP and is happy to let someone else take her seat on WATAP 12/31/17.
- WATAP is waiting to hear about the amount of funding for 2017. The current administration had recommended cuts in the budget. AT programs should expect cuts in 2018. WATAP is working with other organizations as sources for funding to offset these cuts. (Ex. Aging and Long Term Services Administration -AL TSA)
- AL TSA has a kit to provide basic AT needs. (Duct tape, grip tape, etc.)
- Discussion about monopoly in AT; used to be several AT providers in tech. VFO bought out companies, now there are two AT companies: VFO and Microsoft. It appears that Microsoft will be buying out VFO- this is currently all speculation.
- New App: AVA works on voice recognition. Similar to CART.
- New App: Open Sesame- iPhone app. This makes an iPhone completely hands free and accessible.
- Last fiscal year, provided low interest loans to 17 individuals.
- Kimberly provided stats on WATAP’s last fiscal year.

#### **NW ADA Center: Michael Richardson**

- NW ADA Center has received a grant renewal for 5 years. They are available to provide Assistive Technology training.
- NE ADA Center is available to work with IL training, particularly with sight surveys for buildings.
- For Fiscal Year '18: they are concerned about the new administration and funding.

### **SPIL Review: Kim Conner**

- Kim discussed the sharing of information and keeping up with objectives and activities in the SPIL. Kim will be reaching out to the CILs and others to keep track of accomplishment.
- She addressed that we have a very big SPIL and we will probably not accomplish all of our goals, but we can use it as a working document in the future for the next SPIL conception.
- All of the objectives and activities we have achieved to this point were addressed.
  - Refer to the SPIL if details need to be included
  - Amending Bylaws in 2018 if necessary

### **Youth Leadership Proposal: Kim/Mark**

- The background of the funds available for a youth leadership program was provided.
- Kim addressed who sits on the planning committee; the committee has only met 2 times. The committee intends to collaborate with APRIL, as they will be hosting their annual conference in Spokane, WA this year.
- CILs have asked for funds to be reinstated, at \$5455/unit. Which is a total of \$30,002.50, this would leave \$21,997.50 for the youth planning committee.
- The funds for last year were arbitrarily held back by DSU. This money would be governed by the last SPIL. It should be approached with the new rules.
- Does the SILC agree to sign off on the CIL contracts to have these funds reinstated?  
Reinstate funding for current CIL Youth Contracts- Kim Conner
- Kimberly is concerned about the funds being used to sponsor youth to attend APRIL. Attempting to cut down on paperwork.
- Kim addressed that we are interested in sponsoring students all over the state, not just those involved in CILs.
- We need to coordinate on youth planning, transportations, etc.

**Motion: Ryan Nabors "I motion to reinstate the funds to the CILs"**

**Vote: All in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

**Adjourned @ 3:57 on 4/13**