

State Independent Living Council Board of Directors Meeting

March 23, 2023

Meeting Summary

Present: Gary Allen, Rich Luby, Gretchen Knauff, Barbara Lombardi, George Michna (DSE Representative), Todd Johnston, Kim Smith, Carmen Correa-Rios, Jonathan Sigworth, David Morgana, Melissa Taylor, Jaclyn Pinney, Farrah Garland, Katie Smolinsky, Emily Zambrello, Michelle Johnson

Absent: Darryl Ruopp, Josiane Alix

Guests: Eileen Healy

Staff: Molly Cole, Executive Director

I. Welcome - Gretchen Knauff welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Discussion Question – What do you think are your roles as SILC Board Members?

Board members discussed this question and what they felt their role was as a SILC board member. Answers included:

- Advancing the mission of the SILC.
- Use your skill set to provide input to the Board and facilitate the organization.
- Advocate for the needs of the SILC and ensure the information presented is disseminated.
- Take past experiences and help mentor also, assist with committees.
- State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)
- Be a liaison between SILC and the community.
- Be a liaison between the SILC and the Centers for Independent Living (CILs), bringing independent living philosophy to the centers.
- Collectively represent independent living in the state and being a nexus for overseeing legislation.
- An advocate and a voice and bring up issues and change things.
- Provide a disability lens in the community because not everything is as simple as it looks.
- Bring back information to the CILs and provide feedback from the CILs.
- Show up prepared and be willing to do the work.
- George - as the DSE(Designated State Entity) representative his responsibility is to monitor and evaluate the SPIL and be a resource to the board.
- Management and governance in a nonprofit and developing the SPIL while addressing the needs of people with disabilities in Connecticut.
- Watch for upcoming issues and be ready to respond.

III. Public Comment - NONE

IV. Reflections from NASILC Congress

Molly, Carmen, Jaclyn, Rich, and Gretchen attended the NASILC Congress in Little Rock, Arkansas. The conference concentrated on the value of the SILCS. In addition to the lack of quality to the food at the hotel, the group provided some reflections on what was learned at the meetings.

- Good overview of the relationships between SILCs, CILs and DSE.
- I&E funds are a requirement. The DSE is supposed to provide I&E funds in addition to the operational funds designated by ACL. The SILC does not currently do not receive them. Since this is funding directly for operations, we will be renewing our request with the DSE for a staff person.
- Part B funds are currently inadequate to meet the operations of the SILC and the goals if the SPIL.
- HCBS (Home and Community Based Services)- consider using it as a broad SPIL Goal. Gives us flexibility in determining projects that will fit in the Plan.
- Christopher Reeve Foundation (CRF) - Better understanding of the CRF. SILC should consider sending someone to the CRF Summit
- Emergency Preparedness – We learned strategies that can be used in our Emergency Prep activities such as periodic webinars and “Prep Chats
- Many of CILs have programs that address homelessness
- The process of developing the SPIL is extremely important. Board members attend the public forums.

V. Action Items

- A. Minutes for January 2023 - The minutes for the SILC Board Meeting in January 2023 were voted on and passed.
- B. Membership Discussion – The Board discussed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to dismiss SR from the Board for lack of attendance as required by the SILC by-laws. After thorough discussion of the issue the Board voted to dismiss SR.

VI. Finance Report – Rich Luby reviewed the Finance Report and responded to Questions from the Board. The Board voted to accept the Finance Report.

VII. Financial Reporting – Molly Cole provided a PowerPoint overview of the current SILC budget by categories and explained the income (revenues) and expenses anticipated for the fiscal year (2023).

VIII. Director’s Report – Molly provided an overview of current and upcoming activities.

- a. Supported Decision Making (SDM) – The SDM Coalition is moving forward and recently contracted with national expert, Jonathan Martinis, to assist with a series off trainings, booklets, and a Summit. Jonathan is ready to help the

SDM Coalition educate key targeted groups and develop legislation to require that SDM be considered before granting a guardianship or conservatorship. DD Council agreed to give us additional funding. A mini retreat is planned for April 17, 2023

- b. Partners Alumni Reunion – Set for April 1, 2023. About 65 Partners Alumni have registered for the event. Allan Bergman will be the featured speaker and will be working with the issue working groups that will evolve from the Reunion.
- c. PPR (Program Performance Report) Submission – The SILC PPR was sent back due to a technical issue. After several communications with the DSE and ACL, the issue was resolved and the PPR was accepted.
- d. Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance – The Alliance has been meeting every Friday during the legislative session to discuss legislative issues and update each other on the status of bills such as wheelchair repair, Husky C, durable medical equipment and the budget. The Alliance also filed 4 complaints related to the lack of program access at the Connecticut legislature. Work continues on the complaints.
- e. BAGL (Building a Great Life) – The BAGL committee is working to rejuvenate its work by incorporating short podcasts on various disability issues. CRIS Radio has agreed to assist the BAGL Committee with setting up and learning how to do a podcast. Molly is scheduling a visit to CRIS.
- f. STS (Southbury Training School) – The Department of Developmental Services has been advertising that it is working toward greater independence for the individuals with Intellectual Disability it supports. The big exception to this shift is the refusal to close Southbury Training School and the Regional Centers, all institutions that are the opposite of independent living. Several disability agencies have come together to form a workgroup to address the issue and take action.
- g. Legislative issues - In addition to the budget/funding for the CILS, SILC is working on HUSKY C expansion, Equipment Repair, Accessible Diagnostic Medical Equipment and Workforce Issues. Additionally, we have been pursuing accessibility for public participation at the legislative office building.
- h. PCA Employer Issues – The SILC continues to support monthly PCA group meetings and the work of the PCA Think Tank.
- i. SPIL Forums – Planning for the SPIL forums is continuing. It is important to get input from the public and a schedule will be developed soon.

IX. Committee Reports –

- a. Membership/Board Development – Molly has been chairing this group but one of the members needs to agree to be the chair. The group is small and only meets when necessary. David Morgana will chair the group (Thank you).
- b. Emergency Preparedness – Rich Luby reported that the group is continuing to meet and is planning other trainings.
- c. Data Tech – Eileen Healy reported on the Data Tech Committee. The group is examining the definitions in Data Tech and the aggregate report that is generated for the SILC.
- d. SPIIL – Melissa Taylor did not add to the reporting by Molly Cole. See Director's Report above.
- e. State Rehab Council – Gary Allen reported that there has not been a meeting since the last time.
- f. Equipment Repair Group – Jonathan reported on the work of the Equipment Repair Group. This was a very active group as the members met to discuss various aspects of the proposed legislation, interacted with legislative leaders and staff, and testified on behalf of the Bill.

X. Adjourn to Executive Session – The Board voted to go into Executive Session to discuss Molly Cole's evaluation.

XI. Announcements – The meeting was almost at 3:00 PM. Everyone was ready to go and no one offered announcements.

XII. Adjourn – The Board voted to adjourn.