

## **Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council**

Unapproved Minutes  
VR District Office  
Jefferson City, Missouri  
August 15, 2003

**Members in Attendance:** Tim Azinger, Chair; Mike Keller, Vice Chair; Gary Maddox, Barbara Dewberry, Joseph Matovu, Bonnie Lewis, Kevin Jenkins, John Ford, Donna Borgmeyer

**Others in Attendance:** Jeanne Loyd, DVR, Betty Davidson, RSB, Ron Vessell, DVR, Gary Moll, DVR; Rich Walker, DVR; Jackie O'Dell, DVR; Tamra Schlote, DVR; Dorothy Parks, DVR, Sherry Keller, David Robinson, TWP, Shelley Rogers, TWP, Zeze Miller, RSB, Steve Vaughn, DCAI, Donna Nichols, DCAI, Goldie Parrett, Heartland, Frank Nease, ILRC, Stacy Sousley, ILRC

### **Agenda**

Tim called the meeting to order and started introductions around the room. Tim introduced new member appointed to the Council, Kevin Jenkins. Tim also introduced Betty Davidson of RSB who is standing in for Janet Renken. Tim asked for a review of the agenda. Tim added a presentation by Clarinda Unger, DVR, on Order of Selection. Joseph added translation of the consumer satisfaction survey to Spanish. That will be under his committee update. Tim added discussion of a nomination committee for officers for next meeting under new business. Donna added OSG and MiCassa under new business. Gary Maddox moved to approve the agenda as amended and Joseph Matovu seconded. The motion was accepted by the Council.

### **May Minutes Approval**

Tim asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May Council Meeting. Joseph Matovu made the motion and Bonnie Lewis seconded it. The motion was approved by the council.

### **Chair Report – Tim Azinger**

Tim talked about the provision of services in Missouri. He reminded everyone that the services are to promote independence and not dependence on programs such as IL or PAS. He encouraged self-evaluation to make sure that the direction is toward independent living philosophy of promoting independence.

### **DSU Reports**

#### **Vocational Rehabilitation – Ron Vessell**

Ron talked about the good services going on in the programs across the state. Because of the increase in people being served it also increases the cost of the program. Because of this increase the new order of selection waiting list will take effect in October.

The state budget for next fiscal year is showing a \$920 million deficit that the state will have to make up before the next fiscal year. There was a lot of one-time money used to balance the last two years which will not be available in the future. This means that there will be a competitive environment for any new money. It also means that the Appropriations Committee and the Governor's Budget and Planning section will be looking very closely at any increased requests for money. There are a couple of audits going on right now in DVR. One is a performance audit of the PAS program. A new rule will be written up on solicitation. DVR needs to address the definition of unmet need to better justify the program to the legislature. Because of the increase in consumers being added to the program, there need to be solutions on how to deal with this without increasing the amount of the program. October is the target to come up and implement those solutions.

#### **Rehabilitation Services for the Blind – Betty Davidson**

Dr. Davidson started in March with RSB and this is her first SILC meeting. Janet Renken is retiring at the end of August. RSB served 682 consumers in the ILR program. Dr. Davidson introduced Zeze Miller in the audience

who is their project coordinator. She is hoping to have a better handle of their budget situation by the next meeting.

### **SRC Report – Gary Maddox**

Two of the vacancies of the SRC have been filled the by the Governor's Office. One is a representative of mental health and the other is a representative from PTI. The other topic discussed was order of selection. Mr. Vessell and Clarinda Unger from DVR gave an overview of order of selection which starts October 1, 2003. There are three levels. Also, the annual report has been released for 2002. It has a lot of good information about the services that DVR provides. You can access it at <http://vr.dese.mo.gov/vr/annualreports/2002annualreport.pdf>

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee – Tim Azinger**

During a meeting of the Ad Hoc Non-Medicaid Financial Eligibility Committee, a rule conflict was found between the statute and rule. The statute states that after tax income was to be used for eligibility while the rule states to use adjusted gross income. The rule will be changed to reflect the statute and will be handled by DVR.

Also, there was a situation brought to the attention of the Executive Committee about complaints of a significant nature from service providers against one of the Centers. The Executive Committee held a conference call on June 19, 2003 to discuss and decided to draft a letter to DVR for their attention to this matter as budget monitors of the centers.

### **Budget Committee – Mike Keller**

The committee discussed the budget for technical assistance. The total amount of \$45,000 will be broken down into four or five expenditures. The first of which is a total of \$21,000. Each Center will be entitled to \$1000 for training or technical assistance needs. The second expenditure is \$10,500 which would be \$500 for each center for stipends to attend the IL Conference. Third is \$11,000 projected for next year working on the State Plan. There is \$2500 for BPAO. The committee also made a recommendation to the Council that expenses be turned in within thirty days after the meeting attended. The council voted to accept that recommendation. This will help to pay expenditures in a timely manner and give a better understanding of SILC expenses.

### **Communication Committee**

The new brochures have been completed and updated. 2500 new brochures were printed up and distributed to the centers and to SILC members. A supply will be kept at the DVR central office for the district offices and for handouts at conferences. There have been updates to the MOSILC web pages. There is an AT A Glance chart of the Centers and their satellite offices. The brochure is also on the web pages. It was brought up and discussed to have the brochure and consumer satisfaction survey translated and printed in Spanish and possibly other languages. The Communication Committee will work with the Budget and Service Capacity Committees on the translations.

### **Consumer Satisfaction – Joseph Matovu**

A letter was sent to all the centers explaining when and to who to send the consumer satisfaction survey cards. The letter was sent out and explained that the cards were to go to any case open for at least six months and closed cases for reason other than death. By the end of the fiscal year, there were 1125 cards returned. The return rate this year is 8% which is up from last year's 6%. The new cards are yellow and have been sent out. There is a memo which goes with the cards explaining to the consumer why the survey card was sent to them and what the results affect. The results of the FY03 survey cards were very positive. Joseph read a few of the comments. Tim Azinger suggested compiling the comments to help in testifying on behalf of independent living services for this next legislative session. Joseph would like to convene the committee as they have not met for a long time.

### **Housing – Joseph Matovu**

The housing committee has met twice since the last SILC meeting. First was a conference call on June 18, 2003. The second was on August 8, 2003 at the center in Columbia. This meeting was to review what the committee has been doing for the last six months and to set the agenda for the next six months. The MOSILC website has a housing resource list for most of the state. Housing forums were held at some of the centers and guidelines were created by the committee for the centers to use for these forums. The committee also attended the LEP in April along with some consumers who did some advocacy work as well. It was also suggested by the committee to attend the MOCIL meetings. The housing webpage will also include Universal Design housing information. Joseph would also like to recruit more members for the committee to make sure that the entire state is represented. The committee would like to explore Olmstead further in the housing issue.

### **Legislative Committee – Donna Borgmeyer**

The Legislative committee will be doing a SILC issues survey. These will be distributed to the centers for them to fill out and to also send to their consumers to fill out. It will end in mid October so that the results can be totaled for the November SILC meeting. There was discussion on the survey and how the logistics of mailing and returning them would work.

### **Quality Assurance – Bonnie Lewis**

The committee received a letter of intent from the University of Missouri Team Specialist asking for input. A letter was sent to Robert Wood Johnson Funding and requested funding for a proposal that would document the cils quality assurance compliance. If approved a full letter of proposal would be the next step. It will be around October before the answer is known. The committee felt it would wait and see what direction this will take before making a decision on it. The group met with MOCIL as well, to discuss this proposal. Tim Azinger mentioned that ILNET is having a teleconference on Outcomes Measurement on August 27, 2003.

### **Service Capacity – Mike Keller**

The committee held a conference call on August 4, 2003. There were several topics covered and one of them was reaching out to the populations that have sensory deficits, especially the deaf and deaf/blind. One way to do this is to recruit them for the centers board of directors. Also, the SILC membership would like to reach out and include representatives from these cultures to apply to become a SILC member. The committee would like to encourage advocacy on the part of individuals being served.

### **Training Committee – Gary Maddox**

The Training committee met on August 14, 2003. Gary sent to all the centers in June two notices of the new technical assistance guidelines for accessing technical assistance funds. Most of the centers responded. Each center will be eligible to receive \$1000 in technical assistance funds. For those centers that did not send in their request letter, they will have another chance to do so. A final deadline of October 31, 2003 will be set for the final notice. In addition, Gary will send out a survey of the top seven choices for state-wide training that might be integrated into the IL Summit.

### **Transportation – Barbara Dewberry**

Barbara gave an update on the transportation issue for the state. There are budget issues that keep the status quo. There is an increase in the funding at the Federal level, but due to operation costs the services have not increased. There are increased costs in insurance, gasoline prices, vehicle maintenance and labor. There is at least some form of transportation in every county in the state although the levels of service are dramatically different. There is an employment transportation grant in the amount of \$50,000 which is put on by the Community Transportation Association of America and Easter Seals Projection Action. These grants were to be in by July 25, 2003 and start in August for seven months. These are to help community-based transportation identify future needs and establish strategies for people with unique needs. Barbara also mentioned a problem in Kansas City with transportation for the disabled. There were several meetings held to discuss the budget issues and the possibility of buses taken off routes and limiting others. There will be longer waits at bus stops and no services on Saturday evenings or Sundays. There is a sales tax vote issue to increase by 38 cents to

make up the difference. If the vote doesn't pass then the changes will take place on January 1. It will be on the ballot in November.

### **Emergency Management – Gary Maddox**

The committee will be moving faster after the training in September. Karen Benson and Gary Maddox are the two members of this committee at this time and will be attending the Disaster Preparedness for the Disability population. They will disseminate this information to the centers and be a resource for them. The committee is working with the Homeland Security office in Jefferson City.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Non-Medicaid Financial Eligibility Committee formed an Ad Hoc committee to discuss the guidelines for NME to be more defensible. It was also called to attention that the guidelines were not being followed in the strictest sense for consumer participation, especially in the consumer co-pay. The committee made the recommendations that are in the handouts. The statute for non-Medicaid eligibility expresses that an individual is able to deduct necessary living expenses. Recreation was a problem area. It was brought up that this program is not a Medicaid program and it is not subject to the same guidance. There was discussion on the NME program. Gary Maddox moved to accept the recommendations from the committee as proposed. Mike Keller seconded it. The motion was carried by the council.

Tim Azinger discussed the action plan for any new funds from RSA. The Budget Committee will look at this and develop a policy for directing any new funds.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Olmstead Stakeholders Group met in August and wants to send a letter of support for MI CASSA. They want the centers to send in success stories for people who have moved out of nursing homes and into the community. They want to compile these and send them to Washington, DC.

Elections at the next meeting will be held as nominations from the floor the day of the next meeting. The positions to be voted on are Chair and Vice Chair.

Tim mentioned briefly the update on the Governor's Office getting new membership for the SILC.

### **Correspondence**

Tim Azinger was asked as Chair to send a letter of support to the Department of Health and Senior Services for their application for the CMSAOA Real Choice System Change to Community Living Grant. The letter supported DHSS application for Reach Choice Systems Change Grant for Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement and Home and Community-based services.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn by Joseph Matovu and seconded by Bonnie Lewis. The motion was approved by the council.

The next meeting will be on November 21, 2003 at the VR District office in Jefferson City.