

Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council

Unapproved Minutes
VR District Office
Jefferson City, Missouri
August 20, 2004

Members in Attendance: Mike Keller, Chair, Donna Nichols, Joseph Matovu, Barbara Dewberry, Clayton Porter, Stephanie White, Tim Azinger, Donna Borgmeyer, Jim Brinkmann, RSB

Members not present: Gary Maddox, Kevin Jenkins

Others in Attendance: Kelly Flaughner, DVR; Jackie O'Dell, DVR; Tamra Schlote, DVR; Lyman Trachsler, DVR; Gary Moll, DVR; Rich Walker, DVR; Sherry Keller, Sheila Rainey, ILRC, Craig Henning, DRA; Mike Griffin, ILRC; Rick Longley, DVR; Stephanie O'Bryan, NEILS; Tonya Cooper, NEILS; Steve Vaughn, DCAI; Goldie Parrett, Heartland

Agenda

Mike Keller called the meeting to order and started introductions around the room. Mike asked for a review of the agenda. Joseph Matovu made a motion to approve the agenda, Jim Brinkmann seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

February Minutes Approval

Mike asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2004 Council Meeting. Jim Brinkmann made the original motion to approve the minutes, Stephanie White seconded the motion. Because Jim Brinkmann is not a voting member, Tim Azinger made a motion to approve the minutes and Stephanie White seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the council.

Chair Report – Mike Keller

Mike asked the council to approve his expense reimbursement from attending the Universal Design Housing Conference on August 18, 2004. Mike gave an explanation of the expenses. Joseph Matovu made a motion to approve those expenses for reimbursement, Barbara Dewberry seconded the motion. The motion to reimburse Mike Keller's expenses was approved by the council.

Mike reminded everyone present that the elections are coming up and to make sure everyone is registered to vote.

DSU Reports

Rehabilitation Services for the Blind – Jim Brinkmann

Jim Brinkmann gave the RSB update. RSB will receive flat funding for the next fiscal year. RSB has improved the programs for VR competitive employment, homemaker, IL Rehabilitation, and Older Blind services. The programs continue to grow. RSB has been able to hire and fill some of the vacant positions. There has been no more movement on SCR 34 to make RSB into a division status. Michael Fester, Deputy Director, has been meeting with staff from DSS and the Governor's Office regarding this issue.

Vocational Rehabilitation – Dr. Jeanne Loyd

Jeanne Loyd attended the State Rehabilitation Council meeting on August 12, 2004. Gary Maddox asked that Dr. Loyd share her report to the SRC with the SILC. There was some action by the Senate on IDEA in that they appointed a bi-partisan committee to meet and discuss what type of strategies they could use to move legislation forward. The report from the committee is that there was consensus on these strategies. However, all indications are that the House may remain firm on not supporting the IDEA legislation. CSAVR and the National Rehabilitation Association will monitor the situation.

The Senate Appropriations subcommittee on education approved the FY2005 Labor, HHHS, Education and related agency appropriation bill. A 51 million dollar increase for VR state grants programs was included in the bill. This means that the mandatory CPI increase was received although there was talk of VR just receiving flat funding. The subcommittee also did not choose to take the President's recommendation to fold into Title I the projects with industry supported employment and some of the other grants that are funded under that legislation.

There is also discussion about a 1.4 million dollar increase for 2005 for Independent Living. However, there is no information on whether that is going to be money for starting new centers or how that money will actually be delivered.

There is a one billion dollar Federal increase for Special Education. It is the largest increase in the history of Special Education. Most of the other programs within the education bill did receive the same funding as 2004. The process for all these funding recommendations is that they would have to go on to the full House and be voted on, and then it would have to go to the Senate and be approved. Final action on these bills probably will not happen until after the elections as most legislators are out of their offices for campaigning. There has been discussion about an omnibus budget bill being proposed for all the bills that are not finalized.

Rick Longley gave a budget update. MDVR's FY06 budget is being prepared. VR will be asking for a mandatory CPI that gets funded at the federal level and is matched by the state. VR will have to ask for additional GR state funds this year. VR is anticipating \$275,000 worth of state match for this year. The other large item for funds is additional PCA services. There will be approximately an average of 105 new consumers added each month on the PCA program. Total number of consumers is around 6000. VR is also asking for a COLA funding for the Centers for independent living. The last time the centers received a COLA was in FY2000. VR is asking for a 2% increase to fund the centers. In FY2004 there was a GR core cut of \$380,000 which was alleviated by switching funds to cover the difference. Unfortunately this fund will not sustain the expenditures and will be depleted if kept at the current rate. VR is asking for the centers core funding to be switched back to GR again.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Mike Keller

Mike Keller welcomed Donna Nichols as a new member to the council. She will be the chair for the Training Committee.

The Executive Committee will look at the expense reimbursement guidelines and create some guidelines for reimbursing expenses relating to personal attendants for members.

The Executive Committee has been working on an equitable way to handle open NME slots. The committee has recommended giving the three centers that have no consumers on the NME program the first three slots available. Then there will be a lottery drawing of all the center names to determine the order in which the remaining seven open slots and any future open slots are allocated. Once those centers have been given a slot to use, they will be given ten working days to notify the Assistant Director in their area of which consumer they are placing in that NME slot.

Mike Keller asked for a motion to approve this recommendation from the Executive Committee. Jim Brinkmann originally made the motion with Stephanie White seconding, but because Jim Brinkmann is not a voting member this recommendation was made a motion by Tim Azinger with a second by Stephanie White. The motion was approved with one member voting against the motion.

There was discussion on adding Heartland into the drawing as they are a separate PCA vendor from DCAI. Barbara Dewberry made a motion to add Heartland into the drawing for NME slots. Donna Borgmeyer seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the council.

The centers who do not currently have consumers on the NME program are ILCSEMO, NEILS, and Heartland. Those three centers will receive the first three open slots. A lottery for the remaining seven open slots was held with Barbara Dewberry drawing the names. The names were read aloud by Tammy Schlote for the record. The order of Centers receiving the NME slots is as follows:

- | | | |
|---------|---|---------------|
| 1. OIL | The remaining center names were drawn to receive any future NME openings. | 14. Access II |
| 2. WILS | | 15. Paraquad |
| 3. HILC | | 16. DCAI |
| 4. SADI | | 17. BAILS |
| 5. LIFE | | 18. NEILS |
| 6. TCIL | | 19. SIL |
| 7. DRA | | 20. RAIL |
| | 8. TILC | 21. TWP |
| | 9. DCIL | 22. OMO |
| | 10. ILCSEMO | |
| | 11. SCIL | |
| | 12. ILRC | |
| | 13. MERIL | |

Jackie O'Dell will send out an email to the Centers with this information.

The Executive Committee voted to provide \$500 to the 2005 SILC Congress. The attendees for the 2005 SILC Congress will be Mike Keller and Tammy Schlote.

Mike Keller asked for nominations from the council to send members to the APRIL conference on October 16-18, 2004. Joseph Matovu nominated Stephanie White and Donna Nichols to attend the conference. Barbara Dewberry seconded the nomination. The nominations were approved by the council.

Budget Committee – Clayton Porter

The Budget Committee met on August 19, 2004 and reviewed the expenses for the SILC operations and the Technical Assistance funds. The committee also reviewed future technical assistance needs for the centers. The committee recommended funding support of the Power Up Conference at \$10,000. There was discussion on how funds were going to be used to support the SILC becoming a 501(c)(3). Stephanie White made a friendly amendment to the recommendation to reduce the amount to \$5000. Clayton Porter accepted the amendment to the committee recommendation. The recommendation was approved by the council.

Communication Committee – Stephanie White

Stephanie White will be the new chair of the Communications committee. Tim Azinger will also join the committee. Tim reported that the SILC website has been down. Tammy Schlote has been trying to get in touch with the web host to figure out the problem. If nothing gets resolved with them, a new web host company will be used. This will all be done as soon as possible to get the website back up and running.

Stephanie White asked for volunteers for this committee. Clayton Porter indicated that he would join.

Consumer Satisfaction/Quality Assurance Committee – Stephanie White, Tim Azinger

Tim Azinger and Stephanie White will co-chair the Consumer Satisfaction/Quality Assurance Committee.

Stephanie White reported on the FY04 SILC Consumer Satisfaction survey card results. A total of 17,600 cards were mailed out to the centers. 1,760 cards were returned by consumers for a 10% return rate. This was 635 more cards returned than last year. Two centers did not have any cards returned. Each center will receive their survey results in the next week. Stephanie read aloud some of the comments included in the survey cards. There was discussion on how this is good to have for the legislatures.

| State-wide Results of 1,760 Total Cards Returned <small>(out of 17,600 sent out = 10%)</small> | YES | % | NO | % | Blank | % | Totals |
|--|------------|----------|-----------|----------|--------------|----------|---------------|
| 1. Were you satisfied with the level of participation you had in the selection of services to meet your goals? | 1649 | 93.7 | 65 | 3.7 | 46 | 2.6 | 1760 |
| 2. Did you participate in obtaining the independent living services that you chose? | 1592 | 90.4 | 106 | 6 | 63 | 3.6 | 1761 |
| 3. Were the services provided by the staff in a timely manner? | 1662 | 94.4 | 60 | 3.4 | 38 | 2.2 | 1760 |
| 4. Did the staff listen to your concerns and questions? | 1682 | 95.6 | 46 | 2.6 | 32 | 1.8 | 1760 |
| 5. Did you meet the goals that you wanted to? | 1529 | 86.9 | 168 | 9.5 | 63 | 3.6 | 1760 |
| 6. Did the staff help you build more confidence in your abilities? | 1544 | 87.6 | 126 | 7.2 | 92 | 5.2 | 1762 |
| 7. Did the services that you received help you live more independently? | 1594 | 90.6 | 88 | 5 | 78 | 4.4 | 1760 |
| 8. Would you recommend this Independent Living Center to a friend or family member who also needs center services? | 1669 | 94.8 | 45 | 2.6 | 46 | 2.6 | 1760 |

(Some consumers checked more than one box per question. This will make the totals not come out equal.)

Tim Azinger indicated that the IL Outcomes tool is done except for the automation. This outcome tool will work very similar to the PAS outcomes tool.

Emergency Management – Gary Maddox

No report.

Housing Committee – Joseph Matovu

Joseph thanked all the committee members for their hard work in helping put on the Universal Design Summit in Kansas City on August 18, 2004. The conference was a success and will be held again next year. Over 90 people attended the conference. Joseph invited everyone to attend the next Housing conference.

Legislative Committee – Donna Borgmeyer

The Legislative Committee met by conference call on August 16, 2004. The committee discussed the SILC issues survey and made some changes to the questions. The survey will go out to the centers to send out to consumers in late September. The results of this survey will be used to help with the LEP. Donna will email the survey out to the SILC members for their review. The committee discussed the LEP for the 2005 session. Donna will send out an email to the centers to sign up for the LEP.

Service Capacity – Kevin Jenkins

No report.

Training Committee – Donna Nichols

Donna Nichols is the new chair for the Training Committee. Gary Maddox will continue to help with the IL Conference which will be held on October 19-20, 2004 at the Holiday Inn Select in Columbia, MO.

Transportation – Barbara Dewberry

The Transportation held two conference calls, one on August 13 and one on August 17. The committee was not able to get through on the conference call held on August 13. The committee discussed issues that the disabled community has with public transportation. There are grants available through Easter Seals and MODot to purchase vans to provide transportation to disabled people. The committee also discussed trying to get legislation written to divert some of the tobacco tax to disabled transportation since that is a big funding issue. There was discussion on public transportation in St. Louis and Kansas City. Donna Borgmeyer discussed a possibility of a rally and press conference during the LEP to address transportation issues. Lyman Trachsler discussed the transportation guidelines in the PAS program.

OLD BUSINESS

Donna Nichols asked about the sound system that Gary Maddox was looking into for the SILC. Gary was not able to purchase the equipment by the fiscal deadline.

Correspondence

Brochures and conference information received since the last SILC meeting are available upon request to read.

RSA Letters

Mike Keller wrote a letter to RSA asking if the Missouri SILC was in compliance. RSA wrote a letter back stating that, yes, the Missouri SILC is in compliance with their regulations. Tammy Schlote read aloud the letter from RSA dated June 29, 2004.

Tammy Schlote read aloud a letter from RSA dated August 9, 2004 regarding changes needed for the 2005-2007 SPIL to be in compliance. A corrective action plan was requested from RSA to the SILC regarding membership and statewide representation. Mike Keller met with the Governor's Office to try to get more members on the SILC who are not employed by a Center or state agency. Mike Keller will draft a letter to address the corrective plan request by RSA. Tammy Schlote has corrected the 2005-2007 SPIL to include the changes that RSA has requested.

Gary Moll requested that the SILC proofread the SPIL to make sure that it contains all the information the workgroup wanted to include. Tammy Schlote will email the final draft to the Council to make sure everyone has the correct version.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Keller discussed writing a letter to the Capitol Plaza Hotel to request that their renovations are accessible to people with disabilities. A suggestion was made to make a form letter available on the mosilc.org website so that the centers could use it to advocate to hotels in their area to make their facilities more accessible.

TBI Presentation – Dr. John Mahalik

Based upon a nation-wide effort to assess the service needs of traumatic brain injury survivors and their families/guardians, the Missouri Head Injury Council (HIAC) has commissioned researchers at the University of Missouri-Columbia to conduct a TBI needs assessment project in 2004, which will determine service needs and gaps for TBI survivors and their families/guardians in the state of Missouri. Specifically, Dr. Laura Schopp and Dr. Brick Johnstone of the Department of Health Psychology at MU are leading the quality improvement effort to recruit service providers and TBI survivors and family members/guardians, who would be willing to participate in confidential, 30 minute telephone interviews and/or focus groups, respectively. The interviews and focus groups will pose questions regarding individuals' experience with the service delivery system and their health care needs after receiving a traumatic brain injury.

Ultimately, the results of these efforts will be summarized in a final report and submitted to HIAC later this year in hopes of improving service delivery for TBI survivors and their families/guardians and positively impacting public policy. If you are interested in participating in this project or know someone, who may wish to participate, please call or email me at the Department of Health Psychology, University of Missouri and note that you have interest in the Missouri TBI Needs Assessment Project. Contact info: (573) 884-5189 or mahalikjl@health.missouri.edu.

Open Forum

A request was made from the audience to have handouts available to the audience. If they need to be Brailled or other alternate format, a two week advance notice to Tammy Schlote is needed.

Mike Keller discussed a need for more members on the SILC. Anyone who would like an application should contact Chris Brown at the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions.

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn by Tim Azinger and seconded by Stephanie White. The motion was approved by the council.

The next meeting will be on November 19, 2004 at the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center in Jefferson City.