

Statewide Independent Living Council

Unapproved Minutes
VR District Office
Jefferson City, Missouri
February 21, 2003

Members in Attendance: Tim Azinger, Chair; Mike Keller, Vice Chair; Donna Borgmeyer, Jerry Armstrong, Joseph Matovu, Gary Maddox, Barbara Dewberry, Jeanne Loyd, DVR; Janet Renken, RSB

Others in Attendance: Ron Vessell, DVR; Gary Moll, DVR; Rich Walker, DVR; Jackie O'Dell, DVR; Tamra Schlote, DVR; Dorothy Parks, DVR, Karen Benson; Sherry Keller, Bruce Lynch, Vicki Evans-Heitzler, Craig Henning, Dave Roberts, Lyman Trachsler, DVR

Agenda

Tim called the meeting to order and started introductions around the room. Tim asked for a review of the agenda. Ron Vessell and Janet Renken will give their DSU reports later in the agenda. Gary Maddox asked to give a State Rehabilitation Council report under his committee reports. Gary Moll will report on the Quality Assurance for Bonnie Lewis. Dave Roberts will give a presentation for RCEP under new business. Joseph Matovu moved to accept the amended agenda and Mike Keller seconded. The motion was accepted.

August Minutes Approval

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

Chair Report – Tim Azinger

There was a discussion of how resignations from SILC members are handled by the Council. This topic would be taken up by the Executive Committee for discussion. Tim went on to discuss the nature and makeup of the Council as of today. Max Lytle sent in his letter of resignation to the Council. Tim will get with Chris Brown from the Governor's Office and have them seek potential members for the council. He asked for people at the meeting to look for knowledgeable people to apply for membership. There was discussion on getting representation from all parts of Missouri and also from the youth community. Jeanne Loyd will send a letter to the VR staff in Missouri to recruit potential members. This will also be put on the MOSILC web page with a link to the Governor's Office Boards and Commissions information.

Tim discussed the 704 reports and how he will take a more proactive role in using them to help satisfy the CIL requests for training and technical assistance.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Tim Azinger

The Executive Committee met via conference call on February 13, 2003 to discuss the Housing Committee request to give approval for a mailing to the CIL's on public and legislative education on accessible housing. The committee also met on February 20, 2003 to discuss the BPAO grant. It was decided to put before the council a plan to find someone to administer the program and financial aspects of this grant due to the scope of the project and the lack of time and personnel by DVR. The grant has annual had carryover money and these are the funds that will be used to fund the person to oversee the grant. Tim asked for a vote. The motion was approved.

Budget Committee – Mike Keller

Mike Keller is the new chair for this committee due to the resignation of Max Lytle. The budget committee met on February 20, 2003 to discuss expenditures since October 2002. \$5000 was moved from the IL Summit fund which was not used. \$1500 was moved to the software project and \$3500 went to the technical assistance for the centers. \$10,000 has been allocated for the Power Up! Conference. There was a discussion on how the centers are requesting technical assistance money. Jeanne Loyd will send out a memo asking for the centers to identify their training needs for the rest of the fiscal year so we would know how to prioritize the remaining technical assistance funds. First priority will be items in the state plan followed by board and IL training which is grant specific and then any technical assistance requests that don't fall under those categories.

Communication Committee

No report at this time.

Consumer Satisfaction – Joseph Matovu

We have received 257 cards back in the mail. Each center received 650 cards so they need to be encouraged to send them out. There was a discussion on when to send the cards out. It was decided to adopt the practice of sending the cards out with closed cases (other than for reason of death) and to consumers whose files have been open at least six months. There was a motion made for this and Mike Keller seconded. The motion was approved.

Legislative Committee – Donna Borgmeyer

Donna reported that the committee had a small meeting the evening before. The LEP is going well. Three centers and the Governor's Council on Disability have gone through the training. Most of the other centers have scheduled a week to attend this training. Donna attended a planning meeting for Legislative Day which is April 9, 2003. There is a goal of a 1000 people to attend. Each organization that attended the planning meeting

is to contact two organizations and commit to bringing 20 people. There are subcommittees on transportation, agenda, speakers, and funding. That morning will start out with a mini LEP then move on to addressing issues such as budget, Olmstead, election reform, ADA state rights, and mental health parity. Donna went over some legislation that has been introduced.

Quality Assurance – Gary Moll

The IL Outcomes Committee met on February 10, 2003. Tim Azinger and Martha Grimm were in attendance. They helped develop the PAS Outcomes. The group will meet again in March and approach it differently. It was discussed that it would be easier to measure the outcomes rather than going service by service like advocacy, independent living skills training or any services the centers do. The idea would be to measure the overall change that occurred and not make it tie specifically to any one service because a person could receive multiple services from a center and our approach would make it easier to measure the overall change of a benchmark. The next meeting will have some brainstorming as to exactly how we're going to develop that tool so that it captures everything that is not so specific to the 704 report. There was discussion on terminology and what services would the legislators like to hear about.

On the PAS Outcomes Project, Jeanne Loyd has received four reports from the centers with data. This will be meaningful data for the centers and DVR to use over at the Capitol.

Service Capacity – Mike Keller

This committee held a teleconference on February 14, 2003. Mike referenced a handout of the minutes from this meeting. Topics included outreach for the deaf and hard of hearing community. The language translator is up on the MOSILC web pages now. The PAS Project has been attached to this committee. The group met via teleconference on December 20, 2002 to discuss extraction of hours and dollars of the PAS program versus the Senior Services Home Health program. October 2002 will be the month to use for data. Jeanne Loyd updated on how the information is being requested from Senior Services and the reasons for the delay. Some of the services didn't match up to the descriptions on DVR's system. It will take about two weeks to get the report back from Senior Services after a format for the report has been decided on. The PAS Project group will meet again to discuss the report options.

Training Committee – Gary Maddox

Gary Maddox is the new chair for this committee. They met on February 20, 2003 for the first time with him. There were discussions on the budget issues. Also, a training needs list was obtained from the 704 report. Gary is going to ask the centers for a little more clarification on what training needs they have. It was discussed that new staff will need the IL philosophy and basic training. For other staff it was discussed to provide technical assistance for topics such as human resource policies and OSHA types of

things. It might be possible for centers to train other centers with their expertise on a topic. The committee will take this further and meet again before the next SILC meeting.

Transportation – Barbara Dewberry

Barbara attended the APRIL conference in New Hampshire. The seminars were well presented and she spoke with Chris Zeilander who is over transportation on a national level and also with people from Easter Seals. They have worked in Kansas City before on transportation issues there. This group is meeting again in March to discuss ridership in Kansas City. A survey about how long a person can stand at a bus stop or how far it is from their house to the bus stop will be taken. This committee has been meeting via teleconference, but the membership is small. Barbara asked for some rural representation on this committee.

Housing – Joseph Matovu

The committee met in December at The Whole Person in Kansas City. A mailing to the centers was formalized to educate the public and legislators about accessible housing. The committee is using the state plan as a guide on what topics to work on and how to implement them. These letters went out this week so all the centers should be receiving a memo and guidelines to use. The Housing Committee is going to attend the LEP session on April 15-17, 2003.

Emergency Management – Gary Maddox

Gary has sent out his emergency management report to the council members by email. The recommendation to the SILC from this committee is that DVR take the lead role for emergency preparedness disaster response with the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA). This will make it easier for SILC and the CIL's to coordinate and work with SEMA or any other state agency. There was discussion on why the committee chose DVR to be the lead agency for this topic. This is a motion from the committee and Tim asked for a vote. The motion was approved.

Gary also spoke on the State Rehabilitation Council. There is an annual report that can be obtained from DVR that describes the services provided and statistics.

DSU Reports

Vocational Rehabilitation – Ron Vessell

The House Appropriations committee has completed its first round of budget discussions and they agree with the Governor's recommendations on all of the items for DVR. These issues are not finalized yet so budget cuts can still happen. There hasn't been any suggestion yet of any withholdings from the CIL funding. There was some good news in the last couple days over some revenue bonds being funded so there would be some money to help reduce the size and number of withholds that would have to happen this

year. The State Auditor's office has been doing a performance audit on the PAS program. The auditor will probably want to visit some of the CIL's to see how the program is going. The auditor is also looking at in home services provided by the Division of Senior Services at the same time.

Rehabilitation Services for the Blind – Janet Renken

Janet was in attendance at a meeting that was discussing budget issues for Social Services. They are expecting to give up \$100 million from their 2004 budget. This will affect RSB as well. The new director, Betty Davidson, starts March 10, 2003. She is previously from the School for the Blind. A suggestion was made to invite the new director to a future SILC meeting to meet the members and educate her on IL topics.

OLD BUSINESS

By-Laws Committee

Tim brought this up because Max Lytle was the Chair for this committee and there was still an issue to be resolved pertaining to the length of time for the Chair and Vice-Chair to serve. The recommendation and motion from the committee that the term of chair and vice-chair to be no more than three years. This is in correlation with the state plan which is three years in length. The positions would still be elected annually. The thought process was that there might be some time for mentoring for a new potential chair before the old chair went off the council. Tim called for a vote on this motion and it was approved.

Tim also brought up discussion on creating a new position of Past Chair. This position may be ex-officio in nature because their term may be expired, but would still sit at the council in an advisory capacity. Tim called for a vote on this motion and the motion was approved.

SILC Congress – Tim Azinger

Tim and Gary discussed their thoughts on the 2003 SILC Congress. They thought it was a better tool for people new to IL and not much new information for the experienced IL person. Instead of having Resolutions they worked on a National Action Plan instead. There was good representation from Region VII there.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation by RCEP – Dave Roberts

Dave is the head of the Rehabilitation programs at the University of Missouri in Columbia. The Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program (RCEP) is still focusing with the DVR. The program also has a responsibility for some work with the Independent Living programs in the region. One of the most active activities is the

biannual Independent Living Summit that will be going through some more changes again next year. RCEP is in year five of five on the program. RCEP had the requests for proposals for new grants coming out last May and it is still not out for funding yet for July 1. RCEP has been unable to make commitments normally made in the off years from the IL Summit. RCEP will be able to help with some training dollars. Dave will be requesting input from the CIL's and Missouri SILC on their training needs. There was discussion on stipends for attendees of Power Up! Conference. Dave said there are funds to help with this. Dave gave a target of \$6000 to use for training.

Dave also discussed the significant movement to more consumer involvement in terms of the whole choice issue. There's currently a difference of opinion in regards to interpretation of the Rehabilitation Act regarding vocational goals. In the act they referred not directly, but obliquely to maximizing potential. That is to achieve the highest vocational goal that is appropriate for the individual given their interests, abilities, etc. With the rehab act now being basically administered through the Work Force Investment Act and being entitled within that, there is a contradictory philosophy: work force development is first job, any job that push is to get the person into the work force and then it really becomes the person's responsibility to enhance their career opportunities. This has not been resolved. It is currently a very sensitive area as we go into reauthorization. As a part of that in terms of consumer control, RSA has asked the RCEP consortium to assist in recruitment activities, that is to improve the number and percentage of individuals from under-represented groups including ethnic and linguistic diversity and people with disabilities. Dave will be working with VR agencies and the SILC to recruit both students and staff from these groups of people.

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn by Barbara Dewberry and seconded by Jerry Armstrong. The motion was approved by the council.

The next meeting will be on May 16, 2003 at the VR District office in Jefferson City.