

Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council

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

Members in Attendance: Mike Keller, Chair, Joseph Matovu, Vice Chair; Gary Maddox, Barbara Dewberry, Stephanie White, Tim Azinger, Bonnie Lewis, Kevin Jenkins, Donna Borgmeyer, Jerry Armstrong, Clayton Porter, Jim Brinkmann, RSB, Jeanne Loyd, DVR

Member not present: John Bourgeois, III

Others in Attendance: Kelly Flaughter, DVR; Jackie O'Dell, DVR; Tamra Schlote, DVR; Lyman Trachsler, DVR; Gary Moll, DVR; Rich Walker, DVR; Sherry Keller, Goldie Parrett, Heartland; Cindy Moore, OIL; Leanne Weakley, WILS; Craig Henning, DRA; Mark Stone, SIL, Carolyn Chambers, RAIL

Agenda

Mike Keller called the meeting to order and started introductions around the room. Mike asked for a review of the agenda. A change of order for DSU reports to be moved as first thing amended the agenda. The agenda was accepted as amended.

August Minutes Approval

Mike asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 2003 Council Meeting. Gary Maddox made the motion and Joseph Matovu seconded it. The motion was approved by the council.

DSU Reports

Vocational Rehabilitation – Dr. Jeanne Loyd

The budget process at the Capitol is operating different this year than it has in the past. The first part of the process used to be to read through the Governor's budget and the committee members would get to ask the Department heads and the Coordinators that were there would then ask for clarification on issues and programs and get a chance to speak about a certain need or a certain line item and get a chance to explain our position and why we thought something was important or why we were doing something a certain way. The second read through would be when the discussion would take place as to whether they were going to accept the Governor's budget and close an item, go to the next item and have a discussion there as to whether they were going to accept it or amend it or do away with it and if there was consensus on it. This year we do not have a copy of the Governor's budget, instead we are working off of House Chairman Carl Bearden's budget. There was considerable discussion at the committee meeting as the Education Chair Representative Fares presented the budget to the full committee. There was considerable confusion to the point that the rules of how it was going to operate weren't discussed to the committee until we were almost halfway through. The new budget pulls out the Governor's pay plan and any increases that the Governor introduced based on revenue enhancements. In other words, the tax increases that the Governor had talked about with the cigarette tax and lottery tax and closing the tax loopholes. It appears that the IL appropriation, VR employment program, DD and PCA as well as the benefit specialists grant and our project success grant all were closed and that the appropriation did match what the Governor recommended. The Senate will not start their budget process until March.

There's been some discussion about the NME funding and the possibility of deviating from the mandate that we got almost three years ago. This would be the third year, so two years ago it was given to us to replace those slots, turn those into Medicaid slots as those slots came open. There is some discussion about putting a freeze on that program. If that does occur they are supposed to be working on a letter of intent between the Senate and the House. Then the question is how to disseminate those slots. In the past it's been kind of center controlled on how those slots are filled, but if the NME is going to be a statewide program and truly going to be for the consumers of Missouri then we have to ask ourselves if we are going to be able to replace those slots and how do we do so in an equitable manner. The SILC would need to have input on these issues. A committee needs to be formed to help DVR with these questions. The terminology is changing from slots to hours and the SILC will need to come up with a system for redistributing those slots or hours as they come open. There were 119 slots at the end of December. Representative Fares asked not to turn those into Medicaid until she can get a letter from the House and Senate.

There was discussion on the 501 (c) (3) status and where the funds would come from, since the fund is being used to make up the difference in funding to the centers. At the present rate the fund would be emptied out by 2007.

The last item addressed by Dr. Loyd was on IL outcomes. This is the last year based on the performance-based budgeting that Representative Fares will allow a budget to come before the committee without outcomes. She's giving the Departments a little bit of a pass this year because the legislation was just passed and it takes a while to accumulate data. Right now what was submitted for the IL centers is information off the 704 Report. Now the problem is with the lack of consistent data reporting by the centers so that the numbers are hard to validate. The legislators are really questioning the programs that have data to report. A consistent definition of people served, people removed or diverted from nursing homes, etc. need to be established.

Rehabilitation Services for the Blind – Jim Brinkmann

Mr. Brinkmann introduced himself to the council. This is his first SILC meeting attendance. His position at RSB is Assistant Supervisor of the Business Enterprise Program. He reiterated what Dr. Loyd discussed about the budget issues. All the Departments are feeling the uncertainty of what is going to happen with their budgets.

Chair Report – Mike Keller

Mike discussed his attendance at the SILC Congress. The main focus of the Congress was the Standards and Indicators. There were sessions held on each topic and then breakouts to determine wording and content. The Regions then meet separately to discuss any changes they would recommend and the Congress as a whole group voted to accept the Standards and Indicators. Many of the Standards are straight out of the Title VII. There were other sessions on topics such as: transportation, un-served/underserved, and accessibility. As of this year there are 26 SILCs that are in the 501 (c) (3) status. Also attending the SILC Congress were Tammy Schlote and Gary Maddox.

There was discussion on how other states' SILCs fund their organization. Most of them use the Part B funds.

SRC Report – Gary Maddox

Gary Maddox is the liaison between the SILC and the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). This time the SILC meeting is before the SRC meeting so the report will be brief. Items on the agenda for the March SRC meeting include the VR audit report which was completed by Claire McCaskill. Presently there are about 1300 on the waiting list on Order of Selection. DVR will be reviewing their contractual agreements with higher education, interpreter services, Head Injury, and the planning committee will be meeting to look at some of the projects to be taken on it the coming year. The next meeting is March 4.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Mike Keller

The Executive Committee met February 19 to discuss the Standards and Indicators and Part C funding. These will be discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

Budget Committee – Mike Keller

Mike Keller asked for more volunteers for the Budget Committee and a new Committee Chair. The committee met February 19 and reviewed the expenditures since the last SILC meeting. The committee decided to re-allocate \$10,500 from the Technical Assistance funds under IL Summit to be for the Power Up stipends the centers can use. RCEP VII will be committing \$6000 for training needs for the Centers to use by September 1, 2004.

Clayton Porter volunteered to Chair the Budget Committee. Kevin Jenkins and Tim Azinger volunteered to serve on the Budget Committee.

Communication Committee – Bonnie Lewis

The 2005-2007 SPIL information was added to the MOSILC web pages. It listed the public forums and contact information for getting public comments by phone, email, fax, or mail.

The Spanish translated SILC brochure is on hold pending sign off from the Committee for final proof. After that is received, the cd will be mailed to Tammy to take to DESE publications for printing. The committee will continue to look into getting other languages translated for the brochure as needed.

The supply of English version SILC brochures is almost gone and will need reprinted. A couple corrections have been made on those and will be ready for the new printing.

Consumer Satisfaction – Stephanie White

Stephanie and Joseph Matovu are planning to meet and discuss the direction of this committee. There have been to date 1075 consumer satisfaction survey cards returned. Stephanie will be contacting people on this committee and will be looking for volunteers to serve on it as well. She plans to hold a conference call with the committee members in the near future.

Housing – Joseph Matovu

The Housing Committee met on February 3, 2004 in Columbia at SIL. Some members attended by conference call. The biggest item on the agenda is the planned Universal Design Summit in Kansas City on August 18 or 19, 2004. It will be held at the Pioneer College auditorium. The conference will be a one day event with a small fee for participants to offset some of the conference expenses. The committee discussed the tentative agenda for the conference which includes: 8:00 Registration, 9:00 Opening Comments, 10:00 What Is Universal Design: History, Implications–Paul Levy, PowerPoint Presentation of Universal Design Homes–Eddie Tapper, 11:00 Aging in Place–Anita Parren, Missouri AARP Staff, 11:30 Building Codes–Troy Balthazor, SIL, 12:00 Break for Lunch and, Universal Design Home tour on the Westside, Take box lunch, 1:00 Local Initiatives: Gallatin Building Universal Design Homes–Gary Maddox, 2:00 Panel: Builder, Architect, Community Development Corporation–Randy McKittreck, Eddie Tapper, Jerry Shechter, “How can more Universal Design homes be built? What are the Roadblocks?”, 3:00 Four Breakout Sessions: How Do We Make Area Programs More Effective? Advocacy, Education, Media, Builders, Realtors, Public, 4:00 Group Spokespersons Summarize Conclusions: What Will You Take Away with You? What Will You Do?, 4:30 Turn in Evaluation Form

The Housing Committee will meet again on March 18, 2004 to discuss the Summit and also participation in the LEP. Another committee topic was the public forums for housing that the committee is encouraging the Centers to hold this year. Joseph Matovu and Troy Balthazor met with the MOCIL group to discuss this topic.

Legislative Committee – Donna Borgmeyer

There has been good participation in the LEP. A couple of weeks had bad weather and the centers that signed up had to cancel and reschedule. The Down’s Syndrome of St. Louis is participating in LEP. People First of Missouri is bringing some of their members in. A group from Truman Medical Center Behavioral Health Unit of Kansas City is coming in.

Donna used the SILC Legislative survey to follow related bills going through the legislative process. The first one relates to keeping funding in PAS programs with the centers through IL. Increase state revenues for services and improve or maintain health care and independence for Missourians with disabilities. House bill 1299 sponsored by Rep. Wilson, creates additional tobacco taxes for health care purposes. So far it has only been second read so it hasn’t even been assigned to a committee yet. Increase prescription drug coverage, house bill 800, sponsored by Rep. Johnson, establishes the Missouri RX drug program. It was referred to social security on February 12. It has not been scheduled for a hearing yet. House bill 894, sponsored by Rep. Salva, makes revisions in the Senior RX program. It has only been second read. House bill 1141 sponsored by Rep. Zweifel makes modifications to the Senior RX program and it has only been second read. House bill 898 sponsored by Rep. Johnson, establishes the prescription drug repository program. It has been heard on February 18. The next issue was maintain coverage for all currently covered Medicaid services in Missouri, including dental, optical, hearing aids, etc. for adults. There are currently no bills relating to that. Accessible, affordable housing relates to Senate bill 774, sponsored by Sen. Wheeler, establishes a lifetime home grant program. It was referred to financial and governmental organizations, Veterans affairs and elections. Those are the ones that basically relate to IL issues. There were a few others worth watching including a couple that increase the circuit breaker limits. That is house bill 903 and house bill 1434. Mental health parity is house bill 855, Senate bill 881 and Senate bill 1151. Two bills relate to establishment of a children’s comprehensive mental health program or service system which is House bill 809 and House bill 1174, and Senate bill 1003. The motorcycle helmet law is House bill 770 which allows people 21 years old and over to ride motorcycles without a helmet. Disabled parking bill, House bill 976 amends the requirements for issuance of disabled license plates and Senate bill 1144, 919, and 874 revises the law relating to the use of disabled license plates and placards and the use of designated disabled parking spaces. That one has passed through the Senate and was first read in the House.

Legislative Day is on April 14, 2004. The Capitol Rotunda has been reserved and the committee is still working on getting everything arranged.

Quality Assurance – Tim Azinger

Tim Azinger is the new Quality Assurance Committee chair. Tim thanked Bonnie Lewis for all her hard work on this committee. An Outcomes tool will have to be developed. This was referenced in the DVR report. Tim will be in contact with the centers to get input for this outcomes tool. There has been some discussion on having an outside consultant come in to

help build the template to get started. The committee will meet before the next SILC meeting and possibly have a good start on this process.

Service Capacity – Mike Keller

Mike Keller asked for a new chair for this committee. Kevin Jenkins volunteered to be the Chair. Kevin will need more people to serve on this committee.

Training Committee – Gary Maddox

The Training committee met by conference call on February 19, 2004. The focus of the committee recently has been to work with RCEP VII on the upcoming IL Summit. There has also been emails between the committee members regarding the IL Conference. The direction of the IL Summit will include more breakout sessions and less national presentations and keynote speakers which should meet the needs of the IL center's training needs across the four states. In relationship to the IL Summit, Dave Roberts did inform the committee that they were going to give MOSILC \$6000 which will be used toward Power Up Conference.

Gary sent out a questionnaire to the centers regarding training needs and if the Power Up conference met those needs. Question number one was: If a stipend is given to attend this year's Power Up conference would you send staff? The overwhelming majority of the people who responded answered yes. Question number two was: Does the Power Up conference without the SILC breakout training sessions meet your training needs? The answer was no. Question number three: Would you be in favor of a separate Missouri Independent Living retreat that deals with issues specific to Missouri Cil training needs? The majority of responses were yes. The questionnaire then asked for specific training needs that were not included in the 704 report. There were several different responses of those and also additional training ideas and suggestions. So based on the feedback, the Training Committee's recommendation to the Budget committee was that we take the additional monies, which was around \$10,500 and give a stipend to the Cils and accept the RCEP \$6000 and look at additional funding for the IL Summit or maybe plan an IL retreat. Gary will be in contact with SILC members for guidance on costs, location, dates, etc. The response of the feedback indicated a peer to peer informal type of training is preferred.

A suggestion was made to take the RCEP money and hold a meeting for the Executive Directors and appropriate center personnel to resolve the outcomes model issue. Gary will get feedback from the centers on that suggestion.

Transportation – Barbara Dewberry

There are new members on the committee representing three rural areas: Cape Girardeau, Joplin, and Jefferson City. The committee held a conference call on February 19, 2004. The committee discussed seeing what legislation is out there relating to transportation. The committee may have to write their own decision on transportation because it is such a broad area and sort of compare it to the Air Carriers Act that they have and ideas of trying to get lifts on trains and buses because they are not accessible. The committee is looking into getting a not for profit organization to write a grant to purchase vans for the rural areas. Some centers already have this service in place. They would be a good resource to other rural areas on how to provide this type of service. It was recently reported that OATES service in Jefferson City went out of business. The only related service in that area is now Handy Wheels. There is a 3/8 sales tax vote in Kansas City recently voted in October. There will be some public hearings on this issue in the Kansas City area. This issue was to keep buses from being cut from the transportation program and to keep the Para-transit program going. The Para-transit system recently installed a new software system to help limit waiting times and also help overbooking of the seats they have available. On May 3, 2004 there will be an evaluation of all the participants with a functional assessment to eliminate participants from the program. Those assessments are to see if a person is able to walk to a bus stop or stand for a certain period of time or if they have sidewalks in their area to get to a bus stop. If participants cannot walk, stand, or have sidewalks they will remain on the program.

The committee will meet again in about three week to discuss any further action needed on these issues. The committee needs more volunteers to serve on the committee. Jerry Armstrong volunteered to join the committee. A suggestion was made to draft a letter to the centers asking for committee participation as this is a issue that is statewide. As the committee gets more involved in the issues, a web page can be added to the MOSILC website with transportation related information.

Discussion was held on using school buses in their off time to drive people needing transportation. Also, discussed was the Amtrak budget situation. One of the routes between St. Louis and Kansas City will be shut down.

Emergency Management – Gary Maddox

The committee has made a lot of progress in the last year and a half. Karen Benson is chairing the task force that has kind of come out of our efforts. There are now 31 members on that task force. Also, several Center personnel are included on

that task force. They are going to come up with a state plan from the state budget management and SEMA. The plan will then trickle down to the center level. Gary has talked to a lot of people regarding health, safety and welfare issues. Gary will be sending out to the centers a list of the bio-terrorism experts in emergency management around the regions from the DHHS grant. Gary encouraged the centers to take advantage of the expertise of those people as they have funds to use.

The committee has been meeting every two to three weeks and have some specific goals and objectives.

OLD BUSINESS

SPIL 2005-2007

The SPIL Workgroup met on February 19, 2004 to discuss the three public hearings held so far. There will be a final public hearing after the SILC meeting at the VR Central Office from 2-5pm. The comments have been compiled and will be posted on the website. The centers are encouraged to have their consumers send comments, suggestions, or ideas for the next SPIL.

A comment was made from Goldie Parrett of Heartland to include the Heartland branch in the new SPIL as an objective.

A date will be chosen in March to get a workgroup together to work on the new SPIL. Volunteers from SILC and the Centers will be emailed with the meeting information.

Correspondence

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

IL Outcomes

At the last meeting Gary Maddox made a motion to have the committee come back with a recommendation that the centers either proceed with four core services, IL Quality Assurance outcomes measurements by the next meeting, that could be immediately implemented or with a recommendation to contact DVR to get the requirement for IL outcomes measurements waived during the current grant cycle. The motion was seconded by Kevin Jenkins and the motion was approved by the council. Gary Maddox requested an answer for this motion. Tim Azinger made a motion from the committee that the outcomes requirement be waived this fiscal year because there is not a tool ready to implement today. Gary Maddox seconded the motion. There was discussion of the outcomes being used individually at the center level. The motion was approved by the council.

NEW BUSINESS

Funding letter from RSA – Gary Moll

The letter from RSA dated January 26, 2004 was read aloud to the council. There was discussion on what action to take on the three options given in the letter to use the \$42,304 towards. A letter of decision has to be sent within thirty days of this letter. The Executive Committee had discussed this and had a motion to be voted on by the council. Tim Azinger read the committee recommendation of choosing option B, to distribute the funds equally among the four Part C centers in Missouri. Bonnie Lewis seconded it. A suggestion was made to send the centers a letter explaining the rationale behind the SILC decision to choose this option. A letter to RSA will be mailed out by the DSUs and SILC.

Open Forum

There was discussion on the 501 (c) (3) status. There was discussion on SILC autonomy and the SILC being housed within DVR. Discussion was held on the Standards and Indicators. There was discussion on funding for the centers.

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn by Gary Maddox and seconded by Kevin Jenkins. The motion was approved by the council.

The next meeting will be on May 21, 2004 at the VR District office in Jefferson City.