

## **Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council**

Unapproved Minutes  
DVR Jefferson City District Office  
Jefferson City, Missouri  
February 18, 2005

**Members in Attendance:** Mike Keller, Chair, Joseph Matovu, Barbara Dewberry, Gary Maddox, Clayton Porter, Stephanie White, Tim Azinger, Donna Borgmeyer, Jerry Armstrong, Lloyd Tichenor, Jim Brinkmann, RSB; Jeanne Loyd, DVR

Members not present: Donna Nichols, Kevin Jenkins

**Others in Attendance:** Kelly Flaughner, DVR; Jackie O'Dell, DVR; Tamra Schlote, DVR; Gary Moll, DVR; Mike Fester, RSB; Sherry Keller, Suzanne Weller, DRA; LeAnne Weakley, WILS; Debbie Hawman, Access; Shirley Tichenor; Mark Stone, SIL; Debbie Reithmeyer; Edie Young, ILCSEMO

### **Agenda**

Mike Keller called the meeting to order and started introductions around the room. Mike asked for a review of the agenda. Gary Maddox added an item under New Business and Tim Azinger asked for a SILC Congress Report. Joseph Matovu made a motion to approve the agenda, Barbara Dewberry seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

### **November Minutes Approval**

Mike Keller asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 2004 Council Meeting. Tim Azinger made the motion to approve the minutes, Jerry Armstrong seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the council.

### **Chair Report – Mike Keller**

Mike Keller sent out five presentations by email that he brought back from the SILC Congress. Both Mike and Tammy Schlote commented that the sessions were very informative. The Congress had a great turnout this year. There is a push to get more youth leadership representatives on the boards and commissions.

Mike attended the Get Out the Vote Project meetings and has traveled around the state participating in the project.

### **DSU Reports**

#### **Vocational Rehabilitation – Dr. Jeanne Loyd**

On the Federal level, the Bush Administration is cutting 56 positions from RSA. All monitoring activities will be handled from RSA's central office in Washington, DC.

DVR asked for funding to be restored to the IL fund so that the SILC could proceed with the transition to 501(c)(3) status. DVR asked for a 2% increase in funding for the Centers. Neither of these was recommended by the Governor.

The Governor has issued an Executive Order to move the PCA program to DHSS. There hasn't been any direction given by the Governor's office on how this transition will occur.

#### **Rehabilitation Services for the Blind – Mike Fester**

RSB funding comes from Federal dollars and a state match that is not GR. This means that RSB does not have to come up with the 20% withholding which other agencies and programs are doing.

RSB has been able to fill some vacant counselor positions statewide. RSB will be contracting for services that they cannot provide with the current personnel.

Jim Brinkmann is now the district supervisor for the Mid-Missouri office in Jefferson City. Brenda Kennedy is now the Blindness Coordinator/Job Development Manager.

RSB has entered into an agreement with RCEP 7 to develop a training program for counselors and district supervisors to help improve initial interviews and evaluations of consumers. This will take effect in April.

RSB is reinstating with DESE the student connections conference that hasn't happened for a couple of years. Tentative plans are for that to be in June. Mike Merrick is coordinating the planning for this conference.

RSB is working on some public service announcements to get information on their agency out to the public.

### **SRC Report – Gary Maddox**

The council is still looking at the order of selection. The process is going better than expected on getting consumers off the waiting list. There was a discussion on the order of selection.

The Annual Report is printed and available to anyone who wants to review it. It is also available on the MOSILC website. Lisa Sone at DVR has put the report together and will make available to anyone who wants a copy. It is also available in alternative formats.

The council has submitted a proposal to Drake University to research the impact of the order of selection on the disability community. This would be a NIDRR funded research project.

The council has sent letters to RSA supporting the efforts of DVR in Missouri.

### **RSB Advisory Council – Donna Borgmeyer**

Mark Laird of the Southwest district office gave a report on their statistics. Currently they are serving 220 people in their VR program. Of those people, 68 are working and getting ready to leave the program. They are serving 302 people in their IL program and that includes the Older Blind program. The Older Blind Advisory Council has not met for two years due to budget cuts, but the program is going strong.

The council is conducting consumer satisfaction surveys. The surveys will go to people who have cases closed since 2002. There are two surveys; one for people who received employment and one for homemakers.

The council is looking at holding a conference for college students late this summer. The National Federation of the Blind conference is March 18-20, 2005 at the Clarion Sports Complex in Kansas City. There will be a summit between the Missouri Council of the Blind and the National Federations for the Blind, and RSB to discuss issues in Jefferson City in February 2005.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee – Mike Keller**

The Centers for Independent Living have elected Tim Azinger as their representative to the SILC. He replaces Gary Maddox who is no longer an Executive Director.

The committee discussed the process to becoming a 501(c)(3). Mike brought copies of all the forms to be filled out. The committee will have a phone conference to decide how to fill out those forms. For the purpose of the forms, the SILC will have three officers: President/Chairperson, Vice-President/Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary/Treasurer/Past Chairperson. Tim Azinger made a motion to make the Chair, Vice-Chair, and the Past Chair the organizing directors for the 501(c)(3) status. Barbara Dewberry seconded the motion. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was approved by the council.

Gary Maddox brought up the discussion on his retention to the council as a member. There was discussion on the new Boards and Commissions director, James Harris. Tim Azinger made a motion to retain Gary Maddox as a member of the SILC representing Northwest Missouri. Jerry Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the council. Gary will continue to represent the SILC at the State Rehabilitation Council meetings.

### **Budget Committee – Clayton Porter**

The committee reviewed and approved the SILC operations budget and the technical assistance fund financial reports to date.

Linda Oberst from the Missouri Governor's Council on Disability has requested from the SILC for a \$1000 sponsorship for one student to participate in the Missouri Youth Leadership forum July 24-27, 2005 in Columbia. There is an expectation that the student would come to the following SILC meeting to give a report on their conference experience. A motion from the committee was made in regard to this sponsorship. The Council approved the motion from the committee to sponsor a student for \$1000. Donna Borgmeyer abstained from the vote.

A volunteer facilitator is also requested for the Missouri Youth Leadership Form. The expenses of the volunteer would be paid for by the conference planners.

RSA sent a letter to the SILC in regards to additional Part C funds available for distribution. These funds total \$1000. The committee made a motion to equally distribute these funds to the four centers that are currently receiving Part C funds. These centers are DCAI, SIL, Paraquad, and The Whole Person. The motion was approved by the council.

### **Communication Committee – Stephanie White**

Stephanie White needs new members for this committee. Stephanie sent out a letter to all centers requesting volunteers to become committee members.

The SILC brochures have been updated and reprinted. These are available for anyone who needs them.

The MOSILC website is a good resource for people wanting information on the SILC or disability related topics. Stephanie reminded the other committees to submit information they would like to have available on the website. The website address is: <http://mosilc.org>

Stephanie has been in contact with Gary Maddox regarding PSA's for the SILC and the Centers. They will be discussing this further in upcoming meetings.

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

The Committee met February 17. Dante Glenicke, SEMA Volunteer Coordinator, was in attendance. The State Annex and Standards Operating Guidelines are almost done and will be getting official approval this week. The next step is that the special needs task force will break up into three groups: the senior and disabled group, the pediatric group, and the group that covers homelessness, ethnic diversity, and language issues. Out of this task force will be a tool kit for agencies to start using for emergency preparedness. There was discussion on center activities during emergency situations.

### **Housing Committee – Joseph Matovu**

The committee has 12 members participating actively. The committee met January 7, 2005 in Columbia to discuss planning activities related to the next Universal Design Conference which is tentatively scheduled for September 8, 2005 in Columbia. Joseph encouraged all the centers to send their employees and consumers to the conference. The committee will meet again in March to continue planning activities for the conference.

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

About 69,000 are expected to lose services due to the proposed Medicaid cuts. Eligibility is being reduced from 100% of the poverty level to 77%. That will affect an estimated 14,600 people. The MAWD program is being eliminated which will affect an estimated 17,795 people. The General Relief program is being eliminated which affects an estimated 3200 people. Service reduction in cost containment for rehabilitation specialty services will eliminate coverage for durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs, prosthetics, hearing aids, glasses, as well as hospice, ambulance and various therapies. Adult dental services, podiatry services are being eliminated and co-payments are being established for some services. Donna went over the current bills that are being proposed that affect people with disabilities.

APSE, the Congress on Disability Policy, and the Governor's Council on Disability hosted a Legislative Breakfast on February 16, 2005. The MOCIL Legislative Rally will be held on April 27, 2005. Donna encouraged everyone to have consumers talk to their legislators and educate them on disability issues.

LEP has had a good turnout this year. Every week had a full group of people participating. There was discussion on the format of the LEP. Donna will take the comments and suggestions back to Rob Honan and Jim Tuscher for their review.

### **Service Capacity – Kevin Jenkins**

No report.

### **Training Committee – Donna Nichols**

No Report.

## **Transportation – Barbara Dewberry**

The committee met by conference call on February 8, 2005. One of the new committee members is Linda Yaeger who is the Director for the OATES Transportation. The committee discussed getting representation from everyone who has transportation issues together to discuss solutions to these issues. ILRC has acquired two accessible vans through a grant with MODoT. There are several grants available to purchase accessible vehicles, but not enough funding to keep them operational. Another issue is that there are very little evening and weekend transportation options. There was a discussion on using volunteers to drive the vans and buses on the evenings and weekends.

There are several transportation forums being held across the state. Paragard will be holding a transportation conference in May.

## **Quality Assurance/Consumer Satisfaction Committee – Tim Azinger**

The committee met February 17, 2005. The committee discussed the outcomes for PAS. Kelly Flaughter attended the meeting and had the results of the survey in a draft form and will get the final version out to the committee and the centers as soon as possible. Kelly reported during the committee meeting that 17 centers participated in at least one of the two years, 9 of them participated both years. This year's PAS Outcomes will be due March 31, 2005. There was discussion on moving the due date back to allow more time for the centers to gather data. There was also discussion about needing a corrective action plan for those centers who did not participate because this could financially impact all centers.

Kelly also discussed at the committee meeting IL Outcomes and reported that DVR had received 11 center's data. Four centers have asked for extensions, and 7 centers are still pending. IL Outcomes were due on January 31, 2005. The outcome of this report will go into the 704 Report for the SILC consumer satisfaction section.

The committee will meet again by conference call with DVR to discuss changes on the PAS Outcomes survey instrument.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Correspondence**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Jim Brinkmann gave a report on a new pilot program that RSB is working on with SIL in Columbia to provide services to the older blind consumers. Zeze Miller, RSB Program Coordinator, will be training SIL staff on basic services that they will be providing. This includes using magnification equipment and adapting appliances tactilely for their use. If this training works out well, RSB will be offering it to other centers in the state. RSB will provide the staff training and the inventory of products provided to the consumers. There was a discussion on how the funding would work for this program.

Jim asked the centers to think about contracting with RSB to provide services to blind or low vision consumers.

Jim also asked for anyone who would be interested in participating on the Missouri Assistive Technology Project Advisory Council to contact him.

Tim Azinger discussed that at the last MOCIL meeting they suggested having the SILC write a letter to the Governor about the impact the proposed Medicaid cuts and the program funding cuts would have on people with disabilities. There was discussion on creating a position paper and posting it on the website. The Communication Committee will work with Mike Keller to draft a position paper.

## **Open Forum**

There was a discussion on the challenging times ahead for everyone in the disability community.

Mike Keller encouraged people to find new members for the SILC.

## **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 May 20, 2005 at the JCK State Information Center.