

Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council

Unapproved Minutes
VR District Office
Jefferson City, Missouri
May 16, 2003

Members in Attendance: Tim Azinger, Chair; Mike Keller, Vice Chair; Donna Borgmeyer, Jerry Armstrong, Joseph Matovu, Gary Maddox, Barbara Dewberry, Bonnie Lewis

Others in Attendance: Gary Moll, DVR; Rich Walker, DVR; Jackie O'Dell, DVR; Tamra Schlote, DVR; Dorothy Parks, DVR, Sherry Keller, Craig Henning, Lyman Trachsler, DVR, Mark Stone, Jack Lambrecht, Sybil Nobel, John Bamberg, DESE

Agenda

Tim called the meeting to order and started introductions around the room. Tim asked for a review of the agenda. Joseph Matovu moved to accept the agenda and Bonnie Lewis seconded. The motion was accepted by the Council.

February Minutes Approval

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

Chair Report – Tim Azinger

There was a 15% cut to the funding of the centers, but the IL fund was used to help restore those funds. This fund is for the 501 (c) (3), but since the SILC is not in a position to go forward with this, the fund will be used to keep funding to the centers. This doesn't mean that the 501 (c) (3) will not happen, but will be kept as an option for the future. This issue came up before the SILC meeting and was discussed by the Executive Committee.

There are going to be some changes in Outcomes and the way they we are going to do them in the future. If MU gets funded for this, they will take over the Outcomes surveys as an objective outside source. This will not affect the work already done, but will be a continuation of it.

It is time to revisit the financial guidelines again. The budget subcommittee will need to meet and get that work going hopefully before June 1.

SRC Report – Gary Maddox

Gary attended the State Rehabilitation Council Meeting and listened to a presentation by Jeanne Loyd and Gary Moll. They gave a history of the IL and about services that the CIL's provide. Brenda Simmons presented on transition services. The caseloads of the VR Counselors are preventing them from being involved in many transitional service IEP's and related things. Gary also mentioned that there are several vacancies on the SRC Council and they especially need representation from Mental Health.

DSU Reports

Vocational Rehabilitation – Gary Moll

Jeanne Loyd and Ron Vessell are not in attendance for this meeting so Gary Moll will give a report.

Gary discussed an email that he, Ron Vessell, and Tim Azinger received from RSA regarding additional Part C funds for Missouri. The amount was \$23,881. There were three options on how to use these funds. One option was to give it to another state, another was to start a satellite or another center, and the third option was to divide it among the existing Part C centers in the state. The first option was not considered in light of the current budget concerns, the second option would require the centers to compete in starting a new center or satellite so the third option was taken. It was decided to divide the funds equally to the four Part C centers in Missouri which are: DCAI, Parquad, TWP, and SIL. VR will not administer those funds since RSA gives Part C funds directly to these centers. These funds will probably be ongoing on a yearly basis so the SILC may want to address this issue. The SILC may want to explore starting a new center or to modify the SPIL to include a process to use these funds in the future.

Tim also mentioned that they had tried to find a way to divide the funds among all the centers, but due to budget regulations on supplanting funds this was not possible. Because RSA was late in getting this information out it caused a very short timeline on deciding what to do with these funds. Hopefully next year there will be more warning and the SILC could have a committee work on the potential uses for the funds next year.

Rehabilitation Services for the Blind – Janet Renken

Janet Renken and John Ford are attending the RSB Advisory Council meeting so they are not present. There will be no RSB report this meeting.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Tim Azinger

The first item to be reported is the new SILC brochure. There is a new draft of the brochure that was sent out to the centers and to the SILC members. This brochure lists all the centers plus Heartland Branch of DCAI. Some centers brought up that they would like to list their branch offices as well. The decision from the committee is that due to space constraints, there will only be listing the 21 centers plus the Heartland branch of DCAI. The mosilc web site has a listing of all the centers plus the branches for each. The reason the Heartland Branch is treated differently is that it was an identified area and need in the SPIL that is being served outside of one of the centers catchment area. It makes it unique and very different than any other satellite office in the state. Also the brochure will have an asterisk placed beside the centers that have branch or satellite offices. There was a discussion on the terms branch and satellite. It was decided to use both terms on the brochure.

The next subject to discuss was the funds from RCEP to help reimburse the centers for attending the Power Up conference. SIL will act as the fiscal agent for these funds and to help distribute them to the centers. The reason for this is because if the funds came to VR or the

SILC, the funds have to go into general revenue. Tim thanked Mark Stone for handling the RCEP funds for the SILC.

Budget Committee – Mike Keller

The budget committee reviewed the expenditures for the last two quarters. The expenditures are broken down into three categories: Council meetings, committee meetings, and other expenses. The committee decided to move funds from Power Up stipends (due to the RCEP additional funds) to the technical assistance funds. The amount was \$7740. The committee decided to change the way the technical assistance funds are used for next year. All the centers will be designated \$1000 to use for training needs with additional funds possible after all requests have been sent in. The technical assistance guidelines will be revised to reflect these changes.

Communication Committee

The report on the new SILC brochure was covered under the Executive Committee. Each center will get 100 new brochures for dissemination. There was additional discussion on the terminology of branch and satellite. It was made a motion to include both the terms on the brochure by Gary Maddox. Jerry Armstrong seconded and the motion passed.

Consumer Satisfaction – Joseph Matovu

This committee has not met. We are just waiting for the cards that had been sent to the centers to come back in. Joseph reminded everyone that each center received 650 cards to disseminate for a total of 13,650 cards sent out. We have received 490 cards back in the mail. There was a discussion on when to send the cards out. Joseph stated that the minutes of the last meeting specified when and who the cards should be sent. All closed cases for reason other than death and to consumers whose files have been open at least six months. Joseph will send a letter to each of the Executive Directors at each center with this information. Joseph will also set up a date in the near future for this committee to meet and discuss these issues and what further progress is needed.

Housing – Joseph Matovu

The committee met on March 26, 2003 at SIL in Columbia and also had a conference call on May 13, 2003. The committee is using the SPIL as a guideline for what housing activities need to happen. First the committee drafted a Housing Forum letter to each center. These were guidelines to use to get information out to people on accessible housing. This information was also placed on the mosilc web pages. On April 15-17, 2003 the committee went through the Legislative Education Project that the Governor's Council on Disability sponsors. The committee brought to the Capitol a packet of information to hand out to their legislators which included testimonials from constituents on the need for affordable accessible housing. There is another conference call scheduled for June 18, 2003 to go over the other SPIL activities. Tim commended Joseph for his committee's work and a good job at the LEP. There was discussion on the definition of affordable accessible housing. The term is relative to the consumer.

Legislative Committee – Donna Borgmeyer

Donna reported that the committee had a small meeting the evening before. Donna went over the bills that were passed this year. HB 59 and SV 618 were passed and they relate to the state

suicide prevention plan. SB 266 for DMH to develop a plan for developmentally disabled on waiting lists passed. SB 534 relating to the Ombudsman Nursing Home Act and SB 556 modifying various provisions related to protection of the elderly also passed. HB 491 allowing by any other registration of drive away licenses and windshield placards passed which will let people renew their windshield placards every other year and they will just pay \$4 per placard rather than \$2 now. SB 655 revising certain special education services passed. SB 407 modifying requirements for health insurance coverage of clinical trials passed. HB 511 bringing Missouri in compliance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 passed and amendments that were added were related to polling place accessibility issues. The LEP went well. This is year three for the project. There were 77 individuals which included 11 centers represented. There were some non-center participants this year which included members from the Governor's Council on Disability, Missouri Rehab Center, Karen Benson brought people up a couple of different weeks, and the SILC Housing Committee went through. Because of the budget crisis, there may be a special session. The priority for advocates needs to be decoupling state tax cuts from federal tax cuts. On a more positive note, the Fiscal Relief Amendment was passed in the Federal budget. This could result in 300 million dollars for Missouri over the next three years. There was a discussion on if money can be swept from a fund that is designated for not for profit use. Donna will research and get back to the council on this.

Quality Assurance – Bonnie Lewis

The committee met in March and did some work on outcomes. The University of Missouri – Columbia gave a presentation on work they have done on outcomes and talked about their proposal. This group has also met with MOCIL and got their buy-in for this proposal. The other work done was to identify services beyond the four core services which are not documented. The MU group gave a timeline of three years until a final result can be reported. The committee didn't think that would be appropriate according to the timeframe they had set. Funding for the MU outcomes group is still uncertain as the funds would come from a grant. The committee is at a standstill until the MU group can give some answers on these issues. There was a discussion on an interim plan. The plan would be to go back to the original idea of each center providing their own PAS plan and then getting into the individual services. Tim suggested that the committee get together again and discuss the idea of the Council sponsoring a state-wide survey so there is only one universal survey for PAS. It would be more objective. There was a discussion on the universal survey and whether that duplicates or confuses the existing surveys being done. Martha Grimm is no longer a part of this committee, but Tim will try to get the services list from her and have the committee work on it again.

Service Capacity – Mike Keller

This committee did not meet since the last Council meeting. The sub committee PAS Project did have a conference call. The mission of the subcommittee is to compare the PAS program costs to the Senior Services costs. There have been difficulties extracting the data based on the reports received by both agencies. It also takes at least four months to get data from Medicaid. Also, there are a limited amount of personnel-hours to run these reports and Medicaid has reached their maximum already. No further report requests can be made this fiscal year. Mike hopes that this data will be available this summer for the committee to work with.

Training Committee – Gary Maddox

The committee met on May 15, 2003 to discuss technical assistance needs from the centers. Gary had sent out a survey to the center on what types of trainings they want. Also discussed was the Power Up conference funds. Gary had asked the centers if they were getting a benefit from attending this conference. The SILC had been setting aside \$10,000 every other year for support of this conference. Responses from the centers suggested that training for the more experienced center staff including directors was needed. Gary talked with Brenda Whitlock of Missouri Assistive Technology and she agrees that the Council might need to reassess their sponsorship of the conference and also that with the budget crisis this might prevent or downgrade the next Power Up conference. The committee decided to do away with the technical assistance guidelines from August 2002. They were cumbersome and hard to understand. The committee is going to work very closely with the Budget committee on training and technical assistance needs. The recommendation from the committee to the Council is that the following guidelines provided to assist the centers in accessing training and technical assistance funding made available by Vocational Rehabilitation are as follows: centers will be required to submit their requests for funding for technical assistance needs by July 1 of each year; the funding amount will be \$1000 per center per fiscal year. If there are additional funds available they will be on a first come first serve basis. Notification of these funds will be sent out to each center. The intent of the committee on the \$1000 per center was equitable distribution of the funds. This was a committee motion and the motion was approved by the Council.

Transportation – Barbara Dewberry

Barbara didn't have a report to give on transportation. She added that with only three committee members it is hard to keep this committee active. Tim will see if he can recruit some members for this committee to help. Tim also suggested APRIL as a resource.

Emergency Management – Gary Maddox

Gary and Karen Benson presented at the Power UP conference on emergency planning and preparedness. They received highly satisfactory marks for this presentation. Gary has been in contact with SEMA. Gary Moll has agreed to be the contact person from Vocational Rehabilitation. There are funds available under the Homeland Security for this issue. Rob Honan of the Governor's Council on Disability, has indicated an interest in partnering with the Council on training activities. Tim suggested getting memorandums of understanding with the local health departments. It allows the centers to be the disability contact in cases of emergency. This will also allow for possible reimbursements from FEMA.

OLD BUSINESS

Power Up Conference

This has already been discussed under Executive Committee and Training Committee reports.

Gary brought up the attendance of Tom Owen at the Power Up Conference who is a photographer. He attends many disability events and provides national coverage with his pictures. Tim will get these pictures from him to put on the web site.

NEW BUSINESS

NCIL and APRIL Conferences

Tim updated the council that there wasn't anyone from the council attending these conferences. Gary Maddox is attending NCIL from his center and will give a short update at the next council meeting. There was a discussion on trying to get these conferences to be held in Missouri.

Presentation on Transition – John Bamberg

John Bamberg, Effective Practices Supervisor, Div. Special Education, DESE, gave a presentation on how to get each center more involved with the local school districts to try to get students at an earlier age aware of the services that the centers provide.

Adjourn

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

The next meeting will be on August 15, 2003 at the VR District office in Jefferson City.