

## **Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council**

Unapproved Minutes

James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center

Jefferson City, Missouri

November 19, 2004

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

Members not present: Barbara Dewberry, Kevin Jenkins

**Others in Attendance:** Jeanne Loyd, DVR; Kelly Flaughner, DVR; Jackie O'Dell, DVR; Tamra Schlote, DVR; Lyman Trachsler, DVR; Gary Moll, DVR; Sherry Keller, Lauren Keller, Paraquad; Cindy Moore, OIL; Carla Sellers, DCAI; Ron Page, Coalition for Independence; Clark Byron, Coalition for Independence; Craig Henning, DRA; Stephanie O'Bryan, NEILS; Goldie Parrett, Heartland; Lari Calder, Paraquad; Chris Loyd, Paraquad; Jim Tuscher, Paraquad

### **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, Tim Azinger seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

### **August Minutes Approval**

Mike Keller asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2004 Council Meeting. Clayton Porter made the motion to approve the minutes, Joseph Matovu seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the council.

### **Chair Report – Mike Keller**

Mike thanked Gary Maddox and everyone who worked on the Missouri IL Conference.

Mike reminded all the committee chairs to turn in their committee summary reports for the 704 Report to Tammy Schlote. The 704 Report is due December 31, 2004.

Mike asked for people to recruit potential members for the SILC. The SILC needs consumers and not CIL staff or state employees.

Stephanie White mentioned that the SILC does have a new member being appointed. His name is Lloyd Tichenor from Purdy, Missouri.

### **DSU Reports**

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

Dr. Loyd attended the Council of State Administrators meeting with Mike Fester, Deputy Director of RSB. Dr. Loyd reported that as of yet, there is still not a budget for VR at the Federal level. Congress will most likely take the nine budget bills that have not been passed and roll those into an omnibus budget bill with a continuing resolution through the first of the year.

The IDEA legislation has a proposed change that amends the Rehab Act, Title 1, and extends and expands transition services down to age fourteen from age sixteen. This would double the amount of IEP's that VR counselors attend in a year and be an unfunded mandate that VR would have to take action on. VR is hopeful for new funding to help with the proposed change as well as funding help to reduce or eliminate the order of selection imposed on VR services.

On the state level, DVR is waiting to see what changes might impact programs as the new administration takes over. So far there have been no requests for program information.

DVR has met with MOCIL to discuss proposed changes in the PAS program. DVR has no objections to the suggested changes by MOCIL, but will take into consideration issues that would affect workload on DVR staff and legal considerations which are being reviewed.

#### **Rehabilitation Services for the Blind – Jim Brinkmann**

Jim Brinkmann reported the closure numbers for last fiscal year. The Older Blind Services program successfully closed 1,008 consumer cases which all services had been met and the cases closed. Approximately 1,700 individuals were served in that program last fiscal year.

The State Independent Living Rehabilitation program served 121 consumers that were successfully closed. The Vocational Rehabilitation Homemaker program served 22 individuals and the Competitive Employment program had 239 successful closures.

Jim discussed the teacher staffing issues around the state. RSB has received permission to fill open positions.

Jim asked for the SILC members and representatives from the CILs to think about how to collaborate between the agencies to better serve blind Missourians. Gary Maddox suggested that RSB attend one of the MOCIL meetings to discuss collaboration between RSB and the CILs.

### **SRC Report – Gary Maddox**

The SRC discussed the Order of Selection and how many consumers were being moved off the waiting list. At the time of the last meeting around two thousand consumers had been moved from the waiting list to receiving services. The SRC is concerned about employment outcomes and is waiting to hear back from NIDRR on research regarding how the order of selection affects employment outcomes, quality of life issues, and other employment issues of persons with disabilities.

The SRC has become a very strong advocate for VR and employment programs. The members are contacting legislators to educate them on issues relating to VR and the need for more staff to accommodate increasing caseloads.

The annual report will reflect the SRC's request for data relating to employment outcomes. VR is looking at quality assurance issues internally. One of the issues that is being looked at is working with the minority populations. There will be more data to discuss regarding quality assurance at the next SRC meeting.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

The Executive Committee has recommended a change in the expense report guidelines in regard to SILC member expenses. Attendant care will be paid based on the same rate as the PAS program for up to eight hours a day. A spouse cannot be paid for attendant care.

The Executive Committee has recommended a motion to use the same sequence that the Centers for Independent Living were drawn in at the August 2004 SILC meeting to continue filling any open spots on the NME program. The Council voted on this recommendation and the motion was passed.

The Executive Committee has clarified a wording on the NME program criteria to be based on individual client income only rather than household income.

Mike Keller asked for a motion to approve the changes on the expense report guidelines and the NME clarification. Tim Azingler made the motion and Stephanie White seconded it. The motion was approved by the Council.

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

The Budget Committee met November 18, 2004 to review the activities of the SILC. The minutes from the August Budget Committee meeting were read and approved. The committee reviewed the SILC operations financial report for FY 2004. The committee also reviewed the SILC operations budget for FY2005 and the SILC Technical Assistance fund financial report for FY2005.

Anyone in the audience who would like a copy of the handouts from the SILC meeting can request them from Tammy Schlote and have them mailed out.

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

The committee has not met yet as Stephanie White is the new chair and is still recruiting volunteers to be on the committee. This committee has worked on the brochures, language translations, and website for the SILC.

Future projects for this committee include language translations of the brochure for areas that need languages other than Spanish and brochures for other SILC committee information such as housing resources and best practices.

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

The mosilc website has a page with emergency preparedness resources and links to other agencies that have plans for emergency management. Karen Benson attended a meeting in Washington, DC and showcased the mosilc website.

The Tetra Tech has the State Annex drafted for persons with disabilities. Dr. Loyd forwarded the completed document to Gary Maddox and the committee suggested a change in wording from “require CILs to assist every consumer in the development of an individual emergency management plan” to “require CILs to offer assistance for every consumer in the development of an individualized emergency management plan.” When the State Annex is formally finished, the committee will discuss the level of involvement that the SILC would like to have in carrying out the objectives from the SILC Congress and involving the CILs in training and best practices.

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

The committee met on September 30, 2004 to discuss the Universal Design Housing Conference held on August 18, 2004 in Kansas City. The committee reviewed the evaluations and talked about how to improve the conference for the next year. The committee decided the location for the next conference would be in Columbia. The theme suggested for the next conference would be “nuts and bolts of Universal Design”. The committee will work harder on getting more vendors for the conference and more presenters. The committee has assigned parts of the conference planning to each committee member to work on for the next meeting.

The committee had planned a meeting on December 8, 2004, but due to scheduling conflicts will cancel that one and change it to January 7, 2005.

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

The committee created a SILC Legislative Issues survey and sent it out in September 2004. The committee received 251 responses back. The number one issue is to maintain coverage for all currently covered Medicaid services in Missouri, including dental, optical, hearing aids. The second issue is to increase state revenues for services that improve or maintain health care and independence for Missourians with disabilities. The third issue is increase prescriptions drug coverage for persons with disabilities. Fourth issue is accessible, affordable, and available housing. Fifth issue is to administer and fund PAS programs through centers for independent living and Vocational Rehabilitation. These results will help in determining legislative priorities and to help with the direction of the LEP. The committee will change the survey next year from listing 20 legislative issues to 10 issues to cut down on confusion by the consumers.

The LEP schedule is on the mosilc website and will start January 18, 2005. Donna encouraged the centers and other agencies to sign up for LEP to help advocate for the issues that will impact the programs.

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

No report.

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

The committee met November 18, 2004 to discuss previous projects the committee worked on and where the committee would like to go from there. Donna Nichols will review the current SPIL for objectives that the SILC wanted to work on which fall in the Training committee’s scope.

Donna suggested creating a manual for all SILC members similar to the orientation manual that new SILC members receive.

Gary Maddox discussed the Missouri Independent Living Conference held on October 19-20, 2004. The evaluations from the conference were compiled by RCEP 7 and sent out for review by the Training committee. There were 180 attendees to the conference. Gary mentioned some of the highlights of the conference and commended the committee and Alison Martin of RCEP 7 for their efforts in making this conference a success.

### **Transportation – Barbara Dewberry**

No report.

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

The committee met on November 18, 2004. The IL Outcomes tool is waiting for approval from DVR before being officially sent out. Kelly Flaugher will review the IL Outcomes tool and have it available to the CILs for use by December 10, 2004.

The committee would like to revise the PAS Outcomes survey tool.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mike Keller asked for the Council to approve of DVR staff to recommend any consumers for nominations to the SILC. Mike also asked the CILs to recommend any consumers in their areas to be nominated for SILC.

Gary Maddox suggested creating a short Public Service Announcement about the SILC. This could be for radio stations to get information out to local audiences about the SILC. The Communications committee could help with this idea.

Mike Keller discussed the SILC becoming a 501(c)(3). Tim Azinger suggested that the Executive Committee start the procedure to have the SILC become a not for profit organization.

Joseph Matovu reported on his trip to the April Conference. Stephanie White, Donna Borgmeyer and Gary Maddox also attended. The conference was held on October 18-19, 2004 in Minneapolis, MN. Joseph attended several sessions related to housing issues. Next year the April conference will be held in Hawaii. Gary Maddox mentioned that several of the fees associated with the conference have been reduced to encourage people to attend next year. Stephanie White mentioned that one of the main focus points of the conference was youth representation.

### **Correspondence**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Elections**

Joseph Matovu nominated Mike Keller for one more term as SILC Chair. Gary Maddox moved to close the nominations and Stephanie White seconded. The motion was approved by the Council. Mike Keller was approved as the Chair for the next year.

Gary Maddox nominated Stephanie White for SILC Vice-Chair. Tim Azinger made a motion to accept Stephanie White as SILC Vice-Chair. Gary Maddox seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the Council.

#### **Open Forum**

Clark Byron, Executive Director of Coalition for Independence addressed the Council. Mr. Byron would like his center to be added to the Missouri State Plan for Independent Living. Members of the Council asked Mr. Byron questions regarding his center and plans for providing services to Missouri residents with disabilities.

#### **Presentation – Colleen Starkloff**

Colleen Starkloff gave a presentation on a new disability curriculum development available for college credit at the St. Louis Community College Forest Park. Information on this will be available online very soon.

#### **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 February 18, 2005 at the Jefferson City VR District Office.