**Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

**MINUTES**

The Statewide Independent Living Council held a meeting on August 1st and 2nd , 2019 at **American Red Cross Building, 4655 Sherwood Common Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA**. Chairperson Roszella Viltz presided.

Present:

1. Bristo, Rashad (Day1, 2)
2. Duplechine, Jamie(Day 1,2)
3. Harrell, Antoinette(Day 1,2)
4. Cochran, Jay(Day 1,2)
5. Geddes, Sharon (Day 1,2)
6. Nguyen, Steven (Day 1,2)
7. Cottonham, Danny(Day 1,2)
8. Broussard, Daryn (Day 1,2)
9. Ainsworth, Jamie(Day 1,2)
10. Viltz, Rosezella (Day 1,2)
11. Egle, Jill(Day 1)
12. Baker, Kandy (Day 1,2)
13. Taylor, Erick (Day 2)
14. Gray, Anita (Day 1)
15. Fuselier, Rocky (Day 1,2)
16. Polotzola, Bambi (Day 1 ,2)
17. Guillory, Michelle (Day 1,2)
18. Hennessey, Sharron(Day 1,2)

Absent:

1. Morales, Rosemary (Day 1,2)
2. Granger, Mitch(Day 1,2)
3. Gray, Anita (Day 2)
4. Taylor, Erick (Day 1)
5. Egle, Jill(Day 2)

SILC Staff Present

1. Lewis, Jessica

Guest:

Gale Dean

April Dunn

Koneshia Eackels

Simone Laurent

Melanie Washington

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

SILC Chairperson, Roszella Viltz, called the meeting to order at 1:00PM, and asked everyone to briefly introduce him or herself. Viltz asked Jamie Duplechine to call roll to determine if a quorum is present. A correction needed to be made on the name of Sharron Hennessy by adding a H to her first name. A quorum was present.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The members of SILC read the council’s Mission Statement. Roszella Viltz informed members to adhere to the ground rules.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Roszella Viltz asked members to review the agenda for any corrections. Corrections were documented by the Director. Jay stated to move all voting procedures to the beginning of meeting. Jessica stated it was place at the beginning of the 2nd day with a explanation. Also suggested to move bylaws up to beginning to day two also. Sharon G. motioned with corrections, and Sharron H. seconded to approve the agenda with corrections. There were no objections and the agenda was approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The council reviewed the minutes from April 4th and 5th 2019. Members made corrections to the minutes. The Director documented the corrections. There was a motion to approve the minutes by Jay C.. and seconded by Anita G. There was no opposition and the minutes were approved.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

The SILC Director’s Report was given. The report was given for April 1- July 31 Membership, we are looking for 2 new members , more so in region 6 Alexandra and 8 which is Monroe. This was included in the GODA newsletter. Three applications where passed around to vote on for membership on tomorrow. Want to SILC to maybe pounder on helping to establish a disability council in each region for next term. Who want to go to April Conference in Grand Rapid, MI? In this order Sharron H, Jamie D, Rosezella V. and Michelle Guillory if approved. Have a location for the Inclusion Job and resource fair in New Orleans. Will be at N.O. East hospital October 24th. Also, for region 3 it will be at Fletcher Community College in Shriver, LA on October 17th. Our PSA was so great that other states are trying to get there Governor to do one. SILC did tracked bills 190, 399,256 GODA will speak more of. Look to do Revup again in the month of September but waiting on clarification from RSA regarding if we can do this. Jessica passed around the proclamations for REVUP this year and last year. Do SILC want to be apart of NCIL? Steven asked for a printout of the benefits to be a member. You will get a discount on the conference if a member. Spoke about the GALA and need help. need everyone to be there for 6pm. Bambi will help also. An update regarding the job fairs was given and asked for everyone to share on Facebook. Also spoke about the marketing person and what they will do. Spoke about what SILC participated in.

Spoke about technical amendment. It was submitted to Regina Blye July 25th,2019. This was to extend the SPIL to September 30th 2020. ACL will release. SPIL document November 2019 and provide guidance. Kandy also explained the document given to the council.

**BUDGET UPDATE**

Jessica went over the budget given from the fiscal office. Handout was given. Jessica will email final once she gets it.

**SPIL GOAL# 3: Objective 2: Activity 2: Continue partnering with other CILs and disability-related organizations to foster best practices.**

**Update from GODA**

Bambi gave a update for GODA. Bambi spoke about last Friday had there conference with over 300 people attend. Went very well. Content was given from there expert speaker that is there each year. Had components regarding education, housing, transportation, employment, healthcare, and emergency preparedness. Made session longer this year. Maybe do a two day conference next year. Newsletter was sent out. Spoke about employment incentive with 3 grants. One is vision quest grant, another part is technical support, and another is a systemic program. Discussed the new trainings that are disability employment sensitivities. At the end of the legislation the provider rate were restored back to 2008. A MOU was produced from this. Bambi stated that if you have something good going on good , please send to GODA to put in newsletter.

**Update from LRS**

Order of Selection Categories 1 – 4 remain open with all individuals placed in Category 5 going on a waiting list. LRS currently has three individuals on the waiting list in Category 5. For State Fiscal Year 2019 (7/1/18-6/30/19) LRS assisted 1,384 individuals with disabilities to obtain/maintain successful employment. LRS held a Counselor Academy in March for all new counselors. This was an intensive training covering case processes, technical assistance and guidance manual sections, services that LRS can provided, case/time management, and an overview of legislation regarding disability rights. Another training was held with all of the Rehabilitation Counselors statewide to update them on new performance measures and agency processes. LRS continues to receive Technical Assistance, along with other partners, through ODEP, the Office for Disability Employment Policy at the Department of Labor, and is developing an MOU with the Office of Behavioral Health in an effort to improve employment outcomes for individuals with serious mental illness. This activities associated with this grant is being coordinated by Bambi Polotzola at the Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs.

Update from Elderly Affairs- Michele Guillory

GOEA, is the designated State Unit on Aging and is the administrator of the Older Americans Act (OAA) program services:

Congregate Meals Home Delivered Meals

Nutrition Counseling Nutrition Education

Assisted Transportation Information & Assistance

Outreach Medical Transportation

Adult Day Health Care Case Management

Group Respite In-Home Respite

Individual Counseling Material Aid

Personal Care Caregiver Public Education

Caregiver Sitter Service Support Group

Counseling Crime Prevention

Homemaker Legal Assistance

Medical Alert Medication Management

Recreation Telephoning

Utility Assistance Visiting

Wellness

For federal fiscal year 2018, the core service units are as follows:

Congregate Meals: 1,307,238 Home Delivered Meals: 3,374,335

Transportation: 767,387 Asst: Transportation: 1,063

Homemaker: 168,397

Other services provided through GOEA or are provided by partnerships are SenioRx Prescription Assistance, National Family Caregiver Support, Louisiana Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Program and the Senior Employment Program. GOEA is currently planning provider agreements to begin implementing the Veterans Directed Home and Community Based Services Program through a partnership with GOEA, the ADRCs, and COAs and the Federal Veterans Health Administration.

Program Name: **Long Term Care Ombudsman**

Long Term Care Ombudsman program is a federal and state funded program mandated to advocate on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities and to ensure that the rights of the residents of the long-term care facilities are being maintained. Ombudsman and Ombudsman volunteers make monthly visits to long-term care facilities across the state. **Rosa Walton** is the state LTC Ombudsman.  **For information, contact the State LTC Ombudsman, at 225-342-7100**

Program Name: **Elderly Protective Services (EPS)**

EPS is mandated by Louisiana revised statute 15:1501 et seq. to prevent remedy halt or hinder acts of abuse and neglect against an older person in the community while promoting the maximum degree of personal freedom dignity and self-determination for that individual. Elderly Protective Services has six regional offices to respond to report the abuse, neglect, and exploitation. EPS is State operated with four direct State offices and three offices contracted to local providers.

The purpose of Elderly Protective Services (EPS) is to protect adults who cannot physically or mentally protect themselves and who are harmed or threatened with harm through action or inaction by themselves or by the individuals responsible for their care or by other persons. For more information about Elderly Protective Services (EPS), contact 1-800-259-4990. Ebony Phillips is the Program Manager for the EPS.

Program Name: **Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)**

The ADRC serves as a clearinghouse for an array of long-term care options, prescription assistance, and other resources available in Louisiana to elderly and disabled adults aged 21 and over. For more information about ADRC, contact the toll- free Louisiana information, referral and assistance line at 877-340-9100 or visit: [www.louisianaanswer.com](http://www.louisianaanswer.com/)

Louisiana Answers is designed to assist older adults and persons with disabilities in locating supportive services and eldercare resources in order to continue living as they choose in their community. Using this website, you can easily obtain information about Louisiana’s in-home and community-based services.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **USERS** | **New Users** | **Sessions** |
| **16,001** | **10,944** | **19,556** |

**SenioRx has assisted seniors and people with disabilities receive free or low cost prescriptions resulting in a savings of $3,465,696.**

*\*\*Based on value of Prescription Drugs noted for July 2018 thru November 2018*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Fiscal Year 2019 | **Q1** | **Q2** |
| No. of Clients with Multiple Disabilities Served | 352 | 356 |
| No. of Clients with a Physical Disability Served | 1038 | 1223 |
| No. of Clients with a I/DD | 21 | 12 |
| No. of Clients with a Mental Illness | 49 | 77 |
| No. of Clients with Unspecified Disability | 481 | 1249 |
| Totals: | 1941 | 2917 |

The **Louisiana MIPPA Program** is a federal grant to provide education, outreach and enrollment assistance to Medicare eligible individuals relevant to Medicare, Medicare services, the Low Income Subsidy Program (LIS) and the Medicare Savings Plan (MSP). Fifty-seven contracts have been awarded effective October 1, 2018 to provide MIPPA outreach, education and enrollment assistance.

Hosted Events: 79

LIS/MSP Enrollment Assistance (EA) 3201

Follow-up with EA Clients 1598

Medicare Part D Counseling 2273

Medicare Part D Enrollment Assistance 2919

For Medicare Information and Counseling, call 1-877-340-9100 toll free.

**SPIL GOAL #1: Objective 1: Activity 1: CILs provide updates at each SILC meeting**

Update from @Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (@SLIC)-Rocky F.

Leesville office is moving to a new location. We had 2 staff attend the NCIL conference. LCD asked us to expand to Lafayette for Hearing aids and phone equipment. LCD expanded the number of hearing aids, 159 in LC and over 500 in Laf. LRS wants us to expand to Alexandria for SE. Sent 3 staff to SE training by LRS. We also have 3 participating in a SE training by OCDD. Attend COA events all over SW Louisiana. Servers are getting connected between all three offices Participated with EMDAC during Hurricane Barry. Was invited to the Lake Charles city Emergency Preparedness with Homeland Security. Working on web page and created new brochure. Hiring new staff to assist with the growth. Waiver programs got a raise this year so we are able to keep DSW’s. We are growing in each of the waiver programs. We are serving VA and getting more each month. We have a Patreon account, to raise money for our Loaner Closet.

Update from New Horizons Independent Living Center (NHILC) –Gale Dean

New Horizons Independent Living Center will be moving to 1701 North Market Street, Shreveport, LA 71107 around October 1, 2019. With our downsizing in 2017, we no longer need the amount of space at our current location. The new location will have a covered bus stop right in front of the building. The building is being remodeled to fit our needs for accessibility. The Center will be more visible to the public as North Market is a main thoroughfare through Shreveport. NHILC is now doing a greeting card fundraiser. We have catalogs for customers. The prices of boxes of 12 cards and envelopes are less than a one or two card purchase. New Horizons will be opening a CPR Training Center in conjunction with the American Safety and Health Institute. This will provide training for our staff and for other groups needing CPR certification. New Horizons is transitioning to ASHI from the American Heart Association. New Horizons recently completed a Consumer Satisfaction Survey. We conducted the survey by telephone rather than mail to see if we could increase our rate of participation. We had a 58% rate of participation, which was an increase from any of our previous years. Our statistics showed a 99% rate of consumer satisfaction. New Horizons will soon be conducting training classes for the bus drivers for SporTran and LiftLine, Shreveport’s public transportation and paratransit. Our Independent Living Program Director Mitch Iddins will be teaching the classes, which will include how to secure mobility devices and disability etiquette. Our thanks to Michelle Guillory with the Office of Elderly Affairs for the opportunity to provide outreaches related to Medicare. New Horizons continues to be a part of the Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition (EMDAC) and participated in all of the conference calls for the most recent storm. New Horizons is participating in the trainings offered by ACL and the VA regarding Veterans Affairs Medical Centers Partnerships with Centers for Independent Living. The focus is on providing Veteran Directed Care. NHILC’s contract with LA Commission for the Deaf is continuing. The number of hearing aids which can be distributed has doubled from 300 – 600. New Horizons is continuing to participate in the Shreveport Mayor’s Council on Disabilities. Our IL Program Director Mitch Iddins was elected as chair of the group.

**SPIL GOAL #3: Objective 1: Activity 3: Sharing information regarding grants and other income sources among the SILC and CILs**

Jessica discussed the program of the Gala and all details. This will include a processional. The Governor will not attend. The attire is blue and silver. Steven wants an email to be sent out regarding the logistic of events.

**SPIL GOAL #1: Objective 1: Activity 2: Ongoing orientation of SILC members through sharing effective resources and services of each Council member**

**Jessica stated for some to submit the ethics training and then we will be in compliance.**

**SPIL GOAL #1: Objective 1: Activity 3: SILC members and SILC Director report on events attended to raise awareness of IL philosophy, programs, initiatives, and Centers for Independent Living**

Jamie spoke about NCIL and the presentation on housing. Jamie stated she will email the presentation to council regarding the different programs in other states. The group visited Capitol Hill and met with the staffers of congressmen Kenny and Higgins. Bill Cassidy wanted to meet with us personally. Mr. Cassidy asked that when different programs come, don’t always view negatively. Ask question to get answers as to why it’s happening. The group spent about an hour advocating for SILC and issues that affect individuals with disabilities. There were some issues from an email prior to the conference that the ED of NCIL stepped down. This effected ACL tremendously and did not even show up to the conference. It rained for the March. There is a recording of the event on Facebook. Jessica shared with the SILC flyer as to how it looks. The lighthouse is doing a reopening on August 16th in Baton Rouge. Anita stated that she got equipment from her home from LATAN and was referred by Jessica. The process was easier.

Ms. Harrell stated that she is trying to get some handicapped parking but having issues. Also you have to pay 80 bucks for someone to operate the elevator. Anita suggested to call the Advocacy center to get the parish to respond.

**SPIL GOAL #1: Objective 1: Activity 4: SILC Director update on progress made toward SILC website**

Jessica stated the website is up-to-date with a group picture, PSA, and meeting dates.

The proclamation will be uploaded also the need address for the CIL locations.

**SPIL GOAL#1,1,5**

Disability training is now required in public transit department and all employees. Bambi shared that many activities are on the GODA calendar. So take a look at this. Jamie will be doing a LACAN meeting on the 23rd of August at FHF. Also people first will have a conference on August 9th in Lafayette. Daryn participated in a symposium regarding abuse of IWD sponsored by the ARC. The LAB center graduate students in May7 and 3 in June and some will work at LAB.

No other Business

4:00pm Recess

**DAY 2**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called back to order at 9:15AM by Roszella Viltz and Jamie D. called roll again to establish if a quorum was present. Erick T. and Rashad B. did a introduction from yesterday only.

**10 mins 9:15-9:25 SILC Membership application review and vote-Jessica Lewis**

3 applications with two spots open. Ericka Wallace from BR, Schally Sherie from Metairie, and Hope Johnson from BR. Jessica stated we have not got anyone from region 6 or 8. We can vote on 2 of these person or wait until we get someone from 6 and 8. Erick stated we should wait. Motion to wait by Erick, and 2nd from Daryn on objections. Push this at the AAIDD meeting or the Job fairs for membership.

**15 mins 9:25- 9:40 Officers Election- Rosezella Viltz**

Chair Rashad B. -Nominated by DB, second by SG and SN Accepted position.

Vice-Chair Danny C. -Nominated by AH , second by ET and DB Accepted position.

Secretary Antoinette H.- Nominated by SN, second by NONE Accepted position.

Treasurer Sharron H.- Nominated by RV, second by ET Accepted position.

Member-At-Large Steven N.- Nominated by RF, second by ET Accepted position.

Rocky nomination- SG,SN

Steven nomination-AH,RB,DC,RF,DB,ET,SH,JD

**SPIL GOAL #4: Objective 1: Activity 4: Review Bylaws to ensure compliance with federal regulations and amend with necessary corrections as needed**

**Voting on correction of Bylaws**

The Officers of the Council shall include the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-At-Large. The CIL Director can serve as SILC Chair only if it does not cause a conflict of interest within voting procedures. Ex-Officio members cannot hold an office since they are not voting members.”

Anyone on board or employee of center will have to obtain there self from voting. Conflict for example would be funding as to how applied.

Motion SN to approve with corrections. JC second no opposition.

**SPIL GOAL #2: Objective 1: Activity 1: SILC Director will attend the LRC meeting and provide information on SILC activities and report back to the SILC information learned at the LRC meeting.**

At the April 2019 LRC meeting, it was reported that Order of Selection Categories 1- 4 were open.  In the current version of HB 105, LRS will receive a 223,179 cut in state general funds which equates to over a 1 million cut with the federal match money.  However, LRS will have some carryover funds that can be expended next year so the cut will not affect services provided by LRS during this period.  In the last two months,  LRS received approximately 500 new applicants for the VR program and the average caseload size is approximately 120 cases including Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).  LRS has increased the amount that it can contribute toward a small business to $20,000 when this is the best employment option for a client.  LRS can also purchase computers for clients when needed to participate in a training program.   Currently LRS is in the process of reviewing Pre-ETS procedures to make improvements and control expenditures.  In 2018, LRS reserved 6.3 million for Pre- ETS, in 2019 6.1 million was reserved and in 2020 an estimated 5.4 million is reserved. The July 2019 LRC meeting was held in conjunction with the Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs conference. The next LRC meeting will be held on October 24th in Baton Rouge at the Courtyard by Marriott Siegen Lane, 10307 North Mall Drive, Baton Rouge 70809.

**SPIL GOAL #1: Objective 1: Activity 8: Partnerships with other advocacy groups by including reports from other groups or presentations from other groups**

Simone Laurent- Pointe Coupee Council on Aging and Public Transit

Simone gave a brief description of the transportation program and are doing so with Medicaid. There is a inspection is done 2 times a year. Each day is about 100 trips. All trips originate in Point Capee parish. This will help with everyday life for IWD.

**SPIL GOAL #2: Objective 2: Activity 1: Identify disability issues and organize campaign in favor of individuals with disabilities**

Jamie Duplechine- REVUP – Disability Voter’s Registration Week

Jamie spoke about the REVUP proclamations and how this year she did not have enough time to put something together but will do next year.

**SPIL GOAL #2: Objective 2: Activity 2: Advocate for improvement on transportation issues that affect individuals with disabilities**

Jamie Ainsworth gave an updated to SILC about State Fiscal Year 2020 has begun and the DOTD Public Transit Section has awarded contracts for 88 vehicles to be purchased.  100% are accessible and should be delivered between December 2019 – June 2020.  We continue to include Disability training for state employees within DOTD and have mandated the training for Public Transit staff.

**SPIL GOAL #2: Objective 2: Activity 3: Emergency Preparedness – Collaborate with emergency preparedness entities by requesting speakers from various entities**

20 mins 11:00-11:20- Amy Dawson spoke about emergency management roles and responsibilities. And gave a handout out regarding her presentation. Tile 29 chapter 6 will tell you who is responsible for what . It is the law for Louisiana. Every parish had an emergency preparedness. Some parish had special needs registry. More information and resources was giving for the goal.

**SPIL GOAL #3: Objective 1: Activity 1: Educating legislators regarding CILs and the services they provide while advocating for legislative appropriation of funds**

10 min 11:20- 11:30 Jamie Duplechine TEFRA did pass. Bambi suggested to include for legislative SILC agenda to for an interpreter to make media capture it.

**SPIL GOAL #3: Objective1: Activity 2: Exploring opportunities for resource development for activities of the SILC and CILs**

Ideas about community event

10 min **11:30-11:40** Sharron Hennessy- Housing

The public comment meeting for the qualified allocation plan which is used to distribute low income housing tax  credits  (LIHTC) was held in May 2019. A 30 day public comment period was also held.  LIHTC  are primary source of  affordable housing development.  For the upcoming funding cycle, a threshold requirement for participation in the LIHTC program is universal design of all new construction.  The design elements selected by Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) as required elements are those elements that would allow affordable units that are not required to be accessible to be made affordable, accessible units with little expense. LIHTC awards should be announced in October 2019.The Housing committee of the GACDA is trying  to develop a fund to pay for accommodations.  Any SILC members that wish to participate in the committee are welcome. The Consolidated Plan public comment meeting was held in June 2019.  LHC's community connection initiative was highlighted at the April 2019 Housing Connections conference.  A session of the conference analyzed the interactions between LHC's community connections team and community leaders and members to build safe, affordable housing in Ville Platte.   Representatives of several agencies discussed partnerships they had formed with LHC to  provide safe, affordable housing  for individuals they serve.  Some of the agencies forming partnerships were Louisiana Department of Health, Department of Public Safety and Department of Children and Family  Support.

**SPIL GOAL #3: Objective 2: Activity 1: Participating in webinars, conference calls, and training from national groups**

Members report on participation in any recent training Rashad gave his perspective of the NCIL and how it was the 29th anniversary of the ADA. The take away is some legislators don not know about everything with disability. He informed him about (Disability Integration Act)DIA. A lady by the name of Sharon Grossman said something that stuck with him. The people who made the ADA act are no longer in office. We have to remain vigilant.

Bambi stated that ODEPT grant, Daryn was a part of webinar form the ARC. Rashad did graduation from partners and policy making.

**SPIL GOAL #4: Objective 1: Activity 1: Research and ensure compliance of federal regulations**

The SILC signed 3 documents in P&P manual. The Chair stated if you are not here for right reasons then you may need to rethink about being on SILC council. Please take line of communication open. Steven stated an email would be great if you cannot come!

**SPIL GOAL #1: Objective 1: Activity 7: Plans for the next annual meeting at a Center for Independent Living**

The ED discussed the next meetings along with handouts regarding the dates were given.

No Closing Comments. Adjournment

SN. motioned to adjourn and DB, RF.

Approve minutes on 11/7/19 Bambi P. motioned and Erick T. seconded.