**Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

**MINUTES**

The Statewide Independent Living Council held a meeting on February 7th and 8th, 2019, at **American Red Cross Building, 4655 Sherwood Common Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA**. Chairperson Roszella Viltz presided.

Present:

Bristo, Rashad (Day 1,2)

Duplechine, Jamie(Day 1,2)

Cochran, Jay(Day 1,2)

Geddes, Sharon (Day 1,2)

Morales, Rosemary (Day 2)

Nguyen, Steven (Day 1,2)

Polotzola, Bambi (Day 1)

Cottonham, Danny(Day 1,2)

Herbert, Kris(Day 1,2)

Broussard, Daryn (Day 1,2)

Ainsworth, Jamie(Day 1,2)

Guillory, Michelle (Day 1,2)

Hennessey, Sharron (Day 1,2)

Viltz, Roszella (Day 1,2)

Egle, Jill(Day 1,2)

Baker, Kandy (Day 1,2)

Gray, Anita (Day 1,2)

Beverly, Keiara(Day 1,2)

Absent:

Fuselier, Rocky (Day 1,2)

Polotzola, Bambi (Day 2)

Harrell, Antoinette(Day 1,2)

Morales, Rosemary (Day 1)

SILC Staff Present

Lewis, Jessica

Guest:

Jamar Ennis

Melissa Bayham

Gale Dean

Natasha Smith

April Dunn

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

SILC Chairperson, Roszella Viltz, called the meeting to order at 1:15PM, and asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves. Viltz asked Jamie Duplechine to call roll to determine if a quorum is present. A quorum was present. Roszella asked everyone to sign card for Ms. Harrell father passing and announced that Rocky, Jamie D, and Anita G. were all in and out of hospital.

**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. Rosemary will give her report on day 2 instead of day 1. DOTD report will move to day 1. Jamie D. report on LaCan will move to day 2 after SPIL technical amendment discussion. Daryn B. motioned with corrections, and Jay Cochran 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 October 4th and 5th, 2018. Members made corrections to the minutes. There was a motion to approve the minutes with corrections by Steven N. and seconded by Daryn B. and Sharron G. There was no opposition and the minutes were approved with corrections.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Jessica Lewis provided an update for October 1 to January 31st. She stated the Mayor’s Council is placed on hold. The Labor Summit is in March and Kris will attend representing SILC. The ED discussed the 2018 SILC Job and Resource fair and details and how SILC will do 4 events in partnership with other companies. A committee will be established for each event and detail was given along with a . A sign up was passed around regarding committees. Election of new officers will take place in April. The ED asked the Council to think about supporting any bills in the upcoming session. The ED discussed the technical amendment and the new tool that will be produced in 2021. The technical amendment will be only a change in DSE director name, implementation date, and signatures for the Chairperson. Discussed terms ending and proper procedure to handle. Clarification was made regarding the application process for being reappointed. The ED and Chair will attend SILC congress. Bylaws will be done at next meeting. The 704 report was turned in before 31st of January and can send out if requested. A email was sent regarding the webinars, meetings, and events that the ED has attended. Handouts were given from some of those meetings. An idea from the ED was suggested regarding SILC producing an emergency contact booklet for dissemination to the public for IWD. The annual report was given out with all of the great things SILC has done over this FY. Stated that the PSA made it to Washington D.C. and the only SILC with a PSA. The ED stated that it would be a great idea to get this on local media where CIL’s are located to disseminate infromation.

**BUDGET UPDATE**

Jay gave a update on the budget. The ED stepped in to help. This budget is from December 31st. Clarification was given for when the budget comes out. If any other questions, the SILC can contact the ED.

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

**Update from GODA**

Bambi discussed the GACDA legislative committee. GACDA voted to fully support LRS which is approximately 5.5 million additional general funds that will draw down 20 million in federal funds. The GODA ED would like SILC to put this down as an advocacy item on their legislative agenda. GACDA voted to expand funding for 600,000 SPAS program waiting list and will advocate for funding rates for PCA’s to be restored to 2008. Mitch stated that rates have to go up in order to support minimal wage. Need to advocate for people that don’t have lobbyist at capital. GODA ED stated that there is surplus but the speaker of house is not recognizing this. Advocacy must be done in next session. GODA received 2 grants this year for technical assistance and details was given for both grants. The different departments were named that are involved in the grants as well. Bambi will be going to a down syndrome gala in New Orleans to speak tonight. A lot of work around mental health has been done and now a collation has been formed. Bambi stated DOJ has agreement with the state regarding mental health. Discussion from Mitch regarding gas prices and economy of LA. took place and Erick asked why so much push for nursing homes? This was explained by Roszella. Dayrn explained home and community based services and further discussion took place around this topic.

**Update from LRS**

LRS was able to take 145 individuals off the Order of Selection Group 4 waiting list on 12/12/18. LRS now only have 12 individuals in Category 4 (these are individuals who were made eligible in Category 4 after 12/12/18) and 29 individuals in Category 5. For Federal Fiscal Year 19’ (10/1/18-1/1/19). LRS has successfully closed 466 cases, which is 234 more closures for this period this year as compared to last year. LRS has almost completed hiring for the positions approved by the Secretary in May and September. We will be having a Counselor Academy in March for all new counselors. LRS will receive Technical Assistance, along with other partners, through ODEP, the Office for Disability Employment Policy at the Department of Labor, to develop an MOU with the Office of Behavioral Health in an effort to improve employment outcomes for individuals with serious mental illness. This grant is led by Bambi Polotzola.

**Update from OCDD- MOVED TO DAY 2**

OCDD is in the process of renewing the Children’s Choice Waiver and the Supports Waiver that will be effective July 1, 2019. The comment period ended on January 13, 2019. The implementation phase of the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved transition of Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) Community Choices Waiver (CCW) and Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) participants who have an OCDD Statement of Approval (SOA) to the ROW continues. This transition affects approximately 260 people. OCDD is in the process of adding Complex Care rate to the New Opportunities Waiver.(NOW) OCDD is working to consolidate the already existing 4 waivers with an expected date of July, 2020. OCDD is continuing to work towards compliance with the HCBS Settings rule with an expected compliance date of March 17, 2020 for all providers. OCDD will continue to provide TA to providers and conduct trainings as requested in order to get to compliance with the rule. Since the implementation of the tiered waiver system, 1,405 individuals have accepted an offer and have been linked to Support Coordination and 883 people have been certified into waiver. Currently, all persons that had a SUN score of 3 or 4 on the RFSR have received offers. OCDD is working with the GODA and OBH in the EFSLMP grants that our state received. 2 vocational providers from 2 regions were accepted to receive TA in area of Provider Transformation. Those 2 regions will also receive TA in the area of Capacity Building. OCDD is going to be working with all of OCDD’s vocational providers, Support Coordination Agencies, LGE staff and OCDD state office staff to get them Supported Employment training that will be available online. This is being funded by the DD council.

**Update from Elderly Affairs**

GOEA, is the designated State Unit on Aging and is the administrator of the Older Americans Act (OAA) program services. A listing of 31 services was provided. For federal fiscal year 2018, the core service units was displayed in a chart handout. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Michelle gave numbers for this in a chart displayed in handout. 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. 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. St. Bernard and Plaquemines parish are looking for individuals in this area to participate in a table top exercise on February 20th. Would like to go across the state. Jessica will send out the information to SILC. Further discussion went on about emergency preparedness.

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

Update from Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (@SLIC)

Mitch gave a update regarding @SLIC. The 704 report was turned in. Number of INR’s was 2,600 out of the 3 offices which are Lafayette , Leesville, and Lake Charles. Provided 998 different types of services , but the number moves around on the 704 report. Provided transition from nursing home for 3 persons but very costly. Two consumers homes flooded and @SLIC paid for them to move out of homes into a hotel until home was livable. Three consumers had bed bug infestations and @SLIC paid from them to move out of homes into a hotel until home was livable. OCD did assist with paying for these events. @SLIC does provide all waiver services and recently picked up veterans. The rate for this population is much better which pays 25/hr. This allows to pay DSW more money to keep them. @SLIC does some fee for services and at this time have about 180 persons on a waiver, 300 DSW, and 40 office employees in all offices. The CIL really push all activities which are things to bring consumers together. Each office host a Halloween and Charismas party along with other fun activities. @SLIC provided gift baskets for about 10 consumers in each office. Leesville only provide waiver services because of funding. Spoke about Rocky being out for a while and apologies for not having numbers asked for. Erick asked what did the center do with the extra funding? Used for staff and put money back in the community for the consumers. More discussion took place regarding this topic. Only Lake Charles and Leesville do supported employment. If that is needed in Lafayette please contact LRS because funding is limited. Further discussion regarding supported employment took place. Someone asked, how can connect to business for hiring opportunities to hire IWD? Mitch gave an explanation.

Update from New Horizons Independent Living Center (NHILC)

Gale gave a update. NH is involved in VITA and in 10th year in Monroe and Shreveport office. VITA provides free tax prep for all IWD. NH now is partner with Community Resources to open a bank account for persons that can’t for tax refunds and will receive refund through card. NH completed the 704 report. SPIL goal 1,1,3, NH got a grant for computers from the Carolynn W. Foundation. NH worked on a grant with EMDAC for emergency preparedness equipment though Pennington but did not receive the grant , but will look for other grants. Also , NH signed the contract for Dept. of Children and Family Services for $100,800 for 3 year period to provide services in shelters. Trinkets and Treasures fundraiser was cancelled but the fundraiser “You need a Taco” turned out well. Advocacy was done to re-route the bus to come by Independence Lodge for IWD and now the bus is re-routed to a safe area for IWD. The Mayor’s Council on Disabilities in Shreveport was conducted 4 times before the mayor was defeated in this past election. NH and @SLIC are a part of a mental health collation and a collation named Live @ Home. Information was provided for this group.

No other Business

4:00 Recess

**DAY 2**

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

SILC Chairperson, Roszella Viltz, called the meeting to order at 9AM, and asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves. Viltz asked Jamie Duplechine to call roll to determine if a quorum is present. A quorum was present.

**SPIL TECHNICAL AMENDMENT**

The ED shared with the Council the email that will be sent to ACL regarding doing a Technical Amendment. The email reads:

Good Morning,

This email is to inform you that the Louisiana SILC intends to do a technical amendment to the SPIL before July 31st displaying the changes listed below.

·         DSU Director name change

·         Implementation date change

·         Chairperson name change

 Please advise if further action is required.

**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**

Erick Tylor discussed the APRIL conference and the different classes he participated in. Medicaid was big in one of the classes, and he discussed Denver Medicaid and how it works and how Louisiana is not connected well in this area as it pertains to what other states are doing. Brochures was passed out regarding wheelchairs and different programs offered in the U.S . The ED went on to talk about the classes regarding rural areas and how to effectively advocate as a council. The ED told the council that Erick was very vocal regarding person with disabilities in his area and how some of those channels do not recognize exactly what we are advocating for. The different classes were Diversity and Intersectionality, IL Philosophy and Veteran Services, Advocacy, understanding Medicaid policy, how your SILC can be a resource and Emergency Preparedness. Networking between Erick and Garret Brumfield took place and are now good friends. More documents was passed around regarding this conference. Erick discussed how he did a presentation to the PCA company that he is with about disability services . No pictures were taken. The Chair reminded the SILC to take pictures to update the SILC page. Daryn discussed Medicaid being cut severely. The last administration cut the purchase plan limit that was 52,000 that allowed a lot of person with disability to work and stay viable. Further discussion took place around this topic.

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

The ED stated she needs pictures from members to go on webpage.

**SPIL GOAL #1: Objective 1: Activity 5: SILC members provide updates on activities/events occurring in each member's local community that are opportunities for dissemination of IL philosophy and services**

Jamie A. spoke about Louisiana Transit hosting a conference each year in New Orleans November 20th- 22 and would like SILC to participate in event. SILC will have a exhibit table. Daryn discussed he has created an information and support group in Shreveport and Bossier City monthly and explained details. Erick has 45 students that he speak to about Individuals with disabilities occasionally.

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

Undetectable.

**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.**

The ED discussed the LRC meeting and what took place . The ED discussed Wyclif Oguma, Occupational Therapist, from Kenya explained that he is in the U.S. for a 5-week fellowship program to learn about employment programs for youth with disabilities. His mentors are Sue Killiam and Phil Wilson with the LSU Human Development Center. LRC Executive Committee held a strategic planning session on October 11, 2018. Priorities for the year are: serving more consumers with the emphasis on quality; advocacy and education of the public as to what LRS does for the disabled citizens of LA; try to establish a plan on how to assist those consumers who do not fall into the “normal” course of assistance who may be falling through the cracks; and re-vamping of the assignments to the committees of the LRC. Assignments will be given to the subcommittees as the need arises. The ED stated that the PSA was shown and the great feedback. She went on to state what the employment committee spoke about which was listing LRS vendors on LWC website and have annual renewal. Also, the committee is to reaching out to Angela Montgomery regarding mandatory vendor training and considering CEU credits for employers with training. Further discussions about if there background checks for employers. A arrangement will be made for a teleconference or in person meeting with Angela and committee regarding present process of choosing vendors and acquiring their current status with LRS and creating testimonials for potential employers. Handout were given regarding this meeting.

**SPIL GOAL #2: Objective 1: Activity 2: Report by CILs on Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) services**

Undetectable.

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

**5 min 11:05-11:10 Jamie Ainsworth MOVED TO DAY 1**

Jamie gave an updates on DOTD. Public Transit is a small section in DOTD. Her department extends the federal transit administration funds from USDOT. The 2 largest programs are general transit programs and 5310 and gave a description of both. Currently they work with 37 public bodies for the 5311 program and work with 80 no profits from the 5310 program. These program helps to buy accessible buses in nonprofit areas. They are defined differently. Currently a fleet of over 1000 are owned by agencies although 85% of funding comes from federal grants. DOTD is currently in the application cycle and have over 72 applications and have about 14 million in ask. Awards are based on federal availability and is about 12 million. It is a weighted formula process. The 1st 22 vehicles were delivered and have 99 total coming between January 1 and June 30th and all are accessible. Jamie then thanked the council for being a part of SILC. Jamie discussed some projects her and Sharron H. have together. Ask the council to discussed needs as they arise and he will find answer. Question and answer took place regarding Uber and Lyft. Funds that they receive and manage are not infrastructure at all. The transit authority agency would have to apply under there funding for infrastructure needs. Again DOTD doses not manage any urban system funding. Presently working on once money is in place, what is the process for identify the gaps and applying the funding and who has the approval? EBR COA just got 5 vans and will start soon and will serve IWD and Elderly. This is not considered para- transit. Will share more in April. Further discussion regarding this topic took place.

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

**5 min 11:10- 11:15 Jamie Duplechine**

Jamie D. gave a presentation on the 3 legislative agendas items that LaCan will be pushing this year in full description. The 3 items are fully fund TEFRA, fully fund SPAS, and equitably fund services and districts. Handouts were given. She gave a description of what LaCan is and how they had a large part with getting community and home base services started. The ED did send out the dates for LaCan events for persons to report back in April. Rashad made it very clear how important it is to talk to Legislator about these issue. The Chair challenged everyone to visit legislators.

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

Ideas about community event

**10 min 11:15 – 11:25** **Jessica Lewis-**

The ED discussed the promotions of the SILC and the 4 events that the SILC will put on. She also stated that this will be important to the community by getting out there. The SILC already has companies wanting to help. Healthy Blue will be one of those companies. Rashad ask if anyone knows other companies wanting to help, to send them to Rashad. A committee must be established for each event. A conference call will take place for each event next week.

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

**5 min 11:25-11:30** Members report on participation in any recent training

Jay stated that they trained on VITA. Gale trained on assisting IWD open a bank account.

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

**5 min 11:30-11:35 Evaluation of ED- Rosezella Viltz**

The chair discussed the ED evaluation and that it was done and the results were sent to the ED for SILC record. This evaluation was done in November.

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

**5 min 11:35-11:40-Jessica Lewis**

Next meeting will be in Shreveport in April and the CIL director is excited. The ED will send out reminders and new dates for next FY at April meeting. The group will stay at Hilton.

No Closing Comments.

Rashad B. motioned to adjourn and Jay C. seconded.