**Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

**MINUTES**

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

Present:

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

Absent:

1. Broussard, Daryn (Day 1,2)
2. Granger, Mitch(Day 2)
3. Gray, Anita (Day 1)
4. Harrell, Antoinette(Day 2)

SILC Staff Present

1. Lewis, Jessica

Guest:

1. Gale Dean
2. April Dunn
3. Melissa Bayham
4. Alisha Garson

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

SILC Chairperson, Rashad Bristo, called the meeting to order at 1:00PM, and asked everyone to briefly introduce him or herself. Bristo asked Jessica Lewis to call roll to determine if a quorum is present. A quorum was present.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Jill of SILC read the council’s Mission Statement. Rashad Bristo informed members to adhere to the ground rules.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Rashad Bristo asked members to review the agenda for any corrections. Corrections were documented by the Director. Rosezella motioned, and Danny Cottonham. seconded to approve the agenda. There were no objections and the agenda was approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The council reviewed the minutes from August 1st and 2nd ,2019. There was a motion to approve the minutes by Steven N. and seconded by Erick T. There was no opposition and the minutes were approved.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

The SILC Director’s Report was given for August 1 to October31. In regards to membership. The SILC handed out applications at job fair in region 6 and 8. The ED stated if we cannot find anyone in those areas, we will use the applications on file already. She then asked about what would SILC like to see on our legislative agenda for the upcoming session and who would like to go to SILC Congress. Three names were given, which were Mitch Granger, Rosezella Viltz, and Jamie Duplichaine. Bambi suggested advocating around housing in some capacity. She went on discuss the question that was brought up in the last meeting in regards to SILC being a member of the NCIL. She stated that it is not possible to be a member of NCIL because of the type of funding that the SILC receives from the Federal government. Have to get prior approval from RSA. Kandy stated she did some research and she thinks we will be fine but will get more clarification on it first. The ED then moved on to talk about the Job and Resource Fairs stats. We had over 500 participants over 10 regions and a few concerns and suggestions. It was stated that we would need to have news broadcast, give-a-ways, do not use internet radio, stop the fair at 1pm, have better signage, less fairs and add a budget in for hotel for ED travel. There was a lot of issues of persons not showing up to event or news interviews. Must have help with the fairs or cannot do the fair by herself. Rosezella emphasized that persons must be present when needed for activities to work. More conversation took place regarding these events. Also, an annual report was given. Make sure we are on a bus route. Certificate was given to council for participation on SILC.

**BUDGET UPDATE**

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

Special Election-

Rashad cannot service in capacity of Chair because of a MCO conflict and because Healthy Blue would like to continue to support SILC. Chair potion has been vacated. In the event of the resignation of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson will step in to fulfill the remainder of the term of office of the Chairperson. If the Vice Chairperson is unable or unwilling to complete the term of office of the Chairperson there will be a special election to fill the remainder of the Chairperson’s term of office. Such election will be held at the Council meeting immediately following the resignation of the Chairperson. Members will be advised that there will be an election at least two (2) weeks before the Council meeting. Nominations shall be made from the floor. Then Danny C. accept the potion then appointed Rashad as Vice-Chair.

**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. Discussed the particulars about the GOLD Awards and inclusive art contest on Dec 10th and the nominations due date. Completed the employment grant on August 31st and now will submit an application part. Now will expand the employment component. congrats to Jessica regarding the Job fairs. Reminded the council about elections next Saturday and persons with disability. She spoke about who to talk to regarding accessibility issues in Lafayette. She gave the advocacy center hot line number for those issues which is 18009607705. Asked everyone to register for the DD Council conference and how it can be informative and gave the agenda and only 20 bucks to attend. ACL will house listening session regarding emergency disasters in Baton Rouge and Kenner. If cannot attend, you can call in.

**Update from LRS**

LRS currently has 9,251 participants in Vocational Rehabilitation and 2,075 in Pre-ETS only cases. LRS currently has Orders of Selection 1-4 open, and Order of Selection Group 5 remains closed; however, participants were removed from the waiting list on October 1st, so LRS currently does not have a waiting list. The Department of Education has signed the MOU between the Louisiana Workforce Commission and LDE and is awaiting signature by the LWC Secretary. We already have a meeting scheduled with state level administrators at LDE to discuss improving the provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services in the public school districts. On October 29th, LRS received a Continuing Resolution partial appropriation for Independent Living Subchapter B in the amount of $48,132. This amount will be split between the two Centers for Independent Living, @SLIC and New Horizons, until the full appropriation is available.

Update from Elderly Affairs- Michele Guillory

GOEA, is the designated State Unit on Aging and is the administrator of the Older Americans Act (OAA) along with 29 program services. 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**

**Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA)**

**Statewide Independent Living Council**

November 2019

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 inorder 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.

**Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA)**

**Statewide Independent Living Council**

November 2019

**LouisianaAnswers.com**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **USERS** | **New Users** | **Sessions** |
| **3,649** | **3,623** | **4,303** |

**SenioRx has assisted seniors and people with disabilities receive free or low cost prescriptions resulting in a savings of $1,982,004.**

*Based on value of Drugs noted for July 1, 2019-September 31, 2019*

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). In the 2018 Grant period, GOEA contracted 59 agencies across the state to provide outreach, education and counseling with regards to Medicare. The 2019 grant award has been received from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and contracts are being awarded effective October 1, 2019. MIPPA Louisiana provided the following service units:

Hosted Events to Outreach & Education: 366

Community Event Participation (ADRC): 236

LIS/MSP Enrollment Assistance: 4038

Follow-up (for Enrollment Assistance Clients): 1958

Medicare Part D Counseling: 4101

Medicare Part D Enrollment Assistance: 2300

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

**Quick Glance Numbers July 1-September 31, 2019:**

**SenioRx/ADRC:**

* **Total Savings for Prescription Medication $5,059,614**

**Elderly Protective Services:**

* Number of EPS reports received: 1496
* Number of EPS reports investigated: 1425
* Number of EPS reports/cases closed: 829
* Number of High Priority reports received: 139

**Supportive Services:**

* Number of recipients receiving services: 44,330
* Percent of elderly population served: 5.5%
* Number of seniors with high nutritional risk: 32%

**Senior Employment Program:**

* Number of persons enrolled in the SE Program: 135

Updates from OCDD- Rosemary Morales

Rosemary discussed the Leadership Network call for this month and providing changes in the services that are in the future. The department is also looking into decreasing ratios for community involvement and they will partner with LRS to make sure that everything is allied. She explained that facility based services will still be available but going into a new waiver in 2021 all waivers will be merged together. She then discussed all current waivers. She went on to discuss value based payment but now they are starting with support coordinators education regarding this subject. Medicaid changes did effective waivers dramatically, so this is why these other factors are coming into play. The discussion moved to talk about the EDD tracking and how it has been working. Although its ideal, there are still some kinks that they have to work out regarding the tracking system in rural areas. Also stated that it really helps with fraud. Rosemary also spoke about having a electronic POC Coming in the future. SLIC stated does provide supported support in both locations. Further conversation took place regarding the hours regarding the waiver program and self-direction services.

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

Update from @Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (@SLIC)-Mitch

Mitch spoke about these key points as well as handed out information regarding such.

1. **Independent Living Services**

* Advocacy
* Peer Counseling
* IL Skills Training
* Information and Referral
* Transitioning
  + Nursing Homes/ Group Homes
  + Pre-Employment Transition Services for High School Students

1. **Other IL Services**

* Consumer Social Activities
* Statewide Personal Assistance Program (SPAS)
* Supervised Independent Living (SIL)
* Sign Language Classes – (@SLIC office in Lake Charles)
* Loaner closet
* Housing Assistance
* Transportation Assistance
* Rural Outreach/Community Outreach and Education
* Special Olympics
* Community Training
* Social Security
* Advocacy
* Medicare

1. **MOU with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services in Regions IV, V, and VI.**

* Supported Employment
* Direct Placement
* Pre-ET (Pre-Employment Transition Services) for High School Students
* Serving nine (9) high schools

1. **Contract - Louisiana Commission for the Deaf**

* Interpreting Services
* Hearing Aid Program
  + Contract to dispense 150-200 in Region IV
  + Contract to dispense 354 in Region V
* Hard of Hearing Equipment
* Amplified Equipment and Phones
* Community and Rural Outreach
* Staffs travel to outlying parishes educating communities on @SLIC services and activities

1. **Private ASL Interpreting**

* Forty (40) private contracts within the community
* Hospitals, eye clinics, Doctor offices, courtroom and legal, elementary and high schools, weddings, funerals, LRS
* Imperial
* Thrive Physical Therapy
* LCMH
* Oschners
* St. Pat’s
* The Eye Clinic
* Lake Charles Behavioral Health
* SWLA Center for Health Services

1. **Contract with Office Of Elderly Affairs**

* Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA)
* Public Education and Enrollment Assistance Events

1. **New Contract as of October 2019 with Veteran Affairs**

* Veteran Direct Care Program / Home and Community Base Services
* Person-Centered Counseling
* Financial Management Services
* Caregiver Education and Training
* Caregiver Support Coordination
* Chore Maintenance
* Consumer Direction, Self-Direction, or Participant Direction
* Electronic Monitoring
* Health Services
* Homemaking Services
* Individually Identified Services or Goods Necessary for Independent Living
* Nutritional Services
* Personal Care Services
  + Respite Care
  + Safety Services
  + Self-Determination (Makes their own decisions)
  + Shopping and Running Errands
  + Socialization Support Services
  + Transportation

1. **Home and Community Base Services in twenty-one parishes**

* NOW (New Opportunities Waiver)
* SIL (Supervised Independent Living)
* ROW (Residential Options Waiver)
* CC (Children’s Choice Waiver)
* EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic Treatment)
* CCW (Community Choice Waiver)
* VA: (Veterans Health Administration)
* Private Pay

**@SLIC participation in Coalitions, Councils and Memberships**

* Live At Home Coalition
* Louisiana Mental Health Coalition (LMHV)
* Aging and Adults with Disabilities Coalition
* Statewide Independent Living Counsel
* R5 ESF-8 Health and Medical Coalition
* Mayor’s Commission on Disability
* Kiwanis Club
* Community Career Connections
* Lake Charles Chamber of Commerce
* Vernon Parish Chamber of Commerce
* Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
* Tri-Parish Therapy (Leesville office)
* New Llano Senior Apartments
* Veteran’s Home

**@SLIC employed for the year 2019**

* Fifty-Nine (59) administrative employee’s
* Four Hundred and Twenty Seven (427) DSW’s

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

AUGUST:

NHILC served as the fiscal agent for both the SILC Gala sponsored by Humana ($3000) and United Health Care ($500) and the 10 Job Fairs hosted by SILC and sponsored by Healthy Blue. It should be noted that Wyndham Garden did not charge the fees for the venue and food and there was money remaining. The Healthy Blue sponsorship was for $6000 and all of those funds were used. There were a few expenses not covered by the $6000 and so the money remaining from the Gala was used to cover a few extra Job Fair expenses. The remaining SILC money is $2850.

SEPTEMBER:

The Annual Meeting of the NHILC Board of Directors was held on September 12. At that meeting, the Board approved our budget of 1.2 million. Also approved was the personnel plan, our program work plan, our Policy and Procedure, Board meeting dates for 2019-2020, and our officers were elected. Two members were re-elected and one new Board member was elected. Our current Board roster now includes 9 members. Board members reviewed NHILC documents including the Mission, Values, Guiding Principles, and the Vision. Board members received for review copies of our Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Executive Directors and Terms, and considered Committee Assignments. Lastly, the Board selected and approved our Independent Auditor. The Board of Directors meets each month for updates and to take action as needed.

September activities included a presentation by the ED and the Director of IL to the Riverbend Rotary Club in Shreveport. They voted to donate $500 to buy paper for our VITA program and to buy batteries for power chairs donated to us that need new batteries.

We attended a Healthy Blue stakeholders meeting in New Orleans at the invitation of RaShad Bristo. While there, New Horizons and @SLIC participated together in a webinar hosted by the Office of Independent Living, Administration of Community Living.

OCTOBER:

In October, New Horizons moved to 1701 North Market Street. We finished our move on October 31 and are still getting settled into our new environment. The building owner and his contractor have been very involved with us in making sure that everything is accessible. The contractor has a disability. The owner, who also has a disability, was involved in an accident as a young adult and was told he might never walk again. He understands our mission and has been very supportive of New Horizons since we first met him in July. He checks in with us several times a week to make sure that we have what we need and reminds us to call him if we have a need. The reason we moved is that we no longer needed 7332 square feet after all our downsizing. Our new building is 4000 square feet.

In October, we participated in the SILC Job Fair in Shreveport. We also had a booth at the Louisiana State Fair’s Senior Day. Another outreach was through the MIPPA grant. We presented information about Medicare at a church in Shreveport. We also participated in another ACL/ILA grantee meeting which was conducted at the APRIL conference.

ONGOING PROGAMS/ACTIVITIES:

Our Ticket to Work program is continuing to do well. So far this year our revenue is around $58,000.

Our GREEN program is ongoing. At Hawn Avenue, we had a garage. At North Market, we have two pre-fab buildings to store donations. Our owner has said there is a possibility he might build us a garage-type building at the back of the property.

We have received our training materials for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program for the 2020 tax season. Both the Shreveport and Monroe offices will once again be preparing taxes. Shreveport has had the VITA program since 2010. Our VITA program offers free tax preparation in an accessible environment with accommodations as needed. This year, New Horizons prepared over 400 returns including prior years and amendments. This program is administered by the IRS.

Our ongoing collaborations with other organizations still includes EMDAC (Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition) and Louisiana Mental Health Coalition. NHILC staff currently holds membership in the DD Council (Mitch Iddins, our IL Director is on the Council.) and The Advocacy Center or Disability Right Louisiana. (Gale Dean serves on the Board of Directors.)

FUTURE PROJECT:

We have met with our Shreveport-based website designer to begin planning to build an accessible website. The website will be fully ADA compliant and will meet visual, audio, and motor skill impairment needs. The website will be WCAG compliant. The estimated cost of the website will be $5249. We are planning to write a grant to cover the cost of the project. If the grant is not approved, we will either do a specific fundraiser or find a way to finance the project.

In all things New Horizons is still moving forward with our mission and our slogan “enabling people with disabilities to live independently…”

Update from Resources on IL- Alisha Grayson

Alisha discussed our efforts with youth transitions and how they have been in communication with youth transition coordinators across the state to establish partnerships, which will allow us to participate in transition teams for youth with disabilities.  These teams will assist youth with vocational and educational goals, as well as IL services such as skills training and housing accommodations.  Additionally, RIL plan to develop a summer program for youth with disabilities that have aged out of traditional summer camps. RIL participated in ACL teleconference, as did the other CILs.  Previous outreach for the quarter in rural areas included West Feliciana and Lower St. Martin. Upcoming event: tandem bike ride peer group in partnership with Lighthouse of LA, Accessible area for Mardi Gras in partnership with City of New Orleans

Special presentation from the SILC to the Governor’s staff.

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

Jamie A. that DOTD busses that they buy is a funding resource that can be utilized. They use federal transit funds to buy them at 85% fed to 15% state match. If anyone wants to do an application, it is open to the public. A description was made in more detail of the process.

No other Business

4:00pm Recess

**DAY 2**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called back to order at 9:10AM by Danny Cottonham and Jessica called roll again to establish if a quorum was present.

**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, gala and meeting dates.

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

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

Erick did a Speak out at McMaine center on December 12th. Jamie participated in the re-humize conference and spoke on a panel. Rosezella gave a update regarding the Gala and how another MCO waning to give funding for the Gala. The winners were named. Jamie and Rosezlla spoke about the APRIL conference and what workshops that they went to. The workshops were business analytics and transportation. The conference discussed assistive technology and how they can help IWD and how this was included in the waiver programs but then taken out. LATAN has a demonstration at their facility today. APRIL spoke about us to engage youth.

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

Jessica spoke about the job fairs and the outcome.

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

Ideas about community event

Jessica asked the SILC what do they want to do? Maybe host a workshop or conference in Baton Rouge. Maybe ticket to work. Something regarding voting with IWD and getting to polls. Maybe a social media campaign with taking a picture and posting what SILC is doing. Jamie will reach out to Arc to partner about this effort also partner with a Barber board and get the word out. More conversation took place regarding voter’s registration. Suggested maybe go to schools and COA. Also do some sort of workshop with emergency prep. Need something to drive the younger persons to where you are at. A subcommittee was formed for Revup and Emergency Prep.

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

Kandy participated in IR NET and ACL conference calls. Rocky was on a conference call about VA direct Care and another was on Online soft wear from VA.

**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.

Closing Comments

Maybe proposed legislation regarding parking in the blue lines in a handicap parking spot. Maybe talk to someone with Policy at the Motor Vehicle. Produce a parking flyer to put on windshield to educate. Karen St.Remain is the secretary. Then spoke about the public hearing of the SPIL plan date and a committee.

Adjournment

SG. motioned to adjourn and SN, RV.

Approve minutes on Steven N. motioned and Erick T. seconded.