

# LOUISIANA STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

May 1-2, 2024  
Meeting Minutes

| Members                        | Wednesday<br>May 1, 2024         | Thursday<br>May 2, 2024         | Role                          |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Archaga, Yavonka               | Present                          | Present                         | CIL Representative            |
| Bordelon, Brandy               | Present                          | Present                         | Self-Advocate                 |
| Bottley, Jarrod                | Present                          | Present                         | Parent Advocate               |
| Cheramie, Shaely               | Absent                           | Absent                          | Self-Advocate                 |
| Cosse, Brenda                  | Present (Virtual)                | Absent (Virtual)                | Self-Advocate                 |
| Credeur, Danielle              | Present                          | Present                         | CIL Representative            |
| Dartez, Randy                  | Present                          | Present                         | CIL Representative            |
| Garofalo, Claudia              | Present                          | Present                         | Self-Advocate                 |
| <del>Green, Tamara</del>       | <del>Present</del>               | <del>Present</del>              | <del>Self-Advocate</del>      |
| <del>Hammond, Alicia</del>     | <del>Present</del>               | <del>Present</del>              | <del>CIL Representative</del> |
| <del>Harrell, Antionette</del> | <del>Present (Virtual)</del>     | <del>Present (Virtual)</del>    | <del>Self-Advocate</del>      |
| Jett, Esther                   | Present                          | Present                         | Agency serving Dis            |
| Murray, Teriyonda              | Present                          | Present                         | Self-Advocate                 |
| <b>Ex-Officio Members</b>      | <b>Wednesday<br/>May 1, 2024</b> | <b>Thursday<br/>May 2, 2024</b> | <b>Agency</b>                 |
| Brown, Bernard                 | Absent                           | Absent                          | LDH- OCDD                     |
| Crain, Cheri                   | Present                          | Present                         | GOEA                          |
| Gradney, Charlene              | Present (Virtual)                | Absent                          | LDH- OBH                      |
| Jackson, Welma                 | Absent                           | Absent                          | LDVA                          |
| Murrell, Eleanor               | Absent                           | Absent                          | LRS                           |
| Wilson, Juon                   | Absent                           | Absent                          | LHVC                          |

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| Guests              | Wednesday<br>May 1, 2024 | Thursday, May 2,<br>2024 | Agency           |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Green, Tamara       | Present                  | Present                  | Self-Advocate    |
| Hammond, Alisha     | Present                  | Present                  | RIL              |
| Harrell, Antionette | Present (Virtual)        | Present (Virtual)        | Self-Advocate    |
| Kelly, Paige        | Present                  | Absent                   | SLIC             |
| Yoruw, Patricia     | Present                  | Present                  | New Horizons ILC |
| Credeur, Phillip    | Present                  | Present                  | SLIC             |
| Bayham, Melissa     | Absent                   | Present                  | LRS              |
| Baker, Kandy        | Present                  | Present                  | LRS              |
| Tu, Yenter          | Present                  | Present                  | Self-Advocate    |
| Gray, Robbie        | Present                  | Present                  | LRS              |
| Doyle, Liam         | Present (Virtual)        | Absent                   | GODA             |
| Iddins, Mitch       | Present (Virtual)        | Absent                   | New Horizons ILC |
| Polotzola, Bambi    | Absent                   | Present                  | GODA             |

## May 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes

### **Call to Order –**

Chairperson Bottley, of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) called May 1, 2024 meeting to order at 1:11 pm CST. A moment of silence was observed in lieu of a verbal prayer.

### **Pledge of Allegiance - Lead by Brandy Bordelon**

Brandy Bordelon, led the participants of the May 1, 2024 meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Introductions – Members and Guests**

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Mr. Bottley asked all participants (Members and Guests) to introduce themselves and their official capacities.

## **Roll Call / Determination of Quorum – Esther Jett**

Secretary Esther Jett conducted Roll Call. Quorum was established.

## **Mission Statement**

The SILC members and guests in attendance of the May 1, 2024 meeting recited SILC's mission statement below together in unison:

"The mission of Louisiana's Independent Living program(s) is to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, facilitating integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society. Louisiana's IL Partners promote a philosophy of Independent Living, including: consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy."

## **Public Comment**

*Note: Vulgar and inappropriate comments and behavior will not be tolerated via Zoom. Individuals making vulgar and inappropriate comments will be ejected from the meeting.*

Mr. Bottley invited any public comment. There was none.

## **Approval of May 1<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Agenda(s)**

Mr. Bottley asked for any corrections or changes to the agenda for day 1 and day 2 of the meeting. He also noted that specific times per item were removed to allow for more flexibility and opportunities for discussion. No corrections or changes were requested, therefore he asked for a motion to approve the agenda for day 1 and day 2.

Teriyonda Murray made a motion to approve the agenda for both days. Claudia Garofolo seconded the motion. Mr. Bottley asked for a vote. There were no objections or abstentions and it was approved unanimously.

## **Approval of February 2024 Meeting Minutes**

A copy of the meeting minutes from February 2024 were provided to all council members via email prior to the meeting. At this time, Mr. Bottley asked the council if everybody had a chance to review them and asked if there were any changes that needed to be made before asking for a motion to approve. There were no corrections needed.

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The motion to approve the February 2024 meeting minutes was made by Randy Dartez, with a second made by Danielle Credeur. Motion passed without discussions, or objections.

### **SILC Quarterly Budget Update**

Mr. Bottley yielded the floor to Patricia Yurow to discuss the SILC budget.

Ms. Patricia introduced new, easier to read reports based on feedback from our previous meeting. Each line item was reviewed. There was a lengthy discussion on travel reimbursements and the state regulation that limits travel reimbursement to 99 miles round trip. The council discussed that this is unrealistic when many of the members travel from much farther away than that. It was also noted that the Council wishes to have representation from individuals from all over the state of Louisiana. Not reimbursing travel might be a deterrent to our recruitment efforts. Cheri Crain suggested that we contact the Office of State Travel and explain our situation and ask for an exemption based on the fact that our recruiting goals include individuals from all over the state of Louisiana and that will include individuals required to travel farther than 99 miles. Mr. Bottley said he would get with Patricia to reach out to request the exception.

There was a discussion on moving some of the budget dollars around to better suit our immediate needs. Right now, we have \$6,000 remaining in the office supplies budget and only \$575 remaining in the Captionist and interpreting category. That is not enough to provide the captioning/interpreting services necessary for the remaining two meetings this year. It was suggested that \$5,500 be moved to the Captionist/interpreting expense line and leave \$500 in the office supplies budget for the remainder of the year. It was also discussed that previously, the Council had voted to allow the executive director a \$2,000 threshold to move items without requiring a vote. It was suggested that the chairperson be able to move between now and the next meeting line items with a \$2,000 threshold around in budget categories without requiring a vote by the full council. Therefore, a motion was made by Yavonka Archaga to a) move \$5,500 from office supplies and expense to Captionist/Interpreting and b) allow the chairperson to move budget items between categories with a threshold of \$2,000 without requiring a vote from the council. The motion was seconded by Brandy Bordelon. With no objections, the motion was unanimously passed.

### **Agency Updates**

#### **Louisiana Rehabilitation Services – Kandy Baker**

Kandy Baker, on behalf of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services provided a report during the SILC meeting.

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**Veteran Affairs- Welma Jackson**

No report Provided

**Office of Behavioral Health – Charlene Gradney**

Charlene Gradney, on behalf of the Office of Behavioral Health provided a quarterly report to the SILC.

**Elderly Affairs – Cheri Crain**

Cheri Crain, on behalf of the Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs provided a quarterly report to the SILC.

**Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities-**

No report provided.

**Department of Transportation and Development– Jamie Ainsworth DOTD**

No report provided.

**Louisiana Housing Corporation- Juon Wilson**

No report provided.

**Independent Living Centers Updates**

The following reports were read and rendered by the named individuals representing the captioned Centers for Independent Living in Louisiana below.

***Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (@SLIC)– Randy Dartez***

Randy Dartez provided a report on behalf of SLIC.

**Update from New Horizons Independent Living Center (NHILC) – Patricia Yurow**

Patricia Yurow provided a report on behalf of New Horizons Independent Living Center.

**Update from Resources on Independent Living (RIL)- Alisha Hammond**

Alisha Hammond provided a report on behalf of RIL.

**Recess**

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The Council went into recess at 3:59 p.m. until tomorrow, May 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

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**May 2, 2024  
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## **Call to Order- Jarrod Bottley**

The May 2, 2024 meeting of the SILC was called to order by SILC Chairperson Bottley at 9:16 a.m.

## **Roll Call / Determination of Quorum – Esther Jett**

Secretary Esther Jett called the official roll of the SILC. Quorum was established.

## **Public Comments**

No public comments were provided.

## **Executive Director Search Discussion**

Chairperson Bottley started the discussion by ensuring those present had a copy of the current job description for the ED position. Those present discussed changing the position from full-time to part-time based on the requirements of the job and the estimated amount of time necessary to complete the duties as assigned. If this change is approved, that will give the council more negotiating room regarding the salary because benefits will not be provided if the position is part-time.

Other issues discussed for this position included improved accountability for completion of tasks assigned, such as meeting preparation, required appointments and paperwork and following up with outside entities. Organizational tools needed to stay on task and communication with the council.

It was decided that the council officers and the center representatives would meet virtually to review the existing resumes and determine when the interviews would take place. The actual interview process would be open to all council members that wish to participate, as it was previously.

## **Remaining meetings**

Ms. Brandy Bordelon asked that for the future for her accommodations with the interpreters she requested that she know at least a month in advance for scheduling purposes for future meetings. She said we need to go ahead and schedule interpreters for all of the meetings for the year, because interpreters get booked up really quickly. A motion was presented by Yavonka Archaga that we determine the remaining meetings for 2024. This was seconded by Teriyonda Murray and unanimously passed.

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A motion was made by Brandy Bordelon to approve the following dates for the remaining meetings for 2024; August 7 and 8 and November 6 and 7. This was seconded by Danielle Credeur and unanimously passed.

### **SPIL Discussion**

Randy Dartez led the Council and the participants in a discussion of the SPIL. He started by reviewing the changes that were discussed at the February meeting. Randy reviewed each of the proposed changes as previously discussed.

Chairperson Bottley established the Resource Development Committee that will consist of the chair, the CIL directors, the secretary and Ms. Brandy Bordelon. He stated that the CILs will be in charge over that. Yavonka Archaga motioned to approve the Resource Development Committee as established and it was seconded by Danielle Credeur. It was unanimously passed.

The council discussed the remaining SPIL items including the issue of funding the centers. A motion was made by Randy Dartez to approve the SPIL the way it states it right now which is to fund all three of the CIL's. Danielle Credeur seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously with Teriyonda Murray abstaining.

### **Member Appointments and Recruitment**

There was a discussion regarding certain council members never receiving their appointment certificates from the Governor's office despite receiving their official email congratulating them on their appointments to the council. Those members are; Alisha Hammond, Tamara Green and Antoinette Harrell. This was something that our previous Executive Director was supposed to be following up on, however, he resigned in the middle of working on it. Boards and Commissions reported that they did not receive the paperwork due to the changeover in administration from Gov. Edwards to Gov. Landry.

The council as a whole discussed recruitment efforts and the importance of coming into compliance with a 51% membership consisting of individuals with disabilities that are not affiliated with a CIL. It was discussed that we need to follow up on applications received in a timely manner so as that when people express interest, we can start the process to bring them on board immediately so they do not lose interest or assume that the council was not interested in them when they applied.

### **Guest Presenter – Yenter Tu**



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Mr. Yenter Tu is a parent advocate and a self-advocate that currently lives in the state of Texas. He came to discuss the importance of proper accommodations for the deaf community during a natural disaster. He is currently involved with the City of San Antonio and district 3 DAAC, Disability Access Advocacy Committee.

Mr. Tu discussed the importance of involving deaf individuals in advocacy efforts and various committees to ensure proper representation for the deaf community.

Mr. Tu presented a piece of durable medical equipment called an UVI Duo 3. He brought one with him and demonstrated it to the council. It's a device for when you don't have access to get an interpreter at the last minute and you need to have a conversation. Mr. Tu feels that it's critical for all people to be aware of this sort of equipment and that it's an option for communication, especially in an emergency or maybe someone just stops by your office and you can access.

He also shared awareness of "HAS": a hazard alert system. It is operated by Deaf Link which is the name of a corporation in Texas and they send text alerts to a phone. Just like anyone would receive a text alert for bad weather or other situations such as amber alerts, shootings or other hazards it is provided in sign language for the deaf community. Many deaf individuals can't read and write English very competently and in a hazard or in an emergency situation there could be a lot of miscommunication.

### **Adjournment**

Esther Jett made a motion to adjourn the May 1<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the SILC. Teriyonda Murray seconded the motion. The motion passed without any objections, abstentions, or discussion. The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.