**LOUISIANA STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL**

**May 4th-5th 2022**

**Meeting Minutes**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Members** | **Wednesday, May 4, 2022** | **Thursday, May 5, 2022** | **Role** |
| Archaga, Yavonka | Present | Present | CIL Representative |
| Bottley, Jarrod | Present | Present | Parent |
| Bristo, RaShad | Absent | Present | Parent |
| Broussard, Daryn | Present | Absent | Self-Advocate |
| Cheramie, Shaely | Absent | Absent | Self-Advocate |
| Duplechine, Jamie | Present | Present | Self-Advocate |
| Fuselier, Rocky | Present | Present | Agency serving Dis |
| Garafolo, Claudia | Absent | Absent | Self-Advocate |
| Hennessey, Sharon | Present | Present | Self-Advocate |
| Jett, Esther | Present | Present | Agency serving Dis |
| Nguyen, Steven | Absent | Absent | Self-Advocate |
| Taylor, Erick | Present | Present | Self-Advocate |
| 4 Vacancies |  |  |  |
| **Ex-Officio Members** | **Wednesday, May 4, 2022** | **Thursday, May 5, 2022** | **Agency** |
| Brown, Bernard | Present | Absent | LDH- OCDD |
| Crain, Cheri | Present | Present | GOEA |
| Gradney, Charlene | Absent | Present | LDH- OBH |
| Jackson, Welma | Absent | Absent | LDVA |
| Murrell, Eleanor | Present | Present | LWC-LRS |
| Wilson, Juon | Absent | Absent | LHC |
| Vacancy |  |  |  |
| **Staff** | **Wednesday, May 4, 2022** | **Thursday, May 5, 2022** | **Agency** |
| Ennis, Jamar Lanier | Present | Present | SILC Coordinator |
| **Guests** | **Wednesday, May 4, 2022** | **Thursday, May 5, 2022** | **Agency** |
| Dartez, Randy | Present | Present | SLIC |
| Bayham, Melissa | Present | Present | LWC- LRS |
| Granger, Mitch | Present | Present | SLIC |
| Dean, Gale | Present | Absent | New Horizons |
| McElwee, Paula | Present | Absent | ILNET |

**May 4, 2022**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order – Jamie Duplechine (1:00 p.m.)**

Jamie Duplechine, Chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) called the May 4, 2022 meeting to order at 1:06 pm.

**Roll Call / Determination of Quorum – Esther Jett (1:05 p.m.)**

Esther Jett conducted Roll Call. Quorum was not established.

**Introductions – Members and Guests (1:10 p.m.)**

Jamie Duplechine encouraged all participants (Members and Guests) of the May 4,2022 meeting to introduce themselves and their official capacities.

**Pledge of Allegiance - Lead by members (1:15 p.m.)**

Daryn B. Led the participants of the May 4, 2022 meeting in the reading of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Mission Statement (1:20 p.m.)**

The SILC members and guest in attendance 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.”

**Approval of May 4th-5th Agenda(s) (1:25 p.m.)**

Daryn Broussard made a motion to approve the February 3rd and 4th SILC meeting agendas with corrections, Dr. Jarod Bottley seconded the motion to approve the February 3rd and 4th SILC agendas with corrections. The motion to approve the February 3rd and 4th meeting agendas passed without any abstentions, discussions, or objections.

**Approval of February 4th-5th Meeting Minutes (1:30 p.m.)**

Made a motion to approve the November 4th and 5th meeting minutes with amendments. Seconded the motion to approve the November 4th and 5th meeting minutes with amendments. The motion to approve the November 4th and 5th meeting minutes with amendments passed, without any discussion, objections, Sharon Hennessey abstained from the vote.

**SILC Quarterly Budget Update- Daryn Broussard (1:40 p.m.)**

Daryn Broussard the Treasurer of SILC provided that due to the previous COVID-19 restrictions, the SILC budget has more funding in compared to previous years. It was mentioned that $36,686.40, $25,482 for travel, $4,675 for captioning, and $87,087.02 for total direct cost remains in the SILC’s budget. Additionally, SILC has a paid Zoom account

**Agency Updates (1:50 p.m.)**

**Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) – Melissa Bayham**

[LRS May 4, 2022 Report](https://1drv.ms/w/s!ArnbuTRfiLxDajj9CQddw7bknKk?e=3TbZWk)

**Veteran Affairs- Welma Jackson**

No Report Provided

Office of Behavioral Health (OBH)- Charlene Gradney

[OBH May 4, 2022 Report](https://1drv.ms/b/s!ArnbuTRfiLxDcnVv8t8N4QYZiHU)

**Update from Elderly Affairs (GOEA)- Cheri Crain**

[GOEA May 4, 2022 Report](https://1drv.ms/w/s!ArnbuTRfiLxDeWkYHK6DGk7Zt3w?e=Kd78um)

**Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)- Bernard Brown**

[OCDD May 4, 2022 Report](https://1drv.ms/w/s!ArnbuTRfiLxDcFHWxHMT-7HucyQ?e=vPjP9f)

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

[DOTD May 4, 2022 Report](https://1drv.ms/w/s!ArnbuTRfiLxDb-lihxG7sdNZUgQ?e=bMhQhF)

**Louisiana Housing Corporation- Juon Wilson**

No Report Provided

**People First Louisiana/GACDA and NCIL Housing Committee- Sharon Hennessey**

Sharon Hennessy provided that majority of the housing advocacy has been directed to

heavy investment of affordable housing entities/projects into the 2023 fiscal year budget

reconciliation bill. It was mentioned that the budget reconciliation bill is a mechanism to

avoid the similar fate of the Build Back Better Act which stalled in the legislature. The

budget reconciliation will require a simple majority as opposed to a super majority. The

proposed legislation has $32.13-billion for tenant-based vouchers that will enable

renewals of the existing contract and expand the voucher program to include 200,000

more households, and will seek $5.125-billion to preserve public housing initiatives,

$5.05-billion for operating funding, and $3.6-billion for HUDS homeless assistance

grant. It was mentioned that Tribal Housing programs will also be targeted in the

proposed legislation.

**Question and Answer Session with Ann McDaniel, West Virginia SILC (2:30 p.m.)**

Ann McDaniel of the West Virginia SILC participated in the May 4, 2022 meeting via Zoom to answer questions from the members of the LA SILC.

1. Since the SILC is no longer housed in a government agency, is an Executive Order required?

Answer: it depends. It depends on the Governor of Louisiana. Most states have either an executive order or legislation that places the SILC in code to establish their identity. It was suggested that the LASILC speaks with the Office of the Governor to create a new executive order.

1. Does autonomy include the right to make an independent decision apart from the Governor regarding in-person meetings versus Zoom?

Answer: It depends on State Law, and what open meeting laws apply to the SILC. The State’s Attorney General can provide clarity on this issue.

1. If the SILC is required to meet in person, can Zoom be requested as an accommodation?

Answer: There is belief that it is defensible to afford a “Zoom” Accommodation. In other states there has been allowance of Zoom if there is an on-site location were individuals can physically participate.

1. Our 501c3 application is being processed. Will the 501c3 status make any difference in needing an Executive Order and SILC decision-making?

Answer: The SILC has already established the necessary decision-making authority, and the 501(c)3 is just a tax-exempt status.

1. Do ex-officio members count toward the required disability percentage even though the bylaws state that they do not vote?

Answer: Federal law provides that ex-officio members are non-voting; however, the SILC must have a majority of voting membership as well as a majority of the entire membership, including ex-official members, who are people with disabilities who do not work for a center for independent living or a state agency.

1. Does the SILC have the right to disagree with an Executive Order?

Answer: It was mentioned that the SILC speaks with the Office of the Governor because the current order is not suitable for a SILC in general because of the lack of autonomy. It will be up to the SILC to decide whether or not it would like to fix the current Executive Order or go the legislative route.

1. Is the SILC required to adhere to the public meeting laws of the state?

Answer: It was advised that SILC speaks with the attorney general’s office and the ethics commission to determine the applicable laws are for public meetings.

1. What should be the correct process for adding new members to the SILC?

Answer: It was advised that the LASILC has a process (annually) where it selects new potential members. The SILC should review the potential applicants and approve who they should recommend for appointment to the Governor of Louisiana. Create a written process and follow it.

1. Do the federal regulations address the addition and removal of SILC members by the Governor?

Answer: It was mentioned that the Governor’s Office already has it in federal law to appoint members and remove. The LASILC can always request the Office of the Governor to remove a member for cause.

1. Explain the significance of the SILC duties and responsibilities.

Answer: Ann expressed the importance of SILC members taking their duties seriously and to ensure that the state plan reflects what the individuals in Louisiana want and need in the spirit of having true consumer control. Ann further explained the history of SILC’s fight to gain recognition statewide by the federal government, and due to increased advocacy, SILCs nationwide have the autonomy to create plans for their individual states as it pertains to the part B dollars. Ann further emphasized that having strong consumer control as an autonomous entity is real purpose.

**SILC Member Updates (3:30 p.m.)**

Recap of activities/events occurring in each Council member’s local community that might provide opportunities for dissemination of Independent Living services and philosophy.

Jamie Duplechine- Presented at the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Conference in March on Behalf of Peoples First on topics relative to self-advocacy. In April, Jamie presented to the Arc of Rapids to initiate a People’s First Chapter in Rapides Parish.

Jamie and Sharon Hennessey- participated in a panel hosted by OCDD in March relative to inclusion and independence.

Claudia Garafolo- Participated in an initiative that assess the Jazz and Heritage fairgrounds in New Orleans, Louisiana for accessibility.

Daryn Broussard- Participated in a regional round table discussion with Disability Rights Louisiana to discuss independence, access to opportunities, community living, voting, etc.

Erick Taylor- Graduated from a program for self-development.

**Recap of the Council’s participation in Louisiana’s Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition (EMDAC) and report on EMDAC activities at quarterly LASILC meetings.**

The Council was unable to discuss this agenda item due to the Question and Answer session with IL Technical Assistance Representative Paula McElwee

**Recap of Council’s participation in webinars, conference calls, and training.**

The Recap of the Council’s participation in webinars, conference calls, and training was covered in the SILC Member Updates portion of the agenda.

**Legislative Updates (3:40 p.m.)**

The Council was unable to discuss this agenda item due to the lack of remaining time usurped by the Question and Answer session with IL Technical Assistance Representative Paula McElwee

**Recap of activities relative to the legislative advocacy efforts of LASILC**

The Recap of the Council’s participation in webinars, conference calls, and training was covered in the SILC Member Updates portion of the agenda.

**Public Comment (3:55 p.m.)**

No public Comment was provided.

**Adjournment (4:00 p.m.)**

The May 4, 2022 SILC meeting ended without a formal motion to adjourn due to the lack of quorum at 4:00pm.

**May 5, 2021**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order- Jamie Duplechine (9:00 a.m.)**

The May 5, 2022 meeting of the SILC was called to order by SILC Chairperson Jamie Duplechine at 9:07 a.m.

**Roll Call / Determination of Quorum – Esther Jett (9:09 a.m.)**

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

**Approval of May 4th-5th Agenda(s) (.)**

With Quorum established, Rashad Bristo made a motion to approve the May 4th and 5h 5th SILC meeting agendas with amendments, Erick Taylor seconded the motion to approve the May 4th and 5th SILC agendas with corrections. The motion to approve the May 4th and 5th meeting agendas passed without any abstentions, discussions, or objections.

**Approval of May 4th-5th Meeting Minutes (.)**

Rashad Bristo made a motion to approve the February 3rd and 4th meeting minutes with amendments. Erick Taylor seconded the motion to approve the February 3rd and 4th meeting minutes with amendments. The motion to approve the February 3rd and 4th meeting minutes with amendments passed, without any discussion, objections, abstentions.

**Independent Living Centers Updates (9:15 a.m.)**

***Southwest Louisiana Independence Center (@SLIC)– Rocky Fusilier***

Rocky Fuselier provided a report on behalf of SLIC. Please find the link below to gain access to the full reports.

[SLIC Report 1](https://1drv.ms/w/s!ArnbuTRfiLxDawKJUC07OfoKIv4?e=L6dYdE)

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

Gale Dean provided a report on behalf of New Horizons Independent Living Center. Please find the link below to gain access to the full report.

[New Horizons Report](https://1drv.ms/w/s!ArnbuTRfiLxDbJs87qKnzeG6DZ0?e=EjXAK3)

**Update from Resources on Independent Living (RIL)- Yavonka Archaga**

No Report Provided

**Independent Living Centers Updates (9:15 a.m.)**

**LA SILC Bylaws (9:45 a.m.)**

With quorum established The Council made several recommendations to amended the SILC Bylaws. The proposed amendments include: changing “board of directors” to “members of the council”, including express language that ensures that correct number of Independent Living Center Directors, the ratio of individuals with disabilities (voting and non-voting) that will mirror the Federal Regulations, creating a mechanism that allows council members to suggest agenda items prior to meetings, creating a procedure for the selection of council members, In order for Governor John Bel Edwards to create a new Executive Order to enable the Council to appoint new members, it was mentioned that the SILC’s bylaws must provide that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members.

Several members expressed that it may be in the Council’s best interest to amend the Bylaws to include the necessary language relative to the Governor’s appointment and removal powers, so that the council will get the necessary Executive Order to be come compliant with the Federal Regulations, and agree to amend the Bylaws during future meetings.

RaShad Bristo made a motion to approve the Bylaws as amended. Jarrod Bottley Seconded the motion to approve the Bylaws as amended. The motion to approve the Bylaws as amended passed without any discussion, opposition, or abstentions.

**LA SILC Elections (11:00 a.m.)**

Sharon Hennessey and Jarrod Botley were nominated for the position of SILC Chairperson by RaShad Bristo and Erick Taylor respectively. Sharon Hennessey was selected to become the SILC’s Chairperson by a majority vote of the members present. Jarrod Bottley (unopposed) was selected as the SILC’s Vice-Chairperson, and Claudia Garafolo (unopposed) was selected as the SILC’s Member at Large.

**Annual Memberships and Conferences (11:30 a.m.)**

The 2022 SILC Congress is scheduled to take place in San Diego, CA, May 16th-18th, Gale Dean of New Horizons Independent Living Center will participate in person. The National Council on Independent Living will take place in Washington D.C., Jamar Ennis will participate in the conference virtually.

Gale Dean gave a brief overview of the National Association of Statewide Independent Living Council (NASILC) and shared the importance of joining the various groups and coalitions relative to Independent Living.

The Council will explore possible memberships to NASILC and other groups in future meetings.

**Other Business, Closing and Adjournment**

Jamie Duplechine provided remarks as her last official meeting as the presiding SILC Chairperson. Additionally, Outgoing members Jamie Duplechine, Rocky Fuselier (Vice Chairperson), Erick Taylor (Member at Large), Stephen Nguyen, and RaShad Bristo were recognized for their valuable service and contributions to the SILC and to the independent living movement.

**Public Comments (11:50 a.m.)**

No public comments were provided.

**Adjournment (12:00 pm)**

RaShad Bristo made a motion to adjourn the May 5, 2022 meeting of the SILC. Rocky Fuselier seconded the motion to adjourn the May 5, 2022 meeting of the SILC. The motion to adjourn the May 5, 2022 meeting of the SILC passed without any objections, abstentions, or discussion. The May 5, 2022 meeting of the SILC adjourned at 12:02pm.