**Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

**MINUTES October 6th -7th, 2016**

The Statewide Independent Living Council held a meeting on October 6th-7th, 2016, in the Press Room of the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chairperson Gale Dean presided.

**Present:**

Baker, Kandy

Bristo, Rashad (Day 2)

Dean, Gale

Duplechine, Jamie

Fuselier, Rocky

Geddes, Sharon

Gray, Anita (Day 1)

Morales, Rosemary

Nguyen, Steven

Polotzola, Bambi (Day 2)

Ritter, Lawrence (Day 1)

Taylor, Erick

Viltz, Roszella

Jay Cochran

**Absent:**

Lambousy, Peter (Day 1&2)

Cottonham, Danny (Day 1&2)

Bristo, Rashad (Day 1)

Polotzola, Bambi (Day 1)

Gray, Anita (Day 2)

Ritter, Lawrence (Day 2)

**SILC Staff Present**

Lewis, Jessica

**Guests:**

Jamar Ennis

Derek Wesley

Paige Kelly

Mark Martin

Jolan Jolivette

# CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

SILC Chairperson, Gale Dean, called the meeting to order at 9:15AM, and asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves. She explained the SPIL goals are on the agenda so they can make sure they talk about the goals and objectives during the meeting. A quorum was present.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Gale Dean asked everyone to read along with Steven Nguyen as he read the mission statement so members will remember why they are present at the meeting and their purpose.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Gale Dean asked members to look over the agenda. Butch motioned Rocky Seconded no Objections. The agenda was approved.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The council took a few moments to review the minutes from July 7th-8th 2016.

Sharon Geddes motioned to accept the minutes with corrections and Jamie seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by the council without any opposition.

**BUDGET UPDATE**

Steven reviewed FY15-16, including the total revenue, salaries, benefits, and expenditures for the SILC. Then he reviewed FY17 regarding total revenue, salaries, benefits, and expenditures. Jessica mentioned that the month of September has not been run yet, so it will not be reflected yet in the budget. Gale asked if the $9,000 would cover SILC Congress and NCIL for next year. Jessica told her that it does. Jessica explained that the professional services are the telephone, email, and interpreter. Rocky wanted to know what was left over from the previous year and what happens to that money. Kandy Baker told the members the council does not keep the money that is left over from the year. Rocky motioned Jay Seconded. No objection

**PARTNER UPDATES**

LRS:

Mark Martin told us that this will be Paige Kelly’s last meeting, but that she will continue advocating for people with disabilities. The new three year IL contracts were approved as well as the interagency agreement. The Third party cooperative agreements, give us 21.3% in funding and we have to draw up 78.7%. This helps people get trained and find employment. We are also doing Pre-ETS. This is what we need to look at to change the cycle of poverty in Louisiana. 68% of our consumers are employed in top demand jobs. We will not get as many closures with Pre-ETS, but now we are working with kids who have disabilities in school. Martin said they are also collaborating with the Dept. of Corrections. We have more people incarcerated in this state per capita than anywhere else in the world. We took a 20% cut in the general funds. Mark told the members to keep LRS in mind, because if we take another budget cut it could be very detrimental.

Gale stated that Mark Martin’s update relates to SPIL Goal #3, Objective 2, Activity 2, to continue partnering with other CILs and disability-related organizations to foster best practices.

**CILS UPDATES**

Rocky Fuselier:

We visited the shelters in the Lafayette area and we were able to give about 15 pieces of equipment. We have been working with LATAN and they have been wonderful helping us with equipment. We have been working with GODA, LCD, FEMA, Red Cross, Trach mommas, LATAN, New Horizons, and others. We have given out 57 pieces of equipment and 33 hearing aids through the LCD program. One of our big programs is our waiver services.

Gale Dean:

We are doing all the same type of things that @SLIC does, and we collaborate very closely, and it has been a nice opportunity for us to come down and give those services. This month is the month of our annual fundraiser, and on OCT. 22 we will have our 5k, 10k, and fun run. We have decided to create a Facebook page that shows available jobs in Northwest LA.

Gale stated that we have filled SPIL Goal #1,Objective 1, Activity 1 with the CILS updates.

**Video Presentation**

Erick Taylor showed his video and explained what cerebral palsy is and how it affects your body. The video was River of Dreams and featured a Baton Rouge agency as a disability resource. This presentation met SPIL Goal #1, Objective 1, Activity 3 for ongoing orientation of members of the SILC to resources and services of each Council member.

**Report on NCIL Conference:**

Jessica said the conference was very informative and she participated in the walk. She talked about her experience while showing a slideshow. Jessica learned about the IL philosophy while at the conference. They marched on Capitol Hill about bills they would like to see passed for people with disabilities. Jessica’s report addresses SPIL Goal #1, Objective 1, Activity 3 with her report on events attended to raise awareness of IL philosophy, programs, initiatives, and CILs.

**AAIDD Conference:**

Steven went to the AAIDD conference and enjoyed listening to the speakers, especially Dakota Johns, and plans on going back again next year.

Rosemary was a speaker and talked about other speakers and agencies that were there. Steven and Rosemary’s report related to SPIL Goal #1, Objective 1, Activity 3.

Jessica Lewis provided an update on progress made toward the SILC website, relating to SPIL Goal #1, Objective 1, Activity 4.

**SILC MEMBERS PROVIDE UPDATES:**

Roszella will host a resource and health fair on October 19th, at the Ramada Inn in New Iberia, and she is trying to get vendors there. LRS, LATAN, Families Helping Families, a hospital, and others will be coming as vendors. The application deadline to be a vendor is October 12th. They already have 22 vendors signed up for the resource and health fair. We are partnering with LARC in Acadiana Village on October 25th. There will be food, a DJ, trick or treating, and a costume contest. Roszella’s report addresses SPIL Goal #1, Objective 1, Activity 5.

SPIL Goal #1, Objective 1, Activity 6 regarding an invitation of post-secondary youth to participate in the SILC meeting was discussed. A youth was not invited this time but discussion was that the youth should be post-secondary and age 24 or below.

SPIL Goal #1, Objective 1, Activity 7 was addressed with Jessica Lewis announcing that plans for the next annual meeting at a CIL would be for the meeting at New Horizons Independent Living Center in Shreveport in April, 2017.

Jamie Duplechine gave her report on the Brain Injury Association of Louisiana and the United Spinal Associations of Louisiana. She told us the mission of BIALA is to improve the quality of life for individuals impacted by traumatic brain and/or spinal cord injury and to advance prevention, treatment, support, and education of these disorders. BIALA is the only organization to maintain a 24-hour hotline and one of the few chapters with a state-supported Trust Fund. Jamie’s report related to SPIL Goal #1, Objective 1, Activity 8 for partnership with other advocacy groups by including reports from other groups or presentations from other groups.

**RECESS OF MEETING:**

A recess was called at 4:00pm.

**MEETING RESUMED:**

Gale Dean called the meeting to order at 9:09 and we had brief introductions. Gale told members that today they will look at SPIL goals 2, 3, and 4 and how they will achieve those goals. She mentioned how can we can communicate more efficiently as a council. Roszella asked if they meet as an executive committee and share info. Kandy asked if we have an open teleconference committee meetings. Jessica said she cannot have a discussion through email with SILC. The council discussed how to meet to ensure they are accomplishing their goals.

Since Jessica Lewis was attending the NCIL conference at the time of the LRC meeting, Paige Kelly reported on the Rehab Council meeting to address SPIL Goal #2, Objective 1, Activity 1, and said the next meetings will be one day instead of two. The meetings are planned out for the next year. The Rehab council will work on its annual report which is due on December 31st. The total membership now is 26 members. The dates for their meetings will be October 27, January 26, April 27, July 27, and October 26. The Chair is Robert Lobos. Paige will see if one of their meetings can be a joint meeting with SILC.

Jay Cochran reported to address SPIL Goal #2, Objective 1, Activity 2 as a report by CILs on VITA services. He said that people with disabilities want to work, and New Horizons has the volunteer income tax assistance. When you start working you have to pay taxes, and they are there to help them do their state and local taxes for free if you make less than $54,000 a year. They have done 250 tax returns during and after tax season. They have had people come back to file their taxes since 2010.

K. Baker, S. Nguyen, and R. Morales volunteered to work on a one page fact sheet advocating for funds for employment supports for individuals with disabilities to meet SPIL Goal #2, Objective 1, Activity 3.

B. Polotzola agreed to lead on Goal #2, Objective 2, Activity 1 to identify disability issues and organize a campaign in favor of individuals with disabilities.

Gale volunteered to lead Goal #2, Objective 2, Activity 2 to advocate for improvement on transportation issues that affect individuals with disabilities. More information is needed to identify needs for improvement by exploring current reseources.

**GOSHEP UPDATE**

Amy Dawson gave an overview of GOHSHEP and the flood disaster recovery. GOHSEP goes through the emergency management cycle which is the, prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The head of the unified command is the Governor, and he sets the goals and objectives for how we respond. Amy also let the council know they go over active shooter trainings and other different level of disasters, and exercises are huge parts of what they do. A disaster must be declared on the parish level first so they can access money from the state. Each parish has a director for emergency management, and they have to have a plan for people who have disabilities. LABEOC

We are also working on what a flood warning really means. On August 11 we had the flood. 27 parishes were declared an emergency. We rescued 28,000 people and 13,000 people were rescued by outside people, and there were 13 fatalities. We counted 11,000 people in shelters. We closed the last shelter on Wednesday. This is the first time a governor has come up with a state program, and that was shelter at home program. The shelter at home program was modeled after a program in New York after Hurricane Sandy. We have asked FEMA to prioritize people with access and functional needs and people with disabilities. EMDAC was created ten years ago and it has different stake holders, state agencies, non-profit groups, and others participate on the EMDAC conference calls. EMDAC has provided functional needs support services. This report related to SPIL Goal #2, Objective 2, Activity 3.

Gale Dean asked for volunteers for leadership in SPIL Goal #3.

R. Fuselier and J. Duplechine volunteered to lead in Objective 1, Activity 1 to educate legislators regarding CILs and the services they provide while advocating for legislative appropriation of funds.

R. Viltz and J. Duplechine volunteered to lead in Objective 1, Activity 2 of exploring opportunities for resource development for activities of the SILC and CILs.

A volunteer is needed for Objective 1, Activity 3 regarding sharing information regarding grants and other income sources among the SILCs and CILs.

There was not a formal report on Objective 2, Activity 1 on participation in any recent trainings. It was mentioned that Jessica Lewis had attended the NCIL conference. There was also discussion regarding trainings available on the ILRU.org website.

Objective 2, Activity 2 was previously addressed in the report from Mark Martin during Partner Updates to discuss any recent partnering with CILs or disability-related organizations. G. Dean also pointed out that work during the Baton Rouge flood was an example of partnering with CILs and other disability-related organizations.

Gale Dean asked for volunteers for leadership in SPIL Goal #4.

K. Baker and B. Polotzola volunteered for Objective 1, Activity 1 to research and ensure compliance of federal regulations.

R. Bristo and R. Viltz volunteered for Objective 1, Activity 2 to formulate a Policy and Procedure manual to comply with federal regulations when they are finalized.

B. Polotzola will oversee Objective 1, Activity 3 which is to create a job description for SILC staff.

K. Baker and G. Dean agreed to work on Objective 1, Activity 4 to review SILC By-Laws to ensure compliance with federal regulations and recommend amendment as indicated.

G. Dean agreed to monitor for ongoing updates of SILC Standards and Indicators, which is Objective 2, Activity 1.

G. Dean also agreed to prepare for the implementation of SILC Standards and Indicators, which is Objective 2, Activity 2.

G. Dean will develop an evaluation tool or checklist for reporting Standards and Indicators, which is directed for Objective 2, Activity 3.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Paige Kelly expressed why she loved the SILC, independent living, and the philosophy. Gale thanked her because she has made things so easy for the SILC and she is greatly appreciated.

Derek Wesley was named the director for Successful Employment. He said they are still establishing links with LRS and are trying to establish funding sources. He mentioned they ask what is preventing the person from being successful and how can they help them be successful.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

Roszella Viltz motioned to adjourn, Sharon Geddes seconded. The motion passed with no objection and the meeting adjourned on October 7, 2016.

Rocky F. moved motion to approve with corrections.

Steven N. Seconded.

1/12/17