

Minutes of March 3, 2011

Attending Members

Executive Committee:

Gail Kear, Chair, Bloomington
Barbara Pritchard, Vice Chair, Urbana
Ruth Thompson, Treasurer, Rushville
Charlotte Cronin, Secretary, Peoria

Members:

John Eckert, DoA, Springfield
Andres Gallegos, Chicago
Eric Guidish, Springfield
Willie Gunther, Springfield
Ryan Jansen, Springfield
Tyler McHaley, Springfield
Roy Miller, Carbondale
Mike Mohr, Sterling
Curtis Robinson, Grayslake
Cindi Swanson, Naperville
Ken Williams, DHS/DRS, Chicago

Excused:

Leigh Ann Heenan, Saunemin
Wayne Layton, Bloomington
John Miller, Sherman
RJ Robertson, Murphysboro

Absent:

Kevin Byrd, DDD, Springfield
Melanie Fleenor, ISBE, Springfield
Michael Wonderlich, DCFS, Chicago

Guest:

Ann Ford, INCIL, Springfield
Phylicia Deckard, Brain Injury Association of Illinois
Jillian Inserra, Hines VA Center
Lisa Estes, Marion VA Center
Brittany Trabaris, Danville VA Center

Staff:

William Gorman, Executive Director
Tara Dunning, Financial Manager

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Call to Order: The meeting of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois was called to order by Chair Kear at 10:05 a.m. on Thursday, March 3, 2011. Welcome and introduction were made and a quorum established. New members Mike Mohr and Cindi Swanson introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of October 28, 2010 were distributed for review and approval.

MOTION: Pritchard motioned to approve the minutes of October 28, 2010. Gunther seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Thompson gave a brief update on the state of SILC's budget. Some expenses have been reduced (i.e. payroll has been taken in-house) while others have increased (i.e. insurance premiums). Regardless, overall the budget is on target. The financial reports for November, December and January were distributed for review.

MOTION: McHaley motioned to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Jansen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of SPIL Section 3.2: Gorman distributed the revised Section 3.2 from the 2011-2013 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). He gave a brief overview for the Council member regarding the need to rewrite this section. This section identifies unserved and underserved areas of the state and priorities in spending if additional funds become available. The CILs wanted to clarify with RSA that any federal funds in priority 3 would be divided equally across the Part C CILs. RSA has agreed to this so we will list all Part C Centers in priority 3.

MOTION: Thompson motioned to accept Section 3.2 as rewritten with Mr. Gorman's clarification. Pritchard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report: Gorman reported on his activities since the last Council meeting. He has spent many hours coordinating the activities of six sub-committees, monitoring the managed care initiative, communicating with RSA on the revisions to Section 3.2 of the SPIL as well as numerous meetings with various stakeholders and organizations representing the disabled community.

Gorman asked if the Council would like to have a half day retreat on August 3. The Council agreed. Gorman suggested we invite other state disability planning organizations to attend and review their state plans. The Council agreed.

SILC Meeting Dates for 2012: The Council discussed the 2012 calendar and dates for its quarterly meetings. Dunning will check with Security Bank to schedule meetings on the first Wednesday in February, May, August and November of 2012.

Operations Committee Report: Thompson reported that the Operations Committee has met to discuss revisions to the travel policy as well as the personnel policy.

The Operations Committee has recommended that SILC reduce the reimbursement rate from .50 cents per mile to .45 cents. A draft travel policy with changes to the language regarding SILC reimbursement rate being consistent with the state to language reflecting the need to revisit the policy annually and set our own reimbursement rate. There was discussion regarding the reduction of the reimbursement rate and with no second to the Operations Committee motion to reduce the rate. The motion failed. The mileage reimbursement rate will remain at .50 cents per mile for the rest of the fiscal year.

Roy Miller asked if we knew what the total cost is for an in-person meeting. Gorman responded that we could easily cost that out for the Council. Staff will look into the cost of a conference call meeting verses an in-person meeting.

MOTION: The Operations Committee motioned to adopt the travel policy that SILC set its own rate and review the policy annually. The motion was seconded by Mohr and the motioned carried.

The Committee has recommended that the personnel policy add additional language to Section 3.7 in regards to an alternative, substitute benefit. This change would allow staff to decline the long and short term disability coverage in lieu of depositing the premium amount into their retirement fund making the change cost neutral.

MOTION: The Operations Committee motioned to accept the changes to the personnel policy. Jansen seconded the motion. Motion carried with one objection.

Outreach Committee Report: Cronin reported that two new members have been appointed by the Governor's office. She welcomed Cynthia Swanson from Naperville and Michael Mohr from Sterling. Currently the Council has one vacancy and three terms expiring. There are 11 of 17 members who have disabilities who do not work at a center for independent living or a state agency putting us well above the 51% required by federal law. Overall 15 of 17 voting members have disabilities. Cronin reminded the Council that a slate of candidates for election of officers will be presented at the May meeting.

Planning & Programs Committee Report: Gorman reminded the Council that the SPIL sub-committees fall under this committee so we will hear the reports from the six sub-committees at this time.

Access to Communication Sub-Committee: Gorman reported this sub-committee will be developing training and a video to education hospital staff on their responsibilities under the Language Assistance Services Act (LASA). The Deaf Services Coordinators from the CILs are taking the lead.

Advocacy Sub-Committee: McHaley reported this sub-committee is working on bring the legislative intern trainings into more CILs across the state. They are also charged with continuing the legislative forums and monitoring the progress of the managed care initiative.

Employment Sub-Committee: Guidish discussed the goals and objectives for the Employment Sub-Committee. The sub-committee will host trainings for Center for Independent Living staff. This training will focus on social security work incentives, tax incentives, PASS plans, employment myths and employer objections. This training will be provided by Health and Disability Advocates.

Training will also be provided to employers and businesses to promote the hiring of people with disabilities. This training will be done by disabilityworks.

A third set of trainings will be provided to consumers, including veterans with disabilities, on social security work incentives, how to use a PASS plan to increase employment without reducing benefits. Share with consumers and veterans with disabilities the myths and employer objections regarding hiring individuals with disabilities. This training will be provided by the Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWICs) at the CIL offices.

Housing Sub-Committee: Williams discussed the goals and objectives of the Housing Sub-Committee. There are essentially three themes under the housing objectives:

- 1) homeownership
- 2) universal design/visitability
- 3) rental vouchers for people with disabilities

Work has begun to collaborate with home builders, HUD counseling centers and local housing authorities.

Satisfaction Survey Sub-Committee: A draft survey has already been submitted to the CILs for their review.

Transportation Sub-Committee: Robinson reported that this sub-committee is working to increase partnerships and strategies with the transit authorities to improve transit options for people with disabilities. A first step in accomplishing this is by attending the regional Human Service Transportation Planning Committee (HSTP) meetings. Funds have been allotted to assist CIL staff in attending a transit conference being held in April.

Closed Session: At this time the Council went into closed session.

Guest Speakers: Philicia Deckard with the Brain Injury Association of Illinois was present to provide an overview of brain injury. Representatives from Hines, Marion and Danville VA Centers were on the telephone to discuss the services they provide to veterans with brain injury.

DSU Report: Williams discussed the state of the budget and the affects it has on centers for independent living. CILs are slated for a 36% cut in their GRF funding and the Community Reintegration Program is slated for a reduction of 50%.

INCIL Report: Ford reported that INCIL has been focused on the recent cuts to CIL funding. A press conference, rally and visit to legislators are planned for March 15 at the Capitol.

Adjournment: At 3:00pm, Thompson motioned to adjourn the meeting of the SILC. Cronin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the SILC is Thursday, May 5, 2011 from 10am until 3pm in Springfield.

Charlotte Cronin, Secretary

Date