

Minutes of October 28, 2010

Attending Members

Executive Committee:

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

Members:

Andres Gallegos, Chicago
Eric Guidish, Springfield
Ryan Jansen, Springfield
Dawn Lucasey, Glenarm
Tyler McHaley, Springfield
John Miller, Sherman
Roy Miller, Carbondale
RJ Robertson, Murphysboro
Curtis Robinson, Grayslake
Ken Williams, DHS/DRS, Chicago

Excused:

John Eckert, DoA, Springfield
Melanie Fleenor, ISBE, Springfield
Willie Gunther, Springfield
Leigh Ann Heenan, Saunemin
Wayne Layton, Bloomington

Absent:

Kevin Byrd, DDD, Springfield
Michael Wonderlich, DCFS, Chicago

Guest:

Ann Ford, INCIL, Springfield
Richard Grafton, Estes, Bridgewater & Ogden, CPA
Rob Kilbury, DHS, Division of Rehabilitation Services
Joann Rushing, Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind
Julie Somers, DHS, Division of Rehabilitation Services
Laura Thomas, Helen Keller National Center

Staff:

William Gorman, Executive Director
Tara Dunning, Financial Manager

Thursday, October 28, 2010

Call to Order: The meeting of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois was called to order by Chair Kear at 9:05 a.m. on Thursday, October 28, 2010. Welcome and introduction were made and a quorum established.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of August 5, 2010 were distributed for review and approval.

MOTION: Thompson motioned to approve the minutes of August 5, 2010. Pritchard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Report: Chairperson Kear discussed the hard work of the Outreach Committee in working with the Governor's office in getting new appointments to the Council. For the first time in many years the membership is current, diverse and strong.

Kear acknowledged the time and effort staff and members put in to develop the 2011-2013 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) and reported that the SPIL has been approved by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) as of September 30. It is effective October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2013.

Kear reported the one year anniversary date of William Gorman's employment with the SILC is December 7th and she will be requesting all members complete a simple performance evaluation form and return it to her by November 19th so the Executive Committee can finalize his annual review.

Executive Director Report: Gorman reported he has been working to improve SILC's reputation as a credible player in public policy within Illinois and in doing so has begun to distribute a notice of SILC's quarterly meetings as well as invite representatives from various groups and organizations to address the Council.

Gorman discussed the Capacity Development Grant that has been moved from SILC to INCIL due to RSA's insistence that SILC not disburse funds. With the cooperation of the DSU, the grant will be administered by INCIL and used for the implementation of the SPIL.

Other materials distributed for informational purposes is a fact sheet for Williams vs. Quinn, a letter to the Illinois Housing Development Authority commenting on their consolidated plan, a letter to 18 statewide disability organizations regarding a group meeting to collaborate on statewide issues affecting people with disabilities. Various fact sheets on the Affordable Care Act and managed care.

Amendment to SPIL: Gorman has been working closely with RSA and the DSU to rewrite some language in the SPIL regarding priorities for unserved and underserved populations (Section 3.1 and 3.2).

Williams discussed the communication with RSA he and Gorman have been having in the rewrite of Section 3.1 and 3.2 of the newly approved SPIL. Basically the SPIL was approved September 30th with the assurance that SILC and the DSU will take necessary actions to ensure by December 30, 2011, Section 3.2 will provide sufficient information about the design for future expansion of the network including identification of the unserved and underserved areas in the state and the order of priority for serving those areas as additional funding becomes available in accordance with federal statute.

Presentation: Meeting the Needs of Individuals who are Blind-Deaf:

Representatives from the Chicago Lighthouse and the Helen Keller National Center gave a presentation about their organizations and the services they provide to the deaf-blind community. Joann Rushing is the Deaf-Blind Outreach Program Manager for the Chicago Lighthouse. Ms. Rushing discussed her role in outreaching to individuals or their families about deaf blindness. The Lighthouse provides one on one case management as well as provides braille phones to people who are in need that cannot use a regular phone or a TTY.

Laura Thomas is with the Helen Keller National Center, Regional Office in East Moline. She reports the Center covers six states and provides technical assistance, training, and consultation. The Center tries to break down systematic barriers in programs, existing programs, VR, and to make sure that deaf-blind individuals have equal access to services.

Julie Somers has recently become a rehabilitation counselor for the deaf within the Division of Rehabilitation Services after working closely with the Chicago Lighthouse and as a teacher to training interpreters to work with deaf-blind individuals. Julie is also a deaf blind person due to Usher Syndrome, the leading cause of deaf blindness in the United States.

The presentation consisted of what it means to be deaf-blind and the services available to this disability population.

Approval of Fiscal Year 2010 Audit: Richard Grafton from the accounting firm Estes, Bridgewater and Ogden was in attendance to present the audit report for the period ending June 30, 2010. There were no findings.

MOTION: Thompson motioned to accept the audit report for year ending June 30, 2010. Robinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Operations Committee Report: Treasurer Thompson presented the financial reports for July, August and September. Thompson presented the fiscal year 2012 organizational budget for approval. She also discussed the recent DHS Administrative and Fiscal Audit and the waiver request to continue managing the grants on a cash accrual basis.

MOTION: Cronin moved to accept the financial report as presented pending audit review at year end. Robinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MOTION: Cronin motioned to accept the fiscal year 2012 organizational budget as presented. Robertson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Outreach Committee Report: Chairperson Cronin reported the Outreach Committee has been working closely with the Governor's office to make timely, appropriate appointments to the Council to maintain the requirement of 51% representation by people with disabilities not employed by the state or a center for independent living. With two new appointees attending today's meeting, there are only two vacancies and all but one member's term is current.

Planning & Programs Committee Report: In the absence of the committee chair, Gorman discussed the structure of SPIL sub-committees charged with implementing the goals and objectives of the SPIL. Appointments are being made to six SPIL sub-committees representing each of the theme areas: access to communication, advocacy, employment, consumer satisfaction survey, housing and transportation.

INCIL Report: Ann Ford reported that a community organizing training was provided to CILs recently. The three day training was limited to nine CILs and CCDI to keep the group to less than 30 so that everyone could get the most of the training. The training is quite intense and will continue with three follow up sessions in 2011.

Ford gave an update on the managed care project that directly affects six CILs in the pilot area. INCIL, SILC and the CILs affected by this project continue to attend meetings and express concerns surrounding the impact of this project on people with disabilities.

Ford continues to be involved, on behalf of the CILs, with nursing home reform. CILs who participate in the Community Reintegration Program have encountered roadblocks with the two year old Money Follows the Person Program. The Bureaucratic procedures between the two programs have made assisting individuals to move from nursing homes difficult.

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

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

Charlotte Cronin, Secretary

Date