



## Texas State Independent Living Council



Meeting Minutes  
January 26-27, 2012

ARCIL and Disability Rights Texas  
Austin, Texas

**January 26**

### **Opening:**

The quarterly meeting of the Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC) was called to order at 9:25 a.m. January 26, 2012 by Kristen Jones, Acting Chair.

### **Present:**

Members in Attendance - Kristen Jones, Randell Resneder, Crystal Choi, Peggy Cosner, Richard Couder, Jim Batchelor, Shannon Alexander, Saul Herrera, Beth Dennis

Others in Attendance - Regina Blye, Ashley Schweickart, Kimberly Bates, Dot Whitehead, Kaethe Selkirk, Karissa Garcia

Members Not in Attendance - Lance Hamilos, Donald Landry, Marc Gold

### **Addressed:**

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

- Resneder motioned, Couder seconded, unanimous approval came from the Council

#### **EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE REVIEW AND ELECTIONS**

- Executive votes - There were two nominations for Chair prior to the meeting: Saul Herrera and Randell Resneder. Blye explained the Chair responsibilities, and then asked for other nominations, there were none. Each nominee talked briefly about themselves and why they wanted to be Chair. The nominees answered a series of questions, and then exited the room for discussion. After discussion, Council members wrote down their choice for Chair and handed in their slips. Kristen tallied the votes and alerted the Council that Saul Herrera had the most votes. Resneder self-nominated as Vice Chair, Cosner self-nominated as Treasurer, and Jones self-nominated as Secretary. Jones mentioned she could not write the minutes, but will be available to sign the approved minutes. Blye recommended Batchelor to take the minutes since he has above average typing skills, Batchelor agreed to take on the new responsibility. Jones motioned the Council to accept the new positions as stated, Couder seconded, unanimous approval came from the Council.
  - Committee votes – Blye explained non-Council members can be on a committee, but have to be on the Council to be a Chairperson.
    - Community Relations & Conference: Resneder nominated himself for Chair.
    - Systems Advocacy: Alexander nominated herself for Chair.
    - Planning and Evaluation: Resneder nominated Hamilos, Alexander seconded, and the vote was unanimous from the Council.

- Jones motioned the Council to accept the new Chairs as stated, Couder seconded, unanimous approval came from the Council.

### **MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORTS**

- Blye the purpose for activity reports and why they should be submitted each quarter to Lois Langtry, Executive Assistant. Blye recommended members go to CIL activities and other activities in Good Information, or research what is in their area. Blye said staff would research activities in each member's community if requested.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Blye discussed previous Action Items from last meeting's minutes. Several items were already been handled:
  - Conference hotel, contract signed with the Dallas Marriott Center City.
  - Safe deposit box was closed with assistance from Jonas Swartz, former SILC Ex-Officio. Blye stated she did not have formal authority to close the box, because she was not present when the box was originally set-up several years ago. Blye asked the Council to grant her permission to handle banking activities such as opening and closing safe deposit boxes, etc. Blye already has signature permission. Blye also asked the Council to allow Cosner and Herrera to have signing privileges on checks and official documents when needed. Cosner and Herrera would have to go to Chase bank to be officially listed as signors.
  - DARS funding was approved so able to have the Project Specialist position.
  - Blye was able to set-up the SILC meeting at ARCIL and has plans for the SILC to tour more CILs in the future.
  - Jones motioned the Council to accept the new Old Business report as stated, Resneder seconded, unanimous approval came from the Council.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Blye discussed New Business items:
  - Blye explained that the Office of Inspector General with Health and Human Services Commission conducted a formal internal audit of fiscal year 2010. The SILC or any entity is usually not audited by the OIG if funding is under the \$500,000 a budget year, but HHSC has decided to do random audits on organizations that fall below the funding limit. A preliminary reports shows the SILC will have at least eight findings that might require a repayment to DARS. Blye stated a draft report should be submitted by HHSC within the next 30 days on average. Blye will have to develop a corrective action plan.
  - A limited financial review was conducted by a CPA, and the report was included in the meeting folders.
  - Commercial Insurance was previously through Travelers, but the business ended the long-standing relationship due to high liability. Commercial Insurance will be through the Harford. The total annual premium is \$837.

- Resneder discussed Disability Awareness Week programs, April 15-21, 2012. As Chair of the Community Relations & Conference Committee, Resneder will confer with the committee and then the Council more about the week. Blye recommended the committee plan an activity and saying it's in conjunction with Disability Awareness Week.

### **CONFERENCE PLANNING**

- Blye discussed session ideas and asked members for feedback. The Council will be sent an email and asked for additional feedback.

### **WORKING LUNCH (TRAINING)**

- Dennis Borel, Executive Director of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
  - My Medicaid Matters Campaign
  - 83rd Texas Legislature Updates and Strategies
- Melissa Loe, Communications Coordinator of Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD)
  - Function of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
  - Two grants funded by TCDD – Health & Fitness and Leadership & Advocacy

### **PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- No public comment or announcements.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (moved until after lunch)**

- Blye stated she is currently conducting interviews for two new Project Specialists to work the new TCDD grants. Blye said a new person will start full-time at the SILC in February. The person will locate stipend participants to attend the annual conference and assist with planning efforts. Blye stated the second grant (Health and Fitness) should start in March or April. The two new grants will bring in over \$250,000 in new funding for the SILC. Blye has been active in the community by attending several local, state, and national events. The OneStar Foundation invited Blye to attend a Disability Inclusion Conference in Virginia. AmeriCorps and other Service entities are trying to get more people involved in national service. Blye is an advisory member of the Inclusion Team of Texas. Blye attended and was Chair at SILC Congress in Houston. There was training for SILCs and five Council members attended: Jim Batchelor, Richard Couder, Crystal Choi, and Shannon Alexander, and Lance Hamilos. Couder said, "It was a very good education overall for myself just to hear the voice of other people ... that we all have the same common goal." Blye was recently appointed by the HHSC Commissioner to the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Commission and is still serving as an US Access Board member. Blye discussed possible new funding from TxDOT, to start September or October 2012. The JARC funded project will allow the SILC to partner with ABLE CIL and work on locating/creating options for transportation services in the Midland/Odessa area. Regarding the SILC Financial Report, at the end of 2011, there was \$87,288 in the bank to use on grant activities. The SILC still has roughly \$130,000 left in the DARS budget until

August 31, 2012. Blye then asked the Council to consider giving her an evaluation and raise. She looked at other executive director's salaries in the state and said, "I'm significantly lower." Cosner motioned to accept the full report, Alexander seconded, and unanimous approval came from the Council.

### **STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL)**

- A handout on the SPIL was included in the folder. Selkirk emailed or called Council members and stakeholders to provide updates and comments. Updates will now be collected between meetings to allow for a general overview at Council meetings. Dolly Worley is no longer the RCT point-of-contact, it will be Paula Margeson. Ashley Schweickart will be the point-of-contact for information specific to housing goals identified in the SPIL. Hamilos will give information on 15 state-funded CILs. There is still a wait for all 704 reports to fill in all the information in the SPIL. More information is needed on the Medicaid buy-in program. Next, public hearings about the SPIL are necessary. These hearing will include how people are getting services, whether it is with or without the help of CILs, and input from a variety of sources.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE BREAKOUT MEETINGS AND REPORTS**

- Community Relations & Conference: Resneder reported that logo number 4 was the favorite and the next meeting will be held in February.  
Systems Advocacy: Alexander reported that the Texas Advanced Leadership and Advocacy Conference (TALAC) will be a starting point for advocacy for the SILC and CILs. The committee wants to determine and define: what is expected at SILC level, then with CILs; and what is it that the SILC wants to accomplish. She said they will come up with policies and procedures on how to measure that, and a key component is to identify key people in legislature, ie Senate finance.  
Blye said the role of the SILC is trying to determine funding for existing CILs, and then DARS would be approached with requests.  
Planning and Evaluation: Cosner reported that the committee will work on understanding funding and how to make sure the SILC is gathering the information in a similar format. She said they want to find out if all federally funded CILs have submitted 704s. The committee wants to make sure goals that are set have to be applied to all, and make sure people are collecting data for SPIL in a consistent manner because now some are doing it monthly, quarterly or once per year. She said they want to make it simple and begin that process.
- A motion was made by Cosner at 4:38 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Resneder, and approved unanimously.

## January 27

### Opening:

The joint meeting with the Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC) and the Rehabilitation Council of Texas (RCT) was called to order at 9:10 a.m. January 27, 2012 by Kristen Jones, Acting Chair and Larry Evans, RCT Chair.

### Present:

Members in Attendance - Kristen Jones, Randell Resneder, Crystal Choi, Peggy Cosner, Richard Couder, Jim Batchelor, Shannon Alexander, Saul Herrera, Lance Hamilos

Others in Attendance - Regina Blye, Ashley Schweickart, Kimberly Bates, Karissa Garcia, and RCT

Members Not in Attendance - Beth Dennis, Donald Landry, Marc Gold

### Addressed:

#### **EX-OFFICIO AND OTHER REPORTS (submitted by both organizations)**

- Blye started the reports by reporting on behalf of Jones, Acting Chair. Blye summarized Council activities and reports that took place during the meeting January 26. Blye talked about the SILC's budget, new staff, two new grants from TCDD, the conference in April, Good Information email blasts, and Disability Awareness Week programs. Blye acknowledged former SILC Chair Michelle Crain. "Officially, we do want to say thank you," she told Crain.
- Roger Cortez, with the Texas Education Agency spoke, mentioning a "giant reduction in force."
- Karen Stanfill with the Client Assistance Program spoke about the increase in the program (Tab 7).
- Richard Hatfield with the Texas Workforce Investment Council (TWIC) spoke on the responsible deal with planning of the workforce, the Review Board and what they have done, and the Advancing Texas plan.
- Steve Ashman, MFP Demonstration Project Director, Department of Aging and Disability Services (spoke on the behalf of Marc Gold), provided updates on waiver slots, ie children aging out of the foster care program; Money Follows the Person program.
- Jean Genevie with Division of Blind Services spoke.
- Lance Hamilos and Peggy Cosner gave a report.
- A motion was made by Larry Evans at 11:20 a.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Resneder, and approved unanimously.

Notes taken by: Kimberly Bates, SILC Staff

Edited by: Regina Blye, SILC Executive Director

Approved By:		Date:	
--------------	--	-------	--