General Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Homewood Suites by Hilton

15 Girard Street

Durango, CO 81303

 Corrected Minutes

**Call to order / Introductions / Chairperson’s remarks**(Buna)

Present: Buna Dahal, Jerry Michel, Joe Anzures, Martha Mason, Nancy Jackson, Mario Rocha, Karen Prince, Chris Roe, Jennifer Silva, and Priscilla Carlson

Via Phone: Lori Sommers, Matthew Ruggles, Colin Laughlin, Aaron Pasterz (CPWD staff), Nora Brahe (she will call back at 12:35 PM)

Guests: David Robinson (CPWD Exec Dir.), Karly Lindell from the Rocky Mountain RCCO, Joan LaBelle (CPWD staff), Bodil Holstein from the Durango community, Dixie Herring (The IC Exec Dir.)

Not present: Jason Eaton, Joelle Brouner, Jean Hammes, Travis Morgan, and Rob Buzogany

**Approval of March 18, 2015 minutes**(Buna)

Jerry made the motion, Joe gave the second, and all said “aye." It was APPROVED.

**Committee Reports (briefing)**

*·      2 ladies came in and sat down*

Executive (Buna) – The Executive Committee has been working very hard to figure out solutions for the membership issue, budgets, and funding for the SILC Coordinator.

Finance (Chris/Karen) – We have made attempts to figure projections and thought we would be over budget 10% but Karen got the CORE to work and now we might be $4,000 under.  The surveys will cost a double the amount, mailing and the envelopes.  We are coming up to the end of the fiscal year, and we don't know how much we will have to spend, but we have as much as $7000 in the budget.  We have the money in the budget now.

*·      Larry Williams (ILC Pueblo Exec Dir.) came in*

Public Policy (Lori/Chris) – Lori send a report on the Public Policy Committee (PPC) since she was unable to attend the meeting, and Priscilla gave the highlights of that report (the report was included in the meeting packet).  The PPC is looking at Housing, and they had a guest speaker come to their meeting from ColoradoHousingSearch.com, and they are presenting today.  Buna reminded everyone that since the PPC had accomplished their goal with the white paper on "Transitions," and, rather than starting a new project in May, they are going to wait for the new Public Policy Committee Chair, with the rest of the committee members, to decide which direction they want to go.

Website/Social Media (Jason/Priscilla) – Jason also sent a report, which Priscilla highlighted.  At the last full SILC meeting in Fort Collins (3/18/15), Joe asked about how the survey was going with the website hits.  Matthew said that it’s easier for the D/HoH to have paper copies because it took a lot of time to fill out the survey and a lot of people needed assistance, explaining what the questions meant, etc.  It would be more successful if we could take the time to do it one-on-one.

Side Note: Joe brought up the pressing issues before David Robinson (CPWD Exec Dir.) left: The Constitution of the SILC and the funding for the SILC Coordinator.  For the SILC Coordinator funding, Tim Beatty and Deb Cotter from ACL said that they are NOT enforcing the 5% cap on ACL funding.  DVR wants to release the contracts but if the funding is changed and the money has to come from a cut in CIL funding, then all of the contracts need to be changed.  The SILC feels like they need both the SILC Coordinator and IL Program Coordinator.  Joe's proposal is to have everyone give up a little to help contribute to the funding of the SILC Coordinator until we get through the next 60 - 90 days because after June 30, we have to release Priscilla from her contract.  Joe will be sending a brief to Centers to study and think about it.  After that, we will be having a conference call with the Centers, DVR, and ACL to get this resolved.  The only other solution is to amend the SPIL, and the only way to do that is to get a 51% of the CILs in the state.  If we don't amend the SPIL, then by law, it has to be funded.  However, the SILC will not vote in favor of amending the SPIL.  If this does not get resolved, Joe has a standing meeting with the Governor's Office in two weeks.

Membership (Jennifer) – We are looking at 3 particular areas: 1) Compliance with membership, 2) Composition, and 3) Recruitment of members and voting in new members & officers.  Joe reiterated that there is a difference between compliance & fully constituted.

Data Collecting (Jean) – Jean was not able to make it to the meeting so she sent a report.  Joe also addressed the report because of the surveys collecting data for the SILC.

 SPIL & Youth (Joe) -

Goal 1: Getting a hold of the disabled demographic in Colorado.  Where is it, what does it look like?  1) Mapping project, it's on the website  2) Client level - even if they don't know what an ILC is, that is exactly WHY they need to fill it out.  This will be an annual survey, and it will be a great tool.  3) Report on what the state of the disability community in Colorado.

Goal 2: Help CILs to increase their capacity with trainings

Goal 3: Youth Goal - involve youth in the community to build future leaders

**SRC Report**(Buna)

The meetings are the second Wednesday of the month.  We need to find a replacement for Buna because she is not renewing her SILC membership.﻿﻿

**SILC Coordinator Report**(Priscilla)

The SILC Standards and Indicators of what a SILC should be doing.  There will be a conference call of SILCs today about the feedback.  Please let the SILC Coordinator know what your feedback or suggestions are.

The SILC phone has been busier than normal and that's not just the surveys that have been keeping the SILC Coordinator.  A lot of people are just looking for help, so she has been referring the callers to their respective centers for assistance.

There was a need for a Spanish version of our SPIL Consumer Survey 2015.  Since our SILC Coordinator didn't trust the Google Translator and other members of the Latino/a community did not get back to her, she asked the Council if they had resources.  Karen had a co-worker at DVR translate the survey.

SILC Congress will be having their annual meeting in January 2016 in Phoenix, AZ.

**DVR Report**(Karen)

DVR is joining the Department of Labor.  This will take effect on July 1, 2016.  The ILCs may be staying with Human Services but nothing is certain yet.

The ILCs' funding formula was passed; every center will be given more money.

The contracting process has been done by May 29 (signed and sent back).

*Gayle Cross - acting Program Manager for the Southern Ute Vocational Rehab*

*Bobby Rosa – also works with Gayle at the Southern Ute VR*

**Representative from the Center Directors Report**(Nancy)

Nancy represents the 8 of the 10 centers through ACCIL and reaches out to the other centers.  She reaches out to all 10 centers monthly to ask them what to talk about at the SILC meetings, and she brings back information from the SILC meetings to all 10 centers.  Ex: Survey from the last month.  Sheila Somberg is the Mile High board member is filling in as Interim Executive Director now.  Senate Bill 15-240 was passed on April 8, 2015, and the Governor signed it with the Center Directors present at the Governor's Ceremony.

ACCIL is updating their website and their new coordinator, Janice Friddle.  ACCIL is working with DVR for contract updating. Contracts begin July 1, 2015. The new funding through SB 15-240 begins January 1, 2016.

The Centers are not completely done with submitting postage costs for surveys that were distributed by them.

CCT Program: There are 19 people on a waiting list to get out of nursing homes in Greeley area.  They are just waiting for the intensive case managers to get them out of the homes and living in the community.  Beth wants to be case manager for the program, but ILCs have been forbidden to be the intensive case management entity.

Joe and Buna are requesting that the Centers submit their postage costs for the survey as soon as possible.  The survey has been extended to June 15.

ACCIL meetings do not have Public Comments and are not open to the public.  For those who want to come to the ACCIL meetings, ACCIL requests that someone who represents the SILC gives notice to present their information at the ACCIL meeting.  ACCIL meetings are usually the day after the full SILC meetings.

Dixie shared that The IC got a grant to put together Emergency Preparedness Kits to distribute to the Red Cross.

Martha shared a story about a consumer, Jack, who wanted to get out from under Community Center Board (CCB). *(see Public Comment for more details)*  Michael, another consumer came up with these workbooks to address mental health issues.

*·      Karly left*

**Break**

**Old Business**(Priscilla)**:**

-Jenny’s project: Wed, 6/17/15, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, MHILC

o   We will invite her to our retreat to talk about how the meeting went

**New Business:**

-       A. Council Membership Compliance (Joe/Jennifer)

o   There is a difference between being constituted and being compliant.  If Council is out of compliance, the funds for Part B & C money can be withheld.  All SILC business could be invalidated.

*·      Lori just joined us*

·      There are 4 slots that we can play with (Martha, Matthew, Jean, and Jennifer).  <See emails for clarification and rules>.

·      Nancy suggested that she could resign, and Martha could take her position.  Martha did not want to do that.

·      Clarification with Deb, Martha, Matthew and whoever wants to participate– have a conference call or Nancy suggested change our bylaws to add 3 more members.

- Federal law supersedes state law

·      \* **Vote:** Joe will make a motion to send a letter to ACL informing them that we (SILC) are working to get back to compliance.  If this is not an acceptable strategy, we need to be informed formally of what our options are.  Jerry called for the motion. Mario gave the second. Nancy made a request to change the word from “pursuing” to “requesting,” all were in favor, aye, APPROVED. [Nancy later requested a change to the word “requesting” and use the word “working” instead.]

o   \* **Vote** on 2 New Members: Melissa Fishburn and Maria Cloud-Jacques.  Their information was passed around.

Martha made a motion, Jerry, aye, APPROVED.

*- Gayle and Bobby left*

**Working Lunch -- Conference Call Attendees:**

*Colin Laughlin, Lori Sommers, Aaron Pasterz (CPWD staff), and****Nora Brahe (HCPF)****to talk about the**CCT Sustainability Plan*

* Money Follows the Person grant program in Colorado, which is like a transition program (CCT) grant, which is basically like a road map.  The program is for people living in nursing homes who want to live in the community to transition and provide support to sustain them afterwards.  Supports include peer support and independent skills training.
* We promote independent living and support the Olmstead decision from 1999.  We got the grant in 2011, and it is set to expire in 2018.  They are working with numerous stakeholders on sustaining the supports for when the grant expires.
* Atlantis and ADAPT are on their advisory board.  Nancy Jackson from ACCIL, Joe Anzures from SILC, and the Coordinator from SILC to get the updates on CCT.
* The State of Colorado is very invested in keeping this program alive so the CCT will continue have the program.  The grant ends in December 31, 2018, but they will stop transitioning on December 31, 2017 because they have to give everyone who has transitioned out of the nursing home a year to still receive support.  They will still have people transitioning out through CTS, but they won't be funded through the CCT grant.
* HCPF project their goal to transition 500 people out of the nursing homes, and they have transitioned about 90 people because they are struggling with finding enough service providers.
* Email Nora Brahe at nora.brahe@state.co.us for any other questions.
* *Matthew is back on the call*

**Public Comment Period (**If you want to share a Public Comment, please sign up on our sign-up sheet) - *The SILC requests that guests who would like to make a Public Comment to please keep your comments to no more than 3 minutes.  SILC is not allowed to ask questions or comment.  Anyone who wants to contact SILC members can do so later.*

Mario Rocha from the SILC: H & R Block is now providing translator services to those who are deaf or hard of hearing community.  Comcast is now providing audio description services for the blind and visually impaired community.

James Jones from SWCI Board of Directors: Lack of services such as Medicare and Medicaid, some people don't have access to those services.  Some people are scared to come out or some people don't know about the services so SWCI needs a way to get people out and talk to people in the community (outreach).  Why give only 3 minutes to people when you want to hear what's going on in the community?  There are people like him who may have difficulty speaking due to stroke or any other medical complication so they may need more time for that.  SWCI needs resources to work in a rural community for outreach (for example Pagosa Springs or Cortez).

Laura Lindstrom: She is the sign language interpreter from The Interpreting Agency (in case anyone needs it)

Jack Wickam from SWCI Board of Directors: (he had an assistant to help with speaking) He is a member of the disability community in Durango.  His concern is how we make agencies more responsible to the people (e.g. disabled community) like him.  He would like to see this happen.

Patricia Ziegler, the Assistant Director from SWCI: Very passionate about the ILC movement.  The state of Colorado promised CMS that 490 would be transitioned out of the nursing home but, to date, it has only happened to a little over than 80 people.  There are people waiting, they have all of their supports in place, and it's either the AAA, or there are not enough case managers.   For example, there is a lady with CP who has a home to come home to, but she is stuck waiting for "options counseling" from the Aging & Disability Resource Center to release her.  Make HCPF to do something, they are lacking the infrastructure to do something.  It's a violation of these people's civil rights because they are forced to live in an institution against the Olmstead decision.  Those people can't be here, but she is.  She wants to SILC to do something and leverage their power to make this happen.

**State of Affairs: HUD 811 Project**(Chris)

* Division of Housing has been awarded over $7 million over the next 5 years.  Project-based housing with support services to make units available.  They are contracted with HUD.  They are hoping to have a draft of the plan by the end of May.  By mid-summer, they are hoping to start taking applications to the community housing to apply.
* There is no requirement that user has to have services, but there is an MOU that services are available for those who need it.  They will be working with existing housing providers, but they are also hoping to work with new housing developers.
* Eligible people for this program are people with disabilities who are very low-income, 62 years of age or younger, and they added 3 more criteria: 1) leaving an institution, 2) homeless, or 3) at risk of homeless.  Mental institutions count as institutions.  Any complex that was developed as affordable housing can be in the program, and the Division of Housing will then get the message out to the community.  We need a commitment of when those units will be available to the Division.  It's intended to be permanent housing.
* This will be allocated for the entire state, not just for the Denver Metro area.  The one limitation is that they can't subsidize units that only have 20 or less units in their complex.  If anyone thinks there is a need, then we can prompt developers to make that a possibility.

*·      Larry came back*

**New Business:**

-       C. SILC Annual Retreat (Buna/Priscilla)

o   We are having one-day retreat instead of two days

o   Buna is thinking that it will be a wrap-up / vision for next year

o   Suggestions for the Retreat:

§  Matthew suggested that we raise social awareness on Deaf/HoH issues

§  Buna suggested inviting Jenny to talk about their meeting and a video

§  Colin suggested talking about the frustrations with Medicaid and what they want to do with their waiver system (Simplification of the Medicaid System

§  Martha & Jennifer suggested what the SILC could do about getting HCPF do to increase the capacity of getting people out the nursing homes (Buna will ask Joe lead the conversation)

§  Joe suggested a planning strategy session on what the SILC wants to do for the coming year

§  Chris suggested having someone from the Governor’s Office and talk to us about what we want from them

**Housing Webinar**(Sheila Roberts from SocialServe.com and ColoradoHousingSearch.com)

- Colorado FREE Housing Locator Service.  We went through the website ColoradoHousingSearch.com, online housing search for Colorado and other participating states to connect people with properties and leasing managers.  There are filters to find what exactly a person needs.

- There is a call center to answer questions from consumers to property owners and managers.  The website stays in constant contact to make sure everything is updated.

- They also work with FEMA and Emergency Preparedness to place displaced individuals.  This is a non-profit company and is fund partly with the Division of Housing and others.  There are links to find additional resources, more languages, and tools to figure out the plan for moving.  It is also mobile-friendly.

- Martha had concerns about it for rural areas.  Chris said that they are working on it, but like Sheila said, they have to heavily rely on housing partners in each area.

-       **B. Funding for SILC Coordinator Position (Joe)**

o   Where the issue is at: there is not enough funding for having the SILC Coordinator

§  1. We don’t want to get rid of Coordinator

§  2. DVR has their rules and restrictions

o   Short-term fix: the ILCs would give some, SILC would pay some, DVR would give, and the Coordinator would take a cut in salary with a new contract and terms

o   What do we want to do?

o   Rob is on the phone, joining the call.

§  DVR is funding the SILC

§  With the WIOA, it does affect funding.  We went from $70,000+ down to $15,000

o   Martha wants the SILC to review the budget before the Centers give the SILC some money

o   Clarification with the conference call

§  1. If there is no 5% cap, then we can go from there

§  2. If there is, Joe will send that out

o   *Next Action:* Have a conversation with and get the directive with Deb, Joe, Rob, and to clear up the confusion and get it on paper (it’s the IL centers money but they can’t get the money w/o the SPIL

**Center Spotlight: Southwest Center for Independence** (Martha Mason)

Martha will give us the Spotlight at the Center

**Elections of New Officers**(Jennifer/Buna)

- Everything is too up in the air now so we will have elections at the Retreat.

- *Next Action:* Joe made a motion to wait until the SILC Retreat, Nancy and Jerry gave a 2nd, all were in favor, no opposed or abstentions, APPROVED.

**Travel Forms**(Karen)

**Adjourn – Center Spotlight at the Center along with a Tour**

Joe made the motion, Jerry gave a second, and all were in favor, MEETING ADJOURNED at 3:42 PM.

–     *Martha Mason, ED from Southwest Center for Independence*

–     *3473 Main Avenue, #23 – Durango, CO  81301 – (970) 259-1672*

–     **[http://www.swci.org](http://www.swilc.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22)**

*Members are highly encouraged to attend the tour.  We will be caravanning to the Center after the meeting is adjourned.  Members can carpool or ride with one of us, and we will take you back to the hotel or your car, if need be.*