Colorado SILC Meeting “Durango”
Wednesday, May 22, 2013
9:00-3:30

Members present:
Julia Beems, Anna French, Joe Anzures, Martha Mason, Larry Williams, Sandy Lahmann, Jerry Michels.

Staff:
none present

Guests:
Loni Michel (personal assistant). Laurey Jaros (Ex-SILC member retired). Jason Ragsdeu, Shawana Butler, Ellinda McKinney, Rick Jarvis and Barbara Elliott were all employees of the SWILC from Durango.

Call to Order/Introductions:
• Julia Beems, SILC Chair, opened the meeting and brief introductions were made.
• Julia requested photos of Council members and that she could take the pictures.
• Dian Jenkins from Fort Lewis College would be our interpreter for Public Comment.

Approval of Minutes:
The March minutes distributed with the SILC meeting packet were moved for approval by Larry Williams and seconded by Anna French. March Minutes were voted upon and passed unanimously.

Financial Update:
Joe Anzures, SILC Treasurer, reviewed current status of the Budget with the latest updates from DVR budget postings. After projected costs of upcoming meetings (which includes the June retreat) and committed purchases, the SILC has a remaining budget of $18,000 to be allocated and committed by June 30.

It was noted that it is important that all SILC members process their expense accounts immediately so a clear assessment can be made on the actual remaining funds available to the SILC for this fiscal year. Outstanding expenses of $1,850 for the March Boulder meeting have yet to be posted and cleared. Durango and May expenses for the SILC are currently forecast at $7,102.91.

It is forecasted that the June conference that is currently awaiting approval will use the remaining funds. It is imperative that expenses be processed immediately and that approval of the June conference be received from DVR so alternate plans can be developed for any remaining funds.
Committee Reports:

- **Finance**: Covered in the financial update and June Conference discussions.
- **SPIL**: Julia Beems reported:
  - Draft is complete and posted on Website for review. Comments received so far have been grammatical corrections.
  - Susan, DVR liaison, has talked to other States about their plans and seeing if they have things we might want to incorporate into our plan.
  - Final comments are due by 6/15/2013 and the plan has to be submitted by 6/30/2013 to RSA.
  - We are planning a signing ceremony for the June conference and the final plan goes into effect on 10/01/2013.
- **Membership**: Julia Beems reported.
  - Chris Roe, due to his job, has withdrawn application for SILC membership but will remain on the Public Policy sub-committee.
  - Larry Left Hand Bull is still trying to coordinate a time for an interview.
  - Cole, our wounded warrior Veteran, has yet to respond to our inquiries of his council interest. Joe Anzures will follow-up one last time with him.
  - Travis Morgan will submit application and will help fill our 121 requirement.
  - Our new By-laws now require we have only 15 members on the council; currently we have 7 fully appointed members. Julia believes that we can get to 12-14 if current nominations get through the process.
- **Public Policy**: Julia Beems reported.
  - Buna was not present and the committee did not meet in April or May.
  - SRC is still in the process of re-electing a Board of Directors.

Coordinator Report: Julia Beems reported
No current report available due to Judy Neal resigning from the position. The last meeting held focused on the Conference and suggested Speakers. The deadline for the Bid that was released to find a replacement for Judy was on 5/21/2013. We received one response (Joe Anzures was the lone applicant). Julia informed us that the State declared it an invalid bid due to the lack of responses (need a minimum of three) and that they were deciding on how to proceed (rebid, extend deadline or provide candidates).

DVR/SRC Report: Julia Beems reported
- No DVR representative was at the meeting. Sue Fager was in training class on ILC finances this week.
- A new posting has been released for a new Director for DVR with Nancy’s release from the position. Todd Jorgenson will be acting Director until replacement is on board.
- Compliance review conducted on Steam Boat Springs ILC (formerly Craig). They are in the midst of transition and figuring out how to re-pay State for over payment.
• Mile High (formerly DCIL) has met with Reggie Beeker to figure out their repayment plan to the State. They are currently not funded by the State.
• Ian Engle is no longer the Director for Boulder and they are beginning a search for a new Director. Pat Troyer is the acting Director.
• It was brought up that the ILC’s really need information on OIB funding so they can plan their staffing requirements. They are concerned that the gap in funding may cause them to have to lay staff off.

Election of Officers:
Anna French will be the in-line Chair and ascend to Chair on Julia Beems term expiration. Buna Duhal will assume Chair Elect duties, Joe will move to Secretary and Sandy Lahmann will assume Treasurer Duties. Martha Mason moved that nominations be approved, Jerry Michel seconded and the measure passed unanimously.

ACCIL Report
Larry Williams reported the following concerns regarding ILC’s:
• Need for Centers to get re-certified as quickly as possible because the State needs more ILC coverage.
• ILC’s were frustrated with the State’s decision to use the same contract format after considerable effort was expended by the ILC’s to develop a new contract format and metrics.
• DVR management issues that are over shadowing their planning efforts for services provided by the ILC, such as OIB RFP.
• The ARCHES program appears to duplicate services currently provided by the ILC’s. This should be researched and duplicated efforts should be resolved and funding re-distributed to the most appropriate organization. A higher level of collaboration needs to be fostered between ARCHES and the ILC’s.

Center Spotlight
Martha Mason, Executive Director of CPWD, updated the SILC on the Southwest Independent Living Centers current programs and their search for a bigger facility. Following the end of our meeting the SILC members in attendance took a tour of her facility (she is right, they need a bigger place!!)
• They are having a golf tournament to raise funds for the ILC and suggested that the SILC sponsor a PWD team or make a donation.
• Working with ADAPT to make Durango more accessible.
• Working with David Chad from FEMA on a disaster plan.
• Working on a plan for the Homeless PWD population in Durango Area.
• Working on developing a transition service for PWD youth leaving High School.
• Seeing a larger growth in mental Health issues instead of physical disabilities.
• They have good support for low vision and brain injuries.
• Working on employment issues for PWD in Durango area.
• Durango is a made up of a lot of small towns and they work closely with all organizations in the area to provide services where needed.
Julia Beems requested that they write up some of the stories that were related in the meeting including candid shot pictures and send it up to Denver to include on the SILC website. She would like to see our website become more personal and put faces to the IL services.

Public Hearings:
We had four individual that registered to address the SILC Council;
- Nick and Rachel Rapostka, mother and father of a 3 month old Deaf boy, wanted to express their concerns about the services available for the Deaf:
  - The area has only one teacher to teach the deaf. Maybe we should look at a “Center” approach to handle the hand full of kids in the area so that they can build friendships and bond with like minded peers.
  - Funding for Deaf program training needs to be made available or increased for the individuals that are already helping the Deaf and hard of hearing populations. Should be added to school programs much like ESL is funded for students having problems with English.
  - Need summer programs that don’t require extra fees for “interpreters” and other support services. It is currently done for other kids to accommodate language barriers at no extra charge.
  - Need ASL classes in the region for the Deaf community, parents, family and support groups. Have received no response from CSD.
- Dian Jenkins, Sign Language Interpreter, spoke about how signing in the health industry is not recognized as a requirement for the Deaf and hard of hearing communities. Insurance does not pay for it and the health providers view it as a “voluntary” service that interpreters should be happy to perform. Hospitals and Doctors need to be taught that interpreting is a vital service for the well being of their patients just as interpreting is for other languages. Signing requires a very high level of training, certification and experience to develop their skills and should be embraced by the professionals in the Health Industry.
- Laurey Jaros, Ex-SILC member, just wanted to express her gratitude for the work that the SILC was doing and our “good behavior”.

Presentation of Draft SPIL mission, goals, objectives, and activities
In this first public viewing, Julia presented the goals, objectives, and activities that will drive the rest of the SPIL’s narrative. Comments were reviewed and clarification was provided on the comments received.

June IL Conference:
Julia reported that several meetings have been held to discuss the conference and a preliminary request has been sent to DVR for approval. It was also announced that Judy Neal would be contracted on a consulting basis to put the conference together and she was brought in on a conference call to discuss the agenda and budget. A discussion on the agenda construction was held to see if the number of days that ILC staffs were out of the office could be contiguous and shortened.
The Conference is to be held on June 22, 2013 at a facility in Denver. No budget was available for review so Joe Anzures constructed a quick spreadsheet to ascertain what might be needed to conduct the conference and what the possible admission price would be to the ILC staff attending. Judy is to provide details once DVR gives its approval.

Without DVR approval a contingency plan will have to be developed to insure that our remaining funds are spent before the end of the fiscal year. Julia mentioned that taping the speakers and holding a webinar is a possibility, she will check into the cost so we can develop and alternate budget if required. With less than a month before the conference DVR approval is imperative or we must move to plan “B”.

Meeting was **adjourned at 3:00 p.m.** and SILC members were invited to tour SWILC.