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General Meeting Hampton Inn

Wednesday, Sept 17, 2014 2350 West 29th Street

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Greeley, CO 80631

Minutes

**9:00 Call to order/introductions/Chairperson’s remarks**

**Present:** Buna Dahal (SILC Chair),

Dave Bahr (technology and Priscilla’s assistant),

Priscilla Carlson (Coordinator),

Jerry Michel (Secretary),

Martha Mason (Director of the Center in Durango),

Chris Roe (Div of Housing),

Julia Beems (last SILC meeting),

Mario Rocha (via Google Hangouts, Treasurer, Website Chair, & youth advocate),

Jennifer Silva (via Google Hangouts, works for a mental health system in San Luis Valley in Alamosa),

Rob Buzogany (Div of Voc Rehab),

Jean Hammes (Alpine Area Agency on Aging),

Jason Eaton (for-profit rep for IL Centers),

Joe Anzures (SILC member & youth committee and Chair Elect),

Lori Sommers (SILC committee and Chair of Public Policy Committee, ADRC/DHS, involved with vets’ programs of Mesa County, as well as Colorado Choice Transitions program),

Nancy Jackson (Executive Director of Disabled Resource Services in Larimer and Jackson County, applied for membership to replace Larry Williams as ACCIL representative (official title Center Director representative),

Matthew Ruggles (representative of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services in Colorado Springs, on Boards and Commissions, application in progress),

Menuka Dahal (Buna’s mom),

Jennifer Iole (interpreter),

Amy Kroll (interpreter),

David Robinson (Executive Director for Center for People with Disabilities in Boulder)

*(Linda Taylor, Executive Director from Grand Junction and Beth Danielson, Executive Director from Greeley joined us mid-day)*

**9:15 Approval of minutes**

Approving the minutes from the full SILC meeting in May and for the business portion and when we had the Asst District Attorney come to the meeting to talk about the Open Meetings law at our SILC Retreat in June 2014.

A couple of the SILC members did not like having all of the minutes transcribed because there was cross-talk and a lot of sift through to get the full gist of the meetings. So from here on, Priscilla will use the transcripts as a tool to get to the heart of what was said at the meeting. Once Priscilla is able to go back and sift through the transcripts, she will re-post the cleaned up version. So, as of now, we will skip this part of the meeting and go back and approve them at the November meeting.

Julia made the motion to accept the transcripts from the May and June meetings. Lori made the second motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**9:20 Committee Reports**

**Executive (Buna)** – We received a request from the Peak Parents for a support letter. We definitely want to support community partners promoting people with disabilities. We sent out a letter so we can support their mission after the vote was taken.

Jean asked if there was some guidance for situations like this? Julia said we might want to put that in our Operations Guide for future use.

We need talk about whether it’s a “Executive” or a “full SILC” decision in the future. We also want to keep building partnerships in the future. We also need to make sure we are not taking on any financial supports eithers unless the full SILC decides.

**Public Policy (Lori) –** They meet the first Thursday of the month via conference call from 9:00 – 10:00 AM. Working on transitions from the nursing homes to community living, and not just using CCT. Compiling info now. The may put it on the website or make a resource guide. They would also write a policy brief / white paper.

We need to ask the SILC for financial support for information gathering, compiling, and publication of data.

Nancy suggested a partnership with the ADRCs in helping put together that resource information

**Finance (Mario) –** We learned that if we run out of money in one of the line items, then we can move it around in the budget. We looked at the meaning of each line. For example, we have both the travel accommodations and the meeting accommodations, or we have the program accommodations. So, the program accommodations goes for things like traveling with a PCA. We have the rental van that goes under accommodations, your hotel costs…. We redefined the categories so it fits better, the way we spend things. Some items didn’t get cleared because of the issue with COFRS transitioning to the CORE system. So, we've had some expenses that have had to go on this year's budget that were supposed to go on last year's budget. It was 93% that we ended up with. We didn't get the $48,500 this year, it's going to be $48,000.

**SPIL (Joe) –** Using the SPIL Narrative for every SPIL meeting agenda. Everybody's watching the goals and objectives in a section and, then, when we have our meetings, reporting on what we're doing to reach those objectives vs all of us gang-tackling one thing.

The meetings are the second Monday of the month at 1:00, and it is a conference call. We also made a commitment to each other that the meetings would not take more than one hour on the phone.

In regards to youth, we're actually ahead on some items. So, I think we could be more aggressive on some of the ones we have on there. The main thing that I've been trying to do is to reach out to the IL members. What are their youth plans? What are they putting in place? I've spent quite a bit of time talking to Ian about a new core service being added to the independent living plan, which is youth transition. There's a youth component with the high schools.

**Data Collecting (Julia) –** We are updating services available for the mapping projects. We are working with Dept of Heath to get all of the support groups and resources on one platform. It should be ready soon.

Next, looking at transportation resources, congregant meal sites, homeless services… If anyone has any ideas for other categories, let us know. If there are other categories that you all are seeing that you want up there, you just need to let me know. I know Jean has looked at it and Debbie Peterson (who used to be on the SILC but is now on the SRC) is also involved so that the SRC and the SILC are using the same sets of information.

**Membership (Julia) –** We had 9 applications come in. Two were eliminated because one of them decided she had too many commitments already. The other applicant was not able to serve because of another board that she was on. Seven of them were sent in.

So our new members that we have approved our Jason Eaton, Nancy Jackson (who will be our center director rep), Matthew Ruggles, Chris Roe, Collin Laughlin (who was with HCPF or Medicaid), Martha is a renewed member. We are at a full staff counsel. There will be a new person because the new IL Coordinator has to go through the DSU office and actually apply, but they will be non-voting members. We will have one more person coming to the meeting. Julia’s, Anna’s, and Larry’s terms are up.

As soon as the Governor notifies them, Priscilla will do the New Member Orientation.

We are also updating our Operations Guide, based on our bylaws. Because rules, regulations and State rules, we need to clarify how our processes work.

Priscilla: There are more coming but we wanted to start putting them through.

Rob: I just wanted to add that the accountability piece keeps growing and growing and growing at the state level. As our county department changes from COFRa to CORE and some of the audits that are going through, the responsibility is becoming more on us. That's a collective "us" there's SRC, SILC, whatever individual and state employees have to do more … to get reimbursement and travel expenses paid for.

**Website/Social Media (Priscilla) –** New website template is up. Priscilla is still learning how to post things. [www.coloradosilc.org](http://www.coloradosilc.org) Priscilla wrote a policy for the website and social media and will put that into the Operations Guide.

**10:00 DVR Report (Rob)**

Wait list: 3 categories:

Most Significant (3 or more life functions affected)

Significant (2 or less)

Person with a Disability (PWD)

There are qualifications related to the length of time it will take to provide service to help them overcome and become employed. So that's separating out the Significant with the Disability (PWD). So if someone needs six months or more of services before they will be able to get back to work, then that separates out the disability category and the Significant.

The total number is 3937, as of September 9. The Most Significant category is around 2000, Significant is 1600 approximately, and PWD is 223 exactly.

There was a mistake with funding the OIB contracts. That meant the Centers were promised some roll-over dollars in their 3-year contract so the contract will have to be amended.

The IL Coordinator position will be filled soon. We have 9 interviews on Friday. We are looking for someone who is knowledge on contracts so we don’t have to deal with this again (mistakes on funding, etc\_).

The SPIL was amended this summer. The independence Center wrote a letter concerning 2 counties (Kiowa & Elbert) will not be covered by them because both Atlantis and Mile High were also covering them.

RSA let us know while back that we need to amend the SPIL based on some additional funding they were potentially telling us. They gave us a scenario that if there were extra Cost of Living dollars coming out of the feds to us, how would we distribute it amongst the 10 centers? We came up with whoever the lowest center would get the first chunk of money until they met the next Center's level of funding, and then after that we would go up to the next level. It just kept coming up until all centers were at an equal level of funding. If there was a way for additional dollars, we could look at potentially opening up another center. There has to be longevity to the dollars and a certain amount of money available. This again was just a scenario that I don't think anybody is really counting on, but that's what we added to the SPIL and put it out for public comment for 30 days and after completing that process, I sent it to Buna for her signature as well as to my director Joelle Bruner for her signature.

Those are the two amendments, you all voted on those at the May meeting.

**10:10 SRC Report (Buna)**

The SRC meets on the second Wednesday, so it was on 10 September. We are working on our SRC retreat, which happens in the fall (and of October/beginning of November)

*(Linda Taylor, Executive Director of the center in Grand Junction, came in)*

**10:20 SILC Coordinator Report (Priscilla)**

She worked on the retreat. She is using a new fort for her coordinator reports with the meetings listed. Summer was busy with getting married and moving within a few weeks. If anyone is interested in the minutes from the committees, please let her know.

**10:30 Break – Checking out of the hotel**

**10:50 ACCIL Report (Larry) – Martha and Nancy**

There was substantial concern about the ILC contracts with the OIB. It’s close to $100,000 collectively among all centers.

They are planning their retreat for October and trying to get all 10 centers back in the ACCIL.

There are many reports that the IL Centers have to do and having to write another is another chore. The SPIL Committee should be reporting on the SPIL goals and DVR should be reporting on what’s happening. We should be talking about reporting on the ILCs on the SPIL goals. We don’t need another report to write.

SILC Members want to also know what cool things are happening in the centers. The person who is giving the Center Director report doesn’t have to write about every center, just highlight one or two.

**11:00 Old Business:**

**Update on the mapping project (Julia)**

Dept of Health and the American Community Service (ACS) and the Census on disabilities to plot people on the map that have self-identified that they have a disability and what it is: hearing, vision, cognition and ambulation. Subcategories for those specific disabilities. Maroon: most significant numbers. Click on an icon in a certain county and see the name of the office, it’s address, phone number, etc.

Also working with the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)

Agency and Disability Resources of Colorado (ADRC)

Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)

Child Find

Independent living centers

OIB offices for the vision as are the CCB’s and the ARC’s

Coming soon… Homeless, transportation, and new sites will be added as well.

Chris said that the Division of Housing is doing something similar: That would link it to Coloradohousingsearch.org also by county and city, we will list emergency shelters, transitional housing, public housing authorities, I wonder how we can link up to that.

Big concern: Their big concern too is who's going to maintain this?

**What has been accomplished so far with the SPIL (Joe)**

SPIL is made up of 9 sections going through 3 years.

Goal number 1 is to identify population hubs with people with disabilities. It's a very broad thing but it's just saying we need to find out in Colorado where these hobs or populations of individuals. I think that's where the mapping thing gets right on it. It's finding out right where they're all at. The services part of it, I think, is extremely valuable because it shows us where the services are. It doesn't necessarily mean that that person's partaking of that service or can access that service or wherever he goes that that service actually physically exists.

The second part of goal number is it's got three objectives. Thee first objective was to map the hubs, where are they? Where are the communities? Where do the people live? What are the services out there? What are these things. I think that's a tremendous step in that direction. The second objective in that goal is to find out how those services are actually reaching the clients. Are they actually touching the clients? Can the client have access to them? We've been working on the SPIL committee on a survey and that's to survey the actual clientele, the IL centers, their clientele, the communities that are identified in the mapping project

The third part of it is we are supposed to develop a targeted plan that says: here's how we fix where it's not connecting. This is how we can look at how we connect that need with the nearest service or resource to provide that service. That's kind of goal number one for the SPIL.

Goal number two on the SPIL was then to provide the resources to actually be able to increase the capacity of the IL centers to provide these services. So, what we did on that one was that I had Dixie and Ian going through that whole goal because it had four objectives under there. One was staff development, second one was support resource development on a statewide basis, explore use of technology and nontraditional methods of service delivery, and then provide an annual report on the progress and accomplishment within that IL network. Underneath every one of those objectives there is probably five or 6 to 10 activities that have to be done. They are spread over this three years. … So, I think that what we are trying to do within SPIL is to focus on and we need to plan our work and work our plan.

The last goal (and I had a couple of recommendations on this one) is to increase the youth involvement of use within the independent living centers across the state. It has three objectives underneath it. Number one is educate ourselves about reaching out to you… The second objective under that was develop youth leadership. This is kind of a year three thing. In there is that we should have a youth advisory Council to the SILC counsel. It should be comprised of (we don't know how many people) but 51% of the youth should have disabilities so I think that's on the agenda to try to get done in the next coming fiscal year. Then, some kind of youth Summit, we should be supporting. So, once a year the SILC should support youth Summit.

Julia mentioned that since the passage of the WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act), we need to be aware that the ILCs and the SILC will be moved to another department, and that may make changes.

Looking at the SPIL, we need to look at it as an active document and think how we can meet the goals and objectives and if we cannot do one thing, we need to look at how to adapt.

**Noon Lunch / Replacing the jump drives**

**1:00 Public Comment Period**

Two people made public comments - Nancy Jackson who is representing the Disabled Resource Services and she wants to talk about housing, and the next person is Linda Taylor from the Grand Junction Center. She wants to talk about the ACCIL.

**Nancy Jackson:** There is a housing crisis in Colorado and it is affecting the consumers that Independent Living Centers serve. The lack of housing is adding to the homeless population in our state and I would like to just talk a little bit about what this looks like. There is a lack of section 8 housing vouchers which creates affordable housing for many people. In many parts of the state, which include Larimer County, Weld County, Boulder County, the Durango area, there are not enough affordable accessible housing units for people with disabilities. The rent has skyrocketed in these areas and has made it unaffordable for a person who doesn't have a section 8 housing voucher and even if a person does have a housing voucher, landlords can charge outrageous prices for rent now. We have seen increases 30, 40, 50% in our areas. Martha was talking to me and said that a one bedroom goes for close to $1200 a month. How can a person **on** SSI which is $710 a month income afford housing? so, I would like to suggest that the SILC look at this issue and look at who the partners can be such as the Department of Housing. I had a conversation earlier today with Chris from DOH and he was saying that of the 75 vouchers that have been issued for the Colorado Choice Transition Program known as the CCT that 35 have been issued but only 5 are being used right now. This underscores the problem that people are having a problem finding a place to rent even if they have a voucher and landlords are the ones that are holding the reins here because they don't have to accept a section 8 voucher anymore whereas before that was a wonderful way for a landlord to have a guaranteed rent paid for someone and it really secured a person's housing. So, I plead with the SILC that help us serve people who need housing who have disabilities by helping us address this critical issue in our state. Thank you.

**Linda Taylor:** I'm here to talk about the ACCIL as a autonomous state-sanctioned and statute-written organization. I want to (and I can't speak to the ACCIL, I only speak as a member of it) but that our selection of a member to sit on the SILC is one which we do in private, in confidence, and we placed trust in the members that represent us and that I want to make sure that we maintain that autonomy with the SILC. The last events that transpired around replacing Larry and having Nancy as our [wonderful?] Representative felt like it had interfered with our autonomy. We do not, in any place I've read, need to show what we vote for or who we vote for. That our votes are private and confidential inside of our organization and we deliver to the SILC a qualified representative of our organization. So, I want to make that a statement for the record so that if there is another transference of membership from one director to another directory (especially as we go forward with having the directors sign off on the state plan) that it's a very clear division of the SILC and the ACCIL as partners and not as one subordinate to the other**.**

**1:20 New Business:**

Chris Roe suggested to make room to talk about housing on the agenda since he has all of the resources and we have identified that housing is the number one barrier in independent living. And Colin, from HCPF to do the same since he works with transitions.

**Review and Vote on the Operations Guide**

Priscilla: Additions for Consideration

New SILC Member Profile and Accommodation(s) Request forms, fill out every year and as needed, Photo Release, and Conflict of Interest

Policy on Committee meetings, Invoice Approval Process, Ground Transportation, In-State Flights, Travel to Conference Outside of Colorado, Accommodation Requests, Meeting Notifications and Announcements, Committee meetings, New file for members every July, Reimbursements for hotel, Reimbursements for meetings, Facebook and social media policy, and Guidelines for finding meeting location.

**2:00 Update on the WIOA (Dixie Herring)**

Goes into effect on Oct 1. Authorized for 5 years but it will take 2 years of transition. Establishing the Independent Living Administration in the Administration for Community and Living within the Dept of Health and Human Services.

Lowering requirements to be a Voc Rehab counselor, you don’t have to get a Master’s Degree.

Addition of 5th Core Service to IL: Transitions (getting out of the nursing homes, preventing people from being put into a nursing home, and youth transitions).

There is a change on the sign **off** for the SPIL, it will now include at least 51% of SPIL directors to be in agreement of the SPIL. There will be one director from independent living that would be designated to sign the plan along with the SILC.

the SILC can now conduct resource development activities and conduct advocacy but it will need to be listed in the SPIL to spell out what they will be doing.

And then, in conjunction (the SILC and Centers for Independent Living) together can choose who their Designated State Entity will be.

They said that no more than 5% of the money coming in for part B can go to the DSE as the fiscal agent.

It says that no more than 30% of the part B funds can go to the SILC unless the SILC can show justification that they need more. If I read it right, part C centers are authorized to to increase of up to 18% over five year period.

**2:30 Break**

**2:40 Travel forms**

**3:00 Adjourn – Center Spotlight at the Center –**

*Beth Danielson from*

*Connections for Independent Living – 1331 8th Avenue – Greeley, CO 80631*

* *(970) 352-8682*

**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.**