

## MINUTES FOR THE MAY 19,2021 SILC QUARTERLY MEETING

New Mexico Statewide Independent Living Council  
Quarterly Meeting: May 19,2021 10:00 AM  
In response to the Governor's Declaration of a Public  
Emergency and Ban on Large Public Gatherings  
The SILC Quarterly Meeting was held Virtually Via-Zoom

- I. Welcome/Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jason Gordon called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.
- II. Roll Call of SILC Members: Chairman Jason Gordon:
  - Jason Gordon- Chairman and Voting Member: Present
  - Coby Livingstone – Chairwoman and Voting Member: Present
  - Paula Seanez – Voting Member: Present
  - Petra Solimon – Voting Member: Present
  - Ken Collins – Voting Member: Absent
  - Audra Wilson – Voting Member: Present
  - Linnea Forsythe – Non-Voting Member: Absent
  - **Quorum was Complete**
- III. Introduction of CIL Directors, State Agencies/Partners and Guests  
Present: Chairman Jason Gordon.
  - Leslie Wright, San Juan Center for Independence – Present
  - Michael Murphy, Independent Resource Center – Present
  - Sarah Michaud, New Vistas – Present
  - Albert Montoya, The Ability Center for Independent Living – Present
  - Gregg Trapp, New Mexico Commission for the Blind – Present
  - Dan Drury, Interim DVR Director – Present
  - Nash Sisneros, Interim RSA Director – Absent
  - Alicia DeVargas, DVR Administrator – Present
  - Marlencia Chee, Jemez Pueblo Vocational Rehabilitation – Absent
  - James Salas, New Mexico Commission for the Blind – Present
  - Juan Haro, New Mexico Commission for the Blind – Present
  - Tracy Agiovlasitis, Governor' Commission on Disabilities – Absent
  - Kelly Burma, New Mexico Commission for the Blind – Present.  
joined at 11:05 am
  - Marlyn Bennett - Present
  - Lisa McNiven,
- IV. Action Item: Approval of Minutes for February 19, 2021 SILC Quarterly Meeting. Chairman Jason Gordon.

- Correction to distinguish who are the Appointed/Voting Members of SILC
  - Correction on page 3: 1989 not 1979
  - Correction on Page 4: Regarding the 704 Report change ICL to ACL.
  - Correction on Page 5: Change to 25% of staff at any time
  - Correction: Albert Montoya was missing from minutes
  - Correction to: American Indian VR Program instead of American Rehabilitation Program.
  - Chairman Jason Gordon called for a motion to approve the corrections to the February 19,2021 minutes.
  - Audra Wilson made a motion to Approve. Coby Livingstone Seconded the motion.
  - Chairman Gordon called for a roll call vote.
  - Jason Gordon – I
  - Coby Livingstone – I
  - Paula Seanez – I
  - Petra Solimon -I
  - Audra Wilson – I
  - Ken Collins – Absent
  - Lynnea Forsythe – Non-voting
  - **Motion to approve the changes passed**
- V. Approval of possible changes to the agenda, order or deletion of Agenda Items (Action by vote will be taken if there are any changes/deletions). Chairman Jason Gordon.
- No changes were made.
- VI. Chairman’s Quarterly Report/Update: Chairman Jason Gordon.
- Not much to report
  - 704 Report still not being accepted by ACL until they complete their new platform.
  - Patricia has been collaborating with ACL and DVR regarding the 704 Report.
- VII. SILC Coordinator Quarterly Report/Update: Patricia Quintana SILC Coordinator.
- Introduction and Conversation with Chris Winterowd of Aging and Longterm Services Department regarding the development of another SILC partnership on education and outreach to entities who may not know about SILC.
  - Introduction to Sharon Finnerelli Executive Director, N.M. Alliance of Health Councils. Another partnership to educate and bring awareness of SILC and CILS and the role they serve in each county to the members of the Alliance of health Councils.

- Exploring the idea of establishing a Statewide Coalition CILS. Have been researching other states that have this and would like feedback from N.M CILS on the idea... The focus would be to find the commonalities between the CILS to move forward with a united voice on behalf of the disabilities community and our constituents.
- VIII. Discussion/Action Item: SILC representation for the NMDVR State Rehabilitation Council. Sarah Michaud leading the discussion for Tracy Agiovlasis who was absent.
- The Governor's staff has requested SILC designate a representative to sit on the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC).
  - SRC is the voice of the disabilities consumer/constituency for DVR regarding Legislative policy, advocacy, and tracking Legislative Committees both Interim and Standing Committees.
  - Discussion on who and how to approach the designation began.
  - Who meets the Criteria? Along discussion was had and Paulas Seanez recommended Petra Solimon. Before a motion was made members wanted to speak to Petra to see if she was interested. She was present and having technical difficulties. When asked she agreed.
  - A Motion was made by Paula Seanez to designate Petra Solimon as the SILC representative to SRC. It was seconded by Petra Solimon.
  - A roll call vote was requested by Chairman Gordon.
  - Jason Gordon -I
  - Coby Livingstone – I
  - Paula Seanez -I
  - Audra Wilson – I
  - Petra Solimon -I
  - Ken Collins – Absent
  - Lynnea Forsythe – Non-voting – Absent
  - **The motion passed**
  - Greg Trapp from the Commission for the Blind brought up a point of conflict regarding Petra Solimon serving as the SRC Designee. After some discussion the Council agreed.
  - Sarah Michaud agreed to Represent the SILC on SRC.
  - A motion was made to retract the previous action appointing Petra Solimon and propose new action appointing Sarah Michaud by Vice-Chairwoman Coby Livingstone.
  - The motion was seconded by Paula Seanez.
  - A roll call vote to accept the new motion was requested by Chairman Gordon.
  - Jason Gordon – I

- Coby Livingstone -I
  - Paula Seanez – I
  - Petra Solimon -I
  - Audra Wilson – Had to leave meeting .
  - Ken Collins – Absent
  - Lynnea Forsythe – Non-voting member – Absent
  - **Motion passed**
- IX. Information Item: Quality of Life Grant: Lisa McNiven for Linnea Forsythe
- The Quality of Life Grant is available to non-profits providing service to the Disabilities Community.
- X. Information Item: Covid -19 Preliminary After Action Report: Lisa McNiven,, NMDEPAC and Governors Commission on Disability.
- Report focused the disproportionate impact Covid-19 had/has on the Disabilities Community in N.M.
  - Seven focus groups representing different disability groups were convened by NMDEPAC and members of the Disability Community.
  - Seven Disability focus groups were established.
    - 1) Cognitive Disabilities
    - 2) Physical Disabilities
    - 3) Blind and Visually Impaired
    - 4) Mental Health Disabilities
    - 5) Deaf
    - 6) Hard of Hearing
    - 7) Deaf Blind/Oral Deaf Blind
  - 51 New Mexicans with Disabilities participated from various backgrounds and regions of the State.
  - The summary of the Report concludes that New Mexicans with disabilities during the pandemic highlights the tremendous need for:
    1. Reliable internet connectivity
    2. Equity and accessibility in telework and remote learning environments.
    3. Greater attention to how barriers in communication and isolation exacerbate disparities in health and wellness for people with disabilities.
- XI. Discussion Item: Establishing a Statewide Coalition of CILS: SILC Coordinator Patricia Quintana
- Council and CILS Director were open to idea.
  - I t was mentioned that in the past it was attempted with no follow through.

- SILC Coordinator suggested starting small by identifying the common challenges that affect all CILS and work collectively to address the challenges.
  - The longterm focuss to have a stronger more unified voice on behalf of the CILS constituency.
- XII. Discussion/Action Item: Establish Committees, Chairman Jason Gordon
- This item was tabled.
- XIII. Challenges Specific to Tribal Communities: Paula Seanez, Petra Solimon and Marlencia Chee.
- Lack of internet connectivity in rural areas for Tribal Communities.
  - Lack of Adequate Transportation
- XIV. Discussion/Update Item: CILS and Covid-19: Vice-Chairwoman Coby Livingstone.
- Following CDC Guidelines.
  - Using mixed models of working from home and office.
  - Majority of meetings and services are through virtual platforms.
  - Hybrid models moving offices outdoors a couple of days a week.
  - Digital outreach approach if possible.
- XV. State Agency Quarterly Reports/Updates:
- 1) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR): Interim Director Dan Drury.
    - a. Review of attrition and vacancy rates. Overall DVR has a 20% vacancy.
    - b. RSU in Western N.M. Facilitate a boot camp for certification of Counselors. (16 enrolled)
    - c. RSA Monitoing
    - d. RSU has an 18% vacancy rate
    - e. Order of Selection and wait list
    - f. Question from Coby Livingstone regarding number of employees with disabilities. Alicia DeVargas answered. 6 of 16.
  - 2) Greg Trapp Executive Director, New Mexico Commission for the Blind.
    - a. Process in place for modification of combined state plan.
    - b. Four Public meetings planned : Thursday 10:00 am Southern N.M. ; 3:00 pm Central N.M.; Friday 10:00 am North Western N.M.; 1:00 pm northern N.M. and one more for eastern N.M.
    - c. James Salas: Hiring process for N.M. Commission for the Blind
    - d. Juan Haro: Doen 1 Independent Living Teacher( will be retiring); Blindness skills instructors needed. 2 in southern

N.M., 2 in central N.M., 1 in Farmington, 1 in Las Vegas, 1 more for Albuquerque.

- 3) Paula Seanez Executive Director, AIVRS Programs.
  - a. US Dept of Education released RSA 2021 Grant application kit. In N.M. Navajo Nation, Laguna Pueblo, and Jemez Pueblo submitted the grant application
  - b. When funding, AIVRS programs will be renegotiating MOA/MOU with NMDVR.
  - c. AIVRTTAC is in its final year of funding. Applications are due in June for 2021 .
  - d. Conference call was held with Federal RSA on March 25, 2021. It was an opportunity to get to know the new staff assigned to AIVRS Program.
  - e. The Navajo Nation has moved to the third tier (Yellow Code – moderate to low restrictions) of reopening April 25, 2021.
  - f. VR services are being provided with limited face to face contact. The VR Program staff have returned to their offices.
  - g. Tribal VR programs continue to receive professional development, technical assistance and training from AIVRTTC. The Navajo Nation OSERS program along with 3 other AIVRS programs are participating in a nine month session on employment development and placement strategies. This project creates an opportunity for capacity building among the 86 AIVRS programs.
  - h. Northwest Indian College in Washington State continues to provide college classes in rehabilitation.

#### XVI. CILS Reports/Updates

- 1) Sarah Michaud New Vistas.
  - a. Writing and re-writing policies during Covid.
  - b. New Vistas Up to 75% of employees back in office.
  - c. Offering incentives for employees to get vaccinated
  - d. Will celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in December.
  - e. Early intervention down 30%.
  - f. Currently serving 30 children.
- 2) Michael Murphy ILRC submitted report electronically. He had to leave early.
- 3) Albert Montoya The Ability Center submitted report electronically.
- 4) Audra Wilson CHOICES submitted report electronically. She had to leave meeting early.
- 5) Leslie Wright SJCI
  - a. Youth transition has attended 45 IEP meetings .

- b. Working closely with the Mental Health Center with approximately 20 referrals.
- c. During the 1st quarter there have been 61 new goals started and 28 completed.
- d. Youth program has started a Bocce Team with a goal of competing at the next Special Olympics.
- e. We continue to support the SSI application and appeal process with great success.
- f. SJCI advocated for 15 individuals in the C-Waiver process with a final approval of 5.
- g. SJCI assisted a consumer in purchasing a van that allows them to be more independent.
- h. SJCI has worked with HUD to avoid fraud and illegal fee assessment with local property management agencies.
- i. Have invited the Parkinson's and Alzheimer's group back and are hosting meetings again as well as NuMotion wheelchair clinic.
- j. SJCI is currently looking at hosting a vaccination clinic at our center.

XVII. Public Comments: Chairman Jason Gordon

- No Public comments

XVIII. Chairman's Closing Remarks: Chairman Jason Gordon

- Thanked everyone for attending.

XIX. Adjournment: Chairman Jason Gordon.

- Chairman Gordon asked for a motion to adjourn.
- Paula Seanez made a motion to adjourn.
- Petra Solimon seconded the motion.
- Chairman Gordon asked for a roll call.
- Jason Gordon -I
- Coby Livingstone- I
- Paula Seanez – I
- Petra Solimon- I
- Audra Wilson – Has to leave early
- Ken Collins – was Absent
- Lynnea Forsythe – Non-voting member.
- **The motion Passed**
- **Meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm**