

Minutes for September 1, 2021 SILC Quarterly Meeting

New Mexico Statewide Independent Living Council
Quarterly Meeting: September 1, 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-Webex

- I. Welcome/Call to Order: Meeting was called to Order by Jason Gordon at 10:07 AM.
- II. Roll Call of SILC Members: Chairman Jason Gordon:
 - Jason Gordon-Chairman and Voting Member – Present.
 - Coby Livingstone- Vice- Chairwomen and voting Member – Present
 - Petra Solimon - Voting Member – Absent
 - Paula Saenez – Voting Member – Present
 - Ken Collins – Voting Member – Present
 - Audra Wilson – Voting Member – Present
 - **Quorum was Complete**
- III. Introduction of CIL Directors, State Agencies/Partners and Guests: Chairman Jason Gordon.
 - Leslie Wright, Director, San Juan Center for Independence – Present
 - Michael Murphy, Director, Independent Resource Center – Present
 - Sarah Michaud, Director, New Vistas – Present
 - Albert Montoya, Director, The Ability Center for Independent Living – Present
 - Marlencia Chee, Director Jemez Pueblo Vocational Rehabilitation - Present
 - Gregg Trapp, Executive Director, New Mexico Commission for the Blind – Present
 - Dan Drury, Director of DVR – Present
 - Nash Cisneros. RSA Director – Present
 - Alicia DeVargas, DVR Administrator -Present
 - Juan Haro, New Mexico Commission for the Blind - Present
 - James Salas, New Mexico Commission for the Blind – Present
 - Lisa McNiven, Governors Commission on Disabilities – Present
 - Mario Lucero, Field Operations, DVR – Present
- IV. Action Item: Approval of May 19, 2021 Minutes: Chairman Jason Gordon
 - Motion to approve made by Ken Collins
 - Seconded by Audra Wilson
 - Roll Call:
 - Jason Gordon -I
 - Coby Livingstone -I
 - Paula Saenez – I
 - Ken Collins – I
 - Audra Wilson -I
 - Petra Solimon – Absent **Motion to Approve was unanimous**

- V. Approval of possible changes to the agenda order and 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.
- Update on ACL timeline for 704 Report. Timeline is loose and the new Portal will be released by end of September 2021. From the time of release, we will have six weeks to submit with a tentative deadline of November 1, 2021.
 - Jason is wrapping up the 2020 portion of SILC information for the 704 Report.
 - Jason is also working on the SILC portion for the 2021 704 Report.
 - Patricia will be reviewing, contributing and editing both versions.
 - Patricia is working closely with DVR regarding the 704 Report.
- VII. SILC Coordinator Quarterly Report/Update. Patricia Quintana SILC Coordinator
- Linnea Forsythe representing the Governors Commission on Disabilities resigned from the SILC.
 - Representing the Commission today is Lisa McNiven.
 - Identifying interested individuals to serve on the SILC and working with the Governor's Staff is ongoing and slow.
 - Work on a Statewide Coalition of CILS is ongoing.
 - Regarding Zoom Platform working on acquiring one for SILC.
- VIII. Discussion Item: SILC Committees. Chairman Jason Gordon.
- Discussion Tabled until next meeting.
- IX. State Agency Quarterly Report/Update:
- a) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR): Director Dan Drury
 - Overview of attrition rate within DVR, Field office improvements, New Executive order and protocols.
 - Filled Administrative Vacancies. Teresa Trujillo Deputy Director of Administration. Nash Sisneros RSA Director. Oversight of CL contracts Mario Lucero and Rudy Grano.
 - A team of Nash Sisneros and Alicia DeVargas as Contacts for contracts, with Mario Lucero and Rudy Grano overseeing the contract process.
 - b) New Mexico Commission for the Blind: Gregg Trapp Executive Director
 - Overview of work protocols implemented due to covid-19 .
 - Back to Telework until November.
 - State budgets due today with small budget increase.
 - New webpage, State Plan for VR due October 1
 - Juan Haro. No in home one to one training due to new statewide Covid-19 protocols.
 - Jim Salas. New survey part of objective for IL Program.
 - Kelly Burma. Skills centers creating options for their specific needs. Technology for children.
 - c) AIVRS Program: Paula Seanez
 - The Navajo Nation, Jemez Pueblo VR and Laguna Acoma Connections submitted grant applications for the funding term October 1,2021 to September 30, 2026. Have

not heard from RSA if funded. The Navajo Nation will have 4 position vacancies due to Retirement.

- The Navajo Nation and Jemez Pueblo VR submitted No Cost Extension request to federal RSA. Waiting to hear back from RSA.
- Staff continues to receive professional development through Northern Arizona University, American Indian Rehabilitation Technical Assistance and Training Center (AIVRTTAC) and Northwestern Indian College.
- NAU and San Diego State University responded to requests for proposals released by US Dept. of Education/RSA to fund Training and TA Centers for AIVRS programs. Northwest Indian College is partnering with both universities.
- University of Montana, Rural Institute has finalized the Toll Kit for Self-Employment developed specifically for AIVRS. Paula Seanez and staff from Jemez Pueblo VR program served as advisory council members.
- Jemez VR (JVR) Program: Jemez Pueblo remains under executive order All businesses remain closed to the general public. All employees are working onsite. Anticipated opening on October 1, 2021.
- All tribal members can leave the pueblo at any time if they are fully vaccinated and show their vaccination card at the check point. Tribal members not vaccinated are allowed to leave once a week.
- All staff are working in the office full-time. Some visits have been done with neighboring Pueblos. Increase referrals from Kewa (Santo Domingo Pueblo).
- Jemez staff are revising policies and procedures to include precautionary measures. Laguna-Acoma Connections (LAC): Both Laguna and Acoma have Executive Orders in place for their communities.
- The Pueblo of Laguna Office is open by appointment only
- Staff are participating in meetings via ZOOM. New applications are being taken by phone. IPES are completed by phone.
- Local tribal shuttle is not in operation.
- Some clients do not have internet or cell phone.

X. CILS Report/Updates:

a) New Vistas: Sarah Michaud

- Agency: Continues to pay close attention to COVID updates and to ensure that adequate PPE and protections are in place for staff and community members. Services for consumers for all programs are currently available via a hybrid model with options for telehealth, in person and home visits with specific safety protocols for each option. All New Vistas offices are opened for in person visits as of July 1. Masks are required by all individuals regardless of vaccination status and complete a daily health screening for all staff and visitors including temperature screenings. New Vistas will celebrate 50 years of service in December 2021. APRIL has asked me to serve as a mentor to a new CIL Director to assist in transitioning into their role.
- Early Intervention: New Vistas is serving 338 children under the Early Intervention Program. Request for in home services has created issues with service delivery.

There is a hesitation to return to in home services due to Covid-19 challenges. Because of this, there is about a 15% decrease in service numbers compared to pre Covid years. Despite the challenges, New Vistas has been successful in recruiting new therapists.

Disability Support and Advocacy: Continue to provide the core services of IL. Our advocates currently have 74 open I&R cases, and we are seeing an increase in referral' from community service providers as a result or participation with Santa Fe County's Unite Us referral system. We are currently partnering with APRIL and the University of Montana to facilitate an online Living Well in the Community class.

b) Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC): Michael Murphy

- ILRC continues to provide the five core services. 95 consumer IL services have been provided since July 31, 2021, including 9 new consumers since the beginning of the fiscal year.
- Under the ACL funded CARES Program we have developed a website (ilrcm.org) to disseminate accurate science based Covid-19 information. Have provided fuel/food only cards to consumers who may be needing transportation to medical services or may be experiencing food insecurity.
- Currently the staff has spent over 105 hours in Community activities.
- We currently have 454 Consumers receiving attendant services through our Attendant Services Programs.
- The Pandemic continues to have nearly all or staff working from home.
- IL Challenges remain locating affordable accessible housing as well as attempting to provide services in a rural state during the pandemic.
- As for attendant services, challenges continue to around the use of the electronic visit verification system.

c) The Ability Center: Albert Montoya Sent Report/Update

d) Choices: Audra Wilson Sent Report/Update

e) San Juan Center for Independence: Leslie Wright Sent Report/Update

XI. Public Comments: Request for Public Comments. Chairman Jason Gordon. NONE

XII. Chairman's Closing Remarks: Chairman Jason Gordon. Thank you and appreciate every one's hard work during these Covid Times

XIII. Adjournment: Chairman Jason Gordon. **Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:27 PM**