

SILC Quarterly Meeting
New Mexico Statewide Independent Living Council Quarterly
Meeting: February 28, 2023, 9:00 am
Draft Minutes February 28, 2023
The SILC Quarterly Meeting was held virtually Via-Zoom

- I. Welcome/Call to Order: Vice Chair -Coby Livingstone
 - a. Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Coby Livingstone at 9:05 am

- II. Roll Call of Board Members: Vice Chair Coby Livingstone
 - a. Coby Livingstone, Present
 - b. Paula Seanez, Present
 - c. Marlencia Chee, Present
 - d. Peggy Jo Hayes, Present
 - e. Lisa McNiven, Present
 - f. Kenneth Collins, Present
 - g. James Salas, Present
 - h. Casey Stone-Romero, Present
 - i. Petra Solimon Bautista, Absent
 - j. Audra Wilson, Absent

- III. Introduction of CIL Directors, State Agencies/Partners, and Other Guests: Vice chair Coby Livingstone
 - a. Jeff Levine, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - b. Rudy Grano, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - c. Angelina Payan, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - d. Kathy Abernathy, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - e. Lisa McNiven, Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD)
 - f. Greg Trapp, Commission for the Blind (CFB), left meeting at 10:42 a.m.
 - g. Sarah Michaud, New Vistas Independent Living Center
 - h. Albert Montoya, Joined at 10:02 a.m. - left at 10:48 a.m.
 - i. Michael Murphy, Joined at 10:30 a.m.

Non-voting members Present

- a. James Salas
- b. Casey Stone-Romero
- c. Lisa McNiven
- d. Kenneth Collins

SIL Directors

- a. Sarah Michaud
- b. Kenneth Collins

Quorum not present, this will be an informational meeting.

Restarting the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

NM SIL Council Appointed voting members

- i. Coby Livingstone, Vice Chair Present

- ii. Peggy Hayes, Present
- iii. Marlencia Chee, Present

IV. Action Item: Approval of Minutes

Motion: Peggy Hayes

2nd: Marlencia Chee

Rollcall Vote:

Peggy Hayes- Approve

Marlencia Chee- Approve

Coby Livingstone- Approve

Motion passed unanimously

V. Action Item: Discussion ABOUT THE EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) by one year. Coby Livingstone

a. Council must approve extending for another year; executive board will convene at a later date.

i. James believes it should be approved by SILC, check bylaws, and will follow up.

ii. Bylaws state we can have SPIL approved by Chair, Vice Chair, CCC and the SIL votes on one additional person to approve the SPIL.

b. Revision will be due in 2024.

c. Coby will send SPIL to Peggy.

Motion: Peggy Hayes

2nd: Marlencia Chee

Rollcall Vote:

Peggy Hayes: Approved

Marlencia Chee: Approved

Coby Livingstone: Approved

Motion passes unanimously

VI. ACTION ITEM: Review of NM SILC Bylaws; James Salas

a. No action quite yet, there is a 30-day notice requirement to revise the bylaws. Committee proposes that by the end of April they will have a draft for consideration of approval at the April/May SILC meeting

b. Paula's position can no longer serve in this capacity to update the bylaws because her term has expired

c. To assist Peggy and Jim in updating the bylaws, a new member needs to be assigned

Motion: Peggy Hayes motion to table this agenda item

2nd: Marlencia Chee

Rollcall Vote:

Peggy Hayes- Approved

Marlencia Chee- Approved

Coby Livingstone- Approved

Motion passed unanimously

VII. Action Item: Discussion regarding request for proposals (RFP) posting NM SILC Coordinator position at NM SILC. Rudy Grano

a. DVR has diligently been assisting SILC in filling the SILC Coordinator position

- i. DVR has promoted the RFP via DVR website and DVR Social
 - 1. No proposals December 2022- January 2023
 - ii. February 23 – March 23 will be posted via DVR Website and Socials
- b. A newspaper advertisement will be placed in the Santa Fe New Mexican and Albuquerque Journal to help promote the position
- c. ATA services contractor with State of NM provides workforce solutions
 - i. There was one interested party information was sent to Vice Chair for review
 - ii. Peggy Hayes, does one have to submit an official proposal or just a resume if they want to apply for this position? Rudy, they would only need their resume if they went through ATA
- d. Rudy is interested in revisiting the duties of the SILC Coordinator position.
 - i. The RFI stated that this job would require 30-40 hours of work per week. Based on an internal review, the amount of hours DVR employees have worked since the position has been vacant may be inflated. Peggy agrees, questioned a few things on it
- e. Horizons does not have any qualified candidates for this position.
- f. DVR/SILC would like to share the position notification on GCD social media to send out to the community.
 - i. Wings for Life has an individual that will send out a notice.
 - ii. Rudy will reshare, each of the SILC members can share as widely as they feel appropriate.
- g. Rudy will also resend Coby Livingstone the one resume received from ATA so she can send it on to SILC members.
 - i. A special meeting of the SILC can be called if a candidate is found to make a decision

Motion: Peggy Hayes motions that we send the advertisement to as many social media platforms and other agencies as we can.

2nd: Marlencia Chee

Rollcall Vote:

Peggy Hayes- Approved

Marlencia Chee- Approved

Coby Livingston- Approved

Motion carries unanimously

VIII. Election of NM SILC Chair and Vicechair

Review of the NM SILC Officers

Motion: Peggy Hayes motion to extend the bylaws and make nominations by the floor

2nd: Marlencia Chee

Rollcall:

Peggy Hayes- Approve

Marlencia Chee- Approve

Coby Livingstone- Approve

Motion passes to suspend the rules of election

- a. Nominations are open
- b. Vice Chair - Marlencia Chee, Consideration
- c. Cannot vote because there is not a nomination for the Chair

- i. Can we do an interim chair? Will perform the same responsibilities in an interim capacity until the whole council can vote on a chair. We can revote once people are approved by the governor and are attending. Conduct election now and then Coby can step down as Chair

Motion: Peggy Hayes amends motion to vote for the Chair

2nd: Marlencia Chee

Rollcall:

Peggy Hayes- Approved

Marlencia Chee- Approved

Coby Livingstone- Approved

Motion carried unanimously for Coby Livingston as Chair of SILC

Motion: Peggy Hayes motion for Marlencia Chee to be Vice Chair of SILC

2nd: Coby Livingstone

Rollcall:

Peggy Hayes- Approved

Coby Livingstone- Approved

Marlencia Chee- Approved

Motion carried unanimously for Marlencia Chee to be Vice Chair of SILC

Peggy nominated as at large member of the Executive Team appointed by Chair and approved by the SILC. With 4 voting members, 3 would constitute a quorum. Until more members are present, the executive committee won't be able to take any action. An executive committee is not required by the bylaws. To ensure that votes are being taken during the meeting, work on the bylaws.

Motion: Coby Livingstone motions to withdraws motion to appoint a large member

2nd: Marlencia Chee also withdraws

IX. AIVRS Program: Executive Director, Paula Seanez **Quarterly Reports:**


































- a. Marlencia will be taking over reports going forward
- b. Paula, Petra and Marlencia make up the AIVRS program in NM
- c. There are no additional programs that have been funded or have applied for funding
- d. Emphasis on transitioning youth, through project SEARCH in Gallup/ McKinley County and school districts
 - i. Project SEARCH are collaborative between community and employment centers.
- e. New leadership Buu Nygren President, Richelle Montoya as Vice President
- f. Vacancies in Farmington office for job development specialist
 - i. Will be hiring their own individuals not contracting out
- g. American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center(AIVRTAC) Provides Technical Assistance (TA) to programs on any topic including Memorandums Of Agreements (MOA), have yet to finalize MOA with State of NM. We hope to get that finalized soon
- h. Mask mandate removed from Navajo Nations but still in place in schools.
- i. Marlencia is starting Project HOPE
 - i. This time it is included in grant, begin Project HOPE on their own. Visiting schools Jemez Valley, Walatowa, Bernalillo, Cleveland, Rio Rancho, and Santa Fe Indian School

- j. Yolanda Toya is going to go back to program coordinator program
 - k. Some logistics need to be approved by Tribal Gov't including new communities we're serving. They'll first have to be determined eligible for the VR program, from fed recognized tribe, within 80 miles of pueblo
 - l. Jemez has a new governing body-elected annually.
 - m. Assistance from AVIRTAC
 - n. Vacancy for Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) and Vocational Rehabilitation Tech(VRT)
 - i. Finally lifted freeze on hiring so they will be listed
 - ii. Changed VRC position to driver
 - iii. Need driver for Project HOPE
- X.** NM. Commission for the Blind (CFB): Executive Director, Greg Trapp
- a. James Salas on behalf of Greg:
 - b. Specific to the IL program, adding an additional position
 - i. Santa Fe position is vacant
 - ii. 2 in Las Cruces
 - iii. 3 In Albuquerque, 2 of the 3 have been filled
 - iv. Adding another one this summer, conducting analysis - position based on older blind over 55
 - v. Moved CFB office from Las Vegas to Santa Fe, VRC filled still trying to fill the Blindness Skills instructor in Santa Fe posted on State Personnel Office website
 - c. Fund balance
 - i. Bump up purchase of video magnifiers
 - ii. Also bumping up amount of money we are able to spend on consumers
 - d. We now have a Smartlux a handheld video magnifier that allows low vision users to magnify prescriptions, book, etc. An Optical character device is also available for low vision users, so they can read mail or other documents with it
 - i. Going to be increasing availability of funding for desktop video magnifiers to \$1000-1500 devices
- XI.** Governor's Commission on Disability(GCD): Lisa McNiven, Deputy Director
- a. Monica Montoya stepped down from the Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC) position and Lisa is taking the lead until the position is filled. Hope to fill this position in a couple months
 - i. Distribution of helmets statewide, bike helmets, ski helmets, skateboarding helmets for children under the age of 21, do not have toddler helmets
 - b. Accessibility unit has 4 positions
 - i. one filled Nadine Flores Residential Accessible modification program manager
 - ii. An announcement will be made for filling positions
 - 1. Disabilities Specialist
 - 2. Architect position
 - 3. Lisa's former position, specialty position disability awareness and Advocacy position remain vacant including emergency awareness access
 - 4. Admin position in GCD has been filled
 - 5. One contract FY24 to fill the digital divide and coordinator position.
 - c. Individuals can remain in their homes with the RAMP Program.
 - i. A person can apply after trying other programs. Income is taken into consideration
 - d. Next GCD Commission meeting on April 28, 2023

- XII.** SIL Quarterly Reports/Updates:
- a. New Vistas: Sarah Michaud, Santa Fe NM
 - b. Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC): Michael Murphy, Albuquerque
 - a. Provides 5 core services
 - i. 298 consumers as of January 31st
 - ii. 94 new consumers since the beginning of the year
 - iii. Tech services program completed 20 home and vehicle modifications with several still in process
 - iv. 218 hours in community activities, systems advocacy, outreach, and community education
 - v. 434 consumers in Attendant Services Program
 - vi. ILRC's Executive Director, Michael, has stepped down and asked Gil Yildiz to be appointed as Executive Director of ILRC
 - vii. Michael now Chief Operating Officer (COO) will continue to work with other SIL Directors to elect and support SILC. After further discussion bylaws indicate that Gil Yilidiz must work with the SIL Directors to elect a representative and support the SILC
 - c. The Ability Center: Albert Montoya, Las Cruces, NM
 - d. San Juan Center for Independent Living, Leslie Wright, Farmington, NM
 - e. CHOICES: Audra Wilson, Roswell, NM
- XIII.** Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR): Casey Stone-Romero, Director, Agency Quarterly Financial Report - Pertinent to the actions as Designated State Entity (DSE) for processing funding for NM SILC
- a. All NMDVR offices are open M-F, 8-5 with all employees back in office.
 - b. Recruiting at our Clovis office
 - c. All centers are on point to spend full allotments within the contracts. Except for San Juan-they have only expended 21.9%
 - d. Scheduled meetings to renew contracts for FY24
 - a. FY24 same budgeted amount for IL Contracts 1,409,300.00.
 - e. NMDVR has a 24% vacancy rate
 - a. all positions are posted to the State Personnel Office website.
 - b. Welcome David Soveranez as DVR Administrative Services Deputy Director.
 - f. Kathy Abernathy- SILC budget, we intend to expend the entire FY23 amount- allotments within contracts
 - a. Underspending in Farmington they do not have the clientele to support and expand
- XIV.** Public Comments and Requests for Public Comments Decision on Next SILC Meeting
- a. No Public Comments
- XV.** Chairman's Closing Remarks: Thank you to Rudy and Angelina for all their help, make sure to post the SILC Coordinator link and get people applying for this position. Next meeting: May 17, 2023 @10:00 – 1:00 PM
- XVI.** Adjournment:
- a. Meeting Adjourned 11:52 p.m.



Participants (15)

- AP** Angelina Payan (Me)  
-  Lisa McNiven (Host)   
- C** Coby  
- JS** James Salas  
-  15754342076 
- AI** ASL Interpreter- Katrina  
-  ASL Interpreter-Dana (she/her)  
- CS** Casey Stone-Romero, NMDVR Dir...  
- GT** Greg Trapp  
- JL** Jeff Levine  
- K** KathyA  
- KC** Ken Collins, CPSW, CSHPS (he, him)  
- MC** Marlencia Chee  
- PS** Paula Seanez  
- RG** Rudy Grano  

Invite

Unmute Me