

NEW MEXICO STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING

Meeting: May 17, 2023, 9:00 am

Draft Minutes

The SILC Quarterly Meeting was held virtually Via-Zoom

- I. Welcome/Call to Order: Chair Coby Livingstone
 - a. Meeting was called to order by Chair Coby Livingstone at 9:08 am

- II. Roll Call of Board Members: Chair Coby Livingstone
 - a. Coby Livingstone, Present
 - b. Marlencia Chee, Present
 - c. Peggy Jo Hayes, Present
 - d. Petra Solimon, Absent - Coby as her Proxy
 - e. Sarah Michaud, Present non-voting
 - f. Kenneth Collins, Present non-voting
 - g. Paula Seanez, Absent non-voting
 - h. Lisa McNiven, Present
 - i. James Salas, Absent- Joined at 9:22 am
 - j. Casey Stone-Romero, Present non-voting

- III. Introduction of CIL Directors, State Agencies/Partners and Other Guests: Chair Coby Livingstone
 - a. Albert Montoya, Absent
 - b. Audra Wilson, Present
 - c. Charlie Phelps, Present
 - d. Gil Yildiz, Absent
 - e. Michael Murphy, Absent, Joined 10:03 am
 - f. Rudy Grano, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - g. Nash Sisneros, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - h. Greg Trapp, Commission for the Blind (CFB) Joined at 9:30 am
 - i. Jeff Levine, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - j. Angelina Payan, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - k. Kathy Abernathy, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - l. Krystle Roybal, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

- IV. Action Item: Approval of Agenda
Motion: Peggy Jo Hayes
2nd: Marlencia Chee
Rollcall Vote:
Yes- Petra Solimon, Coby as proxy
Yes- Coby Livingstone
Yes- Marlencia Chee
Yes- Peggy Jo Hayes

- V.** Action Item: Approval of February 28, 2023 Minutes, Chair
Motion: Peggy Jo Hayes
2nd: Marlencia Chee
Rollcall Vote:
Yes- Coby Livingstone
Yes- Petra Solimon, Coby as proxy
Yes- Marlencia Chee
Yes- Peggy Jo Hayes
- VI.** Comments from Chair of NM SILC
a. Studying bylaws and working on SPIL
b. Training new members
c. Objectives
i. Get us back on track
ii. Quarterly reports
iii. Sarah Michaud Facebook announcements of general interests/
education
iv. Michael Murphy program personal care attendant
v. Beginning to meet core values
vi. New SPIL due by next June
1. Audra will send documentation from previous SPIL to work on
new one
vii. Ken Collins getting approval to create recovery housing in Gallup
1. Ken will reach out to NMDVR to help identify and serve those
who have brain injuries in Gallup
- VII.** Action Item: Discussion regarding interviewing candidates for the NM SILC.
Coordinator position at NM SILC. Coby Livingstone
a. 4 Applicants
i. Two dropped out, interviewed one, no contact info for 4th
ii. Need more recruitment
iii. Work with Rudy Grano and NMDVR to help announce
iv. Contract position, does not have benefits
v. Lisa McNiven posting on her job website
vi. Will also be asking SRC and Commission for the Blind to advertise
vii. Network newsletter
viii. Rudy and Executive members will brainstorm on other types of
recruitment
- VIII.** Discussion: Bylaws Amendment James Salas
a. James, Peggy, and Paula worked on bylaws
b. Draft was sent out to everyone last Wednesday
i. Section was taken from SRC bylaws dealing with reappointment of a
member that has served 2 full terms, Article 4 Section 3b

- ii. Item from draft bylaws, dealing with % of meetings that members are expected to attend from 50% to 75%, Article 4 Section 8
 - 1. Article 5 Section 2, During SPIL cycle (3yrs) meetings should take place in each area
 - 2. NMDVR does not support hybrid meetings due to accessibility barriers
 - a. Support in person or online
 - b. SILC has a budget for travel for approved board members only
 - 3. Open Meetings Act we are now expected to be meeting in person, virtual meetings were an accommodation during COVID
 - 4. Develop a clean draft of bylaws ready for approval at August meeting

- IX. Discussion: Approved Amendment from 2018 which was not implemented; Changing the dollar amount to a percentage. Rudy Grano
 - a. In 2018 there was intention by SILC to revise language in the SPIL related to the CFB allotment of the IL grant.
 - i. SILC agreed to make the share 18% to the award instead of a dollar amount, this did not make it into the state plan
 - ii. Change dollar amount listed in SPIL to a percentage as it relates to the CFB allotment
 - iii. Requesting that SPIL revisits this intent to make revision to language to allocate 82% to the DVR IL program and 18% to the COB IL Grant
 - iv. we did get an increase to the IL grant this fiscal year
 - 1. An additional \$9,300
 - 2. We were unable to send more money to CFB due to the dollar amount allocation rather than the percentage
 - b. SPIL can be amended anytime
 - i. If you are going to change language to percentage everything must be changed across the board, no dollar amount and percentages. Must be one or the other
 - ii. Krystle: If we stick to a certain dollar amount, we can add that if additional numbers are received then it would bump up to the 18% of the award
 - iii. Audra will send the State plan 1st – 4th draft submission to everyone and see where the changes are in the SPIL

X. State Agency Quarterly Financial Reports:

- a. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation: Director, Casey Stone-Romero
 - i. Nice media coverage
 - 1. KRQE story about Agrability provides an apprenticeship for New Mexicans with disabilities who are interested in a career in

agriculture—while addressing the challenge of a shortage of farmers in the state.

2. In April, both KRQE and KUNM public radio did stories about the Youth Rapid-Hire Job Fair that we held in conjunction with Bernalillo County government
 3. We continue to place multiple stories each month in the 'Round the Roundhouse newspaper for state employees and elected officials.
 4. This month's included our quarterly Spotlight Award winners—employees who go above-and-beyond.
- ii. Our Staff been attending school events, job fairs, and other similar events
 - iii. We've had informational displays and interacted with attendees at events in Taos, Deming, Las Cruces, Melrose, Grady, Dora, Silver City, Mescalero, Lordsburg, Los Lunas, and Albuquerque
 - iv. Ten staff members received their certificate in ACRE, support employment services, intensive training in supported employment
 - v. Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR)
 1. Attendees
 - a. Casey Stone-Romero
 - b. Antoinette Holmes
 - c. Rudy Grano
 - d. Krystle Roybal
 - e. David Soveranez
 - vi. Several employees attended Reaching New heights a conference related to supported employment and transition hosted by Partners for Employment
 - vii. Statewide Transition Manager Charlene Chavez was a panelist at the Project Echo Conference earlier this spring
 - viii. Field Operations Director Mario Lucero facilitated a panel discussion at the Northern Regional Professional Development Conference in Santa Fe
 - ix. DDS had a Social Security Administration (SSA) visit
 1. Always great things to say
 2. We are following SSA guidance for push in hiring
 3. Adjudicators position open, posted on SPO
 - a. NM DDS supports SSA claims nationwide not just NM
 - x. Hiring target
 1. Overall vacancy rate is 26%, includes 34 vacancies at DDS
 2. 37 positions are being actively recruited
 3. 16 are pending approval of hiring action
 4. 4 are pending reclassification prior to active recruitment
 - xi. Social Media
 1. 173 followers on LinkedIn

- 2. 137 Followers on Facebook
- 3. 90 Followers on Instagram
- xii. Senate Bill 437 was introduced in February, just before the deadline for new legislation to be filed during the legislative session. Referred to as the “Vocational Rehabilitation Act”
 - 1. Would have moved NMDVR from part of the Public Education Department and we would have become an office under a newly created commission
 - 2. Twice the bill was on the schedule to be discussed in the Senate Rules Committee—but was never brought up. Although never officially tabled, it did not come up again before the legislative session adjourned in March.
- xiii. Zoom accounts have been purchased and assigned to RSU team
- xiv. RSU: Nash Sisneros
 - 1. Involved in the community
 - 2. Stats are improving
 - a. Closures
 - b. Referrals
 - c. Supported Employment
 - 3. National Employment Team (NET) Summit in September
 - 4. Adult Project Search in the works
 - 5. RSU
 - a. 35 vacant positions 21% vacancy rate
 - b. New positions
 - c. Transition positions
 - d. Business Outreach positions
 - e. Additional trainer for RSU
 - 6. May 2023
 - a. 5 new counselors
 - b. Tech’s starting early July
 - 7. New phone system
 - 8. Started Combined State Plan
 - 9. Manual Of Operating Procedures meetings completed
 - 10. Working on the Comprehensive statewide needs assessment
- xv. NMSILC Budget: CFO, Krystle Roybal
 - 1. Increase to Federal Grant by \$9,300.00
 - 2. Base line Budget
 - 3. FY24 Money
 - a. Allocated for SILC Coordinator position at \$51,500
 - b. Interpreters
 - c. 400 Category
 - i. All Independent Living Center Contracts provider agreements

ii. Advertising and Travel

- b. AIVRS Program: Manager Jemez Pueblo, Marlencia Chee
 - i. No report on Laguna or Navajo Nation
 - ii. Jemez Pueblo, 2nd year of federal grant
 - iii. Main focus is getting Project Hope started again (about ready to launch)
 - 1. Mid-June starting with background checks and fingerprinting for consumers
 - a. 14 students plan in place and are eligible
 - b. Jemez Valley, Bernalillo High School, Rio Rancho, Cleveland High School, Cibola High School, and Santa Fe Indian School
 - c. Large array of student interested
 - d. Age group currently are Juniors and Seniors
 - e. Quota of 17 students, will accept sophomores if quota not met with Juniors and Seniors
 - f. Must be 14 years of age or older
 - g. Transporting students to job sites, Yolanda Toya in charge of Project Hope
 - 2. Established MOU with Sandoval Indian Pueblo Inc
 - 3. Inner tribal agreements, they have been expired
 - a. Working on getting them re-established
 - 4. Traditional Conference in August
 - a. In early stages of planning
 - b. Community driven
 - 5. Niagara Falls New York Training
 - a. June 5-9 Native American Rehabilitation
 - b. More information can be found at: <https://aivrttac.org/>
 - 6. Vacancies
 - a. 2 Councilor positions open
 - b. 1 Rehab Technician
- c. NM Commission for the Blind: Executive Director, Gregg Trapp
 - i. Beginning State plan
 - 1. Public Meeting March 9th, receiving comment on state planes, rate settings, and allocation
 - ii. Opened Apartment facility in Alamogordo
 - 1. Provide space
 - 2. Independent living training
 - iii. Leveraging fund balance
 - iv. Fully staffed on VRC positions
 - v. Spending of VR dollars across the country
 - vi. Greg participated in a work group for monitoring agencies
 - 1. Will be focused on technical assistance to spend money

- vii. Requirement that we spend 15% on Pre-ETS
 - 1. Reduction of work force participation rate and pandemic have all contributed to reduction in spending
 - 2. Spending is increasing post-pandemic
 - viii. Jim Salas:
 - 1. All VRC, Assistant Tech's, and Blindness instructors filled
 - a. Blindness skills instructor in LC is moving out of state
 - i. Will be posting for this position
 - ii. These positions work in the field mostly with people who are over 55 to learn skills, techniques to live independently and access their communities
 - 2. Ramping up Students in transition to Employment
 - a. Summer Training Program
 - b. Spend a lot of employment service dollars
 - c. 35 students participating
 - d. Creates good foundation
- d. NM Governor's Commission on Disability: Deputy Director, Lisa McNiven
- i. Primary program that had been on hold: RAMP
 - 1. Hired RAMP manager: Nadine Flores,
 - a. She will be reviewing all documents for the program to provide services to individuals with disabilities statewide
 - b. Program is income based
 - c. Reviewing all applications and process of how to be accepted into the program
 - 2. Nadine needs a team for RAMP program
 - a. Architect I position, one interviewed
 - b. Disability Specialist will be hired in a week or two
 - c. 3 positions open to complete the RAMP program and reopening the positions to the public
 - d. Website: <https://gcd.state.nm.us/>
 - ii. Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC)
 - 1. Six interviews next week
 - 2. Conduct a study that evaluate the feasibility of providing health coverage to all brain injury patients
 - 3. Brain injury registry
 - 4. Mandated to have study completed November 2023
 - 5. 9 individuals be part of the study
 - iii. You can read more about our updates at: <https://gcd.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GCD-Newsletter-Feb2023-003.pdf>
 - iv. New Mexico Technology Assisted Program (NMTAP) Conference
 - 1. Sept 11-12 in Albuquerque, NM
 - v. Emergency preparedness

1. Disability Needs Coordinator
2. Interviews next week
3. Jeminie Shell, Disability Specialist has been helping fill this position
 - a. Also responsible for the ADA certification program
 - b. Training September 28-29, 2023 two full days at the Tony Anaya building
 - c. Certification for ADA Coordinator
 - d. Registration will be up on their website in a few weeks
- vi. New website after FY24

XI. CIL Executive Director Quarterly Reports:

- a. New Vistas: Sarah Michaud, Santa Fe NM
 - i. Leadership transition, Program manager retired in February
 1. Hired new PM in March, still onboarding but hit the ground running
 - ii. ED Program
 1. 286 children in Mora, Santa Fe, and San Miguel counties
 - iii. DSA Program
 1. 86 individuals
 - iv. Fires in New Mexico
 1. Information page on website and on Facebook
 - v. Distributions of COVID testing kits
 1. 4,000 kits have been distributed within 9 counties
 - vi. In person Health Fairs
 1. Raton
 2. Santa Fe
 3. Clayton
 4. Mascaró
 - vii. Virtual weekly open space sessions for students
 1. Also involves online move nights
 - viii. Email from Nickel (barrier removal fund)
 1. Interest in helping site reviews for applications
 2. 4 site reviews in the next few weeks
 - ix. ACL Contact
 1. Veterans directed care services
 2. Expand to SF
 3. VA will partner with local providers
 - x. 6 week living well work shop / partnership with University of Montana
 - xi. Punch out Parkinson's
 1. Working with individuals and IL goals
 2. Getting requests from local senior centers

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

- i. IL staff provided services to
 - 1. 347 consumers as of April 20th
 - 2. 139 new consumers since the beginning of FY
 - 3. 51 IL plans
- ii. Tech services
 - 1. 24 home and vehicle modifications
 - 2. 297 hours in community activities
 - 3. 430 consumers in the attendant services program
- iii. Attempting to provide services in rural areas

c. The Ability Center: Albert Montoya, Las Cruces, NM

d. San Juan Center for Independent Living: Charlie Phelps

- i. 975 consumers
- ii. 118 Kinley office
- iii. 350 PCS
- iv. Getting name around more
 - 1. Facebook page,
 - 2. Activities movie night, game night, bingo
- v. Youth transition fair
 - 1. Held at San Juan college
 - 2. 80 Students
 - 3. 30 Exhibitors
- vi. Greenhouse
 - 1. Outside gardens
 - 2. Garden day each month
 - 3. Orchard with 45-50 trees
- vii. More activity with pueblos
 - 1. Primarily around procurement area
- viii. Homelessness
 - 1. Finding permanent housing
- ix. Designated employees to talk with about SSA

e. CHOICES: Audra Wilson, Roswell NM

XII. Public Comments

a. No Public Comments

XIII. Schedule next SILC Meeting date and location: Chair

a. Wednesday August 16, 2023 @ 9:00- 12:00, Location TBD but likely Santa Fe NMDVR state office

b. Wednesday November 15th, 9:00-12:00, location TBD but likely Jemez

XIV. Adjournment: Chair

a. Meeting Adjourned at 11:50 p.m.