

NEW MEXICO STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING

Date/Time:

Wednesday August 16, 2023, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location:

Santa Fe Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
2935 Rodeo Park Drive East
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

- I. Welcome/Call to Order: Chair Coby Livingstone
 - a. Called to order at 9:06 A.M.
- II. Roll Call of Board Members: Chair Coby Livingstone
 - a. Coby Livingstone, Present
 - b. Sarah Michaud, Present
 - c. Lisa McNiven, Present
 - d. James Salas, Present
 - e. Kenneth Collins, Absent
 - f. Marlencia Chee, Absent
 - g. Peggy Hayes, Present
 - h. Petra Solimon, Present
 - i. Casey Stone- Romero, Present non-voting
- III. Introduction of CIL Directors, State Agencies/Partners and Other Guests: Chair Coby Livingstone
 - a. Casey Stone-Romero, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - b. Angelina Payan, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - c. Nash Sisneros, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - d. Rudy Grano, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - e. Jeff Levine, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - f. Juan Haro, Present
 - g. Michael Murphy for Gil Yilidez, Present
 - h. Charlie Phelps, Absent
 - i. Greg Trapp, Absent
- IV. Action Item: Approval of Agenda
Peggy Hayes motions to approve agenda
Perta Solimon seconds
Rollcall Vote:
Peggy Hayes, yes
Perta Solimon, yes
Coby Livingstone, yes
Sarah Michaud, yes
Unanimously passes

- V.** Action Item: Approval of Minutes
Peggy Hayes motions to approve minutes
Coby Livingstone seconds
Rollcall Vote:
Peggy Hayes, yes
Coby Livingstone, yes
Petra Solimon abstains not present for entire meeting
Sarah Michaud abstains not present at last meeting

OLD BUSINESS

- VI.** Comments from the Chair Coby Livingstone
- a. Executive Committee working hard
 - i. Updating the Bylaw's
 - ii. Working on Amendment for SPIL
 - b. SPIL Amendments accepted by ACL
 - i. Update was accepted
 - ii. Changed to a Percentage from Dollar amount
 - iii. Will vote on Bylaws and Amendment
 - c. Seeking nominations for new Council members
 - d. ILRU Training for Council Members
 - i. Hopeful to start training in the next few months with Paula
 - e. Updating SILC tab on the NM Division of Vocational Rehabilitation page
 - i. Re-write the text; include current SILC membership
 - 1. Executive committee received a list of revisions for updates on SILC Partners page
 - 2. Add activities
 - 3. Pictures need to be described
 - ii. Add phone or email contacts
 - 1. General phone numbers and locations are posted on DVR website
 - iii. Less text and more space for improved readability
 - 1. More bullet points
 - iv. Add Hyperlinks to each CIL; CILs write text for their link
 - 1. Develop and maintain a schedule to do updates and revisions
 - a. Coby and Rudy
 - b. Once a plan for revisions is developed internal NMDVR staff will be requested to assist. Minimal state staff availability for website maintenance so the SILC must be very organized in their request

NEW BUSINESS

- f. Discussion: Establish dates for Public Hearing
- g. Confirm meeting Dates for 2024: Third Wednesday of each month
 - i. February 14, 2024
 - ii. May 15, 2024

- iii. August 1, 2024
 - 1. Third Wednesday is August 21, 2024
- iv. November 20, 2024
- v. December 2024 will be a Special meeting for writing the report for ACL
- h. Public Hearings on the SPIL
 - i. Can be in conjunction with a quarterly meeting
 - 1. Needs to be done by April 2024
 - 2. One done at each of the center
 - 3. Circulate throughout the state for quarterly meetings
 - 4. Marcy stated first meeting could be held at Jemez Pueblo
 - 5. Community Input
 - a. Advertising, really want to get the word out
 - 6. Consistent format and must be recorded
 - 7. In person sessions, One virtual
 - a. Possible dated for Public Hearings
 - b. November 14th
 - c. November 15th during our quarterly meeting
 - d. February 14th look for space
 - e. Pick one other date prior to April
 - f. Disability Rights Awareness Day (DRAD) during the legislative session, something that can be brought up by Lisa and Michael in their next meeting
 - g. If we start in November, plan to put together a group to prepare

VII. Action Item: Revised NM Statewide Independent Living Council Bylaws Jim Salas and Peggy Hayes

- a. Distributed the Bylaws with the changes

Peggy Hayes motions for changes on Bylaws

Coby Livingstone Seconds

Rollcall vote:

Peggy Hayes, yes

Coby Livingstone, yes

Petra Solimon, yes

Sarah Michaud, yes

Unanimously passes

VIII. Discussion: SILC Coordinator position

- a. Been without a SILC Coordinator for a long time now
- b. 5 Applicants in March
 - i. Interviewed one but was later not interested due to Insurance benefits not being offered
 - ii. Advertised on ATA to recruit
 - 1. 4 applicants
 - 2. 1 approached Coby directly
 - 3. Marcy, Ken, and Coby interview panel
 - a. 3 No Call No Shows

4. Marcy and Peggy interviewed 4th applicant
 - a. Confusion with the ATA hiring company
 - b. Applicant was no longer interested
 - c. Applicant sent letter to NMDVR Director
- iii. Rudy Grano: Between January 10th – July 25th, there were 10 applicants forwarded on for consideration
 1. Email was sent to SILC Committee with a recommendation to act upon by a certain date
 - a. Information of applicants were shared with interview panel
 2. DVR has helped advertise the position via publications in the Santa Fe New Mexican, RFI, and ATA
 3. ATA and RFI difference
 - a. ATA is an entity that provides assistance in contracting employment for government entities
 - i. ATA has a website that advertises the positions
 - ii. Wider net, Handles interviews, and all logistics
 - iii. ATA is flexible they can set up interviews or SILC can
 - b. RFI is a Request for Information DVR controls internally setting up interviews and all logistics
- iv. Casey Stone-Romero:
 1. Letter received from applicant
 - a. Appears that it wasn't routed through the RFI process but rather routed through ATA
 - b. As a body the SILC determined that they had to work through ATA to help with recruiting
 - c. If ATA process is going to work best for SILC, communications need to be clear of what SILC has advised their candidates on
 - d. Response for complaint directed to SILC because they were interviewing/hiring body
 - v. Petra has volunteered to be the Point of Contact for all hiring
 - vi. Email Suggestions
 1. Contracting Kathy Cooper to consult with Coby

IX. Discussion: SPIL and review of current goals and objectives: Marlencia Chee, Coby on Behalf of Marlencia Chee

- a. Assignment of a SPIL Committee
- b. How to read the report and know that we are focusing on the SPIL
 - i. According to the act as amended WIOA
 1. Include fifth act,
 - a. IL training
 - b. Peer Counseling
 - c. Advocacy
 - d. I & R
 - e. Transition to the community and transition for youth
 - f. Every center needs to have the 5 cores services

- 2. Part B from the FED/ACL
 - a. Define how the monies are spent via transportation, access to medical, that are usually included in the SPIL to improve the communities for those with disabilities
 - b. What activities have been done and how it interacts with SPIL
 - c. Nobody has signed copy of SPIL from former SILC chair
 - d. Develop new SPIL, due June 2024
- X.** Discussion of a proposed budget
 - a. Salary of SILC Coordinator
 - i. Budget is already set for this year until June 2024
 - 1. We go off State Funding not Federal Funding fiscal year
 - b. Identify appropriate current goals/objectives
 - c. New items if necessary
- XI.** Agency Reports/Updates
 - a. NM Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR): Director, Casey Stone-Romero
 - i. 3-year cycle for our next State Plan
 - ii. Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) will be going out soon
 - iii. Actively working with Tribes to get MOU's completed
 - iv. Assisting with Workforce Conference in Albuquerque
 - 1. Looking for participants in a panel in October to discuss how WIOA program has assisted with them returning to work
 - v. DDS task to hire all vacant positions and be onboard by September 30th, 2023
 - 1. All Regal Theaters, Advertising commercial for vacancies
 - vi. Upgrading all Rehabilitation Information Technology services
 - vii. Office Closures
 - 1. Edgewood office permanently closed
 - a. Edgewood staff now at our Gibson location
 - 2. Gibson office will be closed by end of year and relocated to an office near Research Drive
 - viii. Agency Vacancy Rate at 22%
 - 1. Hoovering 18-21%, rates are lower than last year
 - 2. Rehabilitation Services Unit 18%
 - ix. Business Outreach Coordinator positions have been created
 - x. Tribal Liaison
 - 1. Rio Rancho Office
 - 2. Gallup Office
 - xi. Piloting a transition program to bridge age gap
 - xii. Nash and Rudy:
 - 1. Expanding intake on new FTE's
 - 2. Completed and waiting for Northern/Eastern Board MOU
 - a. NMTAP MOU pending
 - 3. Rapid Engagement
 - a. Region B, expediting eligibility at the time of intake

- ii. Wrapping up State Plan
 - 1. September 30th first draft due
 - 2. DWS will hold public comment sessions in November
 - 3. Final plan will be given on December 7th, 2023
 - 4. CFB Public Hearings will be held across the state
- iii. Forecasting next year
 - 1. Enough budget to serve all VR clients
 - 2. More than enough pre-employment dollars
 - 3. Authorized services will continue to be given
- iv. Business Engagement Position
- v. Vacancies in Las Cruces
- vi. Portable Solutions
 - 1. Smart Lux, portable and desktop magnifying
 - 2. Providing to clients that can benefit
- d. Jemez Vocational Rehabilitation Program: Marlencia Chee
- e. Navajo Nations OSERS: Paula Seanez

XII. Comments from Council Members

- a. HoZo Center in Gallup: Ken Collins
- b. Laguna Pueblo: Petra Solimon
 - i. MOU with State ready to sign
 - 1. Governor at Laguna are ready for the collaboration
 - ii. Hiring
 - 1. Advertising at High School with social media for working students
 - 2. Still some vacancies
- c. Comments from CIL Directors (written reports submitted to Chair prior to meeting)
 - i. New Vistas: Sarah Michaud
 - 1. Overseeing the IE program
 - a. Hired a new manager in March, she is doing a great job with the position
 - 2. Open Positions
 - a. Las Vegas Office, hard to fill competing with FEMA
 - 3. Onboarding a new employee on Monday
 - a. Familiar with the Disability Field and is foster parent
 - 4. Referrals starting to increase
 - a. 6 a day in early intervention services
 - b. 442 kids in Santa Fe, San Miguel, and Mora County
 - c. Service 9 Counties for IL
 - 5. Continuing to provide Fire stats and education on website
 - 6. Emergency Management and Homeland Security
 - a. Flyer will be sent out to CIL's and what they can do to help
 - 7. 26,000 COVID kits have been distributed in 9 counties
 - 8. Exploring new program services
 - 9. Challenges finding affordable housing
 - 10. City of Santa Fe Mayor Accessibility Committee Awards

- a. 25 awards
 - b. Businesses who have provided better access to those with disabilities
- ii. Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC): Michael Murphy
 - 1. Housing hard to find
 - 2. Technician Service Program continued to be flooded with requests for home modifications
 - a. Home modifications taking a little longer
 - b. Must get approval from owner

XIII. Public Comments

- a. No Comment from the Public

XIV. Next SILC Meeting date, time, and location: Chair, Coby Livingstone

- a. Joint SILC and SRC meeting with SDSU on August 30th, 2023
- b. Next Meeting date At Jemez Nov 15th, 2023

XV. Adjournment: Chair, Coby Livingstone

- a. Meeting Adjourned at 12:04 pm

If disability-related accommodation is required for your attendance, please contact the SILC Chair, Coby Livingstone, 505-259-3672 at least 5 days prior to the meeting.