

**NEW MEXICO STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL  
QUARTERLY MEETING**

**Date/Time:**

Wednesday November 15, 2023, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Location:**

Jemez Pueblo CRC  
129 Canal Street  
Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico 87024

- I. Call to order, Chair Coby Livingstone
  - a. Meeting called to order at 10:04am
- II. Roll Call, Chair Coby Livingstone

Board Members:

Sarah Michaud, Present  
Petra Solimon, Present  
Marlencia Chee, Present  
Lisa McNiven, Present  
Peggy Hayes, Present  
Coby Livingstone, present  
James Salas, Absent  
Casey Stone-Romero, Present – Non-Voting  
Kenneth Collins, Absent

- III. Introduction of CIL Directors, State Agencies/Partners and Other Guests
  - Rudy Grano, Division of Vocation Rehabilitation (DVR)
  - Casey Stone-Romero, Division of Vocation Rehabilitation (DVR)
  - Angelina Payan, Division of Vocation Rehabilitation (DVR)
  - Jeff Levine, Division of Vocation Rehabilitation (DVR)
  - Nichole Sereno, Division of Vocation Rehabilitation (DVR)
  - Juan Haro, Commission for the Blind (COB)
  - Kathy Cooper, Guest
  - Audra Wilson, Center for Independent Living (CHOICES)
  - Albert Montoya, The Ability Center for Independent Living (TACIL) joined a 10:28
  - Kate Unna, Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC)
  - Calvin Madalena, Guest
  - Cornell Magdalena, Guest
- IV. Action Item: Approval of Agenda
  - Peggy Hayes motioned to approve.
  - Marlencia Chee Seconds
  - Unanimously passed.
- V. Action Item: Approval of Minutes
  - a. Correction to Roll Call: Peggy Hayes name correction on special meeting on 09/12/2023.  
Peggy Hayes motions to approve minutes with correction.  
Marlencia Chee seconds

- Unanimously passed.
- b. Meeting minutes from 08/16/2023
  - Peggy Hayes motions
  - Sarah Michaud seconds
  - Unanimously passed.
- VI. Action Item: Election of Officers for the NM SILC per NM Bylaws
  - a. SILC needs to elect an officer every year, occurs the first meeting of the new fiscal year.
    - i. Petra, Coby, Sarah, Marci, Paula vote on electing officers
    - ii. Marcelina Chee accepts interim chair and will take office Jan 2024
    - iii. Vice Chair: Marcelina interim chair
      - 1. Peggy Hayes motions to approve Marci as vice chair and serves as interim chair.
      - 2. Petra Solimon seconds motion
      - 3. Unanimously passed.

#### Old Business

- VII. Report for Chair, Coby Livingstone
  - a. Developing SPIL for 2024
  - b. Recorded SPIL Trainings can be found on ILRU.ORG.
    - i. Occurs once a month.
    - ii. Centers for independent living collab with the council
      - 1. Las Cruces, Executive Director Albert Montoya
      - 2. Farmington, San Juan center for independent Living - Executive Director Charlie Phelps
      - 3. Albuquerque, Independent Living Recourse Center, Executive Director Gil Yildiz
      - 4. New Vistas, Executive Director Sarah Michaud
      - 5. CHOICES in Roswell, Executive Director Audra Wilson
  - c. Coby has been pushing recruiting to fill vacancies.
    - i. Peggy and Coby attended the National conference for blind to recruit, nobody was interested.
  - d. Proposing budget revision for outreach program
  - e. Centers that get Part B funds
    - ii. CHOICES, Roswell
    - iii. San Juan Center, Farmington
    - iv. Independent Living Recourses Center, Albuquerque
  - f. 3 additional Centers in New Mexico receive part C.
  - g. SILC is independent and has a designated entity that serves as the fiscal agent that manages the spending of the ACL grant.
  - h. According to the bylaws SILC must me in every part of the state.
  - i. Kathy Cooper's contract is awaiting approval by DVR fiscal.
- VIII. CSAVR Annual conference, Casey Stone-Romero
  - a. Fall Conference in Savannah Georgia
    - i. Attendees
      - 1. Paula Seanez, representing the SRC.
      - 2. Tracy Agiovlasis, representing the SRC.
      - 3. Anthony Harkness, Program Manager

- 4. Veronica Alonzo, DWS
    - 5. Denise Ohara, PED
    - 6. Gregory Buttz, PED
  - b. New Mexico Vocational Rehabilitation met all performance indicators for program year 22.
  - c. Artificial intelligence presentation
    - i. Evaluating where the state of New Mexico stands with AI.
    - ii. When conference materials are posted, a link will be sent out once released by CSAVR
  - d. Program Performance Report for the year
    - i. Due at the end of the calendar year
  - e. PED applied for disability innovation funds CIL Directors
    - i. VR is a required partner for this grant.
    - ii. Staff from PED, Alex Lutz or Breezy Gutierrez, have been attempting to reach out to CIL Directors
      - 1. Project proposal was requested.
      - 2. 5-year grant at 40k to increase outreach opportunities for youth for careers
- IX. Commission for the Blind, Juan Haro of behalf of Gregg Trapp and James Salas
- a. SRC meeting scheduled for 11/16/2023.
  - b. Greg Trap, James Salas, Denise Otero, Daphne Mitchell, Jamie Simpson – Attended CSAVR and NCSAB in Savannah GA
  - c. IL Program projects integration
    - i. Desktop magnifiers – 23-24” screen
    - ii. Portable magnifying option 12” screen
  - d. Staffing
    - i. Farmington office, one employee retired.
      - 1. Position has been filled.
    - ii. Las Cruces Vacancy
      - 1. interviews scheduled for next week.
  - e. Working on Federal Reporting –
    - i. 704 Report
      - 1. December 8<sup>th</sup> to be expected to be delivered at DVR
    - ii. 70-B report
      - 1. Will be submitted by December 15<sup>th</sup>
    - iii. Independent living program
      - 1. The team is new due to recent retirements.
      - 2. New individuals offer new skills in technology.
  - f. Statewide training in ABQ late September
    - v. Two- day training
      - 1. Strengthen orientation mobility.
      - 2. Technology that relates to no vision/little vision access
  - g. Working on state plan
  - h. Successful Step Program for individuals that are 14-21
    - vi. Training and opportunities for employment
    - vii. 35 participants
    - viii. 5 Participants attended the orientation center in Alamogordo.
    - ix. 23 hybrid
    - x. 7 community based.

- X. Commission on Disability, Lisa McNiven
  - a. Residential Accessibility Modification Unit (RAMP)
    - i. Access Unit - 3 out of 4 positions were built.
    - ii. RAMP Manager, Nadine Flores
    - iii. Two specialists that handle all applications.
    - iv. Over 120 individuals on the waiting list
    - v. The program helps participants remain in their communities by design planning their home for accessibility.
    - vi. RAMP is an income-based program.
  - b. New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP)
    - i. Operating program with two offices in Las Vegas and Silver city
    - ii. The program offers technology demonstrations to increase independence.
    - iii. Program in Adelante - Name will be announced soon.
  - c. Brain Injury Advisement Council (BIAC)
    - i. Focusing on how to set up a registry and how to provide comprehensive health insurance.
    - ii. 20 individuals participating
    - iii. Report prepared to be given to the legislature by the end of this month.
    - iv. Report to the legislative house of human services on November 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:30
  - d. BYED
    - i. Position filled – Angelina Velarde-Lockton will start on November 27<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. Website is back up and running again- new domain [www.byact.nm.gov](http://www.byact.nm.gov)
  - e. Disability Awareness and Advocacy Unit
    - i. Jaminie Shell is working with ADA coordinators, she will help get you certified and there is a scholarship program.
  - f. Emergency Preparedness Contract with Department of Homeland Security
    - i. Working towards funding to have a full-time position for Department of Homeland Security
      - 1. Expires at the end of June 2024
    - ii. 2022 Fires concerns
      - 1. Shelter, accessibility, transportation, and FEMA recommendations for community outreach
        - 1.1. a whole community approach.
        - 1.2. 4-hour training in each region in the state
          - a. How to ensure that shelters are accessible
          - b. Service animal vs emotional support animal
          - c. Emergency preparedness from the perspective of an individual with a disability
          - d. Las cruces December 5<sup>th</sup> first training
  - g. December 5<sup>th</sup> Town hall meeting with disability community locally to survey concerns
  - h. Teaming up with Alice of Developmental Council and Eli Vasquez of the Attorney General's
    - i. Office to create an Accessibility Memo
    - ii. Memo to be sent out statewide to state agencies under title 2.
    - iii. Will be submitted to the governor's office for signature and distribute to state agencies.
  - i. After Action Report

- i. Conducted a statewide survey with individuals with disabilities to determine what worked and did not work during the pandemic.
  - ii. The report will be finalized by the end of this month.
- j. Next commission meeting will be in April 2024
- k. Lisa McNiven's SILC term is due to end in December but has agreed to reapply.

XI. Jemez Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Marlencia Chee

- a. Increase to 61 participants from 37 –
  - i. Participant target 100
  - ii. 13 awaiting intake and orientation
- b. Extended services to an 80-mile radius
- c. Inner Tribal Agreements
  - i. Cochiti
  - ii. San Felipe
  - iii. Santa Ana
  - iv. Zia
- d. Successful outreach in San Felipe
- e. Santo Domingo sending referrals via their health clinic.
- f. Santa Ana and Zia also sending referrals.
- g. Connection with NMDVR
  - i. Penelope conducts visits in the communities and works with other counselors.
- h. Project HOPE Transition Program
  - i. 17 participants
    - 1. Working with Charlene
    - 2. The Career Development Coordinator is being advertised.
  - ii. 2 Vacancies
    - 1. VR Counselor
    - 2. Transportation specialist
- i. Attended workforce conference in ABQ
  - i. Good turnout amongst staff
- j. CANAR conference California December 12-14<sup>th</sup>
  - i. 3 staff members attending
- k. Jemez Events
  - i. Winter bazaar December 16<sup>th</sup> at Walatowa Youth Center
  - ii. Disability Conference March 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> at Walatowa Youth Center
  - iii. Spring Bazaar March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Walatowa Youth Center
  - iv. December 12<sup>th</sup> Public Event
    - 1. No photography
- l. RSA meeting tomorrow
  - i. 2 part of annual performance report
- m. Introductions
  - i. Jemez Health & Human Services Director – Dr. Raymond Loretto
  - ii. Jemez Health & Human Services Patient Services Manager – Calvin Madalena
  - iii. Jemez Health & Human Senior Care Coordinator – Cornell Magdalena

XI. CIL Reports, Executive Directors

- a. Sarah Michaud, New Vistas
  - i. Early Intervention Program

1. Ages: Birth – 3 with developmental delays
2. New program manager
3. Served 308 children.
- ii. Micro program with local employers
- iii. Las Vegas vacancies have been filled.
- iv. Disability Coalition meetings monthly
  1. DRAD events in January and February 2024
  2. Pre legislative session Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024
  3. Round house in February 2024
- v. Agency adding Veterans directive care.
- vi. Hosted two summer groups through the Grenelle Grant
- vii. DSA program core services of IL
  1. IL skills training
  2. Peer support
  3. Youth transition
- viii. Hosted two youth participants to attended April Conference
- ix. COVID kit distribution site
- x. “Punching Out Parkinson’s” classes in Santa Fe - IL skills development.
  1. 7-10 consistent members
- xi. Connecting with resources to address homelessness.
- xii. Last quarter
  1. Challenges filling the IL classes.
- b. Kate Unna on behalf of Michael Murphey, ILRC
  - i. 10 projects
    1. Half of their funding has gone through.
    2. IL and ASP program
      - 1.3. Serving 420 people
      - 1.4. Serving 240 ongoing participants for IL
  - ii. Working more with nursing homes, transition, and youth.
  - iii. COVID test kits distribution site
  - iv. Hybrid schedules between home and office
  - v. In person appointments
    1. Trying to open walk ins.
- c. Charlie Phelps
  - i. Not present
- d. Audra Wilson
  - i. Not present
- e. Albert Montoya
  - i. Not present

#### New Business

- XII. Discussion of SPIL
  - a. The SPIL Committee needs to be assembled.
  - b. Needs assessment information from other agencies.
  - c. 30-day notice for public input, comment period for drafted SPIL
  - d. Set up a meeting for all CIL members – start to develop SPIL.
  - e. SPIL needs to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - f. SILC development SPIL Committee

- i. Coby Livingstone
  - ii. Sarah Michaud
- XIII. Discussion of Recruitment needs
  - a. Encourage each CIL member to send over people that want to be a part of the SILC.
  - b. Get centers to encourage their Participants.
    - i. Business
    - ii. Parents of children with disability
    - iii. New Mexico Disability Planning Council (NMDDC)
    - iv. Disability Right of NM
    - v. ARC of New Mexico
  - c. Angelina will set up meeting with Casey to talk about the budget with Coby and Peggy
- XIV. Comments from the Public
  - a. none
- XV. Next Quarterly Meeting Date and Location
  - a. February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, location TBD @ 10:00am
- XVI. Adjournment, Chair Coby Livingstone
  - a. Adjournment at 1:13 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.