

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

Date/Time:

Wednesday May 15th, 2024 10am to 1pm

Location:

**Independent Living Resource Center
1720 Louisiana Blvd. NE Suite 204
Albuquerque, NM 87110**

I. Call to order, Chair Marlencia Chee
Called to Order @ 10:02 AM

II. Roll Call, Chair Marlencia Chee

Sarah Michaud, Present @ 10:13 AM
Marlencia Chee, Present
Peggy Hayes, Present
Kenneth D. Collins, Present
Casey Stone-Romero, Present Non-voting
James Salas, Present Non- Voting

III. Action Item: Approval of Agenda

Peggy Hayes motions to approve
Kenneth Collins seconds
Unanimously passed

IV. Action Item: Approval of Minutes

James Salas requests changes to two items

- A. Remove James Salas from CIL Directors, State Agencies, Partners, and Other Guests and add to Board Member Roll Call
- B. Correct "Council" with "Councils" in "The State Rehab Council of the State Vocational Rehabilitation Programs" verbiage under "XII. Action Item: Bylaws and Policies"

Kenneth D. Collins Motions to approve with corrections
Peggy Hayes seconds
Unanimously passed

Old Business

V. Report for Chair, Marlencia Chee

- A. SILC Board Recruitment
 - i. Three vacant positions
 - ii. SILC is looking to add more individuals with disabilities to be compliant.
 - iii. Recruiting material has been created to be distributed.
- B. Coordination with Disability Organizations
 - i. SILC is looking to collaborate with other organizations and programs that may need SILC assistance.

- C. Quarterly Independent Living (IL) Network Meeting
 - i. IL Network is the three signers of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)
 - ii. The first quarterly Independent Living Meeting was successful.
 - iii. SILC will hold an Independent Living Meeting each quarter.

VI. DSE Report, Casey Stone-Romero

- A. All Independent Living Center Contracts have been routed for signature with an expected start date of July 1, 2024.
- B. Michael Murphys contact information was provided to the DVR Rehab Services Training Team to contact regarding a presentation for Rehab Academy on Independent Living.
- C. Several SILC Members have received updated appointments from the Governor's Office.
- D. NMDVR is looking at additional innovative ways to partner with CILS, for example assigning a specific VRC to each CIL. We will continue to have discussions on new opportunities for partnership.
- E. In FY25 a category code will be developed specifically for the SILC so that expenses can be tracked more effectively.
- F. NMDVR will be forwarding FY26 Legislative Performance Indicators to CIL Directors for review and potential update.
- G. NMDVR will be engaging the CILs in discussions regarding budget requests and hopefully partnership for presenting to legislative committees regarding those requests.
- H. NMDVR will support the SILC in advertising the Executive Director position via the SF New Mexican, Albuquerque Journal, and Indeed.com.
- I. SILC Consultant will not be renewed for FY24. If further consultation is deemed necessary in FY25, we could move forward with only providing a PO and scope of Work as long as the amount is under \$5,000, which would include taxes.
- J. Discussion with PED regarding DIF Funds, we will be supporting that work and have signed an MOU.
- K. PED staff to attend SILC meetings to increase their knowledge.
- L. National Disability Awareness Event in October with CFB, DWS, NM Governors Commission on Disability.
- M. 3 NMDVR members will be attending CANAR.

VII. Commission for the Blind Report, James Salas

- A. Vocational Rehabilitation Programs across the country will not receive increase in funds for FY25 or FY26
 - i. The Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) has sent an appeal letter to congress; however, result does not look promising.
- B. A letter has been sent to the Labor, Health, and Human Services subcommittee, advocating for an increase for the Older Blind Individuals Program.
- C. Projected 49 students in the Students in Transition Summer Program
 - i. 40% increase from previous year
- D. Blindness Skills Instructor vacancy in Las Cruces
- E. Still Providing electronic video handheld magnifiers
- F. Recently purchased 40 Topaz Desk Magnifiers for \$94,000

IX. Section 121 Report, Marlencia Chee

- A. Jemez Vocational Rehabilitation
 - i. 101 consumers since the beginning of FY24
 - ii. 90 consumers are currently active; 70 have IEP Plans in place and the remaining are transition

- students.
- iii. Jemez Vocational Rehabilitation and San Felipe working on signing MOA.
- iv. 25 consumers active in the self-employment program which is partnered with The New Mexico Community Capital Program.
- v. 3 members will be attending The CANAR Midyear Conference will be held June 3rd-6th, 2024.

X. CIL Reports, Executive Directors

A. Sarah Michaud

- i. Currently serving 400 children in the early intervention program
- ii. 3 May Health Fairs in Clayton and Raton and Wellness Fair in Santa Fe
- iii. An MOU was signed with The Public Education Department (PED)
- iv. PPR was approved by Administration of Community Living (ACL)
- v. Focusing on continued outreach in IL skills training and actives for Youth and Engagement
- vi. Teaching an IL Skills Class to special education students at Sante Fe Public Schools special
- vii. Currently have two youth consumers who are volunteering with the agency.

B. Gulseren Yildiz

- i. The center has been interviewing for new staff.
- ii. 400 participants in the Attendant Services Program
- iii. The IL program has a new specialty staff for the PED grant.
- iv. PPR approved by Administration of Community Living (ACL)
- v. Approximately 28 individuals in the Home Modification Program
- vi. Monthly newsletter will be distributed.

New Business

XI. Action Item: SPIL Review and vote for Chair to sign

- A. Sarah Michaud motions
- B. Kenneth D. Collins seconds
- C. Greg Trapp on behalf of Commission for the Blind (CFB), disagrees with the removal of the technical amendment of fund sharing, stating that CFB receives 18% of Part B Funds, in the proposed SPIL. Gregg Trapp proposes that CFB reduce their previous share of \$65,000 by the amount equal to 5% of the administrative costs. CFB would receive approximately \$48,000.
- D. Sarah Michaud agrees with the current language of the proposed SPIL and emphasizes the significance of the current Independent Living focused language and the collaboration of agencies for cross disability services. Sarah Michaud will agree to rescind her motion under the condition that the proposed SPIL maintains the Independent Living and cross disability focus language and the amendment made to the current proposed SPIL is fiscal only.
- E. Greg Trapp on behalf of CFB, the CFB will focus on collaboration and work closely with the Centers for Independent Living to provide cross disability services.
- F. Sarah Michaud rescinds motion.
- G. Sarah Michaud motions to not sign the proposed SPIL and allow for discussion with the Centers for Independent Living regarding changes to only the fiscal section of the proposed SPIL.
- H. Kenneth D. Collins seconds
- I. Discussion: Sarah Michaud explains the short timeline to revise the current proposed SPIL. Gregg Trapp, on behalf of CFB, suggests sharing program income with the Centers for Independent Living.

- J. Unanimously passed
- K. Special Meeting to be scheduled

XII. Discussion of Hiring Committee

- A. Marlencia Chee has been working with Rudy Grano at NMDVR to fill the vacancy of the SILC Executive Director position.
- B. Job posting will be published on Indeed.com, the Santa Fe New Mexican Newspaper, and the Albuquerque Journal.
- C. Posting will be available for ten days.

XII. Comments from the Public

XIV. Next Quarterly Meeting Date and Location:

August 21, 2024 @ 10am
New Vistas
1205 Parkway Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87507

XV. Adjournment, Chair Marlencia Chee

Adjourned @ 12: 40 PM

If disability-related accommodation is required for your attendance, please contact the SILC Chair, Marlencia Chee, 505-379-4393 at least 5 days prior to the meeting.