

Marlencia Chee
Council Chair

New Mexico Statewide Independent Living Council

Quarterly Council Meeting

August 21st, 2024, 10am

This meeting will be held in person at the New Vistas Center for Independent Living located at:
1205 Parkway Drive, Suite A, Santa Fe, NM 87507

- I. Call to Order & Introductions of the Council
Called to order @ 10:07 AM

Marlencia Chee, Present
Sarah Michaud, Present
Paula Seanez, Present
Lisa McNiven, Present non-voting
Casey Stone-Romero, Present non-voting
Caryl Williams, Not present
Kenneth D. Collins, Not present
Peggy Hayes, Not present
Kathy Cooper, SILC Executive Director, Present

- II. Approval of the Agenda – Action Item
Paula Seanez Motions to approve
Sarah Michaud seconds
Unanimously approved

- III. Approval of June 2024 Minutes – Action Item
Sarah Michaud motions to approve
Marlencia Chee Seconds
Unanimously Approved

- IV. Bylaws & Policy updates – Action Item
a. Kathy Cooper reiterates the suggested changes and requests comments and questions on removal of Roberts Rules from Bylaws

Sarah Michaud motions to approve the Bylaws
Marlencia Chee Seconds
Unanimously Approved

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- b. Kathy Cooper reviews the Policy updates

Sarah Michaud motions to approve

Paula Seanez seconds

Unanimously approved

V. Chairs Report, Marlencia Chee

- a. IL Network meeting

- 1. Held with the Directors of the CILS to evaluate what is needed to help the centers.

- b. SILC Annual IL Report

- 1. Will start sending out an annual report to address what the CILS do, the five core of services they provide, a breakdown of what has been accomplished, and number of individuals served. This will be presented to legislature, state agencies, etc.

- c. Updated Committee Members

- 1. Policy and Bylaw Committee

Carol Williams

Paula Seanez

Casey Stone-Romero

Executive Director

- 2. Membership Committee

Peggy Hayes

Kenneth D. Collins

Lisa McNiven

Executive Director

- 3. SPIL Development Committee

Marlencia Chee

Sarah Michaud

Executive Director

- d. Board Recruitment Documents

- 1. A document was sent to the board to help recruit new board members.
 - 2. It SILCs responsibly to recruit members
 - 3. Member application was created to be provided by the board's members to potential board members.
 - 4. Lisa McNiven questions the "What kind of disability do you have?" question on the application
 - 5. Kathy Cooper explains it is important to keep on the application for reporting. This question will not limit who they accept.
 - 6. Sarah states that this question is important, but the application should have some type of explanation at to why this question was asked.

- e. Inspection of Public Records Act request

- 1. SILC was asked to provide public records from meetings from December to June. Everything was submitted to the Public Education Department.

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2. All was fulfilled and there are no other updates at this time.
 - f. Officer Elections (discussion only) for Vice Chair & Secretary
 1. There is need to fill these positions
 2. Must be a voting member
 3. Looking to elect in November 2024
 - g. ILRU SILC Guidebook
 1. Recourse for SILC board members to reference SILC responsibilities and roles.
- VI. Hiring Committee Updates – Action Item
- a. SILC Executive Director recommendation - Kathy Cooper
 - b. Sarah Michaud motions to approve
 - c. Paula Seanez Seconds
 - d. Unanimously Approved
- VII. CIL Updates
- a. Sarah Michaud – New Vista
 1. Las Vegas, NM office was victim of flood
 2. Early intervention services in services have not ceased
 3. Approximately 500 children being served across three counties
 4. Currently preparing for the annual reporting phase
 5. Exploring additional funding opportunities to address transition youth exiting the Juvenile Justice System
 6. New Vistas is working with PED for disability innovation funds to hold a transition conference within the service area.
 7. Adult services have been receiving many referrals and requests for information.
 - b. Gil Yildiz– Independent Living Resource Center
Not present
 - c. Albert Montoya – The Ability Center
Not present
 - d. Audra Wilson – Choices
Not present
 - e. Charlie Phelps – San Juan Center for Independence
Not present
- VIII. Division of Rehabilitation Services Report, Casey Stone-Romero
- a. WIOA VR General Portion of the State Plan was accepted by RSA and Department of Labor.
 - b. NMDVR did reallocate approximately \$2.4 million to RSA however, these were all unmatched dollars. This year NMDVR will focus on emphasizing to the Legislature the loss of federal dollars when we are not fully matched.

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- c. NMDVR is submitting a State FY 26 budget request for state general funds to match our full anticipated federal award amount of approximately \$24.5 million. NMDVR will also request a 3% increase for anticipated increase in personnel costs. We're also working with the CILs to determine their budgetary needs.
- d. Received notice from RSA that we have resolved all findings for the 2021 Corrective Action Plan in June.

\$18.56 hourly average hourly employee wage of participants successfully rehabilitated **(increased by \$2.87)**

\$15,297,250.80 total wages for successfully rehabilitated individuals with disabilities **(Increased \$4,490,219.24)**

523 New Mexicans with a disability who were successfully rehabilitated **(increased by 84)**

IX. Governor's Council on Disability Report, Lisa McNiven

- a. The Governor's Council on Disability (BIAC, NMTAP, RAMP, and Disability Advocacy Awareness Program) has a total of 15 full time employee, 2 positions are vacant.
 - 1. There is not enough funding to fill the 2 vacant positions
 - 2. There will be a meeting with legislature at the Round House to approve the FY26 Budget
- b. During Disability Awareness Month, a disability hiring event will be held October 17th at 9 AM
- c. Medical access curriculum being developed with UNM rehabilitation facility
- d. Route 66 Centennial Celebration provided by the Department of Tourism's being held on November 11, 2026
- e. The Governor's Council on Disability Emergency Preparedness Program is currently serving individual with disabilities and those who support individuals with disabilities who have been affected by the fires and floods.
- f. The NMTAP Fall Conference has been postponed until Fall 2025

X. Commission for the Blind Report, Juan Haro

- a. James Salas has resigned from the SILC
- b. Juan Haro reports that the Independent Living Program is fully staffed
- c. Blindness Skills Instructor Position has been filled in Las Cruces, NM.
- d. The program recently purchased new consumer equipment - Demoed by Juan Haro

XI. Public Comment (3 minute limit)

XII. Adjournment

Adjourned @ 11:28 AM

XIII. Next Meeting – November 12th, 2024 Jemez Pueblo