

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

**Date/Time:**

Wednesday February 21, 2024, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Location:**

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

I. Call to order, Chair Marlencia Chee

A. Meeting called to Order at 10:02 AM

II. Roll Call, Chair Marlencia Chee

Board Members:

Marlencia Chee, Present

Sarah Michaud, present

Kenneth D. Collins, present

Casey Stone-Romero Present – Non-voting

III. CIL Directors, State Agencies, Partners, and Other Guests

James Salas, Commission for the Blind (COB)

Juan Haro, Commission for the Blind (COB)

Micheal Murphy, Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC)

Audra Wilson, Center for Independent Living (CHOICES)

Albert Montoya, The Ability Center for Independent Living (TACIL)

Casey Stone-Romero, Division of Vocation Rehabilitation (DVR)

Nichole Sereno, Division of Vocation Rehabilitation (DVR)

Jeff Levine, Division of Vocation Rehabilitation (DVR)

Lisa McNiven, Commission on Disability

Kathy Cooper, SILC Consultant

IV. Action Item: Approval of Agenda

Kenneth D. Collins motions to approve.

Sarah Michaud seconds

Unanimously passed.

V. Action Item: Approval of 11/15/2023 Minutes

Kenneth D. Collins motions to approve.

Sarah Michaud seconds

Unanimously passed.

## Old Business

### VI. Report for Chair, Marlenia Chee

- A. Marlenia Chee has not received word from the Governor's Office for reappointment.
- B. Applications have been submitted and are awaiting reappointment.
  - i. Lisa McNiven
  - ii. Petra Solimon
  - iii. Paula Seanez
- C. Working with DVR on SILC recourse budget and fiscal report for the board
- D. Roles and Responsibilities SILC training, March 14<sup>th</sup> via Zoom
  - i. Open to SILC Members, Centers for Independent Living Directors, and DVR Staff
  - ii. Not open to the public, as no SILC business or action will be taken.
  - iii. Kathy Cooper has sent out a "Save the Date."
- E. Quarterly meetings have been set with the SILC, Centers for Independent Living and the DSE (Designated State Entity) for statewide issues and challenges.
- F. The Centers for Independent Living's PPR has been submitted.

### VII. DSE Report, Casey Stone-Romero

- A. Casey would like to understand what the SILC would like to see in the DSE report.
  - i. TBD at a later date.
- B. Legislative session update
  - i. The Legislative session has come to an end. Effective 2/15/2024 at 12:00 PM
  - ii. The Independent Living budget request was approximately 1.6 million, a \$20.5k increase from the year prior.
  - iii. Performance measures for FY23
    - a. Number of independent living plans developed: 750 Target, 690 Result
    - b. Number of individuals served for independent living: 765 Target, 700 Result
  - iv. No Changes in FY25 Performance measures
    - a. Number of independent living plans developed: 750.
    - b. Number of individuals served for independent living: 765.
  - v. House Bill 2-Funding Bill was approved and is waiting for action from the Governor.
  - vi. No other bills directly related to VR were submitted this session.
- C. NMDVR is in the process of submitting the VR Portion of the WIOA State Plan. DWS will submit the entire plan no later than Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Reaching new Heights in Supported Employment Conference, April 18-19, 2024
  - i. April 18-19, 2024, Santa Ana Star Hotel and Conference Center
  - ii. Partners for Employment provides this conference and many other great resources on supported employment and school to work transition.
- E. NMDVR is exploring the use of Innovation and Expansion funds, RSA has been contacted.

### VIII. Commission for the Blind Report, James Salas

- A. State FY23 audit was released.
  - i. Second year of a clean audit.

- B. Filled the Farmington Blindness Skills Instructor position.
- C. Vacancy in Las Cruces for the Blindness Skills Instructor.
- D. Expanding Services
  - i. Topaz 24" Desk top video magnifiers
- E. Currently working in completing State Plan Submission
- F. Performance Measures
  - i. The Program year 22 for New Mexico State Performance Measures did well on all 5 measures
  - ii. Will be submitting performance levels of performance for program years 24 and 25.
  - iii. When the plan is submitted and the Commission is contacted by The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), The Commission will meet with RSA Liaisons to negotiate performance measures for program years 24 and 25.
- G. Pre-employment transition services is now a significant component of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Plan and with this the Commission for the Blind anticipates being able to spend the reserve requiring 15% of the Vocational Rehabilitation Award.

IX. Commission on Disability Report, Lisa McNiven

- A. Senate Bill 203 for brain injury services did not pass and funding will expire at the end of June 2024
  - i. HSD has a fund balance of approximately \$6 Million that the legislature believes may carry over, but this will not be known until the next legislative session.
- B. Brain Injury Advisement Council (BIAC)
  - i. Looking for more council members
  - ii. There are hopes of having 4 more council members.
  - iii. BIAC needs at least 18 to 24 active council members.
  - iv. New Coordinator, Angelea Velarde Lockton
- C. Residential Accessibility Modification Program (RAMP)
  - i. Would like to give a presentation to the State for Independent Living Council
  - ii. Working on 30 projects throughout the state and is estimated to be completed by June 2024
- D. New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP)
  - i. Alice Schriber was recently hired as a Digital Device Coordinator

X. Section 121 Report, Marlencia Chee

- A. No Report from Navajo Nation Office of Special Education (OSERS) or Laguna Vocational rehabilitation (LVR).
- B. Jemez Vocational Rehabilitation (JVR)
  - i. Collaborating with reality office and the public health department for independent living services to obtain assistance with home modifications.
    - a. Funds are limited.
- C. Senior Center Representative is still very active in the community.
- D. JVR cover 80-mile radius, serving the I-25 Corridor to Santa Fe
  - a. The caseload has increased from 30 consumers to 68.
  - b. Two students receiving Pre-employment Transition Services

- E. Project Hope
  - 1. Serving 3 transition students
  - 2. Promoted job coach to career development coordinator.
- F. Disability conference, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024
  - 1. Walatowa youth center in Jemez, NM
  - 2. Presentations from SSI Administration, Self-Employment Program, and Public Health
- G. Currently working with Governor of Jemez to create an Independent Living Program

XI. CIL Reports, Executive Directors

- A. Sarah Michaud, New Vistas
  - i. Agency continues to participate in the Disability Coalition Meetings and providing input that helps in facilitating The Annual Disability Awareness Right Awareness Day Events
  - ii. The 704 Report was submitted.
    - a. 579 consumers served during the last reporting year out of 9 counties.
    - b. Early Intervention Program has served 383 children since July 1, 2023
  - iii. Staff participated in Children's Day at the Round House in January to promote Early Intervention Services to children with disabilities.
  - iv. All positions have been filled in the Early Intervention Program except for one billing position and two bilingual staff were hired.
  - v. Disability Support and Advocacy Program
    - a. Continues to provide core services.
    - b. Two new youth volunteers who are working with the youth advocate.
  - vi. Covid 19 Test Kit Distro Site
    - a. 7000 kits served.
  - vii. Continuing partnership with Punching out Parkinsons.
  - viii. CMS site visit is planned for this fall.
  - ix. Affordable housing and engagement in Independent Living Skills Classes continue to be a challenge.
- B. Michael Murphy, Independent Living Resource Center
  - i. Currently serving 405 consumers Attended Services Program.
  - ii. 275 ongoing consumers receiving Independent Living core services.
  - iii. The Independent Living Resource Center remains a covid test site.
  - iv. Staff are still working hybrid schedules.
  - v. Affordable integrated accessible housing continues to be a challenge.
  - vi. The Technical Service Program is getting many requests.
    - a. 10 projects in technical services assistance
    - b. 24 pending projects
    - c. The cost of materials is increasing and creating challenges.
- C. Audra Wilson
  - i. In Eddy and Lee County, services have doubled.
  - ii. In Eddy County, housing has become more accessible.
  - iii. Chavez county is lacking independent living skills.
    - a. Currently working on new brochures to educate and motivate the community.

## New Business

### XII. Action Item: Bylaws and Policies

- A. James Salas calls into question the following verbiage in the policies:
- i. "Inform The State of New Mexico's Appointments and Federal Affairs Office of the Governor about mandates"
    - a. No such office exists, and verbiage should be replaced with the correct name of the office.
  - ii. "A Cancellation of trip reservations must have two-week notice."
    - a. James Salas believes that a two-week notice is excessive.
    - b. The policy can be changed by the State Independent Living Council
    - c. Kathy Cooper recommends that the "two-week notice" be revised with "timely notice."
  - iii. "All travel expense accounts are open to the public."
    - a. Sara agrees that the policy aligns with rules and regulations.
  - iv. "The Chair will appoint who represents the SILC on the State Rehabilitation Council."
    - a. James Salas recommends that a line is added for the Commission of The Blind
    - b. Kathy Cooper comments that listing each council, commission, etcetera becomes tedious, however, The Chair can appoint individuals to other councils or commissions.
    - c. Casey Stone-Romero suggests we replace the language with "The State Rehabilitation Council of the State Vocational Rehabilitation Programs."
    - d. Kathy Cooper explains that this is not what the law says, however the choice is up to the council.
    - e. James Salas recommends the language be revised with "The State Rehab Council of the State Vocational Rehabilitation Programs."
    - f. Marlenia Chee makes note of recommendation.
- B. Marlenia Chee will have "2-week notice" revised with "timely notice" and have the correct name of the Governor's office added to the Bylaws and Policies.

Sarah motions the vote be tabled and vote at the next meeting.

Marci seconds

Ken motions to approve the changes now.

Sarah withdraws motion to table.

Marci withdraws second.

Ken motions to approve.

Sarah seconds

Unanimously passed.

### XIII. Discussion of SPIL

- A. State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Development Meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- i. In attendance will be Centers for Independent Living Directors and the SPIL Development Committee

- ii. Public comment will not be taken during this meeting, however, public comment session will be held after the meeting.
  - B. When the draft is complete it will be available for public comment for 30 days.
- XIV. Discussion of Recruitment needs
- A. Individuals of different disabilities and ethnicities are needed.
  - B. SILC will only have 6 members once appointee's applications are approved.
  - C. Kathy cooper is asking members to think of people they know who have a disability that may interested in joining the SILC.
  - D. People with disabilities is not mandatory,
    - i. 51% of members must have a disability.
    - ii. 51% of voting members must have a disability.

XIV. Comments from the Public

XV. Next Quarterly Meeting Date and Location: May 15, 2024, at 10am, Location TBD

XVI. Adjournment, Chair Marlencia Chee @ 11:33

- A. Meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM

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.