



STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

February 21, 2018

11:30 – 2:30 pm

Walker Building 1st Floor

21 South Fruit Street, Concord, NH

Present: Jeff Dickinson, Andrew Harmon, Dorine Pelletier, Lindsey Phelan, Rose Prescott, Marcia Golembeski, Joan Marcoux, Karen Sloper, Peggy Teravainen, Susan Wolf-Downes, Erin Hall, Joan Holleran, Janet Bamberg

Guest: Christopher Emerson

Absent: Shellie Lemelin, Charles Saia, Deborah Naumann-Lindsey, Lorrie Ripley

The SPIL Work Groups began work at 11:30.

The full SILC meeting was called to order by Chair Jeff Dickinson at 1:00 PM. Attendance was taken by roll call and introductions were made.

The minutes from the November 20, 2017 meeting were approved as written. Andrew Harmon and Erin Hall abstained.

Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services (BEAS)

Wendi Aultman, the Bureau Chief of BEAS was introduced. Wendi is a former member of SILC and has worked at DHHS for almost 19 years in a variety of positions. Over the years Wendi has had responsibility for a number of initiatives including Service Link, No Wrong Door and other areas focused on improving access to services and supports. Wendi reported that BEAS is now part of a newly created division within DHHS, Long Term Supports and Services, which includes DD, ABD, BEAS, Chronic Illnesses for Children and Community-Based Military Programs. As Bureau Chief for BEAS Wendi is responsible for Adult Protective Services, CFI Waiver, Older American Act, non-Medicaid Programs such as Meals on Wheels, Caregiver Support, etc.

Wendi has reviewed the SPIL and is looking for places for BEAS and SILC to work together. A State Plan for Aging will be developed by June 2019. Wendi anticipates conducting listening sessions much like SILC has done when creating the SPIL. Other areas of focus are looking at all services, non-medical transportation and coordination with volunteer programs.

Wendi also mentioned that DHHS will be issuing a plan for Managed Care. This will come from the Commissioner. Input will be sought from stakeholders, including the RFP for Medicaid Managed Care providers, but a decision on Medicaid expansion will come first. The Step 2 populations (Nursing facility care and CFI) and other waivers will not be part of the discussion at this time per the Commissioner.

There is attention on transition from facilities and institutions to community-based services, self-directed care and supported employment. There is also emphasis on enhanced family care and adult day care as ways to avoid institutionalization. BEAS is looking at ways to allow people to access both of these programs (currently that is not allowed), remove the emod cap and life-time limit.

Wendi will send NH CarePath information to Joan so that it can be shared with SILC members. She also acknowledged that services in the state are being challenged due to provider capacity and staffing constraints.

SPIL Update

Goal 1 IL Services Expansion

Peggy Teravainen reported that the group has identified the 3 Impact Areas (per the SPIL) and is looking for the go ahead from the SILC members to actually develop the statements. These statements will be the foundation of the SILC advocacy positions on these matters. The identified 3 areas are

1. Available work incentive programs for employers and individuals in NH need more visibility.
2. More affordable and accessible housing is needed in NH.
3. NH needs more accessible transportation to assure quality of life, employment and health care for all citizens

Jeff Dickinson noted that the task force should work together with the task force on Transportation on the 3rd statement. A request was made to provide these statements in writing to SILC members for their consideration. It was agreed that these will be sent for approval by members. As long as approval is received, the task force will begin their work to draft the statements and bring them back to the full SILC in June.

Goal 2 Transportation

Andrew Harmon reported that the SILC has had a good presence at various state coordinating meetings. He noted that the Task Force will be reaching out to managed care re: how they each handle accessible transportation. It was recommended that the task force focus on the actual consumer experience as part of their work.

Goal 3 Transition

Outreach to PIC (Parent Information Center) is a priority. This Task Force will be looking for ways for the SILC to collaborate with PIC. There is also interest in the SILC learning more about the Apprenticeship Program and the Task Force asked Jeff to invite someone from GSIL to come to meeting to discuss the PCA program.

The Task Force is also recommending that efforts be made to recruit a PCA to the SILC.

General reminders from the Chair regarding work on the SPIL

1. SILC members should identify content experts to work with the task forces. This will both provide expertise on the SPIL goals, but also introduce the SILC to more potential members.
2. Task Forces should continue work between the meetings with actual face to face meetings or conference calls. Joan can be contacted to assist with setting up conference calls.

Vision for IL in NH

Jeff noted that due to time limitations this matter will be taken up at the April meeting

Legislative Update

Nationally there are efforts to change the ADA relative to how businesses must respond to architectural barrier grievances. HR 620 passed the House and is going to the Senate. This legislation redefines the procedures businesses must follow when a grievance is filed. According to proponents the legislation was proposed in response to “rampant abuse of the law”. Opponents of the legislation worry that H.R. 620 would weaken the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and make it harder for people with disabilities to participate in the mainstream of society.

Jeff distributed a list of bills and provided a very brief update on a few of them, including:

- HB 1459 relative to prohibiting operating autonomous vehicles. This bill is likely to be killed.
- HB 1785 relative to changing hearing impaired to deaf and hard of hearing. This bill ought to pass, but should be watched.
- HB 1589 relative to excluding from the definition of tenancy occupancy where a caregiver providing care to a person with disabilities under a written agreement may be ordered to vacate. There is broad agreement that this bill is necessary and will clarify standing legal issues.
- HB 1816 relative to Medicaid Managed Care and a certain waiver from CMS implementing enhanced eligibility and federal medical loss ratios. This should be watched carefully as this bill would stop any further implementation of Step 2 of Medicaid Managed Care, including CFI.

Jeff reminded the group to be on the lookout for people who might make good SILC members. He also reminded the group that the ABLE program is up and going. This program enables people with disabilities to save for future expenses without risking loss of benefits. Neither Chuck nor Lorrie from

GCD was able to be present to present program details. We will make arrangements for a future presentation.

DSE Update

Joan reported that recruitment is again underway to hire an administrative assistant and work is underway to get ready for Part B funding and the RFP process.

The next SILC meeting is April 25, 2018 at 11:30 AM at 21 Fruit St. Room 100.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Recorded by Janet Bamberg