



STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

September 21, 2022

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

FULL SILC Meeting

IN-PERSON AND ZOOM

Members and Ex-Officios Attending: Chair Carrie Dudley, First Vice-Chair Deborah Ritcey, Secretary and Immediate Past Chair Jeff Dickinson (Remote), Member Erin Hall (Remote), Member Randy Pierce (Remote), Member Michelle McConaghy, and DSE representative Daniel Frye.

Staff: Jennifer Beaulieu (SILC Assistant)

Guests: Matthew Greenwood (Member of the Public, Remote), Jennifer Cook (Nominee, Remote), and Christopher Emerson (Member of the Public, Remote)

Communication Access: Alyssa Gagnon (ASL Interpreter) and Patricia Stuart (ASL Interpreter)

The SILC meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM by Chair Carrie Dudley. Attendance was taken via roll call.

*Quorum was reached.

The Chair will follow the federal health emergency guidelines as it relates to the rising cases of COVID and allow this body to be remote with the ability to meet with quorum while being remote.

Approval of Minutes of 7/20 Full SILC Meetings

***Member Randy Pierce moved to approve the minutes.**

Second: First Vice-Chair Deborah Ritcey

Discussion: None

All in Favor: Yes **Abstaining: None**

Motion Carried.

Committee Updates

A. Membership Committee Report

Jeff reported out for the Membership Committee. He noted that upon reviewing the SPIL, one of the things the Committee had listed [to be completed] for September 1st was the orientation

manual. The Committee have not developed the manual yet but have been gathering information that can be used in the manual. The last meeting had to be canceled. The Committee will meet in October and finalize the manual. He noted that we have a few potential members. With one of them, they have been trying to have a conversation with, but have not been able to with their schedule. The other one is not sure if they would be able to commit to the duties of being a member of this council.

Jeff noted that as a committee, they will be in touch with Jennifer C. between now and the next Committee meeting. If she is available, he might ask her to come to the meeting and answer some questions.

B. Governance Committee Report

Deborah reported out for the Governance Committee. She noted that one of the things that the committee has spent a lot of time on this summer was on the consumer satisfaction surveys. Four of the five vendors have completed their surveys and sent the results over to Jennifer B. The 5th vendor was notified of the requirement to complete the survey and we should expect their results within the next few weeks. Jennifer B. has compiled the results and have sent them over to Deborah. At the next committee meeting, they will be going over the results to get an overall picture of things. One of the things that the committee decided they want to look at what is the best way to survey our consumers. At the October meeting and November meeting, there will be discussion on what we want to capture on the surveys and what will be the policy regarding surveys. The remainder of the meeting will be on developing policies and procedures, developing better tools to be used next year, and working on improving the bylaws. After those things are done, the committee would like to focus on other things to help move the SPIL along.

C. Advocacy Committee Report

Deborah reported that the other thing that the council is missing is the Advocacy Committee. The committee currently does not have a Chair. The members of the committee are Carrie and Sarah. There were some questions about the purpose of the committee other than for outreach. Deborah noted that outreach is a big part of that committee and takes a lot of work to get the word out about the SILC. Discussion ensued. Some ideas that came from that discussion were the following: (1) Asking members to come up with a list of who they know who he SILC can present to; (2) Having the Advocacy Committee focus on creating a list of organizations that the council can reach out to; (3) Chamber of Commerce's 'Business After Hours'; and (4) Assigning members to committees and having the committee build out their own responsibilities.

SPIL Progress

Deborah noted that she needs to update the SPIL tracker tool.

Deborah gave an overview of the SPIL tracker tool.

Carrie asked about the progress of the SPIL's completion. Deborah noted that when she looks at the SPIL, she does not think we are where we should be. She thinks that with the Governance Committee, we are where we should be, but she thinks we are not where we need to be for the Membership and the Executive Committees. She noted that the Membership Committee has been in flux in its ownership and Jeff recently took over that Committee. She thinks we need to make sure that Jeff has a committee that has members that are willing to help and move the needle forward. She thinks the Executive Committee needs to focus on SPIL progress.

Carrie asked what has been completed. Deborah noted that one of the things that have been completed was the formation of the Evaluation Committee because the duties of said committee were assigned to the Governance Committee. Some other things that were completed was the creation of the evaluation process of the Part B vendors and the consumer satisfaction survey.

Daniel raised the idea of creating a strategic plan to assist the SILC achieve its SPIL objectives, define the organization, and minimize the floundering some people have felt. He noted that he is willing to assist with the creation of a plan.

Discussion occurred on how to complete the SPIL. Ideas raised during the discussion were the following: (1) Making sure people know that before they join our council or one of our committees, that this is a working group; (2) Having members from the public assist; and (3) Holding additional meetings. Deborah noted that she thinks the Executive Committee should go through the SPIL and go over the progress of it. Then the committee can present its findings at the next full SILC meeting.

Other Business

Michelle mentioned the idea of having an elevator pitch. Deborah agreed and noted that everyone should have an elevator pitch for all the Part B vendors and the SILC.

Christopher asked about funding allocation because he has heard from people saying their SSP services have been cut. Daniel explained the RFP process and how organizations are picked for Part B funds. Deborah noted that people may have noticed a cut in funding because its being spread out to five organizations. Historically, the funds went to only three organizations. Christopher clarified that he was asking why there isn't more funding for SSP services. Daniel answered that the state only receives \$760,000 to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities in our state. He noted there has been some discussion about changing the formula for funding at ACL and there have been efforts to increase the funding.

Deborah mentioned that according to the term tracker, Christopher's term started on August 14th of 2019 so he is no longer an appointed member of the SILC. There was discussion over the difference between community members and appointed members. Deborah also mentioned that he doesn't need to make the decision on the spot, he can let Jeff know if he wants to be reappointed or just be a community member.

Daniel reported on the progress of the policy for evaluating the Part B vendors. He noted that they have issued the draft policy in April. There have been minor amendments made to the policy and in the next week or two he will send out the revised draft. His intention is to try to begin scheduling the visits with the vendors after the start of the next federal fiscal year which starts on September 30th. The goal is trying to have all the visits made by the end of the state fiscal year which is June 30th. There were some concerns over if there will be any negative impacts for vendors who are supposed to have an annual review. Daniel noted he that thinks that the monitoring that has occurred by his engagement with the five vendors would suffice. It is the process the DSE has been doing all along, but he wanted to formalize the process.

Daniel reported that, depending on G and C approval, SVBI will be hosting a regional empowerment and employment conference for individuals who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Deafblind are. The conference will be a two-day event. Participants will develop advocacy skills, become empowered, and learn about employment. There are 'Save the Dates' for November 7th and 8th. He noted they are going to invite individuals from all six New England states. Scholarships will be available for 75 NH residents.

Randy asked for some clarification on when elections occur. Deborah and Carrie noted that the election usually happens in June or July. There were questions about the Second Vice-Chair position being vacant.

Deborah noted that when we voted on the slate of officers in July, no one volunteered for that position. They are still looking for someone to fill that position. Deborah mentioned that there were some questions over if one is expected to progress from one position to another. Deborah noted that when someone takes on a position, she sees them as committing to progressing to a higher position, but she won't say to anyone that just because they can't or don't want to progress to a higher position, they can't be an officer. Randy will send a private note to Carrie about the assistance he can provide to meet the needs of the SILC.

***First Vice-Chair Deborah Ritcey made a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

Second: Member Michelle McConaghy

Discussion: None

All in Favor: Yes Abstaining: None

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:27pm.

Minutes Recorded by Jennifer Beaulieu