

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
New Mexico Statewide Independent Living Council
Quarterly Meeting
February 23, 2017 – 2:00PM
NM Division of Vocational Rehabilitation State Office
435 St. Michael’s Drive, Bldg. D, Santa Fe, NM

- I. Welcome/Call to Order** **Ken Collins**
- Ken Collins called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

- II. Introductions** **Ken Collins**
- Curtis Chong – SILC Board Member representing NM Commission for the Blind
 - Jim Salas – Deputy Director New Mexico Commission for the Blind; in charge of Voc Rehab program and recently taken over the Independent Living Program
 - Joe Cordova – Executive Director NM Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - Austin Martz – Davis Innovations, SILC Coordinators
 - Norbert Archibeque – SILC Vice Chair
 - Larry Rodriguez – SILC Board Member
 - Fanny Pearce – Davis Innovations, SILC Coordinators
 - Guy Surdi – NM Governor’s Commission on Disability
 - Tim Carver – San Juan Center for Independence
 - Eileen Marrujo – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Anna Vigil –Independent Living Program Manager DVR
 - Kate Unna- Deputy Director Independent Living Resource Center Albuquerque

- III. Roll Call** **Fanny Pearce**
- Norbert Archibeque – Present
 - Curtis Chong – Present
 - Ken Collins – Present
 - Rebecca Holland – Absent
 - Sarah Michaud – Absent
 - Albert Montoya – Absent
 - Larry Rodriguez – Present

- IV. Action Item – Approval of February 23, 2017 Meeting Agenda**
- Ken Collins asked if everyone had a chance to review the February 23, 2017 meeting agenda.
 - Larry Rodriguez moved to approve the meeting agenda.
 - Curtis Chong seconded the motion.
 - The motion unanimously passed.

- V. Action Item – Approval of August 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes**



- Ken asked if everyone had reviewed the August 12, 2016 meeting minutes and if anyone had any questions or changes.
- Curtis Chong moved to approve the August 12, 2016 meeting minutes.
- Larry Rodriguez seconded the motion.
- The motion unanimously passed.

VI. SILC Chairperson Report

Ken Collins

- Ken said he would add any comments to Item X. of today's meeting agenda titled SILC Membership and Future Appointments.

VII. SILC Coordinator Report

Fanny Pearce

- This reporting period was spent preparing for the new 704 reporting process: the draft was completed in December and we have been working with ACL to receive training regarding the new procedures for uploading the report which is due no later than 11:59p.m. EST on March 26, 2017. We're waiting for a few bugs to be worked out of the new system and hope to upload the report in mid March.
- We continue to work with Lisa McNiven to support the Governor's Commission on Disability's Emergency Preparedness Project.
- We are once again participating in the DRAD and will have the SILC exhibit on display from 9a.m.-2p.m. at the Roundhouse on February 24 along with SILC promotional materials and giveaways.
- The NM Statewide Independent Living Council Facebook page is updated regularly. Anyone who has "liked" the page receives updates from NCIL and other pertinent news. Please let us know if there is anything you'd like to add to the page; the SILC Website Calendar at NMSILC.org is also updated regularly with upcoming meetings for the NM Commission for the Blind, the NM Governor's Commission on Disability and the NM State Rehab Council.
- 2017 annual SILC Membership dues have been paid for the NCIL and APRIL.

VIII. 704 Report Update

Collins/Pearce

- Fanny Pearce had already reported most of the latest information on the 704 in the SILC Coordinator Report, but she added some of the highlights of the information we have been receiving regarding the new systems issues and capabilities.
- Fanny confirmed the draft of the 704 had been completed and submitted to DVR in December 2016.
- Anna Vigil asked if there was a login and password for the ACL database Fanny said she would pass the question to Marcie Davis.
- Ken said it looks like everything is on schedule for the 704 report and he expressed appreciation to Sarah Michaud for her work on prior 704 Reports.

IX. 2017 Disability Rights Awareness Day (DRAD)

Collins/Pearce

- Ken shared that he would be staffing the SILC table on February 24 at the Roundhouse.

- Ken also said that Lisa McNiven would be sharing the emergency preparedness “to go” bags later in the meeting and the bags would be on display at the DRAD.
- Norbert inserted a question about an email he received from Julie Espinoza, the new Region 6 NCIL representative, asking us to participate in a survey monkey questionnaire about input regarding interest in a 2018 Region 6 conference that would include New Mexico; Ken said this was an organization we wanted to support and asked Norbert if he wanted to take the survey and he agreed to complete it. Joe Cordova reported he had also received the email. The Council agreed it would be good to take the survey and indicate we are interested.

X. SILC Membership and Future Appointments and update on new Ken Collins position from SJCI to Rehoboth McKinley Christian Healthcare Services

- Ken announced and a new SILC member was appointed, Rebecca Holland. Unfortunately, she was not able to attend today’s meeting due to her involvement in a car accident but we look forward to her participation at the next meeting.
- Ken said his appointment is up in November 2017 and he will contact the Governor’s Office regarding a new appointment.
- Albert Montoya’s appointment date was also discussed.
- Ken said that it is his understanding that if any SILC members have not been removed, that means they continue to serve until they are replaced.
- Ken shared his new position and the award he received from the San Juan Center for Independence.
- Ken talked about his focus on brain injury issues and passed around a Trauma flyer regarding a forum focusing on Trauma and its physical and psychological effects.
- Ken is hoping he can work in his new position to create awareness regarding injury within the medical system and independent living.
- Norbert recognized Ken as a pioneer in the field of behavioral health where addiction and brain injury are involved.
- Ken said his new job is an employment and life coach at Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services serving individuals with alcohol and drug addictions; he also mentioned his efforts to establish a tax credit for employers who hire individuals with drug and alcohol addictions and other disabilities.
- Ken asked Joe Cordova for ideas about how to push the tax credit program idea throughout the state. Joe Cordova asked if there was already a tax credit program in New Mexico. There was no reply.

XI. Emergency Preparedness Project/SILC and Ken Collins/Lisa McNiven

Governor’s Commission collaboration updates

- Ken gave an overview of the SILC’s participation with the Governor’s Commission Emergency Preparedness project and the work he and the SILC Coordinator have been doing with Lisa McNiven.

- Ken also recognized the San Juan Center for Independence’s contributions to the project and provided an overview of some of the efforts that have been made in the Gallup area.
- Lisa McNiven, NM Governor’s Commission on Disability Public Education Campaign on Emergency Preparedness Project for People with Disabilities, provided a Power Point presentation regarding emergency preparedness and the Emergency Action Plan Workbook.
- She also talked about the Core Advisory Group, of which SILC’s Chair Ken Collins and Coordinator Marcie Davis serve as members.
- Lisa provided the group with “to go” bags that included items that would be considered basic essentials during an emergency. A suggestion was made to replace the radios in the bags with radios that require no batteries.
- Ken pointed out the need to be aware of all disabilities when making plans for evacuations, rescues, etc. including persons who are not ambulatory, people with blindness, etc.

XII. Know Your Rights Campaign, Person-Centered Planning for Medicaid’s Long-Term Service

Wendy Corry

- Ken introduced Wendy Corry who is the Chair of the Know Your Rights Campaign Steering Committee (KYRC Steering Committee).
- Wendy provide a Power Point presentation regarding the KYRC which is a statewide initiative by the Developmental Disabilities Support Division to build and strengthen advocacy with and for people with developmental disabilities and to inform the public about the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Home and Community Based Services Settings Final Rule 2014. The rule is designed to make sure individuals have the opportunity for integration and access to the community, choice, individual rights and independence
- CMS wants to make sure the waiver participant, along with the Guardian, is included in their community to have the right to be part of the community where they live, work and can determine who to connect with to provide them support. The rule says you can choose where you live, who you live with, how you live, how you spend your days and who you spend your days with. This includes choosing who provides services to you.
- The Transition Plan Timeline for all states, including NM, to achieve full compliance with the HCBS Final Rule is March 17, 2019. Ms. Corry stated that while making these changes, services will not be lost, but a change of setting may be offered. Any changes the state makes must maintain or improve the services being received.
- Ms. Corry distributed a sheet regarding upcoming Town Hall Meetings: February 28 in Taos, March 7 in Roswell, March 14 in Gallup, March 29 in Farmington and April 3 in Silver City. For questions, Ms. Corry can be reached by phone at 505-238-0047 or via email at corryconsulting.com.

XIII. State Agency Reports and Updates

- Joe Cordova, DVR Executive Director reported DVR is monitoring the federal continuing resolution; the current continuing resolution expires sometime in

March, so it will depend on Congress to see if it will be extended. On the local level, DVR is monitoring the NM Legislature. There are several bills that will affect DVR; one is House Bill 433 that would transfer DVR to Workforce Solutions—that bill has been introduced but hasn't picked up any traction. The other bill is House Bill 278 which would eliminate the exemptions that both the Commission for the Blind and DVR currently have in purchasing vocational rehabilitation services. Joe shared that he thought this Bill could have a negative impact if passed. It would delay the procurement process, which would negatively impact consumers. Another bill whose origin we don't seem to know concerns minimum wage; there are some legislators in Las Cruces who introduced a bill that would eliminate the minimum wage in NM. Ken asked Joe about the collaboration with Workforce Solutions and if there'd been much collaboration between DVR and Workforce. Joe stated that there had been collaboration mainly about how to pay for infrastructure costs but they hadn't really discussed strategies, Workforce seemed focused on funding issues.

- Jim Salas, Deputy Director of the Commission for the Blind provided an overview of independent living funding and how NM supplements these funds with state general funds in order to provide better statewide services. Jim stated that the Commission's understanding with the independent living program moving to Health and Human Services Dept., that the Administration for Community Living have identified there will be only one funding entity within New Mexico and that's going to be DVR. The Commission requested DVR still route the \$50K to the Commission so that they can continue to support their independent living program. Joe Cordova said he's not certain that DVR is the official DSE (Designated State Entity) yet because he has not received any official notification. Joe said it would be up to the SILC to make that determination. Jim Salas followed up to Ken's earlier question regarding DVR's collaboration with WIOA. DVR is one of WIOA's core partners. The leaders from Workforce Solutions have started holding monthly meetings to begin talks about multiple partnering activities so we'll all be participating in those meetings. Jim gave the floor to Curtis Chong who reported that there'd been a couple of retirements in the Commission's independent living area. Furthermore, Curtis said that there was a bill in the legislature, HB98, which passed the House to make the paper ballot more accessible to voters who are blind; it's in the Senate now and will probably be in front of the Rules Committee shortly. He stated this Bill will probably pass. Ken asked if the Workforce Solution meetings are set for a particular day of every month? Jim said he believed it was the first Friday of every month. Ken asked if the meeting times/venues could be shared. It was noted that Suzette Lucero coordinates the WIOA meetings.

XIV. CIL Reports and Updates

- Choices-no report
- New Vistas-no report
- ILRC- Kate Unna, Deputy Director since September 2016 reported that Gil Yildiz retired in September and that Michael Murphy is the new Executive Director. ILRC is focusing on the core services with an increased focus on youth transition

and nursing home transition, but more specifically youth transition. ILRC finished a project in collaboration with Presbyterian Centennial Care members for their home modification program, completing 19 home modifications around the state. They used some of their IL procurement funds, in addition to people's Centennial Care money to build ramps, conduct kitchen remodels, and bathroom modifications. She also reported that ILRC's Medicaid program currently has 460 people with Socorro having the majority. In addition, ILRC is working with NCIL regarding their election plan. Advocates are working to preview some ballots. ILRC is also talking to the Governor about Medicaid as many consumers are worried about Medicaid and its prospects for the next four years. ILRC is getting involved in advocacy at a local level. She asked for people to contact her or Michael if they would like to collaborate or get involved.

- San Juan Center for Independence-Tim Carver reported that Branda Parker and Paula Woodyatt attended the Raise the Floor Build the Ladder Conference in Albuquerque for NM Direct Caregivers and served as panelists; SJCI was awarded \$8167 from Navajo Transitional Electrical Co. for an accessible basketball court; SJCI had 4th annual craft fair in Nov. that provided an avenue for artisans with disabilities to sell their crafts; SJCI started ground work on the property that will be used for the orchard. SJCI was placed on a self-imposed moratorium in October 2016 through March 2017 regarding accepting new and transferred clients of which there are 211 on the SJCI PCS program; SJCI received \$73,086.87 from Open Hands, Inc. Open Hands is no longer in business and gave their remaining funds to SJCI to provide assistive technology, including home modifications in the Santa Fe area. SJCI received \$20,000 from the Westmeath Foundation for youth programs and assistive technology required by the youth; SJCI has 7 area high schools attending the Transition Fair to be held on April 29th; Ken Collins's last day of employment with SJCI was Friday, February 17 and we wish him the best of luck with his new position and look forward to continuing to work with him; Loiselle Nizoni is the new Program Manager in Gallup; one SJCI staff will be trained in CPR/first aid so it can be taught to our attendants and consumers. Someone asked Tim if the high schools were in the Gallup area. Tim answered yes, including Shiprock, Kirtland, two Farmington schools, and the alternative high school. There was a question regarding the Open Hands funds and why they closed. Tim answered he didn't know the full story, but he knew that as a non-profit, they were allowed to give their remaining funds to a like service and they chose SJCI. Another question was raised regarding the orchard. Tim stated SJCI is hoping to have a 50-tree orchard so that consumers can have fresh fruit and the ability to can fruit throughout the year. The orchard will also rekindle Farmington's heritage as a farming community-the orchard is about 1.25 acres. It was asked if there was a wait list compiled for when the moratorium is lifted at the end of March. Tim said no. He also discussed some issues regarding the Pueblo Center and SJCI's ongoing efforts to serve the Pueblos.

XV. Next Meeting date and Location May 19, 2017 at the ILRC in Albuquerque from 2-4 pm.



XVI. Adjournment

- Curtis motioned to adjourn the meeting and Larry seconded the motion.
- The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.