



DC Statewide Independent Living Council
1125 15th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005-2726

DC Statewide Independent Living Council Meeting Minutes – March 6, 2014

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Attendees:

District of Columbia Statewide Independent Council Board Members

Elver Ariza-Silva, SILC Vice Chairperson
Marsha Thompson, SILC, Secretary
Catherine Dillahunt, Treasurer
Shileta L. Gorham, Member
Yvonne Smith, Member
Iden Campbell McCullum, Member
Dahlia G. Johnson, Administrative Assistant, SILC

Rehabilitation Services Administrations (RSA)

Andrew Reese, Deputy Director
Darnise Henry Bush, DC-RSA Program Liaison

Department on Disability Services (DDS)

Adam Mingal

Call to Order

Vice Chair Elver Ariza Silva chaired the meeting in the absence of the SILC Chair who was excused to provide testimony before the District of Columbia City Council. Robert Coward was testifying before the City Council.

Minutes

The minutes were read aloud by Ms. Marsha Thompson, SILC Secretary; and accepted as read.

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Recap of San Diego SILC Congress – January 17-22, 2014

Elver Ariza Silva attended, the SILC Congress and summarized the meeting as follows: attendees were surprised and pleased that a representative from DC was present. All ten SILC Regions were represented, and there were numerous activities and meetings held. Mr. Ariza Silva brought back the conference book; it can be copied for the SILC records. He was nominated as representative for Region 3, but declined, instead offering to serve as the backup. Mr. Silva shared this thought from the Congress: SILC “works on behalf of the community; it is not a business”. The Congress wants to see more active SILCs at each level, and members should be much more aggressive in their duties. Congress organizers would like for Washington, DC to host the Congress in the future (the concern is the winter weather in the city).

Mr. Iden McCollum made an announcement that he and his staff are hosting an international conference and will provide details soon.

Mr. Ariza Silva attended the Mayor's quarterly meeting for the Chairs of the city's Boards and Commissions. He reported that the DCSILC is one of the few that receives funding. The upcoming city-wide budget will be at least the same level as the current one, or perhaps larger.

Update on Fiscal Agent Status

No update at this time; Chair Robert Coward and the Executive Board are in talks with Quality Trust CEO Tina Campanella. Members agree that if the Quality Trust is not a good option for us there are other organizations that could be considered.

Individual Emergency Preparedness Strategies

The SILC will coordinate with other city agencies to invite speakers and support education for individuals with disabilities to make their plans for personal safety during emergency conditions.

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CIL 3% Distributed By USDE

Bobby and the Executive Committee will communicate with Mr. Richard Simms, the Director of the CIL, to find out how the increase in funding will be used by the CIL.

SILC Duties Webinar – March 27, 2014

The SILC meeting held on March 6, 2014 was the makeup meeting for the January 23, 2014, meeting which was cancelled due to inclement weather. Also, the webinar training scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2014, is to provide information and training.

Reinventing Quality Annual Conference

Ms. Thompson gave a short description of the purpose of the conference, and promised to send information via email to Ms. Dahlia Johnson and Ms. Darnise Bush for distribution to the membership.

Recruitment

Letters have been sent to current members who do not attend; barriers to attendance for at least one member were quickly explained. Nominations should be sent to the Director of Boards and Commissions; “barriers for some nominees in the past have been background check and tax filing status.”

Other Business

Ms. Dillahunt expressed a concern for the community regarding "411" calls for information to the local phone company. Persons with disabilities are to get 5 free calls each month, and this may not be happening. Additionally the automatic answering service at 411 does not recognize the District of Columbia as a "state" in answer to the question about location. Members recommended contacting the Office of Disability Rights, Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton in Congress, and the House of Representatives Committee on the District of Columbia.

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Housing for persons with disabilities is an ongoing issue, and Shileta Gorham announced she is working with a housing advocacy group that is developing their plan for 2014, and she will share information with the SILC as soon as it becomes available.

There was also general discussion describing monitoring techniques, the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment, and the web page for the SILC.

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.