



DC Statewide Independent Living Council  
250 E Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Meeting Agenda  
DC Statewide Independent Living Council  
Meeting Minutes – July 19, 2018  
12:00pm– 2:00pm  
1400 Florida Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Attendees:

District of Columbia Statewide Independent Living Council

Darnise Henry Bush, SILC Chairperson  
Ronald Thomas –Treasurer  
Caren Kirkland, Member  
Elver Ariza Silva, Member  
Jerome Parson, Member  
Shelita Gorham, Member  
Richard Simms, Executive Director, DCCIL

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)

Andrea Hall, RSA Liaison

Guest

George Aguehounde, DCCIL  
Debbie Berhane, DCCIL  
Deb Cotter  
Marcia Bowers  
Gerald Barns  
Kim Alfonzo

## 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the SILC Chair, Ms. Darnise Henry Bush at 12:20 PM. She asked all members and guest to introduce themselves and state their affiliations. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Agenda as amended. The third item on the agenda (State Plan on Independent Living) was moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> position. Each member and guest introduced themselves

## 2. Minutes

Members were given a chance to review the minutes. . Members made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and accepted.

## 3. Review – School Talk – Shileta Gorham

Shileta stated that School Talk, CIL, SILC and DSE collaborative Forum was a great success. There were about 350 students and advocate participants from both District of Columbia Public and Chartered Schools.

Several service provider offered assistance to graduating students that plan to transition to college and vocational programs throughout the District of Columbia Community. Students participated in several breakout sessions that included a fashion show and wellness activities. The National Institute of Health was one of the agencies offering internships and employment opportunities. Mr. Andrew Reese, Director, Department on Disability Services and Mr. Richard Simms, Executive Director, DCCIL were guest speakers.

Elver Ariza Silva and Dahlia Johnson represented the SILC distributing brochures and answering questions in the exhibit area. The SILC, CIL and DDS made monetary contributions in accordance with the State Plan on Independent Living and the collaborative Youth Summit.

SILC member, Shileta Gorham announced that she will be leaving the CIL for her new job with the National Institute of Health, but plans to remain active with the SILC and CIL youth and advocacy programming.

The question was asked who would be attending the Nation Council on Independent Living (NCIL) held in the District of Columbia at the Grand Hyatt from July 23-27, 2018.

The following persons will be attending the conference: Darnise Henry Bush, Yvonne Smith, Elver Ariza Silva and Phyllis Pendleton.

It was stated that the United States is divided into 10 Regions, our SILC is in Region 3; which includes: Washington, DC, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania

The SILC pays NCIL membership dues, which is based on the annual budget. Guest, Ms. Marcia Bowers said she did not know anything about the SILC, but she could suggest some people that might want to become advocates and members.

#### **4. State Plan on Independent Living (SPIL) 2017-2019**

Ms. Bush asked the members to look at the letter from Bob Williams, ACL which state that the DSE will be getting additional funding. As you know we get our money from the Designated State Entity (DSE) which is the Department on Disability Services. The SILC develops an annual resource plan that outlines what SILC members decide they will need. The resource plan, once voted on becomes a projection that is included in the three years State Plan on Independent Living (SPIL). The current SPIL is 2017-2019 and the next scheduled must be completed by June 1, 2019. Mr. Simms reminded the Board, that the SILC chose the DSE. It is no longer mandatory that the DDS be the DSE for the SILC.

Ms. Bush asked the members to review the copy of the current SPIL (handout) which is for 2017-2019. From January 2019 until June 2019, the SILC, CIL and DSE will work collaboratively on the next three-year Plan. She asked the members to evaluate the Plan so they will know what is needed to complete 2018 and come up with suggestions on how the IL Grant Award that must be spent by September 30, 2018. Our discussion is not based on the exact amount of money. The Chair asked members to study SPIL Section 5.1 which is Narrative: Section 5. It lists annual projected amounts of money and what it is needed for. Members were to think of the new funding as a reasonable wish list.

One of the items we really want to work on is the IT component. If the money is not spent, we lose it. In 2017 we didn't use the IT money and it is near the end of 2018 and it hasn't been used as of yet. Again, we might lose it, but with the bonus amount for the IL Grant Award, the SILC may be able to setup and complete its website. A motion was made and approved to meet with Andy or a DDS representative to discuss and finalize what projects the SILC and CIL want to spend the money on.

Mr. Simms stated that as long as RSA is signing the checks and housing the SILC, the SILC will never be independent or autonomous as the legislation suggest.

Ms. Deb Cotter thinks that Part B fund can be carried over for 1-year, the answer was no. And Debbie Berhane asked if the \$11,000 indicated in the SPIL for IT/Web was for each year; the answer was no. Debbie also said the CIL will be moving and if the SILC wants to relocate, and if so, they could designate some of their extra office space for the SILC.

## 5. NCIL Conference

The NCIL Conference is being held at the Grand Hyatt, Washington, DC, July 23-27, 2018. The following SILC members will be attending: Darnise Bush, Yvonne Smith, Elver Ariza Silva and Phyllis Pendleton. It was stated that the NCIL advocates for increased funding for Centers for Independent Living and the Statewide Independent Living Council as well as changes in policy and legislation for persons with disabilities.

Darnise stated that the SILC pays only NCIL organization dues. The dues are based on our annual budget. Members were encouraged to join as individual members at \$35.00 each. The purpose of joining individually is to run for Regional offices and support the legislative work that the NCIL does. Ronald Thomas reminded the Board and guest that several of our members are both organizational and individual members.

Darnise stated that MOTA has contacted her and is requesting SILC organizational records from 2014 to now. Guest, Ms. Deb Cotter informed us that she has applied to the Mayor's Office on Talent and Appointments (MOTA) to become a member of the DCSILC.

The SILC needs to build its membership. There are seven vacancies on the Board. We need to recruit for addition members. The new members should have a disability, and not work for the DDS, CIL or RSA. MOTA swears in new members quarterly. So, if you have someone in mind, please have them contact Darnise and/or Dahlia. District residents are preferred, but something may be negotiated if the potential member fits the other categories and works with a disability service provider based in the District of Columbia.

One problem is that the process is very long and the candidates loose interest. The Board should have 25 members.

The SILC is looking for seven (7) people that are not affiliated with the Department of Disability Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration, or the DC Center for

Independent Living. We would prefer someone that has a disability and persons that are DC Residents.

MOTA had it last swearing in on December 16, 2017. It is not known how often they have the swearing in ceremony. But, the previous schedule had moved from monthly to quarterly.

There was some discussion about how weak Region 3 is. There are 10 Regions, which consist of Washington, DC, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. But the DC SILC is very weak, but the other states hold up our slack. We need to have more of a voice.

Ms. Caren Kirkland reminded the members that she and others have sent name of candidates to MOTA to become members of the SILC, but the candidates have not heard from MOTA to become members of the SILC. The candidates have not heard from MOTA for a long period of time.

Many suggestions were made to speed up the MOTA process; however, nothing the SILC has tried to date has helped.

## 6. SILC as Non-Profit Taskforce Report

Ronald provided an update on the Non-Profit Taskforce. Since we cannot use SILC funds to become a non-profit the SILC should look to a foundation like Cafritz to donate the funding needed to become a 501C3. He has found out that the Awesome Disability Foundation and the Cafritz Foundation both may be of assistance to us. The Awesome Disability Foundation approves grants on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month with a maximum donation of \$1,000.00. The Cafritz Foundation focuses on the underserved DC residents and approves proposals that help the population.

Because we are not a non-profit, as of yet, we can solicit an existing non-profit to act as our agent. All it would require is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and they would open up an operational account at a cost of \$50.00- \$100.00. Mr. Simms stated that CIL's accounting firm had agreed to do this before.

Mr. Simms suggested that we bring ACL or ILRU representatives to our next meeting and let them inform us of the steps we need to take. Our next meeting is Thursday, September 27, 2018.

Ms. Bush suggested that some of the IL Grant Award be used to purchase 6-7 laptops or tablets and a couple of cell phones for use by the SILC Executive Board member in addition to the IT/Web needs.

Ronald Thomas suggested that the Non-Profit Taskforce hold a meeting at the NCIL Conference.

Members voted no to this idea, but a motion was made and approved to have the SILC Executive members meet at the NCIL Awards Luncheon on July 26, 2018, at 1:00 pm to discuss further, the IL Grant Award.

Ms. Andrea Hall, RSA Liaison asked if the money can be used for disability training. The Chair suggested we should be able to get that training free.

Mr. Simms suggested allocating funds in the normal annual percentage between the SILC, CIL and the DSE for the vocational part of IL services.

## 7. Announcements

None

## 8. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.