



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

DC Statewide Independent Living
Meeting Minutes – Thursday, March 22, 2018
Thursday, May 24, 2018
1400 Florida Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20002

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Ms. Darnise Henry Bush, Co-Vice Chair. Members introduced themselves. After the member introductions, the new member Mr. Jerome Parson introduced himself to the SILC Board.

Ms. Bush volunteered to start the meeting in the absence of the Chair. Ms. Yvonne Smith made a motion to move item number 2 (voting) on the agenda to number five. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ronald Thomas. Ms. Bush accepted the motion to amend the Agenda by moving item number two (voting) to number five.

SILC CONGRESS

Ms. Bush reminded the SILC members that the SILC Congress was held in Orlando, FL, January 20-23, 2018. And, informed the members that it was a very good conference. She said it is amazing to find out how far behind our SILC is now, when we were one of the premier SILC's less than seven or eight years ago. The popular trend now is for SILCs to become non-profits. WIOA guidelines help the SILCs become more independent and the new legislation strengthens SILC autonomy. The SILCs can now choose their Designated State Entity (DSE). As a result a few states have chosen not to have the state agency as their DSE. Several of the SILCs gave example of their DSEs. If any of you wish to discuss the matter, you should contact Darnise or Hazel for the different DSE's that other SILCs have chosen.

Gifts were brought by thirty-five State SILC's to be exchanged. The 50/50 raffle was held again this year to offset conference cost for next year. The Nebraska SILC Chair won the 50/50 raffle again this year. She won the drawing last year too.

The majority of the discussion was about standards and indicators used in the State Plan. The importance of the State Plan was the focus. Ms. Bush said during the conference, she learned that the Innovation and Expansion Grants in most states are controlled by the SILC, and that is not the case with this SILC. In DC the DSE has put the Innovation and Expansion Grant under the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). Ms. Bush said that we should (the SILC) look into this.

Many conference discussions were about SILCs becoming non-profit organizations while maintaining compliance and not becoming a service provider as well. There was a suggestion about acquiring pro-bono services and Ms. Bush explained that you cannot use Federal funding to become non-profit. Mr. Ronald Thomas and Ms. Yvonne Smith indicated they had experience in starting non-profit organizations.

After much discussion about the SILC becoming a non-profit organization, Ms. Smith made a motion that Mr. Thomas heads the taskforce to start the process of the SILC becoming non-profit. One of the first charges is to find out what are the fees and paper work necessary to become a non-profit organization in the District of Columbia. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gorham. It was moved and seconded that Mr. Thomas start and heads the taskforce on the SILC becoming non-profit. The motion was approved.

Ms. Bush has a list of states that have become non-profits and will share them with Mr. Thomas and the task force. She will also share a website location that will provide more insight on how the SILC can become non-profit organization. Ms. Smith volunteered to administer the Website. And, Shileta volunteered to assist with setting up the web page.

Mr. Elver Ariza asked Ms. Mosby to give a brief summary about the SILC, since it was her first time attending a SILC Congress. Ms. Mosby said it was inspiring. It was great to see people with disabilities feeling capable and having something to offer. They are advocates and act upon what they say. She said it made her feel, that if they can do it, "so can I." She felt that some of the States are not recognized and do not have any or very little funding.

Ms. Bush informed the SILC that she is the Region III representative, which includes the following states; Delaware, Maryland, Philadelphia Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The Regions were developed by the Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Youth Summit

Mr. Silver explained that the SILC and CIL will be joining forces with School Talk in presenting the Youth Summit being held on April 20, 2018 at the Walter E Washington Convention Center.

Mr. Silver and Ms. Gorham informed the Council that there will be about 500 students attending from 6 DC Public and 3 or 4 Chartered Schools Ms. Gorham explained that they go into these schools and teach independent living classes. Students attending this forum have different disabilities.

Ms. Bush suggested that we have the Consumer Forum in June or July. The question was asked, if some money for the School Talk Forum would come from the SILC's budget? And, the answer was yes.

NCIL Conference

Ms. Bush informed the Board that the NCIL Conference will be held July 23-27, 2018 in Washington, DC and if anyone is interested in attending, please contact Dahlia Johnson by April 10, 2018. The registration deadline is April 27, 2018. Ms. Yvonne Smith stressed, again, about individual membership.

Voting

Mrs. Bush informed the Council that the deadline for casting your vote was March 22, 2018, and the By-Laws state that verbal nominations from the floor can be made before the nominations are closed. Mrs. Andrea Hall, DSE Representative read the names of the candidates and the office they were nominated for.

A motion was made to ask if there were any members present that would like to run for office. It was seconded and approved.

Ms. Andrea Hall and Ms. Dahlia Johnson collected the ballots and counted the votes. The final results are as follows: Ms. Darnise Bush, Chairperson, Ms. Yvonne Smith, Vice Chairperson, Ms. Hazel Mosby, Secretary and Mr. Ronald Thomas, Treasurer. These are the new Executive Board Members along with Mr. Elver Ariza Silver your immediate past chair and Mr. Richard Simms, Executive Director, DCCIL.

Ms. Yvonne Smith announced that the Alternative Conference will be held in Washington, DC for the first time at Catholic University.

There was discussion about setting up a SILC Facebook page and SILC social media site and have Dahlia involved in all aspect of this plan.

Discussion: The 704 and the SPIL

Forms for the 704 are due by the end of November 30, 2018. The State Plan directives are due by June 30, 2019. Mr. Silva stated that Mr. George Aguehoude, who is employed by CIL, work hard to make sure the CIL and the SILC work together to be in compliance.

An important fact to remember is “The SPIL is a joint collaboration between the SILC, CIL and the DSE”.

According to the Mayor’s Office of Talent and Appointments, the SILC needs 5 additional members that are not affiliated with the CIL or the DSE (government).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.