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**Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (NV SILC)**

**State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Workgroup**

**Draft Minutes**

**Date and Time of Meeting:**

Monday, October 23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

**Location of Meeting:**

This meeting will be held via video-conference only:

The public may observe this meeting and provide public comment on Zoom.

**To Join the Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9299041434?pwd=NmM5Tk1Od3ltRzg1enhRYTU3WDdUZz09>

Meeting ID: 929 904 1434

Password: NVSILC (case sensitive)

**Date Published: 10/4/2023**

**Draft Minutes**

1. **Welcome and Introductions:**

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair

Participants: Farren Epstein, Julie Steinbaugh, Mary Evilsizer, Margaret Marcucci, Raquel O’Neill, Alicia Santiago, Ace Patrick, Dee Dee Foremaster, Lisa Bonie, Kelcy Meyer, Autumn Blattman,

CART Provider: Becky Van Auken

Staff: Dawn Lyons and Wendy Thornley

1. **Public Comment:** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. To provide public comment telephonically, dial **+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**. When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter **929 904 1434** and passcode **707401**. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

Julie Weissman Steinbaugh: Aging and Disability Services will be looking for public comment the following week, on the final draft of the latest Olmstead Act.

Margaret Marcucci: Would like the group to consider certifying the Rural Center for Independent Living for Elko and all the rural areas.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Is concerned about the letter that was received from ILRU regarding who could sign the SPIL. She asked if this group could look into that letter and read it into the record.

1. **For Possible Action:**

Review, Discussion, Make Any Necessary Changes, and Approve All Drafted Portions of the FFY25-27 SPIL.

Dawn Lyons: The draft was included in the meeting materials. The first thing to discuss was that she kept the same three goals from the current SPIL, because they seem to be very appropriate moving forward, she wanted to confirm that the group agreed with moving forward with them.

Goal 1. To improve access to Independent Living supports and services statewide.

Goal 2. Improve awareness of Independent Living Network and philosophy statewide.

Goal 3. Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Independent Living Network statewide.

Mary Evilsizer: Those goals were kept broad on purpose because it encompasses a lot, they have worked out quite well as they are written.

Dawn Lyons: As the group gets down to the details of what their initiatives are going to be over the next three years, they all seem to fall into those categories of goals. She asked if anyone could think of anything that would fall outside of the scope of those three goals that they need to address.

Under the first goal to improve access to Independent Living supports and services statewide, she thought a good objective would be objective 1A, providers of Part B funded or partially Part B funded IL services also report an increase in consumers served as a measure for each fiscal year, of 2025, 2026 and 2027, especially Centers for Independent Living. She asked if that sounded reasonable.

Mary Evilsizer: The 5% increase is something that SNCIL looked at and they didn't have any problems making that 5% increase last year.

But there's been some years when people have been moving outside of that community instead of moving in. That's something that SNCIL can't control.

But while we'd like to target at least a five% increase, that's something we could shoot for, but in any year it might be less and that would be through no control of the center.

Dawn Lyons: How about we change the language to state “an increase in goals accomplished for consumers.”

Lisa Bonie: If there is a huge goal of accessing your bathroom and mobility goal, that includes a vehicle mod those are two goals that are going to eat a ton of money.

So it's a very hard thing this is the problem with the work we all do, it's very difficult to measure.

I think John needs to have some input because he might be fine with it.

We might be talking about this for nothing, but I think since it's his court he should have some input into what we think.

Dawn Lyons: Asked if the group agreed that she should get feedback from John Rosenlund and bring it back to the next workgroup.

Mary Evilsizer: John Rosenlund would be the expert. She suggested the wording, “to include but not limited to a 5% increase.” There might be some verbiage there that says we would hope they could get a 5% but we realize it's out of their control.

Dawn Lyons: They could totally change the verbiage, but then it might fall under Goal 2 instead where it's awareness of Independent Living network.

If SILC were to provide education to more consumers about Independent Living services.

Mary Evilsizer: An increase of 5% awareness and then that could be the outcome could be measured by, if let's say 5% was one more outreach function for the year, then every year you would track how many additional outreach functions that would be increasing the awareness, but because the awareness increases, there's a point of becoming aware to actually sitting down and doing the intake and enlisting in the services.

Because we've had programs where five years later we're still getting people calling saying, I remember when you came out here to Mesquite five years ago and I had your brochure and I'd like that service.

The verbiage is important to not have a program feel like they are mandated to increase by 5%, ACL has always worked with our programs, she said they ask you to look at your geographic area, population, and they don't say you must serve seven percent of your population.

They say do the outreach, do awareness, and then serve the individuals that are interested in your services.

Raquel O’Neill: Are the CILs going to get more money based on increased cost of living?

Is that part of the bigger picture?

Will there be more funds next year?

Or over the years of this plan being developed.

Dawn Lyons: We never know how much the Feds are going to give. There may be a small increase, there has been in the past. What is being discussed is talking about Part B funded Independent Living services so that would be any SILC funded Independent Living services, not the Part C Centers for Independent Living.

Lisa Bonie: Reminded the group that this is a program of last resort. That's a very small pool that's tapped into by a lot of people, and not everyone qualifies.

She wants to be cautious that they don't set up barriers that, or expectations, that are not going to be realistic.

Mary Evilsizer: The SILC has always supported the program. In response to Raquel’s question, the CILs do not get increases every year. And very rarely get increases. Title VII CILs get their funds directly from ACL. But then the SILCs get their money through the state and the CILs are Title VII, Part C centers which is totally different. They operate on a grant basis.

Every year they apply for a grant. Often, they do not get increases.

The CILs, of which Title VII Part C funded centers, are recognized as some of the most underfunded agencies and centers in the United States.

Traditionally, people expect more and more with the same amount of funding, what they don't realize is salaries are going up, they don't realize that operations costs are going up.

Ace Patrick: Asked for clarification of the 5% discussion.

Dawn Lyons: Right now, the goal is to improve access to Independent Living supports and services statewide and we're talking about objective 1A, which is providers of Part B funded or partially Part B funded IL services.

And nowhere in there did it say 5%.

That was just a measure that Mary was bringing up about the Part C Centers for Independent Living, which will be a different objective.

Right now they are just talking about Part B, and she will talk to John about that but while they are on that, they may choose as a SILC to fund other entities to provide IL services in the communities.

If they did, she Raquel, that if her organization were to get Part B funding, how would she look at this goal or this objective?

Would it be reasonable to expect the number of consumers to increase each year or do they need to reword that in some way?

Raquel O’Neill: She does empathize with doing more with less and that waitlists are a thing. She doesn’t think a 5% increase is going to be a problem with anybody at any time at this point with disabilities constantly on the rise and different awareness’s happening in their society and just the way things are right now.

A truer measurement might be truer to the Independent Living Philosophy would possibly be an increase like a 5% increase in consumer satisfaction of their services.

Maybe instead of focusing on getting more and doing more with less money, they could focus on quality services. How do consumers really feel after the services are completed and can that quality be improved by maybe 5% or more.

That's kind of angle that might be achievable.

Dawn Lyons: Every time John does give a report, he has the consumer survey results that he's received since the last time he gave his report.

And it's always like 98, 99% satisfied or extremely satisfied with the services.

She is not sure they could increase 5%, but she totally agreed with where Raquel was going with that and does think the quality matters more.

However, I think John is doing a stellar job in managing the IL program through his sub awardees in the community and ensuring they are getting Independent Living Plans, and they are following the Independent Living Philosophy to the tee. That's the reason why there's such high satisfaction with the service, even though it is a last resort service.

Raquel O‘Neill: Maybe there are other metrics that can be looked at. Questions like:

“Were you satisfied with the professionalism or the people who provided the service, were you satisfied with quality of services you got or the resources that you were referred to, did they follow through, were you satisfied with the time-of-service delivery.” She also suggested looking at how they determine satisfaction as well.

Dawn Lyons: She will follow up with John Rosenlund and bring this back to the next meeting.

Ace Patrick: There should be efforts to make people aware that services are available, and the number of consumers should be growing.

Dawn Lyons: The reason she came up with this exact objective is because in the last few SILC meetings, they have had some robust discussions about how the SILC wants to continue to support the State’s Independent Living Program because John Rosenlund is doing such a great job with the Independent Living Philosophy and reaching the consumer in that way that they need Independent Living out there the way he does it.

The SILC was concerned because the state had withdrawn $8,000 from his state budget and given ARPA funds but also tasked him with another program to create with those funds.

The SILC had originally been discussing reducing what they were contributing to the state IL program because SILC was never meant to really fund that program.

It's a state funded program.

SILC ended up supporting that program because at the time, the SILC wanted to push Independent Living Philosophy through that program and wanted to ensure that that was what was happening and that it continued to happen that way.

Because different leadership changes, different priorities come up, and maybe someone down the line doesn't understand that importance.

Because the SILC had only been giving the IL program $140,000 a year, that's a lot of money for us, and I'm sure the centers know that would be a lot of money for them, but it's not a lot of money compared to what the state gives towards that program, but it keeps the SILC’s hand in it.

Raquel O’Neill: Asked if Part B funding is for programs that support the SILC.

Dawn Lyons: It could be any Independent Living services, but technically, the SILC supports the Centers for Independent Living because they provide the Independent Living services as the IL network, or the IL philosophy intended.

The SILC doesn’t have the money necessarily to fund a whole other center.

Raquel O’Neill: Does the SILC have a follow up program? Do they fund something to follow along with consumers to ensure that their Independent Living once they reach their goals and receive their services? One of the tenets of the Independent Living Philosophy is not that a consumer will stay independent only when something like a ramp works in their home, but they will continue to access services throughout their life.

She is wondering if there's perhaps room for an increase in follow-up or an increase in ensuring longevity of satisfaction.

Mary Evilsizer: The way that the Rehab Act was written is that the SILC provides the support to the Centers for Independent Living, and in support of the Centers for Independent Living, the SILC supports the State of Nevada Independent Living programs, which follow the Independent Living Philosophy .

The Centers for Independent Living have had some consumers for over 30 years, and it's not that they're slow in accomplishing their goals, it's that their needs have changed over the years

Dawn Lyons: John’s program is a little different, it’s not necessarily designed to be ongoing, but they do follow that Independent Living Philosophy and like Mary said, they would refer to a Center if that person had more barriers and goals they needed to accomplish that the program itself that John runs couldn't provide.

Now, that may be different from any other IL Services that the SILC provides funding for, but as far as John's program goes, that's how it works.

She will get John’s input on how to word this.

She had put indicators under that objective.

The first indicator being Part B, the IL Services will provide the SILC with quarterly updates and to the SILC will provide $140,000 in support for the State funded Independent Living Program for fiscal years 25, 26, and 27.

To those who service all Nevada counties, an IL program progress report will be shared biannually or more often, and service or service providers change.

If Care Chest decides to split the work with another organization or whatever happens within that scope.

But those were the indicators that they would be able to determine that with.

Objective 1B says, “Collaborate with and provide ongoing support for youth transition services, employment, and education.”

The indicators for that are:

1. SILC will coordinate and supervise a Youth Outreach Specialist to educate rural and underserved communities regarding Youth Transition services and lead a Youth Action Council for youth with disabilities statewide.

2. The SILC will provide oversight and training for the SILC's Youth Action Council’s Youth Outreach Specialist position to coordinate Youth Transition Services with the youth trip grant funded program and the peers grant funded program as grant funding is maintained.

3. CILs will coordinate with SILC to guide Youth Outreach Specialist activities and provide suggestions at least quarterly.

4. The CILs will provide the SILC with current quarterly updates regarding services to consumers so the SILC has valid and current network data on the needs for individuals with disabilities and transition specific data.

Going back to the actual objective to collaborate with and provide ongoing support for Youth Transition Services, employment and education, there is an Employment First committee outside of the SILC, it's not a subcommittee of the SILC Council, it's not a subcommittee of any specific body it's just a committee of concerned people and she is included in that as well as Raquel and a few others.

The state just recently was awarded that giant grant towards transitions and transition services that the Centers for Independent Living and the SILC are all partners. One of the SILC’s objectives under this goal is something they are going to be working hard on, and regardless of whether they put it in their state plan, but they might as well put it in their state plan because it's going to be a priority.

They have grant funding for the next five years, and she will continue to apply with the DD council if they have that available.

For Youth Outreach Specialist for the SILC and she talked to the Chair of the SILC, Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, and mentioned that they are working on Aging and Disability Services' budget, their legislative budgets right now for the next session, and they are going to shoot for the moon and ask for everything they want.

Maybe they can give the SILC a permanent position that is state paid for.

The CILs coordinating with SILC to guide the Youth Outreach Specialist activities, she did talk with Mary Evilsizer since that draft indicator was written.

The Department of Education is going to have someone else leading that initiative so she can change that wording just a little bit to make it more specific regarding that, but she does want everyone to work together. The Department of Education wants everyone to work together on what those trainings will look like and to all have the same language that is shared, providing the same message to consumers throughout Nevada.

She would like to leave that in there because she wants that work within the Independent Living Network to continue and for their collaboration to continue with the Centers and SILC and within the network and to see that in their objectives and indicators.

SILC will provide oversight and training for the SILC's Youth Action Council, Youth Outreach Specialist position, which is in their federal guidelines that the SILC Executive Director will supervise any SILC staff.

She will change the language in No. 3, to include the Department of Education people leading the initiative to create those trainings.

She would like to leave in the collaboration with the CILs and the SILC on that too.

Dee Dee Foremaster: It would be great to include all of this in the SPIL.

Mary Evilsizer: At one point in discussions, when they were working with the Department of Education on the grant, the CILs had asked about doing outreach and being more involved in activities.

They were also advised that there's another branch that's going to be doing that and then so with the CILs, the Department of Education asked the CILs to take the role of providing guidance, support, and assistance in carrying out the Independent Living Philosophy, the content, that they are using the same verbiage that's going to encourage parents and students to work with them.

They are going to focus on that section, the three-year grant, and support the SILC in what they're doing for the school to work transition with recommendations.

Dawn Lyons: Goal 2 is to improve the awareness of the Independent Living Network and philosophy statewide.

The first objective under that goal would be objective 2A, SILC will increase accessibility for youth and adults with disabilities by October 1st, 2027.

The first indicator is that the SILC will utilize $19,250 in Federal Fiscal Year 25, $30,100 in Federal Fiscal Year 26 and $45,100 in Federal Fiscal Year 27 toward outreach and Youth Action Council expansion through a subaward to their partner organization, Community Chest.

That covers all the efforts that they make towards backing 501c3 and any sort of personal outreach that they do that the state won't cover but is federally allowable.

That includes reimbursements for any SILC related expenses that if she knows the State has agreed to reimburse up to $80 that they have asked for because this is what the SILC has set in their guidelines.

They have agreed to reimburse anyone up to $80 per day for any work missed for SILC meetings or SILC business, any childcare, transportation, things like that when someone is on SILC business.

Aging and Disability Services has made it complicated to be reimbursed. With Community Chest, it's a little bit easier.

If there are last minute expenses that require too much bureaucracy for the state to be timely, you can pay for something up front, if it's preapproved and Community Chest can cut you a check.

The SILC does have forms in place and it's in their policies. She does expect SILC’s expenses to go up regarding the community support that they provide because it's part of their autonomy and they do like to be able to function properly and timely and the state doesn't always allow them to do that.

Mary Evilsizer: Liked how Dawn figured out the money working with Care Chest. The SILC and the CILs are funded through ACL and increases are few and far between.

Dawn Lyons: She did plan that budget breakdown prior to the SILC discussing continuing to fund the Independent Living state program fully at that $140,000 and on a continuing basis, so they had originally, in their draft budget a while back, for this upcoming SPIL, when it was going to be Fiscal Year 24, they had originally reduced the amount that they were going to give to the IL funding or the IL state program in order to increase the Community Chest budget for their independence and autonomy.

However, she has found some other issues with their past budgets that had been given to her from state employees which appears that some incorrect information had been included regarding some of the costs and administration fees that are coming directly from the state, which look quite a bit different based on information that she has received directly from the Fiscal Department at Aging and Disability Services.

She was able to work with their budget and move things around. It's still a draft that she left as it was originally discussed with the Executive Team about moving the draft budget into a SPIL starting in Fiscal Year 24, and there is room for change if the group sees the need to.

The SILC would like to fund everybody, everybody does a great job, but this is a good way to have the freedom to fund where they would think it's most appropriate when they would like to, rather than saying they are going to give someone or the Centers for Independent Living $20,000 each every year and then they figure out what to do with it. In this case, if they can cut a check from Community Chest on an initiative that they support as a SILC, they can do that because they have already determined that that's what that money is for.

The second is the outreach will consist of SILC and Youth Action Council messaging and education throughout the state to raise awareness of IL and the IL network.

3, the SILC will reestablish their 501c3 status by the end of federal fiscal year 27, 4, the SILC will assist the Youth Action Council in beginning process to establish 501 c three status, wait a minute, assist the Youth Action Council and beginning the process to establish a 501 c three status by the end of federal fiscal year 27.

Because I even confused myself there, what those two are the SILC will establish their 501 c three status by the end of our SPIL.

But will help the Youth Action Council get started with their process by the end of our SPIL.

Second Indicator: The outreach will consist of SILC and Youth Action Action Council messaging and education throughout the state to raise awareness of IL and the IL network.

Third Indicator: The SILC will reestablish their 501c3 status by the end of Federal Fiscal Year 27,

Fourth Indicator: The SILC will assist the Youth Action Council and begin the process to establish a 501c3 status by the end of Federal Fiscal Year 27.

The SILC will establish their 501c3 status by the end of their SPIL. But will help the Youth Action Council get started with their process by the end of the SILC’s SPIL.

Dawn Lyons: Before she worked with the SILC, the SILC did have 501c3 status. It’s just been too long to go back and use the same information to reestablish, so they must start again.

Fifth Indicator: The Youth Action Council membership will grow to at least six members by Federal Fiscal Year 27.

Dee Dee Foremaster: It is vitally important for the SILC to get the 501c3 status.

Dawn Lyons: Sixth Indicator: SILC will work with Nevada State Rehabilitation Council and Vocational Rehabilitation to improve outcomes for individuals receiving Vocational Rehabilitation services as reflected in their annual report.

She added that, to make sure the SILC is collaborating and working with those partners. The SILC has always done this, but it was not really on the radar.

Seventh Indicator: SILC will help plan and facilitate at least two employment fairs in both the northern region and southern region of the state for people with disabilities in Federal Fiscal Year 25.

This is something that Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield asked some partners to do to help support employment for People with Disabilities Month in October.

Dawn had suggested holding employment fairs both in the North and the South for people with disabilities.

It was hard to pull together at the last minute since it was already September when they were talking about it, so they decided to continue that initiative, but do it next year and October is always a busy month.

The SILC has a year to plan it and should be able to do it. She put it in for Federal Fiscal Year 25.

Eighth Indicator: SILC will educate at least three legislators and policymakers regarding employment, housing and transportation shortfalls and potential solutions across the state for people with disabilities in the next legislative interim session.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Would like at least one job fair in the rural areas.

Dawn Lyons: Agrees that one in the rural areas is a good idea. It’s not feasible to do everything in October. They could have discussions on that and if they need to put in another indicator that they work with rural areas to hold employment fairs in a select one or two areas of the rural and frontier portions of Nevada, that they do that at a different time.

Dee Dee Foremaster: It doesn’t have to happen in October.

Dawn Lyons: Suggested once having the ones in the Northern and Southern regions, they assess to see what works and utilize their knowledge based on what they gain from those employment fairs to head out to the rural areas the following year.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Maybe mid-June would be a great time to have it.

Dawn Lyons: This discussion is to enhance the SPIL and enhancing it with ideas and brainstorming.

Eighth Indicator: SILC will educate at least three legislators and policymakers regarding employment, housing, and transportation shortfalls and potential solutions across the state for people with disabilities in the next legislative interim session which will be Federal Fiscal Year 26. The SILC will be educating, and the Employment First committee is also talking about getting educational presentation put together for this interim session about disability employment.

So we're working on that already, and I'm sure we can get the SILC involved in that.

Ninth Indicator: SILC will work directly with Aging and Disability Services Division's regional representatives to educate at least five rural medical facilities regarding the needs of people with disabilities and provide sensitivity training by September 30, 2026.

She believes she spoke to Autumn Blattman about this and feels that the regional representatives would be on board.

Ace Patrick: Likes these indicators and is excited about SILC’s future.

Dawn Lyons:

Objective 2B: SILC will increase the number of consumers IL awareness as measured in their annual consumer survey by September 30, 2026.

First Indicator: SILC will complete a rural outreach effort in Federal Fiscal Year 26 to collect comparison data from the data collected in Federal Fiscal Year 22 that will show a 12% increase in awareness of IL.

Second Indicator: The SILC will increase collaboration each year with at least two additional community partners, statewide, regarding legislative issues for disability and IL philosophy advocacy, education, and outreach.

Third Indicator: The SILC will collaborate closely with the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities or DD Council to address education and outreach regarding disability education and legislative issues for the next legislative session.

Fourth Indicator: The SILC will review and evaluate the Aging and Disability Services Division’s Olmstead plan in their current relationship with their Designated State Entity and Federal Fiscal Year 25 to ensure there's mutual support for Nevadans with disabilities and the IL network and determine if any changes are required by the end of Federal Fiscal Year '27.

Ace Patrick: Are the tribal communities included in outreach regarding Independent Living?

Dawn Lyons: That's a great idea. She doesn’t want to include it in the SILC’s comparison data from their rural trip from Fiscal Year 22 because they didn't get much of an opportunity to reach out to those tribal communities.

She can add another indicator within that objective. Before COVID, Jennifer Kane, who was a SILC member, had invited Dawn to become a facilitator at the Youth Leadership Summit in Reno.

Dawn was a Super Facilitator over a group that was from a tribal community. It was a great experience, and she enjoyed the youth and the people that she met and the work they all did there.

That could be another opportunity coming up in a similar summit to reach out again. She can talk to Jennifer about setting up another tribal community opportunity.

Ace Patrick: Before Covid, there was discussion about outreach with the tribal lands. Ace would like to see that outreach happen.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Has tribal contacts in the Elko, Minden, and Gardnerville areas.

Autumn Blattman: The ADSD regional coordinators are now also tribal liaisons for their areas, maybe we can collaborate and assist with tribal efforts for the SILC.

Lisa Bonie: There used to be a SILC seat that was for a tribal member and wondered if that was still the case.

Dawn Lyons: There is a mandate to have a SILC seat if there is a Tribal Center for Independent Living.

Ace Patrick: That would be great if anyone knows someone from the tribal communities that would like to be a SILC member.

Dawn Lyons: Will put a note to add another indicator regarding tribal communities and reaching out.

Mary Evilsizer: At one time, the SILC was checking to see if the Native American Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation agency was interested in having a member on the SILC.

Dawn Lyons: She tried a few times to reach the new Vocational Rehabilitation administrator for the tribal community but did not receive a response.

Lisa Bonie: Asked where the 12% increased number came from.

Dawn Lyons: She will get that information back to the group. It may have come from the low percentage of consumers who were aware of Independent Living in the rural areas. She included materials on some of the data that helped to come up with some of the drafted indicators.

She feels that the SILC needs to work with their Designated State Entity and give them the opportunity to understand where the SILC is coming from and what the SILC needs in the way of support. Now that ADSD is pulling together into their new structure and leadership positions and hopefully over the next legislative session, become more organized. Then the SILC can start addressing the legislative budget and see how ADSD supports the SILC.

They had been talking about the possibility of changing Designated State Entities because due to a lack of support for the SILC resulting in the SILC having to pay for everything while the DD Council received a lot of support from the Director's Office and in fact, they just had some new positions approved through the last legislative budget.

She thinks the SILC has arguments in their favor that can help the SILC with what they need too, in comparison.

It's a good comparison to make, the DD Council and the SILC are very similar in many ways.

Goal 3: Improve effectiveness and efficiency of the Independent Living Network statewide. Objective 3A: SILC will improve their internal processes for SPIL evaluation.

First Indicator: Following each conference, all conference attendees relay training to the Council at the next corresponding quarterly meeting.

In the last SPIL, it had that they would all give updates and reports at the SILC’s annual meeting. It didn’t work because some conferences could have been eight months old by that time. The next quarterly meeting makes the most sense.

Second Indicator: SILC will evaluate and implement improvements to the current quarterly assurance numbers by September 30, 2025. The SILC’s quality assurance measures are being developed so they should be able to compare them by 2025.

They should have a year to be able to assess how that's working.

Lisa Bonie: She would like the wording to be smoothed out.

Dawn Lyons: She will work on the wording and bring it back to the group. She will look at what other SILCs are doing and come up with another indicator for the next meeting.

Dawn Lyons: Objective 3B: The SILC Resource Development Plan will be evaluated for effectiveness.

First Indicator: There will be continued efforts toward the application for ongoing grant funding to support Federal Fiscal Year 25, 26, and 27 SPIL goals.

Second Indicator: The SILC will research any other grant opportunities each year and apply for any additional funding possible that apply toward their SPIL goals.

Dawn Lyons: The last SPIL talked about looking into opportunities for fund-raising. The SILC is unable to do that unless it is resource development for the Centers for Independent Living.

Mary Evilsizer: With the funding from ACL, the Title VII Part B, and the Title VII Part C, we are not allowed to do fund raising with that.

In other words, you and I would be considered staff, and we couldn't allocate hours to fund raising.

And then for the uniform accounting standard codes it's not a viable expenditure.

And then I think I learned the a lesson a few years ago when they say develop a resource development plan, you can state that you're going to look for and submit for grants, but if you go anywhere near fund raising, that's a red flag for an audit for federal agencies.

Dawn Lyons: She was frustrated. She wanted to have a way to fundraise and help the SILC’s efforts, because they get so little funding, it’s hard to accomplish everything they want to.

1. **Presentation and Discussion**:

Review and Discussion Regarding Changes to the SPIL Template\* and New Requirements from the Administration on Community Living (ACL)

\*In drafting the SPIL on the new template, numerous resources and documents were reviewed and referenced. Due to the voluminous nature of these materials, they have not been added to the supporting materials for this agenda but are available upon request. To request this information, please contact Dawn Lyons at dlyons@adsd.nv.gov.

Dawn Lyons: The template didn't change drastically, one of the things that obviously changed was that ACL made it mandatory to include I&E funding on their SPIL.

Initially they were told if they didn't have I&E funding in their State Plan for Independent Living that it would be rejected.

After she had discussions with their Vocational Rehabilitation who receives the I&E funding that they would be able to give to them, they were told by RSA, who is their funder that they didn't have to.

And based on their budget, and what little funding they were working with to begin with, they said they could not.

When she brought that information back and told them that they may be requiring it from the SILC, but the SILC can't do anything about it if RSA told VR that they don't have to.

The SILC is stuck between two federal agencies arguing different things.

ACL thanked her for the feedback and said they would get back to her.

So far, they have not.

But they did more recently reach out to National SILC Organization. They asked the different regions in the regional meetings if there was anything that the SILCs would like them to address with ACL when they talked with them.

And she brought that subject up.

She said she would really like an answer to that on what they're going to do.

They did get back and say they are still working on it but that they wouldn't reject our state plan just based on the I&E funding not being there if we were having an issue with that.

So, the SILC is moving forward until they hear differently from them, they have their answer from Vocational Rehabilitation, they are not going to get any I&E funding unfortunately unless ACL and RSA work something out where they both agree upon it, and they let the SILC know that.

The SPIL instrument does say you must have I&E funding, but from last she heard, they're not going to reject it just because of that. The SPIL instrument, which is what the draft is on.

She included in the materials a separate SPIL template with the instructions and anyone with questions can reach out to her.

1. **Presentation and Discussion:**

Discussion Regarding Undrafted Portions of the SPIL and Sections to Address at the next Workgroup Meeting.

Dawn Lyons: There are portions that aren’t completed on the SPIL but the biggest and most important thing that they need to flesh out are these goals, indicators, and objectives.

At the next SPIL workgroup she was hoping that she could update these things that she wrote down that were talked about at the current meeting and get some wording clarified, add some tribal community information, all the things they talked about. She will incorporate those and investigate them for the next updated draft for the next SPIL workgroup.

She asked for any ideas or feedback.

Mary Evilsizer: Each year before the SPIL, she reads the instructions and checks the indicators.

Dawn Lyons: She will also be doing this. She wrote this draft in September and will be looking it over again as well. She used all the data available as well as feedback from town halls which have been instrumental in reinforcing the data and showed what the disability community wants to hear and see. The SILC may want to look at having more townhalls

Dee Dee Foremaster: Having more town halls helps to keep everyone grounded and it’s important to have them in the rural areas.

Lisa Bonie: Asked about the minutes for the town halls.

Dawn Lyons: Wendy can send out the transcripts and they can be posted on the website. In the next discussion of the SPIL draft, she would like to have the tentative budget laid out so they can match up the goals, indicators, and the objectives with the budget.

She still needs a couple answers from the Fiscal department before the draft of that is completed.

She will incorporate ideas from the group. Once they decide on the budget, she can complete the financial plan sections.

They look different than the actual budget because of how it's divided up, IL Services is separate from the SILC Resource Plan which is separate. All those are different, and the sections where the funding is coming from whether it's Part B, Part C, any other state funds, or things like that. She can explain those things after they approve a budget, because those things get divided up differently than when they look at their budget.

She wants to make sure that everyone is on the same page on their budget before she fills those sections out.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Read the letter from Kymball Grey from ACL.

“Hi, RCIL I regret the time it's taken me to develop a response to your question, but I wanted to get all the best information I could before responding.

You are correct in that there is no federal requirement that a CIL must be a Part C funded Center for Independent Living to be signatory on the SPIL.

I have contacted the Nevada SILC and suggested they modify the language in their policies and procedures to reflect that to be a signatory on the SPIL, a CIL must meet 725 requirements in the Rehab Act.

The DSE will make the determination that an entity receiving Part B funding meets the 725 requirements in the Rehab Act.

If an entity that receives Part B funds is determined by the DSE to meet 725 requirements in the Rehab Act, they then can be signatories on the SPIL and considered part of the statewide network of Centers for Independent Living.

Thank you for your question and let me know if there is any further assistance and questions.

Take care.

Kimball Gray.”

Dawn Lyons: Thanked Dee Dee for sharing the letter with the group.

Mary Evilsizer: According to the Rehab Act as amended July 15th of 2015, in each state there would be Title VII Part C funded centers and when the SPIL is signed, what the mandate was, was that most of the Title VII, Part C centers are mandated to sign off on the SPIL.

But I had never heard of uncertified Title VII is Part B centers signing the SPIL..

But to become a Title VII Part B center, I think the way I had always heard it and then Dee Dee, I respect what you've done, and I respect Kimball very much.

He was always a great ally of Nevada's.

But the way that the law is, and I'm just reiterating what is in the law, what it means to be a Title VII Part B center, number one, is a DSE decision, but there must be, what is it, there's a monitoring tool that they use, and it's a checklist of all the 725 requirements.

And then that the assessment must be conducted independent of the DSE.

And it used to be, I don't know if this is changed, but according to the Rehab Act it had to be one of the existing Title VII Part C centers that administered the checklist to assess if all the compliance issues in section 725 of the Rehab Act were enforced in that particular entity.

So yeah, this is news, unless all the regs have changed, I don't think they've amended the Rehab Act since July 2015 when they converted into WIOA.

Dawn Lyons: She believes that Kimball was stating that that center must be 725 compliant regardless of where they get their funding to be considered a Center for Independent Living in the SPIL.

They need to get clarification on who does the evaluation, she can reach out and send the letter to their new program officer at ACL and find out what they have to say. She will include Lisa Bonie, Mary Evilsizer and Dee Dee Foremaster when she does. The SPIL Workgroup discussion and work will be an agenda item on the next SILC meeting agenda.

1. **For Possible Action:**

Discussion and Approval of Next SPIL Workgroup Meeting Date: Monday, December 11, 2023, at 5:30pm

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair

1. **Public Comment:** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. To provide public comment telephonically, dial **+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**. When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter **929 904 1434** and passcode **707401**. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

No public comment.

1. **Adjournment (For Possible Action):**

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm

**Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:**

**NOTE**:

* The following complete link for the meeting is included below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9299041434?pwd=NmM5Tk1Od3ltRzg1enhRYTU3WDdUZz09>

* Items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and/or removed from the agenda at the Chairperson’s discretion. The public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. The public body may place reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of public comments but may not restrict comments based on viewpoint.
* We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Wendy Thornley in writing at 3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite 181, Carson City, NV. 89706, email wthornley@adsd.nv.gov or call at (775) 220-7941 as soon as possible.
* If at any time during the meeting an individual who has been named on the agenda or has an item specifically regarding them included on the agenda is unable to participate because of technical or other difficulties, please email Wendy Thornley at wthornley@adsd.nv.gov and note at what time the difficulty started so that matters pertaining specifically to their participation may be continued to a future agenda if needed or otherwise addressed.
* Please be cautious and do not click on links in the chat area of the meeting unless you have verified, they are safe. If you ever have questions about a link in a document purporting to be from ADSD, please do not hesitate to contact wthornley@adsd.nv.gov for verification.
* This meeting may be recorded to facilitate note-taking or other uses. By participating you consent to recording of your participation in this meeting.
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* Supporting public material provided to the Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council members for this meeting may be requested from Wendy Thornley at wthornley@adsd.nv.gov and is/will be available at any meeting locations and the SILC website <https://www.nvsilc.com/meetings/>

**AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following Aging and Disability Services Office at 3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite 181, Carson City, NV. 89706. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Statewide Independent Living Council website at <https://www.nvsilc.com/> and Nevada Public Notices website at [https://notice.nv.gov](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=e92e5499cb272963JmltdHM9MTY4NjYxNDQwMCZpZ3VpZD0xNGI5ODlmZS05NDliLTZhNGQtMDE3Yi05YjkyOTUxZjZiNTgmaW5zaWQ9NTE4Ng&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=14b989fe-949b-6a4d-017b-9b92951f6b58&psq=nevada+public+posting&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9ub3RpY2UubnYuZ292Lw&ntb=1)