Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council

Full Council Meeting Minutes

March 25 , 2021

**Roll call:**  Rose, English, Jade, Janice , Laurie, Lorna, Mike, Karen, Josh, Melissa, Katie, Lydia, Sarah, Tony, Denise

**Chair’s Report:** The Chair the Council have provided overall view of all the committees within the Council for new members. Infrastructure committee, reviews our Operations Manual. It’s a working document. Also reviews brochures to keep up to date on things. Public engagement committee, helps with the website and assists with outreach to different events. Outcome committee, works with state independent living plan. This committee develops and monitors throughout the year to see how we are progressing. Legislative will run from April to September. Membership committee will be conducted quarterly. We have new members and would like to continue to gain more members. Rose will meet with new members of the Council to discuss involvement with committees.

**Rosters:**  please send in contact information to Denise. Roster will be distributed for use.

**Pledge of Respectful Conduct:** if you haven’t signed, please do so and send to Denise.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**: The December 17, 2020 minutes had been received by all members and reviewed. Mike Bullis had made a motion to approve the minutes; and Joshua had seconded the motion.

**Treasurer Report:** This officer position is vacant. New members and experienced members were encouraged to apply. Reviewing budget vs. actual statement for first quarter of FY21 (Oct-Dec 2020). The actual amount is low because we did not receive our remaining monies, at the time when this snapshot was taken, our DSE payment of $14K. Mike requested an accessible Excel spreadsheet. Josh will include a recommendation for protocols to make sure presentations and documents are accessible be added to the Operations Manual.

**State Rehabilitation Council:**  Laurie reported out that the training and importance of centers being in communication with DORS about being a vendor. Purpose of Council is to support rehabilitation services regarding employment and we always have a member on the Council.

**Outcomes:** Laurie reported out on the State Plan of Independent Living. Primary responsibility is to work with center directors and designated state entity to create a three-year plan that will strengthen our services for consumers. New members have received copies of the plan. New members to send in questions to Rose, or Mike, and a short training session will be scheduled. Legislative committee recommended a policy platform. Rolled out at one of the I AM independent living meetings. Training regarding how to work with legislators. Cannot engage in lobbying, but can call your legislator as private citizens. In the Operations Manual there are instructions on how to speak on behalf of SILC. New members are encouraged to join legislative committee.

**Infrastructure:** Operations Manual has been distributed for review and comments. Email suggestions/comments to Rose and she will work with the committee.

**Staff Report:** An email was sent regarding spring training. Need to plan a meeting to learn more about, and refreshen, the Open Meetings Act. A survey was sent, please reply to survey by COB Monday, 4/5/21. Karen Anderson-Scott will be facilitating training. Usually on a quarterly basis, Denise sends out a listing of some trainings offered, primarily through ILRU. If interested, there is a training request form in the Operations Manual.

**Public Engagement:** would like to have everyone listed on the “About Us” page. Please send head shot photo. Virtual Networking Program is a work in progress. Invite all SIL directors to a virtual open house. Useful for new members to familiarize themselves with the different centers. Last year’s events were canceled because of the virus. On 4/24/21, there will be a virtual event for transitioning youth with Harford County Commision of Disabilities. On 6/1/21, Tony will be a guest speaker at the Disabled American Veterans Conference. Due to COVID there has been limited outreach events.

**Center’s Report:** ARI, holding 10 virtual events per month. 10 chrome books out to nursing homes. Continuing to distribute PPE. Have a program set up for remote help for those needing assistance with their chrome book. They also have a food resource guide on where to locate food pantries. Working with Howard County Autism Society to create a hiring program. Partnered with the Spirit Club for adaptive fitness classes. Katie and her center have been heavily involved with the I Am broadcasts. If you know of anyone who would like to be a speaker, let them know. Talking about leaving at weekly, could possibly go bi-weekly. Openings 4/5/21 and 4/12/21. Six people out of facilities and into the communities through the mainstream voucher program. Freedom Center working with MDOD on vaccination clinics. Have a weekly program called The Weekly Freedom Train that is similar to the I Am broadcast. They also have a weekly audio book club. Independence Now holding 10 virtual events a month. 10 chrome books out to people in the community. Working with vaccine equity taskforce to put together a clinic for vaccinations. Working on work incentive re application with Social Security. Received a Christopher Reeves grant from Disability Partnership for things like exercise programs, yoga and self-care. Image Center continuing to develop partnerships with communities around the country and the world to create devices that result in solutions for people with disabilities. We’re working with a Novad in Iseral. Also created a partnership with MIT. 10 new veterans in veteran directed care program to help veterans stay in their own homes. It is a veteran sponsored program working through us to deliver those services along with the state Department of Aging. Starting the bikes projects that builds special bikes for kids 9 and up that need special engineering. 95 volunteer engineers help with the bike projects.

Regarding vaccinations: working with different agencies to develop a plan to get those who cannot leave their homes to get vaccinated. A lot of coordination is all being done out of local health departments. If not in touch, reach out to them. Some transportation issues for those in need are being evaluated. Plans are being developed with local agencies to describe what our outreach would be. When we outreach, who should they call, who schedules transportation, etc.

Lydia’s center: processing a lot of calls regarding the vaccine. Have a handicap accessible bus to help with transportation, but there’s the issue of how do we schedule an appointment. Researching other transportation options. Getting care packages out as part of the CARES Act. The CARES Act released funds to the SIL’s to provide hygiene products, PPE, assistance with technology or connect to services. Part of the funds go to a salary for those working solely on care packages. Funds expire 9/30/21.

**Public Comments:** Janice commented that the CIL’s have done a great job with the I AM programs.

Meeting adjourned at 12:58 PM