

MTSILC Meeting Minutes

January 16 & 17, 2024

Virtual Meeting

Summary

Attendees January 16, 2024:

- Council Board members: June Hermanson, Scott Williamson, Hannah Thompson, Tom Thompson, Jean Schroeder, Allyson Talaska, Julie Williams, Mike Manhardt, Savannah Strauser-Smith
- DET Staff: Hannah Stokes, Lacey Conzelman, Anna Gibbs, Julia Arnold, Chanda Hermanson
- CIL Directors: Carlos Ramalho, Tom Osborn, Scott Birkenbuel
- Attendees: Chris Johnsrud, Paula McElwee (ilru), Morgan Heckford (MFP), Sarah (Captioner)

Attendees January 17, 2024

- Council Board members: June Hermanson, Scott Williamson, Hannah Thompson, Tom Thompson, Jean Schroeder
- DET Staff: Lacey Conzelman, Julia Arnold
- CIL Directors: Carlos Ramalho, Tom Osborn, Scott Birkenbuel
- Attendees: Chris Johnsrud, Morgan Heckford (MFP), Christine Breinz (Captioner)

Budget Report:

- FFY23 Budget: \$21,823
- YTD Actual Expenses: \$15,897 (as of December 31, 2023)
- % of Budget Spent YTD: 73%
- Current YTD Budget: \$5,926

Board Training:

- The Board completed a two-hour training session on SPIL writing. Paula L. McElwee presented the training virtually.

Public Comment:

- Mile Manhardt shared his role with the Missoula Adaptive Recreation and Sports program. He submitted a letter on behalf of himself and the SILC to help fund a fully adaptive mountain bike trail in the Missoula area.

Reports/Planning Updates:

- Julia shared and asked everyone to friend request the new MT SILC Facebook page.
- Julia shared a new design for a poster to be distributed to the college and universities across the state. Additionally, it was suggested to send posters to libraries and DPHHS offices.
- Discussion held regarding the SILC budget and money motioned earlier for a multi-media plan. June Hermanson indicated her motion was intended to attract potential SILC Board members. Mike Manhardt shared using the money for the IL Symposium advertising. Hannah Thompson discussed what the purpose of the multi-media campaign? She indicated with the limited SILC budget and IL Conference in September that it would be smart to pause on moving forward to spend that money this fiscal year. June made the motion to wait to the 2025 fiscal budget for the expenditure of \$6000 for the marketing plan. Julie Williams seconded the motion, and all were in favor of the motion.
- Discussion was held regarding membership dues to be paid to the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL), and National Association Statewide Independent Living Councils (NASILC). Mike Manhardt made the motion to join all three associations (NCIL, APRIL, NASILC), June seconded the motion, and an all-in favor vote by the membership was cast.
- Chanda Hermanson, Administrator Disability Employment & Transitions Division, DPHHS gave an update on state and national happenings.
- June asked about a Consumer satisfaction survey? Julia shared the most recent satisfaction surveys she could find were about 10 years old. June asked the committee to consider including this piece in the new SPIL. Hannah and Scott discussed this topic. Lacey reported what the SRC was doing for its satisfaction surveys and its lack of response.
- Current Board membership, voting, and terms was discussed.
- Tom Osborn led the discussion regarding the bylaw changes. Each proposed bylaw change was reviewed individually.
 - June Hermanson made the motion remove Article 2, Section 3. Mike Manhardt seconded the motion and an all-in favor vote was cast.

- Mike Manhardt made the motion to strike Article 3, Section B, line 2. June Hermanson made the 2nd and all in favor vote was cast.
- June asked for discussion to strike Article 8, Section A, lines 1-3. Discussion was held amongst the board members and Tom Osborn. After discussion June Hermanson made the motion to remove Article 8, Section A, lines 1-3. Mike Manhardt made the second. Motion unanimously passed.
- Tom Osborn shared background on Article 9, section F. Discussion was held on Article 9, section F. Mike Manhardt made the motion to send Article 9, section F back to committee to propose rewording and/or rewriting this portion of the bylaws. Jean Schroeder made the second, and all were in favor.
- Tom Osborn encouraged the MT SILC Board to evaluate the policies and procedures to make sure they are aligned to the bylaws.
- Tom shared that the multi-media plan had been planned on by the IL Symposium and potentially built into the SPIL. He encouraged the MT SILC Board reconsider it. June Hermanson shared it was moved to the budget for 2025 and it could and should be relooked at.
- Committees were verified and updates were shared.
 - Executive- Jean Schroeder gave update.
 - SPIL Evaluation- Julia shared the SPIL evaluation committee was on pause until a new SPIL was in place to be evaluated. The SPIL Writing Committee reviewed the findings.
 - Olmstead Committee- Tom Osborn gave an update.
 - SPIL Writing - encouraged members to be on this committee. Meeting time set.
 - IL Symposium- Tom Osborn and Julia Arnold gave updates.

Motions:

- June Hermanson made a motion to approve the November 21, 2023 minutes as written, Jean Schroeder made a second to the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- June made the motion to wait to the 2025 fiscal budget for the expenditure of \$6000 for the marketing plan. Julie Williams seconded the motion, and all were in favor of the motion.
- Mike Manhardt made the motion to join all three associations (NCIL, APRIL, NASILC), June seconded the motion, and an all-in favor vote by the membership was cast.
- June Hermanson made the motion remove Article 2, Section 3. Mike Manhardt seconded the motion, and an all-in favor vote was cast.

- Mike Manhardt made the motion to strike Article 3, Section B, line 2. June Hermanson made the 2nd and all in favor vote was cast.
- June Hermanson asked for discussion to strike Article 8, Section A, lines 1-3. Discussion was held amongst the board members and Tom Osborn. After discussion June Hermanson made the motion to remove Article 8, Section A, lines 1-3. Mike Manhardt made the second. Motion unanimously passed.
- Manhardt made the motion to send Article 9, section F back to committee to propose rewording and/or rewriting this portion of the bylaws. Jean Schroeder made the second, and all were in favor.
- Mike Manhardt moved to close the January 16, 2024 meeting at 3pm. Junn Hermanson made the second and all were all in favor.
- June Hermanson made the motion to close the January 17, 2024 meeting at 11:43am and Hannah Thompson made the second. An all in favor vote was cast.

Centers for Independent Living Reports

- **NCILS:** Public Health Workforce Activities spent (ARPA funds \$29,500) and invoiced. NCILS worked with the Great Falls Public Library to fund a public health worker in the library to meet the need of the mental health clients who visit the library. Many Rivers Mental Health provides the employee. In August 2024 this program for NCILS will sunset. The library built in a maintenance amount via mill levy to be able to continue this program. Tom then discussed Crisis Response Teams. Alluvion Health was running a mental health/crisis response team with the Great Falls police department, but no longer able to participate. GFPD identified the calls are at crisis level. NCILS will meet with the GFPD to help support a data analysis position and the GFPD will look at a maintenance position within the department. Many Rivers also looking at a new funding model to provide a CRT team.
- **LIFFT:** Carlos Ramalho discussed Paula McElwee's reference to the provision of IL Services in MT. He indicated the population of the 18 counties is changing. We have 25,000 disabled individuals in SE MT area served by LIFFT. 15,000 are residents of Yellowstone County. 70% in one county alone. Individuals with disabilities has decreased steadily in other counties. Carlos indicated that growth of services in LIFFT has grown disproportionately to the decrease of population. Compare 2020 to 2023: 2020 LIFFT has 260 cases, in 2023 the number grew to 680. I&R increased to over 2000. Carlos shared the data indicated LIFFT is serving 10% of the individuals in their service area. LIFFT feels successful and continued need to conduct

aggressive outreach. 90% of LIFFT's service area is rural- unserved and underserved. Five years ago, 0 consumers in half the rural counties served, now at least 1 consumer per county. Aggressive outreach happening to schools, police stations, mayor, hospital, clinic, etc. and even at reaching restaurants, diners, coffee shops. LIFFT feels it is meeting its meeting the challenge. LIFFT has two offices. Dealing with Medicaid eligibility changes has become a focus. Individuals are losing Medicaid, thus PCAs are being lost. Receiving requests to move back to their individual's homes due to PCA funding has become more difficult. Wrapping up vaccination clinics. Greater than 10,000 vaccinated. Worked with US Dept. of Aging. Provide Technical assistance to MT and across the country for knowledge of the success. Hope to repeat project next year. PPR for last fiscal year approved.

- **Ability:** Scott Birkenbuel reported Tami Hoar (Summit) is working with NCIL in Washington, D.C. for the 5 for 5 to push for increased funding. Ability Montana wrapped up 'Belonging in Bozeman' their diversity, equity, and inclusion plan. Ability's ADA Coordinator hired by the City of Bozeman for 10 hours/month for all things disabilities. Butte/Silverbow County is updating their ADA plan and Ability is participating in this process. Veterans' Directed Care program now has 18 consumers and Ability has hired a veteran with a disability to lead this program. Ability, Summit, and the Rural Institute applied and received the US Department of Aging grant for vaccine clinic. April: 3rd, 2024 annual *Let's Talk Disability* monolog on stage in Butte. First annual *Let's Talk Disability* to be held at Carrol College. Adaptive Skating program in Butte and Bozeman with Eagle Mount started. Took over Adaptive Ski program @ Discovery Basin. PPR submitted and asked Ability to identify how they are or plan to conduct aggressive outreach to the communities that it serves.