

MTSILC Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2023

Virtual Meeting

Summary

Attendees:

- Council Members: June Hermanson, Tami Hoar, Michael Manhardt, Jean Schroeder, Allyson Talaska, Tom Thompson, Hannah Thompson, Julie Williams, Scott Williamson
- Absent: Savannah Smith
- CIL Directors: Scott Birkenbuel, Tom Osborn, Carlos Ramalho,
- DET Staff: Julia Arnold, Lacey Conzelman, Anna Gibbs, Chanda Hermanson, Hannah Stokes
- Attendees: none

Budget Report:

- Given by Hannah Stokes
 - FY23 Budget: \$21,823
 - YTD Actual Expenses: \$15,298 (as of September 30, 2023)
 - % of Budget Spent YTD: 70%- remainder of monies were approved to be spent on the IL Symposium
 - FY2024 Budget: \$21,823
 - YTD Actual Expenses: \$0 (as of October 31, 2023)

Board Training:

- The Board viewed and discussed Making a Motion (Previous Question and Call the Question) and the Conclusion portion. The Board answered associated review questions for the training on Robert's Rules of Order.
 - How to Best Chair a Meeting section will be watched in January's meeting.
 - Lacey Conzelman encouraged the Board Members to feel free to access the training. Access available on the Governor's Boards and Appointments Webpage.

Conference Reports/Planning:

- Discussion was held regarding the minutes. Tom Osborn had a correction regarding the minutes. Motion by June Hermanson was made to accept the August 23 & 24, 2023 meeting minutes as corrected. Jean Schroeder made the second and the motion unanimously passed.
- SRC asked which day the SILC would like to meet regarding the joint April 16th-18th meeting, which day does SILC want to meet? The SILC proposed the following schedule: 16th: SILC, 17th: joint meeting, 18th: SRC.
- The Board discussed watching *Rooted in Rights* with the SRC at the April meeting. June Hermanson made the motion to watch the video, Hannah Thompson made the second, and the motion passed unanimously.
- APRIL Conference Report:
 - June Hermanson attended and gave presentation regarding training new SILC members. She also reported that membership recruitment is difficult everywhere.

- Tami Hoar attended with several of her staff as well as several Ability staff members. Tami, Summit staff, and Ability staff members gave presentations throughout the Conference. She noted that Opal Besaw (youth & Summit employee) received an award.
- MYTransitions Conference Report:
 - June Hermanson shared overall information regarding the Conference and shared the MYTransitions web site is being relaunched in December. The website will become the hub of Transition information and discussion in for the State of Montana.
 - Jean Schroeder reported the 3 tracks of the Conference. She also facilitated several breakout sessions. Mainly focused on teaching students how to advocate for themselves in the transition process. Jean also shared about the Vendor Fair and the numerous people who visited.
 - Julia Arnold shared information and high-lights on the three excellent key-note speakers.
- Julia Arnold shared information regarding her visit to NCILS and LIFFT this fall. She received a tour of both CILs. She met the staff, all were very welcoming. Discussion with the CILs included information on the numerous services they provide, service areas, the SPIL, funding, contracts, and the Quarterly reports. Visiting provided a wealth of information.
- Julia Arnold shared the newest version of the recruiting Power Point, brochures, and business cards. Will distribute to anyone who requests.
- Julia Arnold shared her research on the motion Jean Hermanson made at the August meeting regarding spending \$6000.00 on TV advertisements. Much discussion was had within the Board regarding only advertising on TV. Board discussed doing more social media research and Tami suggested exploring using these advertising monies in social media with a marketing specialist, Make Manhardt suggested knowing the demographics the SILC wants to be focused on, and Hannah Thompson suggested tracking social media visits with embedded analytics.
 - June made a motion for Julia to research/determine cost of a multi-media plan. Mike Manhart made a second to research marketing agency costs and proposals and the motion passed.

Motions:

- Motion by June Hermanson to accept the August 23 & 24, 2023 meeting minutes as corrected. Jean Schroeder made the second and the motion unanimously passed.
- June Hermanson made the motion to watch the *Rooted in Rights* at the joint meeting in April with the SRC, Hannah Thompson made the second, and the motion passed unanimously.
- June made a motion for Julia to research/determine cost of a multi-media plan. Mike Manhart made a second and the motion passed.

SILC Committee Reports:

- Reports were given from the Executive Committee, SPIL Evaluation and SPIL Writing Committee, Olmstead Committee, Membership Committee. Other committee reports were not given.
- Chanda Hermanson did give an update regarding Olmstead and information she is receiving as the DPHHS Disability Employment & Transitions Director.

CIL Reports:

- Carlos Ramalho, Executive Director of LIFFT reported:
 - Very happy with this fiscal year. Completed huge challenge of holding the vaccination clinics in the 18 counties that LIFFT serves. Held in partnership with counties and Pharm406. Vaccinated more than 7000 individuals in the rural areas with a focus on the

underserved and unserved population. At the same time of the vaccination clinics, LIFFT outreach was also supporting the 5 core services of IL. With the coordination of a marketing plan LIFFT experienced growth of 2000 individuals in the past year. Growth of 3x of people served since 2017-2018. In conjunction with the ACL LIFFT will continue to offer vaccination clinics and continue to do outreach with the IL philosophy. Challenges facing LIFFT: same as several years ago, the high turnover of employees. Investing in training and higher salaries to increase retention. Restructuring Community First Choice services and potentially opening a new office in the LIFFT service area. The LIFFT marketing plans/strategies include newspaper, announcement in social media, coordination between calendar and content, change up social media so social media overload doesn't occur, new website and app, and association with all chambers of commerce in the areas they serve. Publish success stories using marketing plan. Lee Enterprises led the marketing plan.

- Tom Osborn, Executive Director of NCILS reported:
 - ARPA funds and Part C funds were being used to hire a public health worker in conjunction with the Great Falls Public Library and the GF Behavioral Health Center. This created greater access to social services for patrons of the library. Long term planning at the library identified different populations that were accessing the library. This survey identified homeless individuals with behavioral health needed to be better served. These funds allow for sub-contracting for paying for these services. A mill levy passed allowing the library to continue this position from the start-up monies provided from NCILS and ARPA funds. It is an excellent tool helping Great Falls. Additionally, a support group was created to support those with early onset dementia at library and NCILS looking to replicate. NCILS acted as the fiscal agent for the MYTransitions Conference, and it was good to hear the great feedback. Work in conjunction with OPI, Pre-ETS, Vocational Rehabilitation, Office of Public Assistance allows this conference to happen. This year NCILS sent members of their Youth to the APRIL Conference. Before attending APRIL, the youth held fundraisers so they would be able to go to Disney Land as well. Unfortunately, the I and R for the homeless continues to be a struggle with their day-to-day referrals.
- Tami Hoar, Executive Director of SUMMIT reported:
 - Recently SUMMIT moved their Kalispell office to a new location. It has much better security and safety, offers great parking, and is very professional in appearance. Ability is excited to expand youth services in this area. The Ronan office post Covid has had a huge decline in the numbers served and is potentially going to need to move to the Polson area. SUMMIT continues to tackle the question of how to have greatest access & serve the greatest number of people. Additionally, schools in Sanders & Lake County are participating in the BALLS class. In conjunction with Scott from Ability and the Rural Institute we have started collaboratively planning the Vaccination Clinic sponsored by a US Aging grant. Summit is holding in person Living Well, Financial Wellness, and Independent Living classes. Continue to offer the nutrition CHEW classes that are completed virtually and plan to offer a Healthy Relationships class after the holidays (partner, family, social). Additionally, a new class specifically for parents with disabilities that have children is being considered. Likewise, Tami and staff attended the APRIL Conference and offered numerous classes and workshops.
- Scott Birkenbuel, Executive Director of Ability reported:
 - Ability is excited about the US Aging grant for outreach for all the rural counties. Ability's new IL ADA specialist in Bozeman is going over the barriers and challenges for their

improvement plan. Ability MT has become a key member in any future discussions, planning, and development items the City of Bozeman is discussing that may affect individuals with disabilities. The new youth Peer leader attended the APRIL conference and MYTransitions conference. Ability helped to present 8 Let's Talk Disabilities Monologues in Bozeman and that will eventually be presented in Helena as well. Carroll College's drama department plans to be involved. This year Camp Bull Wheel was a big success. It served more individuals this year than the entire 5 years prior. Hosting over 100 individuals for fly-fishing days, a 4-day camp for 8 individuals with disabilities, and a weeklong Disabled Veterans program. In collaboration with Eagle Mount and Counter Point, Ability took a bunch of Counter Point clients to float the Yellowstone. Conducting the Living Well classes at jails (both male and female) and potentially expanding to the State prison. Still face challenges with the EEV and the April hard deadline and the rural nature of Montana. We are working with the Veterans Administration to increase referrals, muddling through the Medicaid program to help clients get back on the program, advocating to state representatives so Personal Care Assistants will be paid for by Medicare.

Public Comment:

- Jean Schroeder shared the Empowerment Center discussed the IEP Boot Camps they conducted within the State this fall. Emphasis was placed on IL Centers and Part C. Next year the Empowerment Center will conduct Transition Bootcamp sessions as well.

2:30pm Meeting adjourned, Next Meeting: January 16-17, 2024 in Helena, MT