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## WASILC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 1, 2020

### **Council Members Present:**

Alyssa Adwell, Young Adult Representative, Renton  
Dion Graham, Advocate of and for Individuals with Disabilities, Seattle  
Kimberly Meck, Center Director Representative, Seattle  
Mona Fuerstenau, Advocate of and for Individuals with Disabilities, Vancouver  
Ricardo Funes, Advocate of and for Individuals with Disabilities, Olympia  
Ryan Nabors, Advocate of and for Individuals with Disabilities, Tumwater  
Sheila Turner, Chair, Parent Guardian Representative, Pasco  
Rob Hines, Ex-Officio, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)  
Tricia Eyerly, Ex-Officio, Dept. of Services for the Blind (DSB)

### **Council Staff Present:**

Kim Conner, Executive Director  
Jim House, Disability Integration Manager  
Jolie Ramsey, Executive Lead

### **Members and Guests Present:**

Mark Leeper, Director, Disability Action Center  
Donna Adamson, Director, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation  
Jana Finkbonner, Director, North Intertribal Vocational Rehabilitation  
Rayanne Miller, Confidential Secretary, DVR  
Leah Velasco, Director, Center for Independence  
Mayra Colazo, Interim Director, Central WA Disability Resources (CWDR)  
Joshua Hackney, Youth Transition Coordinator/Program Manager, CWDR  
Shelby Satko, Executive Director, WA State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC)  
Mari Heusman, Executive Lead, WA State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC)  
Elizabeth Gordon, Executive Director, Governor's Committee on Disability Issues (GCDE)  
James Pickard, DAC NW  
Tammy Cooper Woodridge, Tribal VR Counselor  
Loree Bauge  
Heather Dawson

**Call to Order and Introductions:** Sheila Turner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05am  
**Land Acknowledgement:** Read by Sheila Turner

**Review and Approve Agenda:**

**Motion:** Approve today's agenda as presented.

**First:** Ryan Nabors                      **Second:** Kimberly Meck

**Vote:** Favor: All              **Opposed:** None              **APPROVED**

**Motion:** Approve the July 2020 quarterly meeting minutes

**First:** Ryan Nabors                      **Second:** Alyssa Adwell

**Vote:** Favor: All              **Opposed:** None              **APPROVED**

**Financial Report:** Alyssa Adwell and Kim Conner

- Part B funds will be drawn down beginning in FY22.
- WASILC was \$63K under budget for FFY20
- Jana Finkbonner asked: "Is there a way to use \$63K balance in FY2021"
  - Kim provided educational piece about SILC funding; I&E Funds part of overall budget.
- Council member stipend
  - Kim will continue exploring policy and report back to council **-ACTION**

**Motion:** Approve the financial report

**First:** Alyssa Adwell                      **Second:** Ryan Nabors

**Vote:** Favor: All              **Opposed:** None              **APPROVED**

**Public Comment:** No public comments

**Partner Updates:**

Tribal Report: Jana Finkbonner

- Tribe submitted a five-year grant. The federal government extended current grant one more year
- Coronavirus-related updates
  - Each of the six tribes are in different stages of COVID reopening.

- Directors meeting monthly to share best practices.
- Some tribes have organized their own food banks/TANF.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Report: Robert Hines

- Reported on Pre- and Post- COVID caseload and performance trends
  - New applications for services down 70%
  - New eligibility determinations down 62%
  - Case closures down 23%
- Sent a Remote Services Survey to 5,371 customers
  - 12-question survey to assess experiences and challenges in areas such as:
    - Ability to use technology for meetings and services
    - Status of job search and placement activities
    - Satisfaction with VRC communications and case progress
  - Survey was available to consumers Sept. 10—Oct. 2. Results will be available by Oct. 15.
- Rolling out an electronic document management system to enable DVR to transition from paper records to “paperless”

Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) Report: Tricia Eyerly

- Service delivery being done remotely.
- Teaching staff meeting in-person with customers again. They wear PPE.
- IL providers are working with Univ. of WA to resume in-person services soon.
- Budget packages are completed. Biennium may be impacted.

Washington State Rehabilitation Council: Sheila Turner

- Sheila Turner announced her resignation as WSRC liaison
- VR100 Celebration is 10/15/20
- November quarterly meeting is Nov. 3-4 via zoom
- WSRC currently recruiting for new council members in the following positions:
  - SILC liaison
  - Current or former recipient of services
  - Two business representatives

**Centers for Independent Living**

Central WA Disability Resources (CWDR): Mayra Colazo

- Josh Hackney, youth transition coordinator, has worked with consumers with IL services.

- Josh Hackney has also transitioned into assistant director role and program management role, as has focused working with emergency preparedness.
- CARES Act funding
  - Part-time staff was hired to manage CARES Act funding.
  - Cell phones purchased to be loaned to customers who need them.
  - Helping customers with rent assistance, medical bills, & food assistance.
  - Personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased.
  - Purchased assistive tech for students who are doing school online.

Disability Action Center (DAC): Mark Leeper

- No CARES Act funds for Spokane area services.
- Held a Youth/Young Adult training last weekend in Spokane.
  - Many from group will attend APRIL conference in October.
- Purchased four 15-minute videos to promote peer connection.

Alliance of People with disAbilities: Kimberly Meck

- Grant received from King County to provide navigating systems from county to organizational systems to apply for benefits.
- Helping to educate businesses in King County to be more accessible to people with disabilities.
- Currently negotiating contract with FairStart for food assistance and food stability.
- In partnership with The Arc of King County started a consortium to ensure King County's COVID response is fully accessible.
  - Finalizing a letter/report that identifies accessibility issues and inclusion of disability community.
    - Over 200 advocates signed in support.
    - SILC signed on to letter.

Center for Independence (CFI): Leah Velasco

- Staff participated in virtual NCIL conference.
- Virtual youth transition conference in August was a success.
  - About 16 participants.
- Working on a contract to address transition services.
- CARES Act Funding:
  - Distributing food every Wednesday to customers needing food assistance.
  - Created PSA videos with CARES Act funds about COVID.
- New contract with DDA to provide IL services.
- Recruiting for new board members.

### **Partner Updates, continued:**

#### **Governor's Commission on Disability and Employment (GCDE): Elizabeth Gordon**

- In process of actively recruiting new council members.
- Orienting new members and helping them onboard virtually.
- Youth forum was cancelled due to COVID.
- Employer awards program coming up.
  - Recognize businesses and community leaders who provide advocacy and support to people with disabilities.
- The Toby Olson Lifetime achievement award to be given out for first time this year by the Governor.
- State Governors Association invited GCDE to speak about people with disabilities in WA State.
- Submitting final report soon for the RETAIN Employment project after Injury or Illness Grant.

#### **WA Assistive Technology Act Program (WATAP): Kimberly Meck**

- Alan Knue: Increased need to partnerships with WATAP. Lending libraries wanted. May support programs to lend to consumers.
- King County senior project: Using zoom for meetings. Adaptive gardening solutions
- SILC staff will email council members the WATAP meeting minutes **-ACTION**

#### **Executive Director Report: Kim Conner**

- ADA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was held virtually on July 27, 2020
- PIDS Conference planning
  - Signed MOU
  - Project lead for conference
- Participated in Disability Rights Washington candidate forum on disability
- Meeting with Governor's office staff and other Directors (GCDE, DDC, ODHHS, and WSRC) regarding policy advisory engagement
- Disability partner meeting held with Dept. of Health.
- Attended OILP meeting.
- SPIL Update
  - WA SPIL not approved by ACL. 49 of 56 states' SPILs failed.
  - Revisions due December 30, 2020.
    - Depending on what amendments will be required, may need to conduct public comment and convene an additional Council meeting.
  - New criteria may have been developed. If so, WASILC was not informed.

- Kim provided educational piece about the SPIL and ACL
- ACL will no longer use their online portal for submitting PPR reports. Every DSE, which is DVR for WA State that receives Part B funds prepares the report for submission to ACL/OILP. An assessment to evaluate how we carried out activities in the SPIL and how Part B funds were spent. ACL deemed the portal too expensive and not accessible. ACL will let the SILCs know what mechanism to use to submit PPR reports.
- Next steps: Awaiting a letter detailing corrections to address. Work with SPIL committee to address changes. If changes are not material then we will not be required to receive public input and an additional Council meeting for approval. Kim will keep council informed as she receives updates. **-ACTION**
  - It was suggested that the Executive committee could write a letter if WASILC requires more time.
- Part B contracts
  - Will still be implemented.
  - Letters were issued that contracts are effective 10/01/20.
  - Contracts are aligned with the SPIL.
  - CILs should not have to worry about not receiving those funds.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Executive Committee: Sheila Turner, Chair

- Solidarity statement with the BIPOC community.
- Sent a letter to DSHS Secretary Cheryl Strange.
- Donna Adamson from the Skamish Tribe has been identified as the new Tribal representative for the council, as Jana Finkbonner termed out.
- Continued discussion of quarterly meetings format during COVID
- EC elections will be held during quarterly meeting

#### Legislative & Policy Sub Committee: Alyssa Adwell

- Created an outreach template and organized a list of potential organizations with whom to collaborate.
- Committee members began outreach efforts via email and virtual meetings

#### Membership Sub Committee: Alyssa Adwell

- Recruitment for open positions begins in January
  - Areas of focus
    - Representation from Eastern and Central WA

- Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)

Youth & Young Adult Sub Committee: Alyssa Adwell

- Youth transition survey
  - Due to COVID and most school meeting online, survey will remain open until at least the end of this year
  - Considered a targeted Facebook ad to promote the survey

SPIL Committee Quarterly Monitoring Report: Kimberly Meck & Mark Leeper

- Reported how goals in each area were met during Q4
- Outlined goals for the coming year:
  - Consumer Satisfaction Survey
  - Transition to an electronic format for SPIL monitoring and reviewing
  - Continue developing Peer Review process
- Kimberly Meck is the new SPIL Chair

Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP) Report: Jim House

- Continues to convene biweekly online via zoom with Advisory Group and Stakeholders
- Stakeholders stood up several times to provide support to people with disabilities during disasters
- Developed draft protocols for standup procedures during disasters
- Partners with DOH, ODHHS, and other deaf advocates on ASL videos
- Participates with WASILC on elevating disabilities as a collectible data element for COVID and other DOH records.
- Stakeholders have contributed to developing protocol for accessible drive-through testing sites.
- Provided technical assistance to inquiries regarding accessibility on teleconference platforms
- Exchanges information with other emergency planners and disability advocates during FEMA Region 10 calls
- Attended NCIL Conference, four PIDS Community Resilience training sessions, FEMA webinars, and PIEPC webinars
- Planning for the PIDS Conference in November

PPR Report: Kim Conner

**Motion:** Executive Committee to have the authority to sign off on the PPR report that is due December 30, 2020.

**First:** Kimberly Meck **Second:** Alyssa Adwell

**Vote:** Favor: All **Opposed:** None **APPROVED**

**SILC and Intersectionality Presentation & Discussion:**

- Watched recorded presentation on the topic of the intersectionality of disability and race and what that means for SILCs.
- Time ran out and council was not able to discuss

**New Business:**

Executive Committee Elections

Chair

- Alyssa Adwell was nominated for Executive Committee Chair
- All council members voted in favor for Alyssa Adwell as Executive Committee Chair

Vice-Chair

- Ryan Nabors and Kimberly Meck were nominated
- Votes for Sheila Turner: 4
- Votes for Kimberly Meck: 2
- Sheila Turner approved for Executive Committee Vice-Chair

Secretary/Treasurer

- Ricardo Funes self-nominated
- All council members voted in favor for Ricardo Funes as Executive Committee Secretary/Treasurer

National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) report out: Sheila, Alyssa, Ryan, Kim, Jim, Jolie

- Each person who attended the NCIL conference in July gave a brief report

**Motion:** Approve the Solidarity Statement

**First:** Alyssa Adwell **Second:** Dion Graham



**Vote:** Favor: All      **Opposed:** None      **APPROVED**

Letter to DSHS Secretary Cheryl Strange

- Secretary Strange was very inviting to continue discussions regarding SILC relationship with the DSE.
- Discussed forming an AdHoc Committee
  - To continue discussions with Secretary Strange.
  - To create policies.
  - We want to create a historical, foundational relationship to continue in a spirit of collaboration and partnership.
  - AdHoc Committee members
    - Kimberly Meck, Mark Leeper, and Ryan Nabors

**Motion:** Approve the formation of an AdHoc Committee and approve committee members to work with Secretary Strange

**First:** Dion Graham      **Second:** Kimberly Meck

**Vote:** Favor: All      **Opposed:** None      **APPROVED**

WA State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC) Representation:

- Duties
  - Serve as the liaison between SILC and WSRC.
  - Attend WSRC quarterly meetings.
  - Report to the SILC about their work, and report to WSRC about WASILC.
- Liaison nominations
  - Alyssa Adwell suggested to temporarily send staff in lieu of a council member, as many council members are new.
  - Dion Graham agreed to be SILC liaison to the WSRC
  - Council members agreed

**Motion:** Nominate Dion Graham as SILC liaison to the WSRC

**First:** Mona Fuerstenau      **Second:** Ryan Nabors

**Vote:** Favor: All      **Opposed:** None      **APPROVED**



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**Motion:** Change January 2021 quarterly meeting date to 01/21/2021

**First:** Mona Fuerstenau      **Second:** Ricardo Funes

**Vote:** Favor: All      **Opposed:** None      **APPROVED**

Annual review of WASILC Bylaws and Policy & Procedures, AdHoc Committee:

**Motion:** Form a Bylaws and Policy & Procedures AdHoc Committee

**First:** Kimberly Meck      **Second:** Alyssa Adwell

**Vote:** Favor: All      **Opposed:** None      **APPROVED**

- AdHoc Committee members:
  - Kimberly Meck, Mona Fuerstenau, and Ryan Nabors

Meeting adjourned at 3:08pm