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## WASILC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2021

### **Council Members Present:**

Alyssa Adwell, Chair, Young Adult Representative, Renton  
Dion Graham, Advocate of and for Individuals with Disabilities, Seattle  
Donna Adamson, VR Tribal Representative, Mount Vernon  
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, Parent Guardian Representative, Pasco  
Terry Redmon, 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

### **Guests Present:**

Shelby Satko, Executive Director, WA State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC)  
Mark Leeper, Center Director, Disability Action Center (DAC)  
Felichia Schaefer, Associate Director, Center for Independence (CFI)  
Mayra Colazo, Interim Director, Central WA Disability Resources (CWDR)  
Josh Hackney, Youth Transition Coordinator/Program Manager, CWDR  
Cassi Villegas, Community Programs Manager, DVR  
Lexie Bartunek, Community Living Connections Program Manager, AL TSA  
Katy Parrish, Resource Center Supervisor, Brain Injury Alliance of WA  
Tammie Doyle, Transition Manager, DVR  
Kelly Buckland, Executive Director, National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)  
Mels Felton, Spokane Youth Project Coordinator, Disability Action Center (DAC)  
Emily Klein, Independent Living Coordinator, Housing Resources Bainbridge (HRB)  
Debbie Brown, Youth Services Supervisor, DSB

Damiana Harper, Regional Manager, DSB

### **Call to Order**

Alyssa Adwell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02am.

Land Acknowledgement read by Alyssa Adwell

### **Review and Approve Agenda:**

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

**First:** Kimberly Meck                      **Second:** Ricardo Funes

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

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

**First:** Kimberly Meck                      **Second:** Sheila Turner

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

### **Financial Report:** Ricardo Funes

- FFY21 SILC budget is \$254K; \$47,713 spent in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.
- Expect to be under budget due to non-travel and meetings held virtually.
- Some costs have increased, such as interpreting services.
  - Additional emergency preparedness meetings about to COVID-19 response has incurred interpreting services.
- Council can send extra council members to conferences this year if they will be held virtually.

**Motion:** Approve the financial report as presented.

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

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

**Public Comment: None**

### Committee & Partner Updates:

#### Executive Committee Chair Report: Alyssa Adwell

- Donna Adamson appointed as VR Tribal Representative.
- Dion Graham appointed as WSRC liaison.
- Membership recruitment is open for four positions.
- Rob Hines is no longer with DVR; Terry Redmon is Interim Director and WASILC Ex-Officio.
- Will discuss focus moving forward, such as anti-racism work and housing.
- Committee met six times since Oct. 2020 quarterly meeting.
- Responded to public comment to Federal Executive Order 13590. Alyssa read WASILC's public comment response.

#### DVR Report: Terry Redmon and Tammie Doyle

- Pre-employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) presentation
- Statewide needs assessment survey results: Three top needs were:
  - Work readiness
  - Post-secondary guidance/counseling
  - Peer mentoring
- Discussed contracting with CILs to provide Pre-ETS services.

#### Youth and Young Adult Committee: Alyssa Adwell

- Transition survey closed Dec. 31, 2020
- Received 80 Youth & Young Adult survey responses and 77 Ally survey responses.
- Committee has drafted a preliminary plan to compile, evaluate, and report data.
- Committee members are currently analyzing the data and will share full survey results with council at next quarterly meeting. **-ACTION**

#### Legislative Committee: Ryan Nabors

- Committee working on outreach template and organized list of potential organizations with whom to collaborate.
  - Groups contacted to collaborate with: NAMI, WA Federation for the Blind, WA Council of the Blind, Center for Chronic Illness, Hearing Loss Association, Brain Injury Alliance of WA, MS Society, Learning Disabilities Assoc. of WA, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Disabled American Veterans.

- Focus on Housing issues
  - Accessibility and affordability
  - Partner with CILs
  - Identify advocacy groups
    - WA Low Income Housing Alliance
    - The Arc of WA: Housing Trust Fund
  - Identify legislators. Senate Housing Committee, House, Housing Human Services and Veterans Committee
    - Tracking legislation for this session, housing benefits districts bill, building affordable housing near transit stops.

SPIIL Committee: Kimberly Meck

- In October 2020, ACL informed WASILC that the FY 2021-2023 SPIIL was conditionally approved pending revisions.
- Committee reviewed feedback and made requested changes.
- Resubmitted SPIIL on 12/01/2020 and was approved on 12/17/2020.
- Committee continues to meet regularly to discuss goals and consumer satisfaction.

Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP): Jim House

- CIEP standup and advisory groups meeting biweekly for COVID response.
- Completed the after action report from fire response.
- Advocated for DOH collection of data of people with disabilities.
- Ongoing advocacy to ensure equity at all COVID testing and vaccination sites for PWD and BIPOC.

AdHoc Bylaws, Policy & Procedures Committee: Kimberly Meck

- Reviewed current bylaws, Executive Order, and P&P.
- Met two times.
- Committee continues to meet and develop fiscal and budget policies.
- Working on developing social media policies.
- When completed, committee will present to full council for discussion and approval at April quarterly meeting. --ACTION

AdHoc DSHS Committee: Kimberly Meck

- To ensure SILC autonomy as it is situated in DSHS, committee is working on creating policies and procedures, potentially in the form of an MOU.

- Reviewed similar MOUs from other states.
- Next steps: WASILC members will draft an MOU and then present it to full AdHoc committee. **-ACTION**

### **Centers for Independent Living:**

#### The Alliance of People with disAbilities: Kimberly Meck

- Hosting an event on ableism.
- The Arc of King County and The Alliance formed a consortium to address the county's COVID response. Now it addresses ableism and need to understand disability community needs. Over 1,000 attendees.
- Developing training modules for systems navigation for PWD. Peer support, education about ableism.

#### Disability Action Center (DAC): Mark Leeper

- Continue to provide services with CARES Act funding.
- Continue to provide services online. Strong approach with intersectionality.
- Connecting youth and young adults.
- Curriculum for employment in the works.
- Working with Spokane CIL (SCIL) to assist them onboarding new employees.
- Mental Health Mondays.

#### Central Washington Disability Resources (CWDR): Mayra Colazo and Josh Hackney

- Busy with CARES Act.
- Received three additional grants.
  - \$75K 2-year grant for Kittitas County through NACHO to focus on Emergency Group Health Foundation 3-year grant \$250K to expand services, \$75K per year.
  - DOH grant will buy 75 backpacks to include blankets, sleeping bags, and toiletries, etc. will provide 15 backpacks per county served.
- Hired two additional bilingual employees, one new staff is an outreach coordinator.
- Meeting virtually with consumers due to COVID.
- They will begin a music class online to reduce feelings of isolation. Used CARES Act to purchase instruments and work out equipment. Classes are via Zoom.
- Working to get fish from local pet store to give to interested consumers to have a pet to care for to decrease isolation and stress at this time.
- Working hard at writing and receiving grants to expand services.

- Monthly art activity.
- Participating in a Youth training.
- Helping consumers order groceries and have them delivered.

Center for Independence (CFI): Felichia Schaefer

- Utilizing CARES Act funds in many ways to meet the physical and socio-emotional needs of consumers.
- Holding peer support groups virtually.
- Held a holiday party online. World vision donations purchased PPE and holiday gifts.
- Community Living (CL) program working to deinstitutionalize people in Pierce and Thurston Counties. The Community Choice Guide Grant contact with Marysville center to serve and deinstitutionalize people in upper counties Skagit, Whatcom and Snohomish soon.
- Partner with emergency food network and food banks to provide weekly food deliveries to people who requested.
- DH Grant (communication): addresses communication needs around COVID to address AFNs. Distributing goodie bags to homeless.
- Working with PIDS to provide accommodations for PWD, COVID information.
- Creating outreach video how to access COVID information.
- Exercise program created for consumers.

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

- Working to come up with creative ways to provide services in the time of COVID.
- Contract with Univ. of WA for Younger Blind Services (54 and younger).
- Debbie Brown: Presentation on Youth Pre-ETS Program.
- Served over 64 people between ages 9-13. SWAG Program (work study) had to be scrapped due to COVID. Career readiness and college prep.
- Kids said I miss being with my friends. Designed a social interaction virtual summer program. Designed a track for supported employment and virtual job experiences to earn money virtually.
- STEM based experience. Staff mailed kits each week.
- Incorporate skills and training in their youth programs.
- Jack Straw Cultural Center. Students wrote a song about how they fit in as a Blind Youth.
- Staff will email council members the audio clip to listen. **-ACTION**

#### Tribal Report: Donna Adamson

- Samish Health and Human services is a wraparound program. Housing assistance available.
- Directors meeting monthly to share resources and best practices.
- Tribes VR programs are at various stages of reopening with COVID.
- Many tribes are getting vaccines. No vaccinations at Samish at this time.
- Putting together a cultural sensitivity training. If there's further interest, they are happy to open up more widely.

#### Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC): Shelby Satko

- Reviewed WSRC mission.
- Next quarterly meeting is Feb. 2-3.
- Actively recruiting for business/labor positions and someone who is a former DVR services recipient.
- Working on 40<sup>th</sup> annual Disability Legislative reception. Held virtually.

#### Ice Breaker Activity

#### **Executive Director Update:** Kim Conner

- Policy consortium on Disability: DDC, The Arc of WA, GCDE, ODHH, WSRC. Meeting with senior advisors in Governor's office to talk about how to support the Governor to elevate disability voice, and advise the Governor as to how issues affect disability community.
  - Discussed housing; A smaller group is now meeting to discuss affordable, accessible housing for people with disabilities.
- Helped to plan and facilitate the PIDS Conference in November.
- Participating on the planning committee for 2021 Disability Legislative Reception
- Kim and Jim House working on paper to advocate for AFN Coordinator imbedded in EMD. They will present the paper to full council at the next quarterly meeting. **-ACTION**
- Staff continuing to do anti-racism work.
  - Purchased the book "Me and White Supremacy" by Layla Saad, with its accompanying journal.
  - Staff meeting every few weeks to discuss reading.

### **Council Discussion:**

#### Focus areas for the year

- Anti-Racism Work.
- Intersectionality of disability and race.
- Disability Justice and making sure disability voice is involved in the conversations.
- Trainings/Guest Speakers on topics: CILs
- Gather info about how each CIL is addressing the issues of racism and disability justice.
- Training in the 5 core services.
- Feature CIL consumers' success stories and personal experiences on the WASILC website and/or speaking at a quarterly meeting.
- We want to hear what's happening outside the council.
- Look into the needs of the 19 counties that are not contracted with CILs for services.
- SILC and CIL pairing people up in zoom breakout sessions.
- Add a question in the post-meeting survey to ask what CM would like to incorporate in future meetings. **-ACTION**
- We want to learn more about the CILs and other things going on in the IL network.
- Invite BIPOC organizations to speak to CM at quarterly meeting.
- Short survey with these topics. Staff to add question to QM survey. **-ACTION**
- Josh and Mayra sit on an Equity Committee through the Chamber of Commerce. Subcommittees within discuss topics such as diversity, racism, inclusion, ADA. They work to make sure that events that the city puts on are accessible and accommodating to PWD.

### **New Business:**

#### Amicus Brief: Kelly Buckland, Executive Director, NCIL

- Contacted by Advancing States regarding case Turner vs. WA DSHS. Case #99243-6.
- Explained case history.
- CILs are signing onto brief.
- Brief is due to courts Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Has potential to have national impact.
- Affects people's ability to live independently.
- Goes against the Olmstead Decision. That people receive services in the least restrictive environment.



**Motion:** I make a motion that the Executive Committee be allowed to review the Amicus brief to determine whether Alyssa can sign, and that it does not need to involve the entire committee as it is approved by the entire council, with Alyssa's signature.

**First:** Kimberly Meck

Discussion: Ricardo Funes provided amended language: "as it is approved by the entire council, with Alyssa's signature."

**Second:** Sheila Turner

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

PPR Report: Kim Conner/Alyssa Adwell

- Awaiting instructions from ACL as to how to submit the report.
- Planning for Part B funding FFY22.
- Begin receiving Part B funds in October 2021.

**Motion:** To create an AdHoc committee for Part B funds.

**First:** Kimberly Meck      **Second:** Ricardo Funes

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

- AdHoc Part B funds committee members: Ricardo Funes, Dion Graham and Sheila Turner.
  - Mels Felton would like to volunteer to be on the committee. Jolie will email Mels the application to be on the committee. **-ACTION**

**Motion:** I move that the meetings be set to April 15 and July 15.

**First:** Kimberly Meck:

**Second:** Dion Graham

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

2021 Conferences: SILC Congress, NCIL, APRIL

- If in person, delegates to send
- SILC Congress: April 25-29 San Diego

- Dion Graham interested in attending

**Motion:** I make a motion to send a staff person and Dion to the SILC Congress, and if, depending on the platform allowable in the budget, other council members and staff can attend.

**First:** Kimberly Meck

**Second:** Ricardo Funes

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

Due to some council members not present at the end of the meeting, the remaining voting measures will be tabled for April quarterly meeting.

- NCIL: July 18-22 (unconfirmed) Washington DC
- APRIL: October 8-11 (unconfirmed) Orlando

Membership Committee: Alyssa Adwell

- Actively recruiting for membership committee. Formally invite other CM to recruit. Currently there are 4 open positions.
- If/when you have someone to recommend to join council, email staff or EC committee members.

Meeting adjourned at 3:22pm