

WASILC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

July 14th, 2022

Council Members Present:

Alyssa Adwell, Chair, Advocate of and for Individuals with Disabilities, 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
Tricia Eyerly, Ex-Officio Department Services for the Blind
Karin Morris, Advocate of and for Individuals with Disabilities, Olympia
Naomi Marteeny, Advocate of and for Individuals with Disabilities, Kirkland
Terry Redmond, Ex-Officio Division Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Council Staff Present:

Kim Conner, Executive Director
Jim House, Disability Integration Manager
Rebecca Rodriguez, WASILC Executive Assistant

Guests Present:

Mayra Colazo, Center Director, Central WA Disability Resources (CWDR)
Mark Leeper, Center Director, Disability Action Center Inc. (DAC)
Robert Blumenthal, Disability Empowerment Center (DEC)
Cindy Abouammo
Tammy Woodrich
Leah Velasco, Center Director, Center for Independence (CFI)
Leilani Martinez, DVR HQ
Bonnie Pitchford, DVR HQ
Rory Walley, Program Manager, Virginia Mason Franciscan Health

Motion: I make a motion to approve the agenda

First: Ryan Nabors **Second:** Karin Morris

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED

Motion: I make a motion to approve the April 2022 quarterly meeting minutes

First: Dion Graham **Second:** Ricardo Funes

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED

Fiscal Report: Dion Graham/Kim Conner

- \$50K under budget for FFY22
- Question on if SCNA budget is specific to BIPOC
 - Tabled for later discussion/review of past notes

Motion: to approve the final report as presented.

First: Karin Morris **Second:** Ricardo Funes

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED

FFY23 Budget

- Is there other funding for CIEP?
 - No other solicitation has not been done before, DOH has always supported/funded
- CIEP is not COVID related funding
- Discussion of future motion for Executive Director continue being part of contract process, decided it's daily business needs – no motion needed

Motion: Approve Budget and Narrative for FFY23 and Alyssa to submit to DVR

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

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED

Public Comment

Kimberly Meck: I do want to make one public comment it happens to be one of Disability Empowerment Center employees, Robert Blumenthal, I would like to recognize his 25 years with our organization. This month he celebrates 25 year anniversary working with the Center of Independent living in King County. Worked with 9 ED. Last meeting he will be attending as an employee, retiring in September. Thank you for 7 years with Kimberly and 25 years has been in their organization. Wealth of knowledge and information. Thank you for your time and effort.

Look forward to your return as a volunteer and still be a part of the independent living movement.

Robert: Thank you. Kimberly was his 7th ED. I'll be 75 at the end of the year.

Committee & Partner Updates

Executive Committee, Chair Report: Alyssa Adwell

- Second session of Justice Disability training today, July 14 2022
- 5 positions open – 6 candidate applications
 - Designated Department of Services of the Blind ex officio
 - One out of state – not moving forward
 - One position held for Tribal representation
 - No tribal applications at this time

Executive Director Update: Kim

- Kim spoke with Jana - by the end of July, they will have somebody that will be applying for the tribal VR director position for the council.
- Member on rate setting board, a new board that sets the rate for caregivers across Washington State as representation for people with mobile disabilities
- Used to be administered through Aging and Long Term Services Administration. But the new legislation pulled it out of ALTSA into a private organization that will administer that
- Two issues for providers and acknowledge that there have been people approved for personal assistance that are not able to get personal assistance because there aren't enough workers
- Disability Rights Washington asked WASILC to sign on to a letter of endorsed that DRW is drafting to create and fund a disability justice commission and study for the Supreme Court system
 - Executive committee approved for us to sign
- Discussions with Terry about increasing WASILC's operational funding to support the increase in ED and EA salaries and inflation
- Reached out to Cassi, Deputy Director of DVR, about how WASILC can be supportive partners with DVR in their strategic planning
- Kim's term as Blind SRC is ending, motion for the incoming executive director to be, a motion for them to be the WASILC representative on the blind SRC

Motion: to appoint the incoming executive director as the Blind SRC representative

First: Kimberly Meck **Second:** Karin Morris

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED

Youth/Young Adult Committee: Naomi

- Daylong conference to educate youth and young adults in Washington State:
 - What is the independent living philosophy, what do SILCs do?
 - Age ranges 16 to 21 and 18 to 24. Summer 2023 or 2024.
 - Need budget for accommodations, staff, and food.
 - Council asked YYA committee to come back with budget proposal and proposal of what the activity is going to look like - **ACTION**

Legislative Committee: Dion/Kim

- On hold - nothing to report

SPIL Committee & SPIL Monitoring Report: Kimberly Meck

- Created the survey for getting information for the state independent living
 - 328 responses in English and 7 responses in Spanish
- Having conversations on what happens if a SILC closes, what happens if additional funding comes in
- Centers will be hosting at least one virtual community forum. Asking partners in the community to host watch parties for people who don't have access to the internet and won't have the ability to participate.
- consumer satisfaction survey has been finalized
 - standardized set of questions regarding information on consumer satisfaction of the services and the activities within the SIL that they access

CIEP: Jim House

- Cascadia Rising 2022 tabletop exercise - great earthquake and tsunami that's going to hit not only Washington but the whole region, Alaska, Washington, California, Oregon, and Idaho
 - Showcase accessibility and functional needs and give attention to people with disabilities and other vulnerabilities in the community
 - First of its kind , allowing people with disabilities can get connected to emergency services
 - Recognized gaps in what could happen. Emergency management and the department of health were able to envision the work CIEP does
 - Other states, national organizations, partners in disaster strategies, and some highly visible people were in attendance
 - Covid gave a glimpse into the gaps and disconnects

Ad Hoc: WASILC Statewide Community Needs Assessment: Karin

- Acquiring a contractor to do assessment is on hold until membership is complete – committee wants membership to be 51% BIPOC

- Currently five identify as white and four are identifying as BIPOC
- Committee would like to ask to deviate from SILC policy and allow the ad hoc statewide communities assessment committee to have a BIPOC chair
- Discussion on whether SCNA was general data collection and be intentional about including, the BIPOC stakeholder group that has historically not been represented – tabled for later discussion under New Business to review past meeting notes

DVR Report: Terry Redmon

- EDAI administrator position is vacant
- June 16th Justin started new position at ESD and Cassi was hired as new Deputy Director
- Communications manager starts August 16 – Lynn
- June 1st there are about 1100 people on the waiting list priority Category 1 and 2 remaining open
- serving customers in priority Category 3 with an application date prior to April 13
- stopped the releases for a couple of months in order to allow them to get acclimated to the new system
- DVR is required to conduct a comprehensive statewide needs assessment every three years.
 - Contracting with Well Sky to have this done this year.
 - Purpose: describe the rehabilitation needs of individuals and disabilities residing within the state.
 - The business management modernization project WAVES is the name of the new system – unforeseen obstacles have pushed date back
- Executive order 2204 which implements the Washington State pro equity anti-racism, PEAR is the name plan and playbook is underway.
 - role of this executive order is to support the implementation of the pair strategic plan from the governor's executive order which each state agency including our division is forming teams of leaders, employees, members of the communities to develop, implement and measure the effectiveness of the pro equity racial justice access and belonging strategic objectives
- DSHS has developed a PEAR team and one of the WASILC council members is sitting on that team as well as the WSRC representative

DSB Report: Tricia Eyerly

- DSB fiscal analyst II position vacant
- PEAR team established includes community members and there's quite a bit of direction on who needs to be sitting on those committees
- Still running tech program
- Number of clients served has increased for the year 2022 by 25% from our numbers in 2021
- Looking for ways to increase our vendors at large across the state

- Kimberly: How does DSB incorporate services for BIPOC individuals who are blind and low vision
 - Tricia will take question to Executive team - **ACTION**

WSRC: Dion Graham

- The Washington State rehabilitation council will have its next quarterly meeting in Moses Lake on August 11th and 12th. And focus will be on Region 1 and the south central unit area
- Kimberly asked about Legislative Reception: Legislative Reception on hold - reconvening in the next couple months to discuss the format and capacity to hold the event

Icebreaker: It was fun!

Committee & Partner Updates Con't.

GCDE: Elizabeth Gordon: No report

Centers for Independent Living:

Leah Velasco: CFI

- Vaccine event in June during the strawberry festival.
- Lakewood at Fort silicon Park with Summerfest - July 23rd
- New transition summer workshop coming up
 - Accepting 12 youths for each office
 - First week and second week of August
 - First week in Marysville, only in person
 - Second week in Lakewood, both options for in person and virtual
 - 58 applicants, accepted all 12 for each office and eight youth for virtual
- The Hagan foundation is doing a fundraiser for us at the head and grocery store until August
- Pathways to community living programs in the Marysville office has been successful in helping participants into assisted living or some other better living situation than they were in before.
- Veteran care program that recently started. Hope to hire someone specifically to help run that program, a lot of potential to grow.
- Also recruiting board members

Mark Leeper: DAC

- New employee is dynamic as can be and has been going to various events doing outreach events
- Pride event happening in Riverfront Park in downtown Spokane

- Working on accessible garden plots, had Washington State University students develop plans, volunteers and help construct accessible garden beds that include a new paved walkway, paved area around so that a wheelchair can roll underneath

Mayra Colazo: CWDR

- Fundraiser on August 2nd in celebration of ADA
- Better directed care has three veterans participating
- Summer drop readiness program, end of July through mid-August. Focusing on the pre-employment skills, social media and how social media can impact the opportunities to find employment
- Held a couple vaccine events – not as successful as in the past
- Advocacy reporting in Ellensburg took pictures of places that needed to be fixed- how specific sidewalk or overgrown bushes impacted them. Presented to the city council and they made those areas priority
- Rental assistance programs, helps us support people with disabilities pay their rent and utilities who might have eviction notices
- Sawyer Stearns, our emergency preparedness staff, has been doing amazing work with emergency preparedness and getting ourselves ready for fire season

Kimberly Meck: DEC

- Rebranding complete: Disability Empowerment Center
- Partnering with Seattle King County public health on vaccine events. On contract with Seattle King County public health to ensure the accessibility of these vaccine events
 - survey on the impacts of COVID for the disability community in King County
 - Kimberly will send data once it's released – **ACTION**
- Started working with the new regional Housing Authority that does housing in all of King County and their incorporated cities and the unincorporated areas in King County
- Working on increasing accessibility for applying for housing vouchers and for housing programs but also understanding the needs of accessibility for people with disabilities who are residents of homeless shelters

New Business

Executive Session:

- 11 applicants that pass through the application screening and came to for review. Questions were created for them to answer on the application and questions were developed during the interview process. 11 applicants were scored and decided to interview five of the applicants
- One of the applicants removed themselves from the process after the interviews leaving four applicants for consideration

Motion: Go into Executive Session so that we can discuss those four candidates and the recommendations that we would like to make going forward for Executive Director applicant and that position.

First: Mona Fuerstenau **Second:** Kimberly Meck

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

Executive Session: 20 minutes- Review ED recommendations and salary from the ED Transition team and re-entered into the public meeting

Motion: Move forward with the chosen and allow Alyssa to begin negotiations to hire

First: Kimberly Meck **Second:** Karin Morris

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

Review and approve new council membership applications for recommendation to the Governor's Office

- One ex officio, one tribal position, that we are working on actively, and then three additional open positions, of which we have six applicants, one of which who lives out of state and is not being presented to the Council
 - Naomi, Raymond, Steve, Tyler and Angela
- Naomi abstained from vote

Motion: We move forward with recommending Naomi, Raymond, and Tyler and Tricia to the council

First: Kimberly Meck **Second:** Karin Morris

Vote: Favor: Kimberly, Karin, Mona, Ricardo, Dion, Ryan **Opposed:** None Abstained: Naomi **APPROVED**

Naomi asked to represent WASILC on PEAR by DVR (WA State Pro-Equity Anti-Racism plan & playbook): Naomi/Kim

- Conversation of understanding the kind of the role and responsibility Naomi or any other Council member has in being identified as a WASILC member asked to be on other workgroups, committees, etc.
- Naomi does not have the authority to talk on behalf of WASILC. The only Executive Director and the Chair, unless WASILC makes a motion for her or any other council member to speak on behalf of WASILC
 - Great exposure for WASILC
 - Bring back any questions to Executive committee

- No motion was presented

Part B: FFY22 & FFY23:

- Carry-over from '22 to '23, and a little over \$28,000

Determine 2023 dates and locations

- Discussion to have Oct. QM in Olympia virtual only due to time constraint, COVID spikes and new ED and EA
- Alyssa suggested: January 19th and 20th in Olympia, April 6th and 7th in Seattle, July 13th and 14th in Ellensburg and October 5th and 6th in Marysville

Motion: I make a motion for the place and locations as recited by Alyssa

First: Kimberly Meck **Second:** Naomi Marteeny

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

October QM change: October 6 & 7 in Olympia

Motion: I move October 6th via Zoom

First: Moan Fuerstenau **Second:** Naomi Marteeny

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

Council Trainings: SILC Roles & Responsibilities by ILRU

- Several new staff on board by Oct. trainings would be helpful
- Roles and responsibilities
- History of IL in Washington State
- SPIL development

Council Quarterly Reporting: Kimberly *surveymonkey link*

- Briefly describe your SPIL related activities
- 3 months before QM, ED will send a reminder to fill out survey
- Can be filled out as activities occur, multiple times

APRIL conference: Orlando, FL October 13-14 APPROVAL

- Skipping this year's conference due to new staff on boarding at that time

Executive Committee voting in October

SCNA Discussion

- Reviewed past minutes that discuss putting together the SCNA ad-hoc committee
- Kim acknowledged she interpreted council discussion for this work to be formed through BIPOC lens
- Council members discussed that the focus is on disability with the emphasis on the BIPOC community

Adjourn 2:50 pm

Motion: Move to adjourn

First: Moan Fuerstenau

Second: Naomi Marteeny

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED