

WASILC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 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
Terry Redmon, Ex-Officio, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Council Staff Present:

Kim Conner, Executive Director
Jim House, Disability Integration Manager
Avivette Coles, Executive Assistant

Guests Present:

Mayra Colazo, Center Director, Central WA Disability Resources (CWDR)
Joshua Hackney, Youth Transition Coordinator/Program Manager, (CWDR)
Felichia Schaefer, Associate Director, Center for Independence (CFI)
Elizabeth Gordon, Executive Director, Governor's Commission on Disability and Employment (GCDE)
Tammy Cooper-Woodrich, NIVRP
Karin Morris
Peggy DiSalle, Safein Home
Mark Leeper, DAC
Kim Canaan, UW-DSB IL program

Call to Order

Alyssa Adwell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00am

Motion: Approve today's agenda as presented.

First: Kimberly Meck **Second:** Dion Graham
Vote: Favor: All **Opposed:** None **APPROVED**

Motion: Approve the July 2021 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

First: Dion Graham **Second:** Ryan Nabors
Vote: Favor: All **Opposed:** None **APPROVED**

Motion: Approve the financials as presented

First: Dion Graham **Second:** Ryan Nabors
Vote: Favor: All **Opposed:** None **APPROVED**

Committee & Partner Updates

Executive Committee Chair Report: Alyssa Adwell

- Met with Faythe Aiken to talk about the statewide needs assessment –

Executive Director Update: Kim Conner

- Kim has been reaching out to disability justice consultants to do some training
- PPR is done every year with DVR– OILP contracted with new company but the portal just opened to get it done now. Due by 11/1/21 – working with DVR and the chair.
- Due to COVID there is a lot going on at state and federal levels – conversations around how to collect data on people with disabilities. Disability is a protected class so people are hesitant in asking for information.
- House Bill 1566: Stipulates that state legislation that effect the disability community have people with disabilities sit on those groups for input

Youth and Young Adult Committee: Alyssa Adwell

- Concluded the survey report and posted on the website as well as distributed to the people who helped gather the data.
- Committee will reconvene soon to reevaluate goals and next steps.
- Always looking for new members

Legislative Committee: Dion Graham

- Andy Silver is the Chief Operating Operator and Josh Hackney participated in the panel discussion on housing challenges in WA State. Issues identified:
- Looking to advocate for legislature during our sessions – HB1566: a legislature known as “nothing about us without us” act which recognizes people with disabilities are often left out of policy making so this is meant to help with that. Issues people of disability face
- Spoke with contact at GCDE Legislative Committee about a potential collaboration
- Plans for the upcoming year will be discussed at the next meeting

Membership Committee: Alyssa Adwell

- Two open seats
 - There are two applicants to review and discuss
- Review of the process
- Membership Committee realize that we don’t have representation from the east and central geographic areas. Membership committee is working on more diverse representation
- Staff will submit approved recommendations to the Boards and Commission office for appointment.

Motion: Approve both candidates as presented to move forward to the governor’s office.

First: Kimberly Meck

Second: Donna Adamson

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED

SPIL Committee: Kimberly Meck

- In the process of planning for writing the next SPIL
 - Rehabilitation Act up for reauthorization and work being done to get input from SILC’s nationwide
- Goal review and sending out a timeline
 - Part of the process is to be doing community outreach and networking
 - This involves conducting meetings in WA state – to gather information from disability communities across the – Great opportunity to get to know people in the state and to receive feedback

- Peer Evaluation Program
 - Best practice where Centers come together to evaluate a Center on its programs
 - Offers feedback, support, and learn about best practices being used by Centers

Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP): Jim House

- Stakeholders have been meeting monthly. We are currently at level 1 stand-up – We went up to level 3 at the height of COVID and helped with issues from the fire
- Sent out CIEP Newsletter
- Released the access and functional needs white paper – building a case for a specialist in EMD – EMD is now working on a budget package which will hopefully include 2 AFN specialist
- Gave a presentation FEMA Region X meeting
 - Video interview on emergency preparedness month
 - Transportation access in the NW
 - Media interview with NY Times; article published focused on fires in CA. Good exposure

DVR Report: Terry Redmon, DVR Director

- Permanent Director as of 9/1/21
- Added a Business Relations Manager as of 10/1/21
- Office Opening : Managers and Supervisors will return 10/18 and staff 11/1 and lobbies will open 11/15
- Modernization project – DVR headed towards an electronic document system as November this year all cases will be electronic
- DVR has been working on the transition of the SARS
- There was a decrease in referrals last year and that is still the case – as we move back into the office we're slowly adjusting to the hybrid model and the expectation is that the cases will go up as things move back

DSB Report: Kim Canaan for Tricia Eyerly

- Our IL program empowers people with vision loss or blindness to live independent in the comm. The goal is to provide goals, skills and confidence for these individuals to live independent in their homes and communities

- We strive to reach our goal through contracted IL services, adjustment counseling, information and referral, assistive technology
- COVID pandemic has effected services. Instituted COVID protocols.
- Pool of providers that have been retiring, shrinking amount of providers

Tribal Report: Donna Adamson

- Twelve different Tribal VR Agencies
- COVID impacted with staff turnover
- Run on 5 year grants and a lot of the agencies were refunded this year, also a renewal of technical assistance grants
- Return to work status depends on the tribe

WSRC: Dion Graham

- Conducting customer listening sessions in Bellingham to hear about their experiences in the process of vocational rehab with their counselors
- Positions Open, see flyer in quarterly meeting packet
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GCDE: Elizabeth Gordon

- Celebrating National Disability Employment Month – Employer Awards on 10/26/21, 11a-1p to honor employers who are doing a great job with people with disabilities
- In the process of recruiting for new member for GCDE Committee
- Automatic systems has been shown to have bias for the BIPOC community as well as people with disabilities – the group responds to legislation that sees what factors are needed when the state purchases such systems
- Dept. of Licensing is working on implementing legislation that allows people with disability to have a mark on their driver's license that informs police and other first responders on their disability
- General membership meeting on 10/29/21

Disability Action Center: Mark Leeper

- ACL accepted DAC's application for the Spokane Center
- New name of Center: Inland NW Disability Experience (INDEx)

Central Washington Disability Resource: Mayra Colazo

- Collaboration with DDC, DRW, UCEDD, other Centers with CDC COVID funding to address vaccine hesitation in the disability + BIPOC communities
- Having a march for disability awareness month on October 15th
- Held a summer youth program at CWDR – 5 weeks long and each week covered a different topic (professionalism, interview skills, job shadowing)
- Continuing homeless backpack outreach with the department of health – identifying individuals that haven't been helped
- Participated on a panel with the legislative committee and spoke on the accessibility
- Home modifications in accessibility evolving
- Working on a project to look at accessibility in our communities and identify barriers
- Was able to utilize social media and seeing an increase

Alliance for people with disabilities- Kimberly Meck

- Systemic advocacy in King County with the County and City
- Five major failings report : making progress
- Two new ADA coordinators in the county operations and also transitioning one TLT position

Center for Independence: Felichia Schaefer

- Staffing up Marysville office
- New contract with Neural Rehabilitation. They contract with wounded warriors to provide services to veterans who are receiving services with wounded warriors.

Public Comment

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

New Business

SILC Congress: Feb 28-March 2nd, San Diego (date and location subject to change)

- To be determined if in person or virtual
- National conference with focus on SILC's
- Great conference for networking and learning about SILCs

Motion: Approve sending Kim Conner, Avivette Coles, and Dion Graham to the SILC Congress if it's an in person event. If it changes to a virtual event to allow open attendees by letting Kim know you'd like to attend.

First: Kimberly Meck

Second: Ricardo Funes

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED

Executive Committee Elections:

- The Committee meets monthly and conducts business in between council meetings, develops the agenda and addresses any internal issues. Has an understanding of daily operations. May have additional meetings depending on the workload.
- Voting for the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary Treasurer
 - Open nominations

Motion: That Dion Graham be elected the secretary treasurer for WASILC.

First: Kimberly Meck

Second: Ricardo Funes

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED

- Nominations for the Vice Chair Position
 - Ricardo Funes

Motion: That Ricardo Funes be elected the Vice Chair of WASILC.

First: Kimberly Meck

Second: Ryan Nabors

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED

- Nominations for the Chair Position

Motion: That we elect Alyssa Adwell to the Chair position for WASILC.

First: Kimberly Meck

Second: Ryan Nabors

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED

- Positions will go into effect on 10/08/2021

Addendum to Budget & Narrative: Ricardo Funes

- Discussion on wages/benefits increase after DVR HR review of these positions.
- Addendum discusses how to address potential budget overages.
- Work with DVR to address

Motion: That we approve this budget & narrative to be presented to DVR and allow the executive committee to finalize conversations with DVR for a final budget.

First: Kimberly Meck

Second: Donna Adamson

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED

Discussion: Statewide Needs Assessment

- Collaboration with Council and partners to engage with in developing and seeing the assessment through
- Partners who might be able to lend some capacity support – specifically agencies that may have greater capacity
- Finding a consultant – Will need to go through an RFP process
 - Potential cost is estimated between \$25K-\$35K
- Having good data is crucial for any disability group especially when advocating to legislators, funding, policy making, and advocating/educating
- Kimberly found a prior statewide needs assessment for WA State. Will share with group-**ACTION**

January Meeting: In person/Virtual

- Two day meeting in person – discuss if meeting should be a virtual meeting to accommodate the pandemic and should it be one or two days

Motion: Change January's meeting to be held virtually for a one day.

First: Mona Fuerstenau

Second: Kimberly Meck

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED

Disability Justice training: Ricardo Funes

- Clarifying that council wants to engage in disability justice training and garnering consensus of the cost
- Council wants to proceed with training and believes the cost of training is already in the budget

Bylaws/Policy & Procedure Annual Review: Ad-hoc Committee

- Every year a Ad-hoc committee is created to review the bylaws/policy & procedures
 - Mona Fuerstenau volunteers
 - Donna Adamson volunteers

Motion: To appoint Mona Fuerstenau and Donna Adamson to the Ad-hoc Committee.

First: Kimberly Meck

Second: Dion Graham

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED

NCIL Conference: Council Members report out

- No report outs

NCIL Virtual Hill Visits Report: Kim

- Collaborated with the Centers and contacted our legislators
- Met with Representatives and Senators
- Overall meetings went well
- See survey results from participants in quarterly meeting packet

Topics or Presentations for future meetings

- Disability Justice Training
- Learn more about peer counseling and youth and how that information may be useful in the IL setting
- Transportation challenges in the disabled community

Meeting Adjourned at 2:49pm