

Minutes from DE SILC Advocacy Committee Meeting of November 20, 2023

Held via Zoom starting at 12:03 PM

Members Present: Daniese McMullin-Powell (Advocacy Committee Chairperson), Sandra Farina (DE SILC Chairperson) and Blake Roberts (DE SILC Secretary).

Others Present: Brad Melvin (public).

Meeting Commencement

Today's Advocacy Committee meeting commenced at 12:03 PM.

Discussion

The member of the public, an occupational therapist, shared his efforts to transition people with disabilities, both in schools and nursing homes. The Committee Chairperson explained about Money Follows the Person. She also stated the importance of education about the program.

Daniese also shared transportation issues. There is no accessible Uber or Lyft in Delaware, and Delaware has no metro system. The Chairperson said the only transportation systems available for people with disabilities is Paratransit and fixed route.

The Committee Chairperson then emphasized that voting needs to be accessible for people with disabilities. This includes electronic voting. Daniese also discussed assisted suicide legislation.

Daniese asked for Brad's advocacy ideas. From his perspective, the focus is individual advocacy. This means helping people with physical or intellectual disabilities advocate for themselves.

Sandra encouraged Brad to attend the December full council SILC meeting. She also shared about SILC's current focus on developing a new State Plan for Independent Living. One of the anticipated goals is advocacy for people with disabilities to live independently. Daniese shared that SILCs can educate, but not lobby. The centers for independent living provide services. Home modifications and other services are provided by the centers for independent living through federal funds. The source of those funds is the Administration for Community Living. Brad asked where the centers for independent living are located in Delaware. Sandra provided information about both centers. Daniese said clients have the choice of which center they wish to receive services FROM.

Minutes Approval

The October Advocacy Committee meeting had been canceled. Blake recommended that Minutes of the September meeting be approved. Daniese made a motion to approve the September 12 Advocacy Committee meeting. Blake seconded. Motion carried with no opposition, changes or questions.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

Sandra shared that an Advocacy Committee meeting will not occur in December due to the holiday; Daniese accepted the statement. The next Advocacy Committee meeting will occur in January. Today's meeting adjourned at 12:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Roberts, DE SILC Secretary