

Minutes from DE SILC Advocacy Committee Meeting of January 9, 2024

Held via Zoom starting at 12:02 PM

Members Present: Daniese McMullin-Powell (Advocacy Committee Chairperson), Sandra Farina (DE SILC Chairperson), Arte Mays (DE SILC Vice-Chair), Elizabeth (Lizzy) Phillips, Kathryn Burritt (soon to be DE SILC Executive Director) and Blake Roberts (DE SILC Secretary).

Meeting Commencement

Today's Advocacy Committee meeting commenced at 12:02 PM.

Approval of Minutes

An Advocacy Committee meeting did not occur in December 2023 due to holidays. Sandra made a motion to approve the November 20 Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes; Blake seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously with no corrections, changes or objections.

Discussion

Daniese welcome the incoming Executive Director. The Committee Chairperson stated she will send out the Delaware disability legislative priorities. One item is assisted suicide (House Bill 140). She also pointed out the fact that currently, Delaware does not have a Money Follows the Person program to support people transitioning from institutions to the community.

Daniese then discussed the Latonya Reeves Freedom Act (Senate bill 1193, House bill 2708). The focus of this Congressional bill is civil rights: the right of people with disabilities to live in the community instead of an institution. It also enables Medicaid recipients to receive relevant services to support independence. The bill is named after a person with disability who passed away in calendar year 2023. Daniese recommended that the Advocacy Committee conduct a detailed review of the Latonya Reeves Freedom Act in the future. The legislation currently has 193 co-sponsors.

Daniese then emphasized the value of awareness about issues. She also stated that advocacy is one of the five core independent living services. Sandra clarified that SILC members can educate. The Chairperson encouraged attendees to bring their ideas to the next Advocacy Committee meeting.

Meeting Adjournment

Today's meeting adjourned at 1:22 PM. The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled to occur on February 13 at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Roberts, DE SILC Secretary