

Delaware SILC SPIL GPS Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 5, 2024

Held via Zoom starting at 10:04 AM

Committee Members Present: Sandra Farina (SPIL GPS Committee Chairperson and SILC Representative), Blake Roberts (DE SILC Secretary and SILC Representative), Ashley Spinden (Representative, Division for the Visually Impaired), and Kathryn Burritt (DE SILC Executive Director).

Others Present: Mary Beth Parker (Community Hub Manager, Independent Resources, INC), Laurne Jumps (Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities) and Debbie Bain (public, former DE SILC Executive Director, non-voting member).

Meeting Commencement

Today's meeting commenced at 10:04 AM.

Approval of Minutes

Mary made a motion to approve The February SPIL GPS Minutes; Blake seconded. Minutes were approved with no questions, changes or corrections.

Old Business

Mission Statement (Kathryn)

Kathryn verbally reviewed mission statement options which she had sent to Committee members before today's meeting. She had created options 2 and 3. Mary said some of the details from options could be included in purpose. Debbie expressed her concern about including the aging population in mission statement because statewide independent living councils were established under the Rehabilitation Act. The goal of that federal legislation is serving people with disabilities. Blake supported Debbie's observation. He also pointed out that the Administration for Community Living provides funding to ensure people with disabilities and the aging population have what they need. Lauren suggested that aging population be in purpose section of the State Plan for Independent Living, but not mission statement. Kathryn suggested the aging population be an unserved/underserved population. Kathryn and Blake agreed that the aging population can overlap with people with disabilities. Blake emphasized the fact that some members of the aging population are people with disabilities. It was ultimately decided to remove aging population from mission statement and address it later in the plan (Executive Summary).

New Business

Goals and Objectives (Sandra/Kathryn)

For goal 1 (Independent Living centers), Lauren suggested adding "grow and enhance the independent living network" to goal purpose. There was agreement for this addition. Kathryn stated that in the first

year, the focus will be research and finding resources and data. For goal 2 (transportation), Debbie recommended that SILC become an advocate for transportation requirements in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Kathryn said it can be beneficial to know what transportation projects are being worked on. Lauren referenced MotorCare, a medical transportation company which contracts with DART (private vehicles instead of Paratransit buses). During the meeting, it was agreed that one goal activity will be finding transportation options in Delaware which are alternative to Paratransit.

Goal 3 (healthcare): Debbie said it is important to know what information is available. Concrete actions are the ultimate goal. Goal 4 (emergency management and response): Kathryn and Debbie agreed about value of collaborating with the Partnership on Inclusive Disaster Strategies.

During the meeting, it was decided to add goal 5 (housing). Sandra said during the first year, the focus will be on identifying available agencies to help people with this issue. The goal is collaboration with agencies which assist people with disabilities seeking housing. Kathryn will compile several possible housing goal samples. Debbie agreed about focusing on objectives and activities. Kathryn will also work on continuing to refine language for the goals.

State Plan for Independent Living Public Feedback Sessions (Sandra)

Debbie stated it is important for people who provided Needs Assessment input to know their feedback was heard. Meaning: feedback led to actionable goals. Lauren suggested that a summary of public feedback be added as an appendix to the 2024-2027 State Plan for Independent living. Sandra supported this idea.

Miscellaneous

During the meeting, additional organizations were recommended to add as partners listed in the SILC's State Plan for Independent Living. Lauren will contact Adult Protective Services (APS) to determine if that agency can present at the April 22 SILC meeting about what the agency offers. It was pointed out by Mary that APS could be a collaborative partner with SILC. Sandra shared that Kathryn will complete a complete draft State Plan for Independent Living for the full SILC to review while she attends SILC Congress in Arkansas between March 10-15.

Public Comment

Debbie was the only member of public in attendance. She wished Kathryn the best of success at SILC Congress.

Meeting Adjournment and Next Meeting

Today's meeting adjourned at 11:37 AM. The next SPIL GPS monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on April 2, 2024 at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Roberts, DE SILC Secretary