

Delaware Statewide Independent Living Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 22, 2024

(Held Via Zoom starting at 11:01 AM)

Members Present: Sandra Farina (DE SILC Chairperson), Arte Mays (DE SILC Vice Chair), Elizabeth (Lizzy) Phillips and Blake Roberts (DE SILC Secretary).

Others Present: Kathryn Burritt (DE SILC Executive Director), Ashley Spinden (Independent Living Services Administrator, Division for the Visually Impaired), Debbie Bain (public, former DE SILC Executive Director), Elizabeth Furber (Delaware Community Legal Aid Society, INC.), Lauren Jumps (Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities), Lisa Schmeusser (DSAAPD), Melanie Drier (Division of Services for Adults and People with Physical Disabilities, Adult Protective Services), Andrea Drummund (Division of Services for Adults and People with Physical Disabilities, Adult Protective Services) and Carol King-Ries (President, National Federation of the Blind of Delaware).

Meeting Commencement

The meeting commenced at 11:01 AM. Quorum noted.

Approval of February SILC Minutes (Sandra)

Lizzy made a motion to accept the February 26, 2024 Minutes; Arte seconded. Minutes were approved with no corrections, changes or questions.

Presentation: DSAAPD Adult Protective Services (Andrea and Melanie)

A general overview of DSAAPD was given. DSAAPD currently services 16,000 Delawareans. The state agency provides Delaware's Aging and Disability Resources Center. The focus of this presentation is Adult Protective Services.

Adult Protective Services is designed to protect adult safety and health. It advocates for age-in-place services. Adults with a developmental or intellectual disability over the age of 18 are eligible for services. Additionally, senior adults over the age of 62 are serviced.

One service offered is referral to other agencies which can be beneficial. Additionally, reports of neglect, emotional or sexual abuse of adults eligible for Adult Protective Services are investigated. Adult Delawareans who believe they qualify for DSAAPD services can call 1-888-277-4302.

In some instances, a nurse educates caregivers about the medication needs of clients. The goal is for an individual to stay in the community. If clients can make their own decisions (capacity), they have the right to decide if services are needed. When a neglect, emotional or sexual abuse report is provided, an individual can remain anonymous if they choose. A presenter emphasized that the purpose of Adult Protective Services is to help eligible clients. There are three goals: least restrictive environment, remaining safe and exercising self-determination.

Debbie asked what outreach about services is available. Answer: Contact APS for a presentation request. Carol inquired how to contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center. Answer: 1-800-223-9074. Sandra asked how many calls APS receives on average. Answer: It depends on the time of year.

SPIL Goals Public Forums Feedback (Kathryn and Sandra)

There have been two in-person listening sessions so far in April. A third listening session will occur this evening. The focus is on what SILC is and the SPIL goals. There will be one virtual SPIL goals feedback session on April 30 from 2:00-4:00 PM. Sandra said people are invited to register and attend any listening session. Additionally, SPIL goal feedback can be given in writing through the Delaware SILC website.

Committee Reports

Fiscal Report (Kathryn)

There is \$26,592 in carry-over funding from fiscal year 2023 which has not been spent to date. Due to federal requirements, this amount is expected to be spent by September 30, 2024. Full funding for fiscal year 2024 has not been approved yet by the federal government. Only half of those funds have been received. However, all money for the public health workforce initiative has been received.

Website and Social Media Committee Report (Blake)

The website and social media committees were combined into one committee at the beginning of April. This was done at the request of the DE SILC Chairperson and the Committee members unanimously supported this change. Acronym of the month articles continue to be written. Additionally, organization spotlight articles continue to be produced.

SPIL GPS Committee Report (Sandra)

There has been low attendance by the public at listening sessions. Attendees from Independent Resources, INC. attended the first listening session. The Director of the Freedom Center for Independent Living attended the second listening session.

Additional Reports

Freedom Center for Independent Living (written report read verbally by Sandra)

The center is moving to a new location. The office will be unavailable for at least a week.

Independent Living Services Report (Ashley)

DVI's independent living unit is currently serving over 300 clients. There is a twice weekly exercise program at DVI's main office. It will end at the end of April. A cooking class is planned for October. Seven clients will be attending a diabetes education program.

Announcements and Public Comments

Sandra thanked everyone for attending this meeting. Today is Kathryn's first regional meeting with regional State Independent Living Councils. For the public health workforce initiative, a meeting about emergency management and responsiveness will occur tomorrow. The Georgetown SPIL goals listening session will occur tonight. There are plans for DE SILC to attend the 28th healthcare forum in October 2024. There were no comments by attendees from the public.

Meeting Adjournment and Next Meeting

Today's meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM. The next SILC meeting will occur on June 24, 2024 at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Roberts, DE SILC Secretary