

## **SILC Report to DRS Commissioners**

May 11, 2020

### **Nationally**

SILC Congress was held February 25-27, 2020 in San Diego, CA. This was the largest conference on record, with 160 attendees and 20 PCAs. 44 States/Territories were represented.

The APRIL Executive Committee is meeting regularly. As Treasurer, the SILC Executive Director has been helping with budget and drafting new financial statements, and will be assisting APRIL Staff when they get new accounting software. The full APRIL board had scheduled a 'retreat' in Montgomery, AL, but due to the coronavirus, the retreat was held via Zoom.

### **Mayor's Committee on Disability Concerns**

The Mayor's Committee did not have an April meeting and will conduct the May meeting via Zoom.

The Annual Awards Luncheon and ADA Session is scheduled to be held October 2, 2020 but the MCDC Executive Committee will meet to discuss the options on whether to continue with planning, or make other arrangements.

### **Reliant Living Center**

The SILC Executive Director serves on the Board of Directors, and the Center received monies from the SBA paycheck protection program to pay their staff, so they could maintain their level of care for their residents.

### **State Plan (SPIL)**

Vikki Walls and Sidna Madden have met several times for SPIL related work. And the SPIL Committee has met to decide on some SILC goals, objectives and action steps that they would like to see in the State Plan.

SILC also had a Zoom meeting with a few of the Center Directors over the State Plan, which has resulted in the SPIL Committee members and the SILC Chair meeting again with the Center Directors and DRS Director in regards to the goals, objectives and action steps the Centers would like to see in the State Plan. There are plans for another call with everyone again.

During the quarterly SILC meeting on April 24, SILC Executive Director announced a training for SILC members to participate in, and an email was also sent out for members to register for the training. The training was held April 30, and was a State Plan Informational Webinar conducted by IL-NET and the Federal Project Manager, Regina Blye. The call was discussion of the new template/layout of the SPIL and to offer an in-depth explanation as to what is

expected to be included in each section of the new Plan. There are many new requirements with this new SPIL cycle. There is now a section devoted to the DSE (Designated State Entity, which is DRS) that is acknowledgement of their roles and responsibilities, a detailed accounting of the use of the 5% that the DSE retains of Part B funds, and a statement acknowledging the 10% State matching funds. There is much more accountability of the Centers' activities, that will have to be reported back to the SILC by the Centers, as the SILC is tasked with monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the progress of the SPIL. There is a more detailed accounting of the various funding sources, such as Part B funds, Part C funds, the CARES Act funding the Centers received and any carry-over amounts and their usage. (Oklahoma Centers received \$941,295 in Federal CARES Act funding). We are also required to now document the amount of I&E funds received from the DSE and in another section of the SPIL there is an accounting for how those funds were utilized by SILC. We are now required to detail how SILC and the DSE remain autonomous, detail any 'in kind' assistance SILC receives from the DSE, and if SILC has chosen to utilize any staff of the DSE to assist in carrying out SILC functions, that staff member will be supervised by SILC and cannot perform any DSE duties at the same time. Also, we are required to explain the minimum funding level required for each Center to maintain their services and a plan to build the capacity of the Centers across the state. And those are just a few of the many, many new changes to the State Plan.

The SPIL is not going to be entered into the electronic system this time. It will be submitted in Word format, and the Federal Project Manager stressed that if the Plan is submitted without the details mentioned above, along with the other changes that were made to the drafting of the Plan, that the Plan would be rejected and sent back, until such changes are made and included. More stress was placed on the inclusion of the various funding streams so ACL can see what levels of funding the SILCs and CILs across the Nation receive and to see who is in compliance.

### **Misc.**

Vikki Walls and Sidna Madden have continued to meet with Nyree Cunningham-Pullen with the Census Bureau and are trying to assist with sharing Census information via social media.

SILC Chair, Vikki Walls attends the ORC meetings and is on the Program and Planning Committee as well as the Transition Committee.

The SILC State Plan Survey was shared for consumers to participate. We had a number of responses, thanks to Oklahomans for Independent Living and their great relationship with their consumers. The survey was sent out in the Center's newsletter and they had a good return of them back to the Center Director. We learned from the survey that people with disabilities don't always have access to the internet, and that people prefer face-to-face contact. The questions were too general and not specific to the individual, so people chose

not to answer the electronic survey. Once at the Center, where they took the survey with the help of a Center staff person who could elaborate on the questions, the answers became more personal and specific to the individual and it triggered them to give more details.

Dr. Phillip Lewis and Sidna Madden met in McAlester at Oklahomans for Independent Living to conduct a public forum. There was great dialogue between the consumers and SILC and the consumers were interested in doing a face-to-face meeting more regularly. Plans were to make the rounds to all of the Centers and meet with their consumers, but the coronavirus has halted that for now.

Sidna Madden, Executive Director