



Texas State Independent Living Council

Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2011

Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center
4800 North Lamar Blvd., Suite 350
Austin, Texas 78756



Members:

Rehabilitation Council of Texas Members: Larry Evans (San Angelo)- Chair, Richard Hatfield (Austin) - Vice Chair, Amy Woolsey (Cypress), Chase Bearden (Austin), Elizabeth Gentry (Schertz), Rames Gonzalez Jr. (Palmview), Brenda Dunn (Austin), Brenda Lightfoot (Austin), Paula Margeson (Plano), Carolyn Todd (Austin), Lori Henning Crutchfield (Austin), Mike Halligan (Georgetown), Michelle Crain (Lubbock), Shawn Saladin (Edinburg), Thelma Scott (Houston), Karen Stanfill (Houston), Jim Hanophy, DRS Assistant Commissioner, Barbara J. Madrigal, DBS Assistant Commissioner, Brenda Stone (VR Counselor (DBS) ex officio)

Rehabilitation Council of Texas Council Staff: Dolly Worley

Texas State Independent Living Council Board of Directors: Michelle Crain (Chair); Kristen Jones (Vice Chair); Saul Herrera (Treasurer); Gloria Greeder (Secretary); Randell Resneder (Conference Chair); Peggy Cosner (TACIL Representative); Scotty Sherrill, Donald Landry, Susie Grona, Karen Swearingen, Laurie Pryor/Beth Dennis (DARS Ex-Officio); Larry Gardner (DARS Ex-Officio); Marc Gold (DADS Ex-Officio).

Texas State Independent Living Council Staff: Regina Blye (Executive Director); Lois Langtry (Executive Assistant), Toni Byrd (Outreach and Resource Development Specialist) and Joy Williams (AARP Volunteer)

Opening:

Quarterly meeting held jointly with the Rehabilitation Council of Texas (RCT) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by the RCT Chair Larry Evans. A quorum of members was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

Members Present:

Rehabilitation Council of Texas Members: Larry Evans, Richard Hatfield, Chase Bearden, Rames Gonzalez Jr., Paula Margeson, Carolyn Todd, Mike Halligan, Michelle Crain, Shawn Saladin, Thelma Scott, Karen Stanfill, Jim Hanophy, Barbara J. Madrigal and Brenda Stone (VR Counselor (DBS) ex officio)

Rehabilitation Council of Texas Council Staff: Dolly Worley

Texas State Independent Living Council Board of Directors: Michelle Crain, Kristen Jones, Randell Resneder, Peggy Cosner, Scotty Sherrill, Susie Grona, Karen Swearingen, Laurie Pryor/Beth Dennis, Larry Gardner and Marc Gold.

Texas State Independent Living Council Staff: Regina Blye and Toni Byrd

Board Members Not Present: Saul Herrera, Gloria Greeder, and Donald Landry.

Others in Attendance: Raul Ortiz (Texas workforce investment Council), Christy Lerky (DARS), Melissa Roozo (Alamo Consumer Direct), Jim Brocato (RISE CIL), David Norman (DARS)

Project Search Presentation by Melinda Paninski of DARS:

Project Search provides education and training to young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through an innovative workforce and career development model that benefits the individual, workplace, and community.

Contact Information: Melinda Paninski, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), 2416-A S. Lamar, Austin, Texas 78704, (512)383-7040 phone; (512) 442-4550 fax; e-mail: Melinda.paninski@dars.state.tx.us

Texas State Independent Living Council Ex-Officio, Liaison, and Chair Reports:

☆ **Division for Blind Services** - Laurie Pryor

DBS IL Program Statistics as of 12/31/10:

- 2,092 individuals served (all statuses, including information and referral cases),
- 961 individuals in "active" services (including individuals determined eligible and individuals receiving services)
- 380 individuals successfully completing their program
- As of 11/30/2010 (end of the first quarter), 20% of Rider funds were obligated with 64 individuals receiving services from this resource.

Continue to have stimulus funds available for staff use. DBS stimulus funds used in FY 2011 will be targeted for:

- Increased case services for consumers,
- Expanded training opportunities for DBS IL staff.

DBS has an on-line curriculum purchased from American Federation of the Blind (AFB) that is available for use by CILS in each DBS regional office.

☆ **Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living** - Peggy Cosner

- Restructuring the organization
- Actively looking for an Executive Director
- Advocacy Training
- Advocates Roundtable (ART)
- Developing a three to five year strategic plan.
- Current membership: 14 centers (2 centers do not participate)
- [ADAPT Leader Bob Kafka: Not Giving Up the Fight](#)

Q: How well do you think the independent living movement sets its priorities and uses its power?

A: The IL movement seems not to know where it is going. There doesn't seem to be a vision of how they (IL advocates) fit into the realities of today. They are stuck in the paradigm of the '70s. Have you ever asked yourself why conservative rhetoric sounds so much like independent living rhetoric? Think about the early politics of Justin Dart and Evan Kemp, at that time two conservative Republicans. Independence to them was to get away from paternalistic government programs like welfare and Medicaid. All we needed to succeed was a little I&R (information and referral), peer counseling and individual advocacy, and we would get a job, raise a family, integrate into the community and live happily ever after. On the other hand, folks believed people with developmental disabilities would need a lot of case management and a lifetime set of government services. This was the beginning of the IL-DD split (over the issue of who should be able to make the decisions that affect clients), which continues today. My view of IL is summed up by the expression, "If you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there!"

- Budget cuts to centers who receive GR (General Revenue)
- DARS Grants (housing and accessibility)

☆ **Division for Rehabilitation Services** - Larry Gardner (handout)

- The Centers for Independent Living Centers have reported:
 - 3,571 consumers served this year through December with plans.
 - This compares to 3,164 served the previous year (2009)
 - 29,880 consumers receiving Information and Referral services this year, and
 - 23,095 consumers receiving Information and Referral services the previous year (2009)

This report represents a four-month cumulative total (September to December 2010) -33% of fiscal year.

- Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Through the fourth month of FY 2011, the VR program served 66,326 consumers (74.2% of projection for year) and 3,783 (30.7% of projected for year) achieved employment outcomes.
 - The percentage of VR consumers (exiting the program) who achieved employment outcomes (rehab rate) was 59.5% (projected 55.8%). This is a “key” measure.
- In the Independent Living Program
 - 1,120 people (64.0% of projection for year) received DRS supported IL services through the fourth month of FY 2011.
 - For the **Centers for Independent Living**, the number served through the fourth month of FY 2011 was 3,571 (35.1% of projection for year).
- The Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services Program
 - Served 455 people (76.6% of projection for year) through the fourth month of FY 2011.

☆ **Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services** - Karissa Garcia (handout)

- Independent Living Services
 - \$3.9 M was requested to eliminate the current waiting list and growth to serve 1,102 people during the next biennium
 - \$0.4 M was appropriated for the Independent Living Services (ILS) waiting list – to serve 10% of clients (approximately 110) on the waiting list for FY 2010-11. Plus additional \$0.8M in IL stimulus funding for possible use on waiting list.
 - As of November 30, 2010, \$4,597 has been expended on reducing the IL waiting list.
 - Serviced 9 consumers
 - The waiting list for Independent Living Services is 1,007.
- New Independent Living Centers
 - \$1.5M GR appropriated for three new Independent Living Centers (ILCs)
 - **Rehabilitation, Education & Advocacy for Citizens with Handicaps, Inc. (REACH)**
 - Began providing services January 2, 2010 in Plano, Texas (Collin County)
 - At the end of November 2010, REACH provided services to 135 consumers
 - DARS Contract Oversight and Support and DRS staff plans to monitor REACH beginning January 24, 2011.
 - **Mounting Horizons, Inc.**
 - Began providing services January 11, 2010 in Galveston County
 - Provided services to 19 consumers through November 2010
 - **Lifetime Independence for Everyone, Inc. (LIFE) “Disability Connections”**
 - Began providing services in November 2009 in San Angelo, Texas
 - Provided services to 62 consumers through November 2010
 - DARS Contract Oversight and Support and DRS staff monitored Disability Connections in April 2010. The Center was noted as providing quality services to consumers and no deficiencies were cited.
- Assistive Technology
 - \$2M Rider 27 (formerly Rider 30) received for Assistive Technology to serve clients at risk of entering nursing homes or similar institutions
 - As of November 30, 2010, the SARS IL program served 89 consumers.
 - The DBS IL program obligated \$40,468 to serve 64 consumers.
 - The DRS IL program obligated \$123,161 to serve 25 consumers.
- Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services
 - DARS received an additional \$4.3M for CRS:
 - This funding was projected to serve 241 consumers awaiting CRS services in FY 2011 for traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries and to provide for projected growth in the 2011 biennium
 - In the first quarter of FY 2011, the RS program committed \$6,330,883 to serve 455 consumers.

- 153 consumers were waiting services as of November 30, 2010.
- As part of cost savings measures for FY 2011, DARS has reduced the CRS budget by \$3.5M and stopped taking new clients of the waiting list. This is expected to add 125-130 consumers to the waiting list for FY 2011.

➤ Executive Office Updates

- Effective January 1, 2011, Executive Commissioner Tom Suehs named Debra Wanser Interim DARS Commissioner to serve throughout the legislative session.
- Effective January 7, 2011, Glen Neal was named Acting DARS Deputy Commissioner.
 - Glen has been with DARS since its establishment in 2004 and has broad knowledge of DARS, its programs, current agency and HHS initiatives and issues.
- Tamela Griffen was named Acting DARS Center for Program and External Relations Director (CPER)
 - Tamela served as project manager with the DARS CPER, on assignment with the Division of Early Childhood Intervention, engaged in the extensive evaluation of the ECI program. Prior to employment with DARS, Ms. Griffen was employed by the Health and Human Services Commission Medicaid/CHIP as the Manager of Policy Development and by the Department of Family and Protective Services as Director of Federal Funds.

➤ Important Information regarding the upcoming session to take back to the community

Legislators need to understand, that when cuts are made it will have a trickling effect. Individuals need to tell personal stories on how the programs are beneficial as well as cost savings. For example: *Because of this program my son is able to have attendant care and thus I can start my own business. I'm now able to run my business and hire 30 people.* The community needs to be more proactive.

Senate Finance committee will meet next week, taking public testimony on Article 2 which is the Health and Human Services budget. This would be a good time to testify about the programs. DARS will provide testimony on Monday, January 31st by invitation and public testimony will be on February 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

☆ **SILC Chair** - Michelle Crain

- **Advocate Roundtable (ART)** ("Invest in Community!") is a campaign by a group of Texas organizations and individuals concerned about proposed cuts to home and community-based services for people with disabilities and older Texans. ART works together to make sure that the State of Texas funds all home and community-based services during the next Legislative Session, which started January 2011. To join contact Regina Blye, Peggy Cosner or email stoptexascuts@gmail.com.
- **DARS:** Working with DARS in finding a qualitative measure for the CIL. Legislators want to justify the spending versus the value of the CIL Services, DARS services and community services.
- **Town Hall Meetings**
- **CIL Background by Paula Margeson**

☆ **Executive Director** – Regina Blye (SILC Spring Conference)

- **Registration:** (Copy in the folder) this gives all the information about the logistics of the conference.
- **When:** April 3 – 5, 2011
- **Where:** Sheraton at the Capitol, 701 East 11th Street, Austin, Texas
- **Conference Sponsors:** Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC); The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Texas Association for Centers for Independent Living (TACIL) and Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD)
- **Theme:** Community Living: It's my Choice!

➤ **Conference Fees:** *Complimentary Raffle Ticket and T-Shirt*

- ☆ \$125.00 Early Bird (until March 17, 2011)
- ☆ \$150.00 Late Conference Registration (After March 17, 2011)
- ☆ \$75.00 Attendant/Intervener/Spouse

➤ **Raffles:**

- **Van:** A van will be raffled off at the conference. The cost would be offset by sponsorships and donations. Everyone who registers for the conference will receive a complimentary raffle ticket; participation is optional. Additional tickets can be purchased at the event.
- **Other:** Other items to be raffled off include: HDTV, gift baskets and other donated items.

➤ **Stipends:** The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities has granted the SILC an event stipend. The SILC anticipates on having twelve (12) in town and twelve (12) out of town. CTD also will have stipends available.

➤ **Hotel:** Single/Double - \$104.00 Triple - \$124.00 Quad - \$144.00. Group rates are available until March 9, 2011. Subject to Availability. To reserve your room call 888-627-8349

➤ **Tentative Conference Agenda:**

Sunday, April 3, 2011

- 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. SILC Quarterly Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. SILC/TACIL Joint Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. CTD Board Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Pre-Registration
- 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Get Acquainted Mixer

Monday, April 4, 2011

- 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Complimentary Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Registration and Raffle Tickets
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. General Session
 - Opening Ceremonies
 - Welcome to Austin
 - Interim Commissioner Debra Wanser
 - Keynote Speaker
- 10:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Exhibit Visits and Break
- 10:45 a.m. -11:45 a.m. Breakout Sessions
 - Medicaid Buy-In for Children
 - Assistive Technology
 - Relocation Update and Panel
- 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Exhibit Visits and Break
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Awards Luncheon
 - Awards Ceremony
 - Legislator of Excellence
 - Exceptional Contribution by a Center for Independent Living
 - Consumer of the Year
 - Community Appreciation
 - Keynote Address
 - Raffle Give-A-Ways: Gift Baskets, 40" HDTV, Etc.
- 1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Exhibit Visits and Break
- 1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Breakout Sessions
 - Microboards
 - Star+Plus Expansion: Are you ready?
 - Independent Living Administration
 - Texas AgriLife Extension Service Texas A&M University
- 2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Exhibit Visits and Break

- 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions
 - Medicaid Buy-In for Adults
 - Transportation: New Freedom and JARC
 - Consumer Directed Services
 - Ethics and/or Diversity
- 4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Exhibit Visits and Break
- 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. General Session: Advocacy 101: 82nd Legislature Update
- 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Evening Reception
 - Mixed Appetizers
 - Musical Entertainment: Someone Like Me (SLM) Band
 - Raffle Give-A-Ways

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

- 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Complimentary Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Registration and Raffle Tickets
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. General Session: CLASS Act and Health Care Reform: What are my new benefits?
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Exhibit Visits and Break
- 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Breakout Sessions
 - Support Groups for People with Traumatic Brain Injuries
 - Advocacy 102: The Next Step
 - Fiscal Management for Nonprofits
 - TDHCA and Individual Development Accounts
- 11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Exhibit Visits and Break
- 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. General Session
 - Closing Ceremony
 - Trip to the Capitol: Details
 - Van Give-A-Way
 - Final Remarks
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Capitol Day Travel to the Capitol (Lunch on your Own)
- 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Capitol Activities (Wear Conference T-Shirts)
- 2:00 p.m.-Until Visit Legislators

☆ **Department of Aging and Disability Services - Marc Gold**

- **Legislative Session:** House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 1 (Budget). House bill 1 will be the vehicle which will decide the budget. There will be significant cuts to services.
- **Money Follows the Person Demonstration Grant (MFPD):** The money follows the person demonstration is doing extraordinarily well. DADS received an additional \$25 million for the program. Texas is the first state to meet all the benchmarks, 30-40% of all participants in the country comes from the State of Texas which receives national recognition.

CMS' Extension of MFPD Demonstration:

- Congress has extended funding through 2016 with the possibility of a carry-forward of funds through 2020.
 - The unofficial new estimate for the MFPD will be approximately 600 additional enrollments per year.
 - The budget proposed should increase from approximately \$32 to \$50 million over the life of the MFPD.
 - HUD has offered 100% federal administrative funds for infrastructure and other MFPD projects.
 - CMS has been asked to fund a MFP Data Specialist position.
 - DADS will also request funding for a Relocation Contractor staff position to develop a relocation manual.
 - The application will also request funding for 2-3 day training seminar for relocation contractor specialists.
- **The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC):** Under a three year grant from the Administration on Aging and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, DADS established ADRCs to provide a single, coordinated system of information and access for older persons, persons with disabilities and caregivers seeking long-term support. Communities in Bexar County, Central Texas, Tarrant County, Dallas County, East Texas, Lubbock County, Houston and North Central Texas have received funding to establish ADRCs. The state of Texas started off

with five, then extended up to 9 and announced three more (Coastal Bend area, Abilene, and the Valley), for 12 ARDC's.

- **Behavioral Health Pilot:** Department of State Health Services, HHSC, managed care, and the Center for Independent Living, COIL is assisting with moving individuals with behavioral health issues back into the community.
- **Housing Issues:** DADS is placing a Request for Proposal to give four ADRC's a housing navigator. This will singularly focus looking at the community looking for affordable, accessible integrated housing.
- **Home and Community-Based Services Workforce Advisory Council:** The council was established at the direction of Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Executive Commissioner Thomas Suehs, and the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS). The council's charge is to produce a report to Executive Commissioner Suehs analyzing current and anticipated funding needs, as well as policy and funding recommendations related to the HCBS workforce. There were several recommendations surrounding support and service workers.
- **Star Plus:** Will be expanding throughout the state.

LUNCH

1:00 Public Comment

Charles Polk – Polk Institute of Excellence
Telephone: 281-744-8359 E-mail: chapolk@yahoo.com
Address: 2915 Glenn Lakes Lane Missouri City, TX 77459

Polk Institute utilizes a systematic and standardized approach to learning while ensuring that each child's learning program is individualized and highly effective. The Polk Institute helps each child develop the skills needed to perform to his or her full potential.

Division for Blind Services (DBS) Update – Barbara J. Madrigal

☆ Vocational Rehabilitation

- LAR requested a total of \$17.3 million in state GR for the biennium. This is the amount estimated would be needed to draw down all available federal funds; \$8.4 million for 2012 and \$8.8 million for FY '13. DARS did not request any additional staff positions (FTE's) in VR due to the fact that without additional GR no additional FTE's would be required.
- Asked for additional GR for the grant growth for VR. GR for '12 was \$300,000 and \$700,000 for FY '13. In House Bill 1 will leave about two million dollars short each year of what is needed to maintain current operations. That basically rolls us back to FY 2008 funding levels and not only would be leaving federal dollars on the table, but would also have to pay maintenance of effort penalty.
- No decisions have been made about how the two million dollar reduction would be implemented. Things seem to change daily. This is the very beginning of the session; it's just too early in the process. DARS will be monitoring everything daily as things are happening.
- The VR program serves about 10,000 consumers each year and HB 1 anticipates that DARS would serve 1,500 fewer consumers each of those years.

- ☆ **Independent Living:** The independent living program currently operates about three million per year which is what it at 2008 funding levels. The program has not received any increase over the past several years. In DARS LAR additional funding was requested, but it is not included in HB 1 and most likely will not happen.

- ☆ **Blind Children's Program:** This is the most vulnerable in the division for blind services due to the fact that it is funded with state GR, there is no federal match. HB 1 reduces the children's budget by about \$1.5 million per year and reduces FTE's, by 20 (2008 funding levels). The children's program serves about 3,800 consumers in 2010. HB 1 anticipates that about 1,100 fewer children will be served each year of the biennium.

- ☆ **Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center (CCRC):** DARS has a new program at the CCRC called the Criss Cole Career Center. Opened up in November 2010 and deals with employment. There is training in career exploration and vocational goal development, college preparation classes, job seeking skills training, work experience program, self-employment as well as the assessment and readiness for the Business Enterprises of Texas.

☆ **DBS Staff**

- Ronnie Mansolo retired and we promoted Susan Hunter to fill his position and decided to reorganize the unit due to various retirements.
- In the children's program for the 45 blind children specialists; 3 field specialists.
- VR program for almost 100 counselor positions, 3 specialists who supported VR; 2 adult specialist, supporting about 70 caseloads and transition under the one for transportation.
- 5 managers
- Rebecca Soto formerly with DRS was filled the position left by Susan Hunter. She oversees ERS and assistive technology, the children and I.L. specialists.
- Sue Anne Chandler is the director for programs management in DBS in the north half of the state and John Reynolds supervises the south half of the state. In DBS there are 12 regions, six in the north and six in the south.

Interim Commissioner – Debra Wanser

☆ **Personal background**

- ☆ **Budget** (HB 1 and SB 1) Last week the Senate and House both released their versions of the budget bill. That's the proposed budget for the fiscal year '12 and '13, which starts September 1st.

- **Children's Autism Program** – HB 1 no funding; SB 1 50% funding
- **Business Enterprise of Texas** – funded at near current level
- **Deaf or hard hearing** – funded at current level
- **Disability Determination Services** – 100% Federally funded with some growth
- **Independent Living Services Blind and Independent Living Services** – funded at current levels.
- **Special Telephone Access Program (STAP)** – funded at current levels.
- **Vocational Rehab (VR)** – hoping to continue the same level of services and pull down federal funds that are available to Texas.
- **Independent Living Centers** – funding reduced by \$750,000 per year, which equals the amount of funding received in the last biennium (2008 levels).

Michelle Crain stated that the \$750,000 reduction is the amount that was received for the three (3) new centers. Wanted to know if DARS was looking at cutting the new centers as a whole or cutting across all centers? Commissioner Wanser responded by stating that the legislature proposed is a reduction in the number of consumers that would be served by the CIL's, which indicates that there is no reduction in the number of CIL's.

DARS did a cost analysis study and found out that comparing community care to nursing home care is about a \$14, 000 a year savings.

- **Early Childhood Intervention** – reduced funding due to stimulus funding. Program is currently serving about 3,200 children per year, and the upcoming budget funding to serve about 2,600.
- **Blind Children's Program** - funding expected to be at \$3.2 million only allowing 2,500 children to be served, cutting 1,100 children per year. In addition to the reduced funding, there will be a reduction of 20 FTE's.

Division for Rehabilitation Services (DRS) Update – Jim Hanophy

☆ **Budget**

- **Vocational Rehabilitation Budget**

67% of DARS money goes into direct client service funds; those are the dollars use to provide services. With these cuts, individuals who may be eligible for services, may not be served.

➤ SSAVR Funds

Social Security Administration (SSA) administers two disability programs, Social Security DI and SSI, which pay benefits to qualified disabled individuals. The DI program provides benefits to insured disability workers and their families in amounts determined by the wage earners work history. The SSI program provides payments to financially needy, aged, blind, and disabled persons, including individuals that do not have the required insured status to receive Social Security DI payments.

Disability Determination Services (DDSs) are State organizations funded by SSA. They are responsible for adjudicating disability claims based on Federal statutes and SSA rules and regulations governing the DI program. They also determine whether medical and work history information shows that the applicant has the potential for rehabilitation and should be referred to the Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (VRA). In Texas this is DARS.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, authorizes the Department of Education's VR program to provide comprehensive VR services. This program is designed to help those with physical and mental disabilities return to the work force. This is primarily done through Federal funding to State VRAs (DARS) that directly provide services. These services can include counseling, work evaluation, work adjustment training, job skills training, job-seeking skills training and medical rehabilitation management.

SSA reimburses the States for the cost of rehabilitation in those cases where the services are found to have resulted in the beneficiary's performance of substantial work for a continuous period of at least 9 months.

The good news such as there is with the budget. What we have been doing is we have been spending the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, which can be used for the same things as VR, on a first dollar basis in many of the caseloads. At the ends of August there will a carry forward the FY '11 money to use in FY '12 where there is an anticipated shortfall.

☆ **Organization Presentation**

- Outcome based supported employment program
- Outcome based placement program.
- Open enrollment process: any provider that meets the credentials, has the opportunity to become a vendor
- Dual customer approach
- Streamline communication
- Replicating success
- Moving control to the local unit
- Goal setting
- ARRA funds – Walgreen's Model and University of North Texas
- Incrementalism - policies have a way of growing over time
- Virginia Commonwealth University - gap analysis

Committee Meetings: The SILC members who were not on RCT committees met and went over the Conference Agenda.

Flash cards for the Facilitator with time remaining.

- Duties of Facilitator
 - Introduction of Speakers
 - Make sure that everyone is in their seat.
 - Time Keeper
 - Make sure AV equipment is working in the room
 - Present speaker with gift
- Possible to get UT Students to film conference
- Social Media? General Session
- Do you want a participant list for the conference?

Adjourn 5:00 p.m.



Texas State Independent Living Council

Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2011

Sheraton at the Capitol

701 E. 11th Street- Tannehill, 4th Floor

Austin, Texas 78701

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Members:

Texas State Independent Living Council Board of Directors: Michelle Crain (Chair); Kristen Jones (Vice Chair); Saul Herrera (Treasurer); Gloria Greeder (Secretary); Randell Resneder (Conference Chair); Peggy Cosner (TACIL Representative); Scotty Sherrill, Donald Landry, Susie Grona, Karen Swearingen, Laurie Pryor/Beth Dennis (DARS Ex-Officio); Larry Gardner (DARS Ex-Officio); Marc Gold (DADS Ex-Officio).

Texas State Independent Living Council Staff: Regina Blye (Executive Director); Lois Langtry (Executive Assistant), Toni Byrd (Outreach and Resource Development Specialist) and Joy Williams (AARP Volunteer)

Members Present:

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Texas State Independent Living Council Staff: Regina Blye, Lois Langtry, Toni Byrd, and Joy Williams.

Opening:

Quarterly meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by the SILC Chair Michelle Crain. A quorum of members was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

☆ Welcome and Introductions

Regina Blye reported that Gloria Greeder resigned and that the council will have to vote on a new secretary; until then Toni Byrd would be taking minutes

☆ Committee Reports

➤ **Advocacy:** Peggy Cosner and Donald Landry

- SILC needed to get more organized like the Texas Silver Haired Legislature, needs to advocate in the community more effectively.
- TACIL is in the process of hiring an Executive Director.
- ART Coalition on their monthly meetings and the upcoming community gathering. On March 1st Rally for Independence: a march and rally as part of the Invest in Community brand (no cuts to community services for seniors and people with disabilities). 9:30 a.m. is the gathering time, near the Capitol. Joe Tate of Community NOW is contact person and has travel stipends and buses for groups. If you need a bus to get a group to the Rally, or need some travel dollars, contact Joe at tate392@gmail.com or (830) 305-0613. A core group of 100 people are already committed.
- HB 1 and SB1. Potential budget cuts for the CIL's 28%, which could potentially mean the closure of the last three centers or an across board cut of \$50,000 per center. The cuts to the budget will be across board and will affect everyone.
- Concerned with persons with mental health and how if there are reductions in community based services, then the nursing homes will be full and that could lead to overcrowding in the prisons.
- Need to get out there and put those personal stories in the legislator's hands.

- Sign the Petition

No Cuts to Home and Community-Based Services During the 82nd Texas Legislative Session! To demonstrate wide support in no cuts to community services for people with disabilities and seniors, go to <http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/stoptexascuts> and sign the petition.

- SSAVR money and that the CIL's need more of a definition and how the money flows.

- Testifying at the Capitol

1. Clear Plan
2. 3 minutes
3. Intimating to testify
4. Sign cards early

➤ State Plan (SPIL) Gloria Greeder and Michelle Crain

- Priority of The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) is to open new CIL's; while existing centers are underfunded.

The mission of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) is "to provide leadership and resources to assist

- American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (AARA) Funds. Some discussion if there would be any more funds.
- Regina asked if someone would volunteer with the spreadsheet reports. Randell Resneder volunteered to help

➤ Outreach and Education: Kristen Jones, Karen Swearingen, Saul Herrera, Randall Resneder, and Regina Blye

- The 2011 Texas Statewide Independent Living Conference Community Living: It's My Choice will be on April 3-5, 2011 here at the Sheraton

- If anyone wants to be a Facilitator, please let Regina or Toni know

- Go over agenda for comments

BREAK and CHECK OUT

☆ Old Business

➤ Action Line Items

- There was a motion by Randell Resneder and seconded by Kristen Jones to table the minutes from the October 7-8, 2010 meeting. Discussion. Motion Passed.
- There was a motion by Michelle Crain and seconded by Randell Resneder that the agenda for the January 27-28, 2011 meeting be approved. Discussion. Motion Passed.

➤ CIL Survey [Centers for Independent Living Consumer Satisfaction Survey] (handout)

Regina Blye went over the CIL Survey handout. The survey is a requirement for DARS reporting and should be completed by the CIL's twice a year. A question was raised as to when the survey needed to be distributed. Peggy Cosner believed that the new TACIL Executive Director could be in charge of collecting the surveys.

➤ Medicaid Buy-in Training:

There was discussion on how it would be a good idea to have Medicaid Buy-in training at the CILs. Sarah Hambrick is the new coordinator at HHSC and the SILC thought that this might be a good time to investigating in this type of training after the conference.

- TACIL
TACIL's next telephone conference will be April 8th. They plan on having a face to face meeting at the end of February/1st of March.

- Disability Awareness Week (handout)- April 10-16, 2011
Disability Awareness Programs of Texas along with local and state organizations are planning a week-long celebration of the differences and the gifts in all of us! Organizations, agencies, and individuals interested in persons with disabilities and their families are invited to join us in planning for this event. To be a member of the planning committee, contact Randell Resneder and give him your name, email address, and telephone number.

Email: Randell@txdisabilityawareness.org

or sign up at <http://www.txdisabilityawareness.org/Involvement.html>

☆ New Business

- Public Hearings in Unserved Areas
With things heating up at the Capitol, it was decided to postpone the public hearings to after the conference and before August 31st. Public hearings are scheduled in the following cities:

1. Big Springs
2. Liberty
3. Texarkana
4. Rockwall

- New Recuritment Efforts
Board members terms have expired 2010: Donald Landry, Scotty Sherril, Saul Herrera and Karen Swearingen
Board Members terms who will expire 2011: Kristen Jones, Michelle Crain, Gloria Greeder, Susie Grona

The SILC can go ahead and replace Gloria Greeder since she has resigned from the board.

☆ Working Lunch – Executive Directors Report

- Summary of Director's Activities
 - SILC Conference in Atlanta
 - Learned how to write a better SPIL.
 - Voted Chair of the SILC Congress
 - Disability Policy Consortium voted Vice-Chair
 - Member of several other advocacy organizations.

- SILC Financials Report (handout)

- Other

- Fire

On Friday January 21, 2011, received notice from Talbot & Talbot that the SILC had been sued by the office complex. Talbot & Talbot (Morgan Talbot) had served on the council and he was registered agent. Wanted to know if the council wanted to change registered agents or ask Morgan Talbot to remain as agent of record. After discussion, Peggy Cosner made a motion and seconded by Randell Resneder that Regina Blye ask Morgan Talbot to remain registered agent for the Texas State Independent Living Council. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Karen Swearingen and seconded by Kristen Jones that Regina Blye and Michelle Crain have the authority to obtain an attorney for the council. Discussion followed; motion passed.

☆ Hotel Report

- Meeting and Sleeping Rooms
 - Doors were too tight – lessen the tension
 - Too much furniture?
 - Nice rooms

➤ Food and Staff

Regina Blye introduced the event planner, Elizabeth Kitzman. Everyone seemed pleased with the food served at today's board meeting.

➤ Tour Hotel:

Regina Blye gave a highlight of the events and described the conference space. Encouraged council members to go downstairs and check out the Ballroom and give any input or concerns that they have. She also is suggesting that if this is a good space, then they can go ahead and reserve the Sheraton for the 2013 conference.

☆ Adjourn

A motion was made by Kristen Jones and seconded by Peggy Cosner to Adjourn. Motion passed. 2:00 p.m.

Signed by:	
Date:	