



Texas State Independent Living Council



Meeting Minutes
Crowne Plaza Suites
6121 North IH-35
Austin, Texas 78752
January 28, 2013

Opening:

The quarterly meeting of the Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC) was called to order at 9:15 a.m. January 28, 2013 by Saul Herrera, Chair.

Present:

Members in Attendance – Randell Resneder, Jim Batchelor, Saul Herrera, Karen Swearingen, Richard Couder, Anna Hundley, Peggy Cosner

Others in Attendance - Regina Blye, Staff; Ashley Schweickart, TDHCA; Spencer Duran, TDHCA; Karissa Garcia, DARS; Laurie Pryor, DARS; Amy Kantoff, DARS; Steve Ashman, DADS; Sandra Breitengross Bitter, Staff; Emily Wolinsky, Staff; Christina Goebel, Staff; Christine Martin, Staff; Lois Langtry, Staff; Mark Cundall, TACIL Executive Director; Judy Telge, CBCIL Executive Director; Michelle Crain, LIFE/RUN Executive Director

Members Not in Attendance - Marc Gold, Shannon Alexander, Calvin Turner

Addressed:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

- Schweickart recommended removing the word "pilot" program at the bottom of pg. 3 of the minutes from December 1, 2012.

Motion: Batchelor motioned to approve the minutes with recommended changes, Couder seconded, unanimous approval came from the Council.

Motion: Hundley motioned to approve the agenda, Batchelor seconded, unanimous approval came from the Council.

ELECTIONS

- Blye went over the election process and stated members had an opportunity to nominate/self-nominate a person prior to the meeting. Blye also went over current vacancies and time commitments associated with each position. Swearingen and Couder were elected to new positions and everyone else maintained their executive positions.
 - **Secretary:** Karen Swearingen
 - **Community Relations Chair:** Randell Resneder & Richard Couder (Co-Chairs)
 - **Planning and Evaluation Chair:** Richard Couder – Cosner and Resneder volunteered to be on the committee, but did not want to be Chair.

Motion: Resneder motioned to approve the elections, Cosner seconded, unanimous approval came from the Council.

OLD BUSINESS

- Blye discussed previous Action Items from last meeting's minutes. Several items have already been handled:
 - Blye reviewed updates to the Policy and Procedure manual. With recommendations from the Council, Blye condensed the nepotism section and added language excluding attendant services from this section. Garcia made note, that there are two section 8's in the manual and Blye should correct the potential error. With research, Blye determined the two section 8's are correct because there are two parts to the manual and each part has a section 8.
 - Blye provided a copy of the modified attendant form for Council members to review. Blye made changes based on recommendations from the Council.
-Attendant Form Attached-
 - Blye presented the current logo and four new logos for the Council to review and vote for the one that best reflects the group. Cosner recommended that the logo is as accessible as possible for those with low vision. Herrera and Resneder wanted to know the expense for a logo with multiple colors. Blye said she did not know exact cost, but knew there will be a cost increase for anything with more than three colors. Blye said a shaded option or a black and white version could be used for cost savings when needed.
-Logo Options Attached-
 - Herrera investigated why Council member Choi was missing meetings and to determine if she wants to remain an active member. Choi reported to Herrera that she resigns due to personal and professional scheduling conflicts. She sent official notice of her resignation to the governor's appointments office. Blye discussed potential profiles (Corpus Christi, Houston, Galveston areas, youth leadership, disability status, diverse) for Choi's replacement and asked for recommendations to pass up the chain to the Governor. Blye suggested the SILC have a pre-application for new Council members so the Council can streamline our push for new members. Herrera recommended that the Community Relations sub-committee focus on getting applicants for the Council.
 - Resneder researched ways SILC members can use portable tablets such as the Kindle, iPad, and Google based devices to be used next budget year. Cosner asked if someone could research potential donations. Pryor said that Apple wasn't very willing to do deals, but iPads were the most accessible. Schweickart recommended a Google tablet. Blye suggested that it may be that everyone would need to make a personal choice that will fit within the budget.
 - Cosner referred to the December minutes and recommended the SILC contract with a CPA, and not hire one full-time to do quarterly reviews. Blye stated she would hire someone (a CPA or an experienced bookkeeper) that would meet the SILC's needs and fit within budget.

NEW BUSINESS

- Blye discussed New Business items:
 - Prior to the meeting, Council members received copies of the By-Laws to review and recommend amendments if needed. Blye stated there have not been any amendments since June 2011 but approved each budget year.

Motion: Swearingen motioned to approve the By-Laws, Resneder seconded, unanimous approval came from the Council.

- Blye reported to the Council a need to add a new signer since Kristen Jones is no longer an appointed member. Blye stated a need to have another staff person to have signing authority to speed up the process to get checks signed and bills paid timely. Cosner recommended that the authorization not take place only in house and that a board member be made aware of any purchase orders, checks, etc. She recommended the SILC have an adequate checks/balances system. Hundley recommended that we not seek board approval to have staff sign off on checks due to efficiency.

Motion: Resneder motioned to have the Project Director of the Texas SILC be a co-signer of checks, Hundley seconded, unanimous approval came from the Council.

Motion: Cosner motioned to have Kristen Jones, former Council member, removed as an authorized signer at Chase bank, Bachelor seconded, unanimous approval came from the Council.

- Blye reported members needed to determine a meeting date for the fourth quarterly meeting. Members determined May 31, 2013 – June 2, 2013 worked best for the majority and that Blye would find a location for the last meeting of the budget year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Blye provided a summary of activities since last meeting: participating in more than 20 activities, including attending local and state events.
 - Blye worked with Dolly Worley, RCT Coordinator to host a joint meeting with RCT.
 - Blye provided an update on attending SILC Congress and new information shared by RSA. Blye reported members must have a fully constituted board when signing off on the SPIL and the SILC must determine what to do with funds when a CIL no longer wants the money or is not eligible for funding.
 - Blye reported on attending the SPIL public hearings in Wichita Falls, Big Spring, and Corpus Christi.
 - Blye worked with ABLE CIL on the TxDOT project in Midland/Odessa area.
 - Blye reported on attending several other meetings in the community.
 - Blye reported an overview of the SILC's financial status. A handout was provided.

Motion: Resneder motioned to accept the full report, Swearingen seconded, and unanimous approval came from the council.

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (TACIL)

- Mark Cundall provided a project update (Part B Grant and SPIL Goal V)
 - Cundall reported that TACIL is in a new location, 7101 Easy Wind Drive #3114, Austin, TX 78752
 - TACIL also has a new logo, website, and brochures.
 - Cundall was involved in producing a 90-second PSA which Blye will release to Council that explains a CIL and the CIL network in Texas.
 - TACIL wants to clear-up confusion about what a CIL is – give a united message to an audience on statewide basis and bring in a new age demographic.
 - Consumer Advocacy Team (CAT) update: My Medicaid Matters energizer on 2/14/13 and educate their communities through social media.
 - CIL Directors to speak at the Capitol, as well as consumers, to advocate for the CIL at legislative hearings at the end of January and beginning of February.
 - Cundall is still meeting with members of the large CIL network and promoting the CILs to different entities which support people with disabilities (ADRCs for example).
 - Peggy Cosner recommended that everyone visit their local CIL.
 - Cosner noted housing and transportation goals are still active.
 - Cundall suggested having a hospitality area run by TACIL at the Statewide Independent Living Conference – TACIL has authorized a \$10,000 sponsorship and \$1,000 contribution to the My Medicaid Matters campaign.
 - Blye called attention to the SPIL – Goal V: \$123,426: Funds that TACIL receives. Cundall provided an quick overview.
 - Judy Telge introduced herself and said the CILs and SILC's relationship is important in facilitating the writing and direction of the SPIL. For example, BCIL was instrumental in bringing people to the SILC Corpus Christi public hearing on the SPIL.
 - Cosner boasted about the strong relationship between CILs and the SILC.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (TDHCA)

- Spencer Duran provided an update and overview of the HOME Program
 - Update: Economic Development Happens with HOME brochure & Rental Assistance Programs One-Pager
 - Spirit of collaboration
 - Work closely to ensure that people with disabilities will live in accessible/affordable housing.
 - Department sends money to vendors to run housing programs for people with disabilities.
 - Funding in HOME program – Federally funded – promote the housing programs that are operated by the department. Only two CILs that have a

Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program. Voucher for people with disabilities to live in the community for up to 24 months with rental assistance.

- Idea is to ideally have a CIL run a TBRA program.
- \$2.9 million in funds that are reserved for people with disabilities.
- Can reserve on a household to household basis.
- Uses median family income to qualify for the program, more liberal.
- Lease/Key rental situation.
- Self-sufficiency checklist exists because it is a temporary fix.
- Choice to live wherever is a highlight, high opportunity areas are utilized.
- TDHCA is also a public housing authority that issues Section 8 vouchers.
 - 132 people on a waiting list for a housing voucher.
 - Not enough federal dollars.
 - Idea to work with relocation specialists and they stay on the waiting list while taking advantage of the temporary HOME program.
- Looking for new vendors – potentially CILs.
- Why would a CIL not want to become a vendor? – Judy Telge said that E.D.s have not come to terms with taking on housing programs and there is no money for staff to administer the program through the CIL.
- Pryor said that some CILs may be intimidated by the program.
- Spencer Duran has travel funds to provide technical assistance to CILs.
- Telge said that the systems are more streamlined and flexible. CILs may not understand how the systems work.
- Grants: Federal Home Loan Bank – \$15,000 capacity building grant for up to three years to develop housing programs.
- \$2.9 million that is set aside just for people with disabilities – can be used in a rural or urban area. There is additional funding for people with disabilities in rural areas.

-Handout Attached-

STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

- Breitengross-Bitter reported the Planning and Evaluation committee meet prior to the meeting to discuss updating and rewriting the SPIL.
 - Breitengross-Bitter provided a SILC Congress Update and she reported learning that not all SILCs have great relationships with their CILs/DARs and we were pleased to learn that we do.
 - Couder provided a SILC Congress Update.
 - Couder agrees with the new methodology for setting SPIL goals and likes the visual nature of the charting.
 - Breitengross Bitter reviewed the working draft chart of the SPIL
 - Question regarding an emergency management goal
 - Defining “capacity” - Increasing awareness of disability services, AT, CILs through collaboration, publications, PSAs, etc.
 - Couder recommended the CILs adopt the same management software for

reporting purposes, to get an accurate count of which CILs have CIL reporting software, and to get CIL buy-in.

- Council members reviewed SPIL cover ideas – Need to determine what the theme of the cover should be – capacity vs. lifestyle

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Herrera motioned for public comment, no public comment or announcements were made.

CONFERENCE UPDATE

- Blye provided an update on DARS recommendations on providing more separations on conference financial reporting and SILC protocol for planning activities, during and after the conference. Blye drafted chart of accounts and a table of contents for the policy manual that should be completed and approved by June 2013.

-Draft Documents Attached-

- Goebel discussed Conference Planning items:
 - Reviewed registration data sheet
 - Some clarification on registration needed
 - Approximately 109 general registrants
 - 10 CILs currently represented
 - Approximately \$13,575 in reg. fees
 - Current Exhibitors/Partner
 - 11 exhibitors of 26 spots available
 - \$17,935 paid or promised sponsorships
 - Block/Brainstorm To-Do Review
 - Agenda -Discussion regarding room facilitation. Council members requested one choice session vs. a whole day of sessions in one room.

SILC TRAINING

- Section tabled until another meeting due to lack of time.

MEETING ADJOURNED

- Herrera adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.



Texas State Independent Living Council



Meeting Minutes
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6121 North IH-35
Austin, Texas 78752
January 29, 2013

Opening:

The annual joint meeting of the Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC) and the Rehabilitation Council of Texas was called to order at 9:15 a.m. January 29, 2013 by Saul Herrera, SILC Chair and Lori Henning, RCT Chair.

Present:

Members in Attendance – Randell Resneder, Jim Batchelor, Saul Herrera, Karen Swearingen, Richard Couder, Anna Hundley, Peggy Cosner

Others in Attendance - Regina Blye, Staff; Ashley Schweickart, TDHCA; Karissa Garcia, DARS; Laurie Pryor, DARS; Sandra Breitengross Bitter, Staff; Emily Wolinsky, Staff; Christina Goebel, Staff; Christine Martin, Staff; Lois Langtry, Staff; Jean Genevie, DARS; David Norman, DARS; Cassie Laws-Fisher, DARS

Members Not in Attendance - Marc Gold, Shannon Alexander, Calvin Turner

RCT Members in Attendance - Lori Henning, RCT Chair; Mark Schroeder, RCT Vice Chair; Rana Anderson, Parents Resource Network; Roger Cortez; Jeff Foster; Manual Lopez; Thelma Scott; Karen Stanfill, Client Assistance Program; Joyce Taylor, Texas Workforce Investment Council; Brent Pitt, Texas Education Agency; Martha Garber; Jim Hanophy, DARS Assistant Commissioner; Dolly Worley, DARS

Addressed:

THE CHANGING FACE OF THE TEXAS LABOR MARKET:

Richard Froeschle, Director of the Labor Market and Career Information (LMCI) Department of the Texas Workforce Commission

❖ Texas Economy

- The Texas economy is stronger than the rest of the U.S.; but the regional nature of the economy is significant.
- National trends influence the TX economy, such as globalization and demographic shifts.
- Texas job growth is mainly because of oil and gas and the population growth.
- Occupational demand has become bifurcated (high skill, high wage; low skill, low wage) there is a hollow center.
- Educational response to the labor market is mismatched.
- TX unemployment rate is falling, there is broad sector job growth, spending is up, consumers are lowering debt burden, housing market has improved, UI initial claims are down.
- Pent up demand (delayed household formation, historically low rates in TX);

- cheap money (interest rates remain at rock bottom)
- Pent up cash (banks have excess reserves, corporate cash, consumers all have lots of cash.)
- ❖ Economic Big Picture
 - Economist say that GDP growth is low, growing but not fast.
 - Personal income flat. Student loan debt almost \$1 trillion.
 - Anemic post-recession growth (manufacturing slowing, exports, slowing, etc.)
 - Energy/gas price volatility creates winners and losers.
 - Oil and Gas drilling is slowing.
 - Net worth down \$9.4 trillion from peak.
 - Rising healthcare; uncertainties of Affordable Care Act.
 - No confidence in the political system (fiscal cliff/budget crisis).
 - European and Asian markets are slowing.
- ❖ Global Influence on Labor Market
 - For over 50% of the S&P Fortune 500 companies, their profits come from outside of the U.S.
 - Global economy influences everyday economy; sometimes the labor market and the stock market don't trend the same.
- ❖ Texas Labor Market Structural Transformation
 - Change of the population within the state of Texas—79 counties lost employment over the last decade.
 - Texas is becoming more Hispanic—the Hispanic baby boomers are currently in the 5-10 year old range. The Anglo baby boomers are around 50 years old. In ten years, Hispanics will be the primary labor force entrants.
 - Gaps between baby boomers, Generation X is now closed. Baby boomers didn't leave labor market, when Gen X entered the workforce.
 - Texas is the only state in the nation with more Gen X'ers in the market than baby boomers.
 - The biggest challenge to corporate America is the intergenerational transfer in the labor market.
- ❖ Texas Employment Trends
 - There is not a labor shortage; we just need to make sure the skills match the labor market.
 - There is a nice balance between goods-producing industries, and service-producing industries. Every sector except information sector (print/publishing) is growing.
 - The industries that are adding the most jobs are admin and support services (temp industry)—it's a very vibrant sector because it helps help the business market.
 - Almost 13% of college grads will find their first job at a temp company.
 - The unskilled labor trend is increasing; but high-skilled demand is also increasing.
 - The category for AA degree occupations is the sweet spot of the market.
 - Occupation growth projections; food prep workers, elementary school teachers.

- Most job openings; retail sales, cashiers, waiters, etc.
- Slide of “Projected Fastest Growing Occupations in Texas”—significantly driven by the oil and gas sector.
- Repetitive jobs are being destroyed; higher skilled IT related skills are where the market is headed.
- Technology is killing jobs, by enabling machines to do quickly do tasks that workers used to do full time for salaries.
- What is the IT labor market look like? It is defined by skill set.
- ❖ Matching Texas Workforce with Texas Job Market:
 - Don’t look at occupational title, but skill level.
 - The argument for skills over occupational titles: Job titles that didn’t exist just 5 years ago.
 - Skill sets are more important than the job titles.
 - Soft skills are very important (the ability to keep a job/attitude)
 - Getting and keeping job is about: workplace skills, skills, will, distill (on the job training, informal learning, continuing education).
 - There is a mismatch between what students are studying and the highest paid degrees.
 - Detailed Work Activities website, www.skillspass.com
 - Upload resume to see what it looks like to the skill

10:45 a.m. RICHARD FROESCHLE FINISHED PRESENTATION/BREAK

11:00 a.m. EX-OFFICIO, LIAISON, AND CHAIR REPORTS

- ❖ Texas Workforce Investment Council - Joyce Taylor
 - Council met in Austin to review; would like to add listening sessions.

-Report Attached-
- ❖ Parents Resource Network - Rana Anderson
 - Described organization, passed out workshop schedule.
- ❖ Division for Blind Services - Laurie Pryor
 - Completed a redesign of the IL program, contract services for skills training, reviewed regions in need.

-Report Attached-
- ❖ Division for Rehabilitation Services – Regina Blye for Amy Kantoff
 - Reviewed number of consumers served, waiting list, efforts to reduce waiting list, working with CILs and DARS field staff.

-Report Attached-
- ❖ Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs - Ashley Schweickart
 - Legislative update, discussed funding requests for: Amy Young Home Modification Program; \$10 million for homeless programs; and homeless information systems project on the state level (requested as a capital project in the budget).
 - Discussed two grants from CMS regarding partnership with DADS for Money Follows the Person; the REAL Choice Systems Change grant to link housing and services for people with disabilities allowed them to hire a new staffer, Spencer Duran.

- ❖ Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services - Karissa Garcia
 - Legislative update—DARS is tracking 109 bills; sequestration would reduce program funding by 7.6% for the vocational programs, and by 8.2% for the IL programs; Senate Finance Hearing this week and DARS will testify and discuss 5 exceptional items (2 were included in SB 1).
- ❖ TACIL- Peggy Cosner
 - Appreciates efforts to expand CILs in the state.
 - Explained what a CIL is, the make-up of the board and staff, and the four core services.
 - Explained TACIL and their contract with DARS to increase visibility of the CILs in Texas.
 - Reviewed activities of the CILs such as the TCDD Health and Fitness grant and that centers are starting to get involved in ADRC activities in their communities.
- ❖ SILC Chair - Saul Herrera
 - Discussed the SILC securing a TxDOT grant regarding rural transportation for individuals with disabilities.
 - Gave update on drafting process for the State Plan for Independent Living, had two weeks of public hearings throughout Texas.
 - Upcoming events: IL Conference in March, Disability Awareness Week in April.
- ❖ Client Assistance Program - Karen Stanfill
 - Reviewed the report submitted to RSA.
 - Gave overview of the CAP program.

-Report Attached-
- ❖ Texas Education Agency - Brent Pitt
 - Reviewed data on special education students with disabilities; total, 90,571.
 - www.transitionintexas.org
- ❖ DARS Council Report—Read by Dolly Worley
 - Gave overview of recent DARS activities.

MEETING ADJOURNED

- Saul Herrera, SILC Chair and Lori Henning, RCT Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

➤ Minutes prepared by Wolinsky, Breitengross-Bitter, and Blye

Signed by: X

Date:

Logo Options



Logo 1



Logo 2



Logo 3



Logo 4



Current Logo



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
Building Homes. Strengthening Communities.

**RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:
 Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and Project Access (PA) Voucher**

Program	Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	Project Access (PA) Voucher
Eligible Activities	Security deposits and rental subsidies for up to 24 months while the household engages in a self-sufficiency program.	Rental assistance for qualifying persons with disabilities transitioning from institutions into the community.
Eligible applicants	Applicants apply to administer TBRA to individuals and households <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City and county governments • Nonprofit organizations • Public Housing Authorities 	Vouchers are provided on a first-come, first-served basis
Eligible beneficiaries	Renters earning up to 80% Area Median Family Income (AMFI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households whose annual gross income does not exceed 50% of HUD's median income guidelines. • HUD requires 75% of all new households admitted to the program be at or below 30% of the area median income. • As applicable, eligibility criteria includes, but may not be limited to disability verification (previous residence of an institution), household income, size and composition, citizenship status, assets, medical and childcare expenses
Availability	Statewide via reservation system	Statewide
Funding Source	HUD: HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program	HUD: Section 8 (Housing Choice Voucher) Program
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to TDHCA's annual HOME funding allocation from HUD. • Of TDHCA's total annual HOME program funding allocation, 95% is reserved for non-participating jurisdictions and 5% is reserved to assist Persons with Disabilities statewide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TDHCA receives annual funding allocation from HUD for Section 8 assistance. • TDHCA uses part of its annual Section 8 allocation to fund the Project Access (PA) Voucher Program. • New pilot program under the PA Voucher Program makes a certain number of vouchers available to those transitioning out of Texas psychiatric hospitals
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible applicants apply to administer TBRA locally. • Watch TDHCA's website for Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified households may select the best available housing through direct negotiations with landlords to ensure accommodations that meet their needs. • TDHCA pays approved rent amounts directly to property owners.
Contact	Phone: 512-463-8921 or toll free: 800-525-0657 Email: home@tdhca.state.tx.us Web: www.tdhca.state.tx.us/home-division/tybra.thm	Toll Free: 800-237-6500 or 800-525-0657 Email: info@tdhca.state.tx.us Web: www.tdhca.state.tx.us/section-8/project-access/index.htm

HUD= US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and language assistance will be made available for persons with limited English proficiency.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Street Address: 221 East 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701 Mailing Address: PO Box 13941, Austin, TX 78711
 Main Number: 512-475-3800 Toll Free: 1-800-525-0657 Email: info@tdhca.state.tx.us Web: ww.tdhca.state.tx.us

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Texas State Independent Living Council Conference/Event Chart of Accounts

ASSETS 1000-1999

Account Number	Account Name	Description of Account
1010	Program Income	Money carried over from previous year's registrations

FUND BALANCE 3000

Account Number	Account Name	Description of Account
3000	Fund Balance	Shows the balance of funds in the Conference/Event fund

CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUPPORT 4000-4999

Account Number	Account Name	Description of Account
4010	Donations	Can be restricted or unrestricted
4020	Sponsorships	Counts as unrestricted income
4030	Exhibitors	Counts as unrestricted income
4040	DARS Grant Revenue	DARS contributions towards this fund
4050	Stipends	Developmental Disability grant contributions

REVENUES 5000-5999

Account Number	Account Name	Description of Account
5010	Registration	Fee from attendees
5020	Raffle	Counts as unrestricted income

Texas State Independent Living Council Conference/Event Chart of Accounts

EXPENSES 7000-7999

Account Number	Account Name	Description of Account
7000	Conferences and Events (Program)	7000-7099 Expense codes may be funded with restricted income
7000	Equipment Rental	
7000	Honoraria and Expenses for Speakers	
7000	Supplies	
7000	Badges	
7000	Printing	
7000	Air Travel	
7000	Mileage	
7000	Hotel	
7000	Per Diem	
7000	Roving Attendants	
7000	Attendants	
7000	CART	
7000	Interpreting	
7000	Braille printing	
7000	Website Maintenance and Products	
7000	Car Rentals	
7000	Insurance	
7000	Loop System	
7010	Staff Salaries	
7010	Contract Services	
7100	Conference and Event Expense (Unrestricted)	7100 Code must use unrestricted income
7100	Food and Beverage	
7100	Gift Baskets	
7100	Give Away Items	
7100	Gift Bag Items	

**Texas Workforce Investment Council (Council) Liaison Report
for the January 28-29, 2013 Meeting of the Rehabilitation Council of Texas**

Council Overview

The Council promotes the development of a well-educated, highly skilled workforce for Texas, and advocates for an integrated workforce system to provide quality, relevant services to address the needs of Texas business and workers. The Council is charged with assisting the Governor and the Legislature with strategic planning for and evaluation of the Texas workforce system. The Council also serves as the State Workforce Investment Board as required by the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

The Texas workforce system is comprised of 19 workforce programs and five related academic educational programs that are administered by the following state agencies: Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Texas Education Agency, Health and Human Services Commission and its Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, Division of Economic Development and Tourism in the Office of the Governor, Texas Veterans Commission, and Texas Workforce Commission.

State and federal law assign the Council four primary functions in the Texas workforce system: 1) planning, 2) evaluation and performance measurement, 3) research and continuous improvement, and 4) review of state and local workforce plans in order to recommend final approval by the Governor. Council products include a strategic plan for the workforce system, annual evaluation reports and resource publications, occasional papers, reports on critical emerging issues, and recommendations to the Governor.

Highlights from the December 7, 2012 Council Meeting

Executive Committee

Council Chairman, Wes Jurey reported that the Executive Committee had reviewed the activities and deliverables completed in the first quarter of the Council's fiscal year 2013 work plan. The committee also discussed strategies to engage system partners through issue identification in preparation for the Council's next strategic plan development period that will begin in 2014.

System Integration Technical Advisory Committee (SITAC)

SITAC Chairman, Paul Mayer reported that the committee heard several updates from partner agencies on their progress in implementing the action plans in the workforce system strategic plan. In addition, each workforce system partner provided a brief overview of priority issues as agencies prepare for the upcoming legislative session.

Council Briefings

The Council conducted its regular business, which included the approval of *Evaluation 2012: Accomplishments and Outcomes of the Texas Workforce System*. This annual report highlights the work of the Council and its system partners to implement the Texas workforce system strategic plan, as well as to monitor program performance as required by statute. The Council also received several briefings including the status of registered apprenticeship projects, funding formulas for programs funded under Chapter 133 of the Texas Education Code for fiscal year 2014, the Council's annual report, demographics on veterans in Texas, and career and technical education.

The Council ended its meeting with presentations from the Texas Veterans Commission, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Texas Workforce Commission on their efforts to ensure that veterans have access to college credit and are gainfully employed in Texas.

The next Council meeting will be March 8, 2013 in Austin, Texas.



Debra Wanser
Commissioner

Division for Blind Services (DBS)

Laurie Pryor

January 29, 2013

DBS IL Program Statistics end of first quarter FY 2013:

- 1,871 individuals served in the first quarter (includes all statuses and age groups)
- 870 individuals in “active” services (includes individuals determined eligible and individuals receiving services of all age groups)
- 360 individuals successfully completed their program (includes all age groups)
- 459 new referrals were received

SPIL Monitoring Goal III:

Goal III A:

At the end of the first quarter of FY 2013 there had been 459 new IL referrals and of those referrals 365 (79%) had received an Independent Living How To Guide (information packet). It is noted that new referrals not receiving an IL guide would either have immediate need for services or have received the guide previously, such as a previous consumer.

Goal III B:

Older Blind (55 years of age and older) Statistics as of end of first quarter FY 2013:

- 687 individuals in “active” services were Older Blind (includes individuals determined eligible and individuals receiving services) (79% of consumers served)

Goals III C:

Older Blind (55 years of age and older) Statistics as of end of first quarter FY 2013:

- 233 individuals who successfully completed their program were Older Blind (51% of consumers closed successfully)

Rider Funds Statistics:

Due to database issues this will be reported at the March meeting.

January 28, 2013

**Division for Rehabilitation Services (DRS)
DRS ILS Program Statistics - FY13**

Performance	December FY13	Target
Number of consumers served through CILs that received funding from DARS	3,971	6,632
Number of consumers served by DRS ILS counselors	Not available	1,890
Number of consumers served by DRS ILS counselors who achieved their goals	309	638

ILS Waiting List	8/31/12	1/27/13	Reduction
	884	747	137

- Continuing to reduce the Waiting List
 - Contracted case managers
 - Purchasing processes
 - Consumer readiness to receive services
 - Eligibility by observation
- Updating policies and procedures
 - More ILS-specific guidelines
 - CIL program process improvements
 - Updated standards and forms
 - Reduced redundancy, number of forms
 - Training May 1-3, 2013, Dallas
- Updating, expanding information / resources to address information gaps
- Enhancing communications, collaborations with CILs, DARS field staff

Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report to RCT
January 24, 2013

During October 2012 and January 2013 CAP has continued reorganizing. CAP temporarily had assistance from two part time positions that will be ending in January. A different CAP person is now handling the El Paso area, and CAP lost a staff member in Dallas.

CAP has submitted the federal report to the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the report will be available on the RSA website.

CAP has seen a small increase in cases the first three months of 2013 over 2012.

CAP continues to work the mutual case between DRS and DBS.

Some of the areas CAP has seen complaints include; denial of application for services, eligibility issues, vocational goal, self employment, coordination of services between DARS and universities.

CAP will be meeting with DRS and DBS in the next month to discuss specific issues in further detail.