



# **Texas State Independent Living Council**



Held Virtually, Via Zoom  
**Friday, June 17, 2022**

## **Opening:**

The Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC) quarterly meeting was brought to order at by April Pollreisz, Chair.

## **Present:**

Members in Attendance: Heisha Freeman, Michael Garrett, April Pollreisz, Eva Storey, David Lunt, Joe Rogers, Jan McSorley, Jim Batchelor, Keisha Rowe Texas Health and Human Service (HHSC), Debra Medellin, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Bonnie Notargiacomo, Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

Members Not in Attendance: Mike Bates, Garry Simmons, Colton Read, Melva Henderson.

Others in Attendance: Sandra Breitengross Bitter, Staff; Sarah Gernsbacher, Staff; Brian White, Staff; Jennifer Whitcomb, Staff Craig Davis.

## **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes:**

- Rogers made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Batchelor seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Storey made a motion to approve the agenda. Garrett seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **Public Comment/Open Forum**

- Public comment was made by provided by Joe Hebert, Jacqueline McFarlane, Pam Goodson, and Taylor Southerland.

### **Vaccination Outreach Presentation**

- Shawn Jackson, Disability Rights Texas, and Dana Sayre, artist and community organizer, presented on the issue of vaccine access to Texans with disabilities.

### **Elections:**

- Elections were held for the vacant Treasurer position. After a secret ballot voter, Lunt was elected to that position.

### **Bylaws:**

- White presented the proposed changes to the bylaws, which included the recommendation that the Chair, and not the full council, would make the subcommittee assignments, expanding the executive committee to include

the CIL representative, and to strike the language that requires the accompaniment of the agenda two weeks prior to the meeting. In case of a bylaw amendment. Garrett made a motion to accept the proposed changes. McSorley seconded the motion and there was a roll call vote was conducted a the motion passed.

### **Advocacy Subcommittee:**

- White presented the the committee advocacy policy priorities for next year, which included a new update regarding sexual assault prevention and trauma-informed support services. Batchelor made a motion to accept the advocacy priorities. Rogers seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **Finance Report:**

- Breitengross Bitter presented the financial report which recommended having Atchley & Associates conducting our next audit. Garrett made accept the engagement from Atchley and Associate for the FY23 audit. letter to Atchley & Associate for the next audit. Lunt seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **Membership Development and Recruitment Committee:**

- Davis updated the council that the committee had met and they were given the specifics of what keeps our council in compliance with the SILC indicators.

### **Policy and Procedure Subcommittee**

- White presented the committee recommended changes to the policy and procedure manual. Which included a plan for a comprehensive gap analysis.

### **SPIL Subcommittee**

- White presented the results of the semiannual report, the annual report, and the results of the Consumer Satisfaction Surveys. He also gave an update on the Good Measures project and how it relates to the SPIL.

### **Distribution of Public Health Workforce Funds:**

- Breitengross Bitter presented the COVID-19 relief funds and including how they were set up through Public Health Workforce funds and allocated by ACL. She also presented the survey being sent to the CILs in order to find how the majority of the network would want them allocated. Rogers made a motion to that the SILC should receive the entire amount.

Storey seconded the motion and motion passed.

### **Resource Development**

- White informed the council on the grant initiatives the SILC is currently applying for including a Health Equity grant that would be funded by TCDD.

### **Project Update**

- Gernsbacher presented project updates including, PAL which was approved for its fifth and final year, HEART which was not approved for its fifth year by TCDD, and the Inclusive Services for Sexual Assault Survivors project.

### **Project Coordination**

- Brietengross Bitter presented the project coordination update which included presentation of the mock-up of the new SILC website. She also presented the new Organization Flowchart. Rogers made a motion to add Lunt to the treasurer position and himself as the CIL rep. Garret seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **Executive Director's Report**

- Brietengross Bitter presented latest organizational updates including the SILC's

participation on a NCIL project, pop-up vaccine clinics, and participation with other councils.

### **Ex-Officio, Chair, and Liaison Reports**

- Reports were presented by Rowe (HHSC), Medellin (TX Dot), Rogers (CILs), and Pollreisz (Chair)

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Minutes drafted by:  
Craig Davis

**Signed by: X**  DocuSigned by:  
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**Date:** 5/31/2023

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Secretary or Executive Board Member