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**Minutes**

Name of Organization: Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (NV SILC)

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday, April 8, 2021

 9:30 a.m.

This meeting will be held via video-conference only:

In accordance with Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 1; The requirement

contained in NRS 241.023 (1) (b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended.

The public may observe this meeting and provide public comment on Zoom.

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Meeting Materials Available at: <https://www.nvsilc.com/meetings/>

1. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions

Patricia (Ace Patrick) Unruh, Chair

Members Present: Vickie Essner, Renee Portnell, Patricia Unruh (Ace Patrick), Havander Davis, Jennifer Kane, Mary Evilsizer, Sabra McWhirter, Kate Osti, Cheyenne Pasquale,

Members Excused Absent:

 Members Unexcused Absent:

Guests: Amerette Rodrigues, Valerie Lefler, Dora Martinez, Marina Holcomb, Julie Steinbaugh, Mark Tadder, Raquel O’Neil, Steven Cohen, Autumn Blattman, Santa Perez, Cindi Swanson, Jack Mayes, Kimberly Glass, Dee Dee Foremaster,

 CART Provider: Becky Van Auken

 Staff: Dawn Lyons & Wendy Thornley

1. Public Comment

Members of the public will be invited to speak; however, no action may be taken on a matter during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. Please clearly state and spell your first and last name, if unique or otherwise unfamiliar to the Subcommittee. Public comment may be limited to 3 minutes per person, at the discretion of the chair. Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined or consideration by the public body, and/or pulled or removed from the agenda at any time. Pursuant to NRS 241.020, no action may be taken upon a matter during a period devoted to comments by the general public until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

Mary Evilsizer: Gave an update on SNCIL. They have received more housing vouchers and asked the members to refer individuals who can be housed and on the waiting list.

Julie Steinbaugh: Thanked Dawn for sharing the Position Statements and thinks they are great.

Dora Martinez: Erik Jimenez is the state ADA Liaison, she is concerned that the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living (NNCIL), may be sold and relocated. Also thanked the Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities for supporting her ideas during the NVE’s video tutorial and the NELIS System. She also thanked Assemblywoman Cohen for championing people with disabilities and getting an automatic door opener for the legislative building.

Stephanie Schoen: Would like the SILC to do a formal letter of inquiry to Assemblywoman Hanson as to what work and information she is gathering regarding increasing the host homes in Nevada so that more people with IDD can live in the community. Stephanie thinks it would be helpful for everyone to know what everyone else is doing.

Marina Holcomb: Thanked the group for letting her join the meeting.

Mark Tadder: He is present to represent the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living. The sale and relocation of the NNCIL is not moving forward.

Dora Martinez: Assemblywoman Cohen is presenting AB121. When that happens, she will be sure to notify the group.

Amerette Rodriguez: Thanked the group for inviting her and is excited to be part of this.

1. Introductions and/or Announcements Regarding New Members and Interested Parties.

Patricia (Ace Patrick) Unruh, Chair

Ace Patrick: No introductions or announcements about new members. She invited interested people to speak during the Public Comment at the end of the meeting.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding the Schedule and Length of NV SILC Quarterly Meetings **(For Possible Action).**

Patricia (Ace Patrick) Unruh, Chair

Ace Patrick: Recommended that the meetings move to a four-hour format with a fifteen-minute break in the middle.

Dawn Lyons: She posted the schedule for the SILC’s FY21-22 meetings on the SILC website. In Ohio, they used to have two-day meetings. That would be hard to accommodate. The SILC wants to maintain quorum.

Havander Davis: Is at work while attending the meeting. Can do four-hour meetings now but will not be able to regularly.

Dawn Lyons: Knows that these meetings occur during work hours.

Cheyenne Pasquale: Feels that four hours is a long meeting. Perhaps subjects that need in-depth discussions could be moved to subcommittees. Another option would be to meet every other month.

Jennifer Kane: Quarterly meetings could be two-hour meetings over a two-day period.

Dee Dee Foremaster: A four-hour meeting is too long. Frequent, shorter meetings would be good.

Sabra McWhirter: Agrees

Dawn Lyons: Asked if people are available for two-day meetings that are two-hours long.

Mary Evilsizer: Shorter meetings and use of subcommittees would accomplish a lot.

Dawn Lyons: It is possible to get all reporting done at quarterly meetings. Updates from subcommittees will also take time in meetings.

Dawn Lyons motioned to change the SILC’s future quarterly meetings, to the second Wednesdays and Thursdays of the month, at 1:00 pm for two-hour meetings. Sabra McWhirter seconded. Voting members voted and the motion carried.

Dawn Lyons: There are four subcommittees: Legislative Subcommittee, Integrated Workforce Development Subcommittee, the SPIL workgroup, and the Transition Workgroup.

There are also trainings that are offered. If individuals have preferences for the scheduling of subcommittees, they can contact Dawn.

Trainings that were mentioned, included The CAP program with Jack Mayes from NDALC, and a training on Robert’s Rules with Ted Nagel.

1. Update, Report and Discussion Regarding N4 Connect Transit Project.

Amy Dewitt-Smith, Executive Director, N4

Amy Dewitt-Smith: She presented at a subcommittee meeting before. She is from Neighbor Network of Nevada (N4). She came to this meeting to talk about their new statewide transit project for the full SILC meeting.
N4 is motivated to ensure that people are connected in the community with each other as well as important resources and services.
Transportation is a significant gap in Nevada, particularly in the north and rural areas.
This project came from design grants and projects with community feedback and N4 heard from people who utilized transportation and public transportation in particular.
There's a lot of statewide interest and their partner for this project, is Valerie Lefler, the Executive Director of Foenix Mobility Rising, they are the vendor for the software that will be utilized for the system.
N4 will start the project in the 12 counties at top half of the state.
If all goes well, they will include the five remaining counties in the south and have a statewide coordinated system. Foenix Mobility Rising understands the importance of being mindful of how unique each community is, each rural community, each transit partner all has a system that is set up in certain way for specific reasons.

Valerie Lefler: Foenix Mobility Rising will be connecting 12 transportation agencies across Northern Nevada. Those transportation agencies are going to vary, some are based out of senior centers, some of them will be fixed route transit agencies, some may each be volunteer programs.
these 12 organizations are going to be joining together into a single technology interface where organizations can view, coordinate trips, book trips, pay for trips.
The goal is enhancing this connectivity of services and enhancing data and reporting and then increasing access for individuals and social service agencies with regard to mobility management and care coordination.

The social goal is increasing access to all social determinants of health because they realize all of the connectivity that comes with transportation, access to care, to employment, to education, to engage in one’s community.

They are using transportation technology vendors from around the world.
The Skedgo technology the base layer that connects everything together, Skedgo is based out of Australia.
Icabbi, a technology platform that works well with services that are built with lots of complexity is out of Ireland.
Spare, which is a technology that works within small demand response transportation agencies is out of Canada.

The roll out in each community, will be in three phases.
The first is Beta.
That's five or ten users.
Then they will roll it out to early adopters which is the next group of who are excited about the tech and then out to the public.
At each phase, they will be able to address the key needs and judge human experience.

Creating the systems of redundancy and systems of safety and creating those systems of support around technology deployment is what Phoenix does best.
Accessibility testing in the app with screen readers is part of the deployment.
They will take the entire earth surface and divide it into three meters squared and each three meters square has a three‑word address. With three words you can pinpoint the exact address versus 964 Farm Street, particularly if 964 Farm Street has four different buildings.

They are looking at fixed route and paratransit and deviated fixed route, all these organizations coming together under one system so you can see your trip, plan it, get an estimate for cost and so forth.
You're also able to request a trip and receive reminders about the pick-up windows. We know that's a huge concern and especially paratransit with regard to which window is it, when is the pick-up and drop obvious time and how much advance notice and so forth.
For those agencies that are willing, there's the ability for paying for the trip online.
Individuals are going to be able book their ride and pay with a credit card through the app and then seeing the vehicle arrive in real time for those organizations that have that integrated.
Not every agency will be willing to have an app in the vehicle.
Valerie shared her contact information.
People can contact Valerie or Amy after the meeting.

Dawn Lyons: She is excited and is looking forward to hearing more information.

Ace Patrick: She is also excited about this new program.

Amy will share the slides for distribution.

1. Update and Report on the Subcommittee for Inclusive Workforce Development.

Dr. Sondra Cosgrove, Subcommittee Chair

Tabled

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations to Collaborate on a Disability Services State Plan **(For Possible Action)**.

Cheyenne Pasquale, Designated State Entity (DSE) Representative

Cheyenne Pasquale: There have been discussions and questions about this subject. There is not a state plan for people with disabilities in Nevada for disability services. Within ADSD, there is a state plan for Aging Services that is required by the Administration for Community Living (ACL).
In a recent town hall meeting, one of the participants asked if there was a state plan for disability services, and there isn't, there are several state plans that address different populations or communities of people with disabilities, but there isn't an overarching state plan for people with disabilities in Nevada.
The Commission on Services for People with Disabilities (CSPD) had some discussion around an Olmstead plan, which does have impact on the disability community, but also has other impacts on other populations.

From the aging and disability services perspective we recognize the need and we would like to do a state plan for people with disabilities, but there are some concerns with staff resources and financial resources to do that. What we wanted to do today is open up a conversation with SILC, get some ideas and some perspective on what the SILC believes that state plan would look like.
There's opportunities to potentially find some common ground among the various other state plans that exist and incorporate those in there.
This was an initial conversation with the SILC to see what your thoughts were and how this might become a reality for the state of Nevada.

Dawn Lyons:
The SILC is considering that there should be a state plan for disability services as well because the aging plan is typically regarding and surrounding the services that are out there for aging.
Because the SILC creates the State Plan For Independent Living, it's not the same thing as creating a state plan for disability services because the SILC can't provide services.
The Centers For Independent Living have their own plans, and she wanted to hear from them about what kind of state plan they have that might be an alternative to an aging and disability services state plan.

Mary Evilsizer: The CILs do have a plan, the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living (SNCIL), works on and updates their plan every year.
Their plan is included in the PPR report.
The first part of the PPR report asks what was accomplished and the second part says what are the plans for the next year.

She is wondering if a collaboration of plans together might be where to start with the development of a disability service plan.

Mark Tadder: He knows that the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living has a plan but is not familiar with the details.

Ace Patrick: Since the SILC cannot provide services, how can they contribute to creating a state plan?

Cheyenne Pasquale: She will talk with ADSD leadership.

ADSD or the SILC could create a page on their websites with links to all the plans that are relevant to the disability community. She knows that the CSPD was going to write a letter of recommendation to ADSD to revisit the Olmstead plan, but has not heard an update yet. Ongoing collaborative meetings would be helpful.

Dawn Lyons: The SILC could put the links to all the state plans on the SILC website.

Ace Patrick: Two years ago, there was an in-person meeting to develop the SILC’s SPIL that she felt was very helpful.

Dawn Lyons: AA duties from different entities could rotate in a collaborative workgroup moving forward.

Cheyenne Pasquale: Invited anyone with ideas to email her.

Dawn Lyons: This will go onto the next agenda.

1. Updates Regarding the Following Legislative Hearings from the 80th and 81st Sessions that Pertain to Persons with Disabilities and Discussion Regarding Topics that SILC Must Focus on in the Future:

Dawn Lyons, Executive Director

Dawn Lyons: Due to being required to include these bills in the drafting of the agenda, some of these have already been discussed in legislature by the time of this meeting.

AB35-Allows Fund for Healthy Nevada Tobacco Settlement Dollars to be used for Prescription Drug Cost Assistance for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Dawn listened to the hearing and that and it is moving forward in legislature.

AB62-Able Accounts

Dawn knows that the recently had another hearing. People provided public comment and testimony. Its going to go in front of the budget committee regarding funding that program.

AB216-Medicaid to Cover Cognitive Assessments.

Important piece of legislation to allow for some cognitive assessments that were not previously allowed.

AJR1-Article 13, Section 1 Regarding Disability Language

 The SILC talked about this at their last meeting and provided a letter to educate about disability language and provided public comment. Assemblywoman, Titus put this forward.

AB121-NV EASE to be a Permanent Option for People with Disabilities

 The SILC provided public comment. Dora reached out to Assemblywoman Cohen about this.

SB93-Medicaid to pay individuals direct for some Personal Care Assistance Services

 Ted Nagel is working with a legislator on this, and Dawn is following this. It will create a budget change.

SB96-Increase Reimbursement Rates for Autism (ASD) Services

Dawn is following this.

SB169-Behavioral Health Language Used in Education (Behavioral Dysregulation). If she gets any more information on this, she will share it.

SB179-Qualifications of Sign Language Interpreters in Schools

 That one is put forward by Aging and Disability Services to require better qualifications for sign language interpreters in schools because they currently vary.

SB206-Requirement of Provider of Insurance to Offer Appropriate Supplemental Plans for Services in Which Medicare Does Not Cover

 Dawn wanted to make sure that people are aware that there are supplemental insurance plans.

SB208-Increases Age to 26 for ASD Diagnosis and Treatment Coverage

 Right now, it is age 22.

SJR8-2nd Session Brought Forth May 30, 2019; Article 1, Section 24 Regarding Equal Rights and Non-Discrimination

 They are including the LGBTQIA plus group and making some important changes to that piece of our constitution language.

Patricia (Ace Patrick) Unruh, Chair

Dawn Lyons: Gave updates on the list of bills which are included in the list above. She will keep the group updates as she hears about them. Dawn encouraged members to follow up on these bills for further detail and updates.

1. Update and Discussion Regarding SILC’s Transition Workgroup Activities and Progress.

Patricia (Ace Patrick) Unruh, Workgroup Chair

Ace Patrick: The Transition Workgroup has an objective summary and timetable. They are also on the SILC’s website.

For a SPIL Evaluation workgroup meeting to evaluate SPIL progress, she asked who would like to be on the workgroup: Mary Evilsizer, Dawn Lyons, Ace Patrick, Julie Steinbaugh, Renee Portnell, Amorette Rodriguez, Stephanie Schoen. The SPIL meeting will take place on April 22nd at 1;30 pm. Electing a Chair will take place at the first meeting. Dawn asked Mark Tadder to let Lisa Bonie know about the SPIL Evaluation workgroup meeting.

Transition Workgroup: Dawn will contact Stephanie Schoen about the responsibilities of being a Chair.

Dawn Lyons: Stephanie Schoen brought up the subject of people on waivers who have higher medical needs. The SILC is watching the many legislative bills that will have an impact on transitions.

The surveys have been temporarily tabled.

Next Transition Workgroup meeting is Thursday, June 24th at 10:00am.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations for Position Statements and Future Letters of Support for Legislation **(For Possible Action)**.

Dawn Lyons, Executive Director

Dawn Lyons: Sent these position statements out in draft form, to the members via email to get consumer feedback. There will be nine position statements:

IL services, diversion and transition from institutions, transition from high school, college bound, employment for persons with disabilities, transportation, housing, mental health supports, disability language, IL versus medical model as pertains to Medicaid programs and social justice for marginalized populations.

The DAG has approved this for us that we could write position statements and move forward using those since it is in our SPIL.

Dawn read through each of the draft position statements that she had finished.

Mary Evilsizer gave suggested changes. Dawn will integrate these suggestions.

She mentioned adding information about mental health drop-in centers.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Her center serves people with multiple disabilities and the Autism spectrum. She feels that drop-in centers are vital. Covid restrictions make things for homeless individuals with disabilities, very hard.

Mary Evilsizer: Agrees that drop-in centers are amazing.

 Ace Patrick motioned to approve the Position statements with the suggested changes.

Sabra McWhirter seconded. Voting members voted in approval. Motion carried.

1. Update and Discussion Regarding Youth Leader Hiring Process.

Dawn Lyons, Executive Director

Dawn Lyons: The application deadline was extended. The SILC currently has two applicants who are scheduled for interviews and will give an update at the July SILC meeting.

1. Review and Make Recommendations Regarding an NV SILC YouTube Channel **(For Possible Action**.

Dawn Lyons, Executive Director

Ace Patrick: She suggested this before. A YouTube channel will provide education and information about Independent Living and the SILC. Dawn Lyons has drafted a memorandum of Understanding (MOU), that the ADSD is reviewing.

Dawn Lyons: She had difficulty on Zoom in the past with making videos that were accessible. With a YouTube channel, she can add captions.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding the NV SILC Website Content **(For Possible Action).**

Dawn Lyons, Executive Director

Dawn Lyons: She is currently adding all the content and managing the website. It is in the SILC’s State Plan for Independent Living that they will add new content each month. She suggested that members rotate monthly in sending her content to add to the website newsfeed, or to add it themselves. It was agreed that Ex-Officios would be included in the list of people to submit materials.

Dawn will create a list of members and the month that they will be asked to contribute and send it out.

1. Discussion and Appointment of a New SILC Legislative Subcommittee Chair **(For Possible Action).**

Patricia (Ace Patrick) Unruh, Chair

The next Legislative Subcommittee meeting is Wednesday, June 23rd at 1:00pm. Renee Portnell has volunteered to be the Chair. Dawn will reach out to Renee about details.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding any Member Announcements and Upcoming Events **(For Possible Action)**.

Patricia (Ace Patrick) Unruh, Chair

Dawn Lyons: SILC Congress has been cancelled this year due to Covid-19. They feel that in-person networking is vital.

The NICL Conference is coming up and the group will talk about this.

Mary Evilsizer: Would like other entities to continue to support food distribution service for individuals who are homebound. SNCIL is also still helping individuals with rent and eviction relief.

Dawn Lyons: The DD Council sent information to her regarding the NELIS tutorial to help individuals navigate the legislative site for Nevada. It will be sent out to the group.

1. Approve Next Meeting Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date **(For Possible Action)**

NV SILC Annual Meeting Scheduled for July 8, 2021 at 9:30am

Patricia (Ace Patrick) Unruh, Chair

The SILC’s Annual meeting will be Wednesday, July 7th and Thursday, July 8th at 1:00pm on both days.

Standing agenda items

Tabled agenda items

Elections for Chair and Vice Chair

Approve minutes for the last two meetings (1/28 and 4/8)

Update Disability Services State plan

Training from Voc Rehab

 Updates from NNCIL, RCIL & SNCIL on their programs

 Update from John Rosenlund on the IL program

 Possible update from Amy about N4’s project

 SILC sub-committee updates

 Update on the MOU

 Update on SPIL Goals (Highlight of successes, any barriers being experienced)

1. Public Comment

Members of the public will be invited to speak; however, no action may be taken on a matter during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. Please clearly state and spell your first and last name, if unique or otherwise unfamiliar to the Subcommittee. Public comment may be limited to 3 minutes per person, at the discretion of the chair. Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined or consideration by the public body, and/or pulled or removed from the agenda at any time. Pursuant to NRS 241.020, no action may be taken upon a matter during a period devoted to comments by the general public until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

Mark Tadder: Would like a discussion about the lack of accessibility regarding Covid services among others, for people with disabilities, especially transportation.

Dawn Lyons: She attended a meeting hosted by ACL, to talk about this idea and Immunize Nevada has volunteered to work with the SILC. She asked for people to let her know about their experiences. Immunizenevada.org

Cindi Swanson: She was pleased to hear Cheyenne talking about a disability statement. She spent ten years in the SILC in Illinois and believes their annual meetings took place over two days.
A house subcommittee, U.S. House of Representatives, has proposed a bill to eliminate 14C which she believes, goes along with the Independent Living Movement.

She has a 34‑year‑old son who worked for 15 years in Illinois in competitive employment, and when he came to Nevada, they were told he was not ready for competitive employment so it is something Nevada has to move forward a little bit here.
The relief package that is coming through from Washington that is fulfilling some hopes and dreams of a more robust home‑based support.
These are all very good things and they're very good opportunities for Nevada to move forward and she is glad to see a dedicated group of folks who may or may not take positions on these.

Dee Dee Formaster: Agrees with Mark, that it is difficult for people with disabilities to access the Covid information. She had a hard time getting her shots. The Centers are helping people who do not have computers, internet etc. get scheduled for shots.

Dawn Lyons: The SILC is sharing through email, and their position statements in this meeting so they can act on legislative items.

She suggested that interested people get on the SILC’s Interested Parties list and become members as well. They can contact Dawn and she will get them the information.

She agreed that accessing the CARES Act information is huge.
There's new money coming from the federal government regarding that, and that should be rolling out so that the Centers For Independent Living and Aging and Disability Services and some other entities will be able to provide more assistance with getting everybody immunized and scheduling vaccines.
Immunize Nevada.org has volunteered to be the one-stop for all the information you need.
People can reach out to the Centers For Independent Living and reach out to other entities. If someone has questions, they have frequently asked questions on that site, for questions about finding transportation, people can go to their county on there and find that information.
They need feedback, please send it to Dawn and she will get that to them so they can improve their site.

Stephanie Schoen: The SILC is on the right track. Would like the SILC to address the “Administrative Burden”, the massive amount of paperwork, often duplicative, which is very hard for people with disabilities. Many people do not have access to technology or understand how to use it.

Santa Perez: Suggested calling 211 to help with scheduling vaccines.

Ace Patrick: Does not have a printer and was asked to print documents.

Sabra McWhirter: For community members who are unable to get out of their homes for COVID-19 vaccines: homeboundvaccine@clarkcountynv.gov

Mary Evilsizer: SNCIL has been helping people schedule, fill out paperwork, for vaccines and transportation to and from the appointments. Mentioned that they have vouchers for transportation with paratransit and Uber.

Stephanie Schoen: Mentioned that Cynthia, RN, at Maxim Healthcare here in Reno can guide people to a home delivered COVID-19 vaccination as well. 775-348-7300.

Dora Martinez: Immunize Nevada is accessible; she was able to get an appointment. She noticed a slight issue on their website and contacted the administrator.

1. Adjournment

 Patricia (Ace Patrick) Unruh, Chair

Meeting adjourned at: 12:21 am.

**NOTE:** We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who have disabilities and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Wendy Thornley at (775) 687-0551 as soon as possible and at least five days in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may email her at wthornley@adsd.nv.gov According to NRS 241.020, supporting materials for this meeting is available at: 3416 Goni Road, #D-132, Carson City, NV 89706 or by contacting Wendy Thornley at (775) 687-0551 or by email at wthornley@adsd.nv.gov.

***Agenda Posted at the Following Locations:***

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet: <https://www.nvsilc.com/meetings/> and <https://notice.nv.gov>

**In accordance with Nevada Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 there will not be a physical location for the** **Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (NV SILC) Legislative Subcommittee.**

· As per Nevada Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 3: The requirements contained in NRS 241.020 (4) (a) that public notice agendas be posted at physical locations within the State of Nevada are suspended.

· As per Nevada Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 4: Public bodies must still comply with requirements in NRS 241.020 (4)(b) and NRS 241.020 (4)(c) that public notice agendas be posted to Nevada’s notice website and the public body’s website, if it maintains one along with providing a copy to any person who has requested one via U.S. mail or electronic mail.

· As per Nevada Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 5: The requirement contained in NRS 241.020 (3)(c) that physical locations be available for the public to receive supporting material for public meetings is suspended.

· As per Nevada Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 6: If a public body holds a meeting and does not provide a physical location where supporting material is available to the public, the public body must provide on its public notice agenda the name and contact information for the person designated by the public body from whom a member of the public may request supporting material electronically and must post supporting material to the public body’s website, if it maintains one.