

SILC Executive Director and SPIL Monitoring Report  
September 15, 2021

**SPIL Objectives Update**

Systems Change: People with disabilities are actively engaged in promoting and advancing disability rights through advocacy and leadership initiatives.

- Increase consumer engagement in the CIL Network Legislative Day through educating participants on legislative issues and process
- Increase in number of CIL Youth Advocacy & Leadership programs
- Statewide CIL/Youth Leadership Summit planned and held

A meeting was held on May 17<sup>th</sup> with Jon Hart, lead CIL, and Theresa Metzmaker, Council member lead. We learned that legislative day will be conducted locally by each CIL throughout the remainder of the year due to COVID. Legislative meetings are ongoing throughout network.

Jon has started a work group regarding youth advocacy and leadership that Theresa and I will join. Jon and SILC will also be collaborating with MDRC on their YELL program (Youth Engaged in Learning and Leading) as a potential model for CILs. We are looking at aspects of the content of the Youth Leadership Forum and that will inform the design and content of the youth summit. We will research potential costs and funding sources with the goal of holding the summit in 2023.

CIL Director Jon Hart contacted all CIL directors for input about youth leadership curriculums and participation, five CILs replied, and meeting was held in February. MDRC was contacted on several occasions about YELL curriculum and a drive was set up to share materials. Several of the CILs do not currently have a program. DNSWM also inquired about the program and will have a person attend in the future. Planning for a follow up meeting with CIL champion, SILC and MDRC is in progress. Outreach for YELL curriculum confirmed.

Personal Care Attendants: People with disabilities have access to a strong network of quality Personal Care Attendants (PCA) to assist them in gaining and retaining as much independence as they choose.

- Increase in PCA wages
- Increase in the # state agencies/partners that collaborate with IL Network on PCA issues
- Decrease in # of vacant PCA positions statewide

Earlier this year, SILC has become a member of the IMPART Alliance Coalition which is an MSU led research team and alliance focused on lifting PCA workers out of poverty, improving data to strengthen the workforce, and investing in workforce innovations. On February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, Council members Yvonne Fleener, Jan Lampman and I attended two Zoom meetings hosted by IMPART where over 150 people attended the 2-day convening meeting. Yvonne became a member of the Advisory Committee. We are setting up a Zoom meeting for next week with Lori Hill, Jan and me to review the content of the convening meetings and the roles that CILs and SILC can play in this effort.

The Direct Service Provide (DSP) wage coalition has met monthly since the last SILC meeting. We have strategically stopped contacting legislators for the months of July and August, picking up the mantle again after Labor Day. Jan spoke to Jim Stamas last week and stated that the budget negotiations are going well and that the wage increase that the legislature passed until Sept 30<sup>th</sup> will continue in the new budget. The question is will it be \$2.00 or something higher? Members of the coalition have also been meeting with leaders in the state budget office and DHHS to discuss how best to roll these increases into the provider rates while simultaneously addressing the fact that \$2 is still not enough to bring DSPS to a living wage. The living wage sweet spot should be closer to \$18 or \$19 per hour and that is the goal that we will stretch toward after the budget is approved for this year. To that end, the coalition has asked the firm of Great Lakes Economic Consulting to do an economic impact study related to a \$1 and \$5 increase in DSP pay. That report should be out in the very near future. We intend to use it as we meet with legislators and the state departments to help make the case for increasing the wages further. The individuals who did the study are Robert Kleine, former State Treasurer, and Mitch Bean, former director of the House Fiscal Agency. They are highly respected with both sides of the isle in the legislature. Once the budget is put to bed, the coalition plans to start some work on the federal infrastructure legislation in earnest.

Emergency Preparedness: People with disabilities and communities are prepared for emergency situations.

- Increase # of people with disabilities who have registered Smart 911 profiles
- Increase # of state/county emergency plans that include plans for people with disabilities
- Increase # of CIL people with disabilities who complete a personal emergency plan

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, SILC convened an Emergency Preparedness work group. Members include Frank, Jamia, Allen, Mark, Maria Paton-Glassbrook (DNCA) and Jessica Hester who is the Regional Disability Integration Program Lead from the American Red Cross of Michigan. We discussed SILC's and CILs roles on EM preparedness; and discussed areas of need/barriers on EM preparedness; state environment and system overview on accommodations for those with disabilities in context of emergencies; transitions of care at points of contact with health caregivers and when transitioning back home; communication, work flow, and tools; FEMA overview and how it integrates with state; and shared ideas for future planning. The team's homework was to research what other state partners we need at the table to achieve our outcomes.

On August 5, 2021, SILC convened an Emergency Preparedness team meeting. During this meeting, Rodney Garrot, Regional Disability Integration Specialist, External Affairs, FEMA Region 5, joined SILC's Emergency Preparedness team and we explored potential collaborations with FEMA.

Maria Paton-Glassbrook, DNCAP Community Resilience Coordinator, created and sent CIL Emergency Preparedness data assessment tracking templates and instructions for each CIL to capture the total number of consumers who have an emergency preparedness plan and basic supply kit, the total number of consumers enrolled in Smart911.com, and each county's total Smart911.com enrollments. Since sending these templates on August 18, she has not met with other CILs. Her next steps are to identify a contact at each CIL who will administer these

templates with their consumers to establish baseline emergency preparedness data. She is available to provide future training on administering these templates.

Diversity and Inclusion: All people with disabilities - including people in unserved or underserved populations - are welcomed, respected and actively included in community activities to reduce social isolation.

- CIL D&I Pilots – SILC is looking for updates from the three CILs piloting this objective
- DD Council's Communities of Practice – I am an active member of the CoP and we meet monthly. I participated in a 3-day Transformational Leadership Forum hosted by Georgetown University last month. CIL involvement in this initiative will probably occur in the last year of the SPIL.

### **Blue Water Center for Independent Living (BWCIL): Federal and State Grant Terminations for Cause and Loss of Nonprofit Status**

On June 22, 2021, SILC was informed that ACL terminated the BWCIL's Part C grant and CARES Act funding for cause. On July 16, 2021, SILC was informed that MRS terminated the BWCIL's State IL Core grant for cause. The IRS terminated the BWCIL's nonprofit status in February 2021 for failure to file their federal form 990 for three years in a row.

SILC leadership met with ACL the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June and discussed the following:

1. Blue Water CIL Overview of Termination
  - a. A termination letter was sent by ACL on June 22, 2021, by electronic mail, terminating the grant awards under the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) program and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act program.
2. Next Steps and Immediate Needs from Michigan SILC & Timeline
  - a. BWCIL has 30 days (from June 22, 2021) to appeal.
  - b. If there is no appeal, BWCIL has an additional 30 days to incur costs related to the execution of duties as defined by awards 2010MIILCL and 2010MIILC3. All expenses incurred for these awards must be for activities or expenses related to closing these awards. **The award will cease to be available for expenditure of any kind after 90 days.** (September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021)
  - c. BWCIL Part C funds cannot be re-distributed until after September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
  - d. During the first 30 days, SILC, MRS and CIL Network leadership need to meet and discuss Section 3.2 of the current SPIL and identify the strategy for filling the gap in the Port Huron/Thumb area. Splitting up the 5 counties will be a temporary solution and a Notice of Competition will be sent out by ACL <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/45/1329.22>
  - e. Part B and state funds need to be discussed with MRS for re-distribution (assuming cancellation of the state core grant).
  - f. If BWCIL does not appeal, ACL will send out a Notice of Competition/Grant Notice on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) after 30 days (beginning June 22, 2021).

- g. On October 1, 2021, the goal is to have a new grantee serving the five counties in the Port Huron/Thumb area (actual date to be determined by ACL).
- 3. SPIL Amendment
  - a. A SPIL amendment may need to be done after a new grantee is selected by ACL.

The BWCIL did not appeal ACL's decision and a federal Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was issued on July 9, 2020 for a public competition for the Part C award. SILC, at ACL's request, contacted community partners and nonprofits in the BWCIL service area to make them aware of the NOFO and application deadline of September 7, 2021.

On August 12, 2021 SILC leadership met with MRS and CIL Network leadership to discuss the restoration of temporary IL services to the BWCIL service area. Disability Network Oakland/Macomb began providing temporary services in the middle of August using the balance of the BWCIL's State IL Core grant through a contract with MRS. We are awaiting ACL's review of Part C applications received and subsequent award of those funds possibly by October 1, 2021.

### **SILC Strategic Planning and Statewide Outreach**

SILC contracted with Nonprofit Network to create a 3 – 5 year strategic plan. Our goal is to have the plan complete by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Council participated in a strategic planning retreat on May 1<sup>st</sup> where we laid out a planning timeline and broke out into small groups to develop common language, reaffirm our vision and mission; used the Person Centered Planning process on the SILC; prepared for the creation of a stakeholder survey; and created a Strategic Planning Team made up of Council members. The Strategic Planning Team met to review and approved the stakeholder survey. The team also used a guided process to revise SILC's vision and mission. The full Council and CIL directors were invited to give input on the new draft vision and mission statements. The Council reviewed and approved the new statements during our June Council meeting. The stakeholder survey was sent to 85 stakeholders and 50 surveys were completed. The planning team met to review the results of the survey. A second strategic planning retreat was held on July 10<sup>th</sup> and a final meeting was held on August 30, 2021 to review and approve strategic goals and objectives.

On September 10, 2021 SILC staff issued an RFP for comprehensive statewide outreach to unserved and underserved disability populations in Michigan. Proposals are due by September 24, 2021.

### **SILC 2021/2022 Budget**

On August 27, 2021 the SILC Chair and I met with MRS and BSBP to negotiate SILC's budget for next year. Significant changes from this year include the elimination of SILC's physical office space effective October 1, 2021 and elimination of the CIL Network's database licensing support as the CIL's have moved to a new database system. Budget expenses from elimination of office related expenses were moved into the SPIL Support line item. Overall, SILC's budget is approximate \$15,000 more than our current year's budget.

## **Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission**

SILC was invited to join the Commission's Communications Outreach Advisory team along with 30 other state level agencies to help increase public comment on the redistricting process. SILC was chosen to increase participation from the disability community. Public hearings started this month and are being held all over the state. Public comment may also be given through their website.