

SILC COUNCIL QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2021
Zoom Meeting

SILC Voting Members Present: Frank Animikwam, Allen Beauchamp, Jamia Davis, Stephanie Deible, Theodore Dorsette, Yvonne Fleener, Charles Harrison Jr, Melinda Kulasa, Jan Lampman, Theresa Metzmaker, Mark Pierce.

SILC Voting Members Absent:

SILC Ex-Officio Members Present: Lisa Kisiel (BSBP), Bill Addison (MRS), Annie Urasky (MDCR), Janet Timbs (MDOE), Vendella Collins (DD Council).

SILC Staff: Steve Locke, Tracy Brown.

Guests Present:

SILC BUSINESS MEETING

Y. Fleener called the meeting to order, 5:30 pm. Y. Fleener welcomed Council members, Ex-Officios and guests, introductions were made. A quorum was present.

AGENDA

The January 20, 2021 Quarterly Business Agenda was reviewed. The audit motion and Council Education were removed. SPIL Monitoring was moved to after Ex-Officio Reports.

Motion by M. Kulasa, seconded by J. Davis to approve the January 20, 2021 Agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

The October 28, 2020 and December 17, 2020 Draft SILC Council Business Meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion by F. Animikwam, seconded by S. Deible to accept and place on file the October 28, 2020 and December 17, 2020 Draft SILC Council Business Meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

FY2020 Audit Presentation by Carri Bevard, The ALG Group.

Staff Report ~ Steve Locke

- The annual Program Performance Report (PPR) is generated jointly with the Designated State Entity (DSE) and submitted by the DSE. This is a report that all of the Centers for Independent Living are required to submit to the Administration on Community Living (ACL), which is our Federal funder. The

PPR is complete and is awaiting Tina Fullerton, MRS Director's signature. It will be presented to the Council at the March 17th business meeting.

- On January 12th, 2021 we received notification that The FY2021-2023 SPIL Amendment was approved by ACL.
- One initiative that the Council is tasked with in the new SPIL is our Statewide Outreach Initiative. We will be looking for volunteers from the Council and CIL directors to help with program design on our outreach process to reach unserved and underserved people with disabilities in Michigan.
- Our website has been fully redesigned to become completely accessible. We welcome feedback from our Council members and the general public on how we can continue to improve that.
- The final SPIL Monitoring Report for 2017 2020 will be disseminated and discussed at the March 17th business meeting.
- Upcoming training opportunities: Monthly SILC speak peer calls that are facilitated by ILRU. SILC Congress may be held virtually this year, once a determination is made the information will be shared with you.

Executive Committee Report ~ Yvonne Fleener

- The Executive Committee met on 1/5/2021, meeting minutes were provided.
- In addition to preparing the agenda the committee has spent time thinking about Council education and what we can do to build the next group of leaders who will be the executive committee and how do we best monitor the SPIL.

Financial Report ~ Mindy Kulasa

- The December 2020 Preliminary Statement of Financial Position, Year to Date Budget and check register were reviewed.

Motion by M. Kulasa, seconded by J. Davis to accept and place on file the Staff Report, Executive Committee Report & Minutes and December Preliminary Finance Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) ~ Bill Addison

- MRS has taken a bit of a hit the last couple months especially since March in the number of people that came to our door. The good news is more people are applying for our services, our numbers are going up which is very positive.
- The Governor has identified a return-to-work scenario for the first part of March. With all these things that have occurred lately that will be a challenge. Many issues will need to be addressed.

- My role at MRS is Program Enhancement Division Director. This division handles the contracts for the CILs. We will be hosting a training session on February 2nd at 1:00pm for all of the CILs and anyone else who would like to attend a session on how CILs get funded. There is federal funding called Part B, which is the federal dollars, there is state funding which went up this year and there is also what we call SSA funding which is our revenue that we earn from SSA transactions. Contact Steve or Tracy if you are interested in attending this training session.

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) ~ Lisa Kisiel

- BSBP is a supporting partner of the SILC and we appreciate that opportunity and we value the relationships that we have with our SILC partners as well as our CIL partners.
- BSBP utilizes the Independent Part B grant. It passes through MRS to BSBP for supporting individuals in Michigan that are not vocational but require the skills necessary to maintain their independence in their home and in their community.
- BSBP continues to work with Disability Network Capital Area on a customer survey project and we have also worked hard to provide some assessment equipment for some of our Centers for Independent Living as well as our American Job Centers or One Stop Centers.
- BSBP is working very hard this year in the virtual world that we are living in. We have been told that we are home until March 1st.
- Our training center which is in Kalamazoo, which is dedicated to workplace readiness skills and independent living skills received notification that we will be able to begin providing in person services soon.

Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) ~ Annie Urasky

- I am the Director of the Division of Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing my office is under the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. We are based in Detroit, but have offices in Grand Rapids, Detroit, and Lansing.
- My office is focused on serving approximately 7.4% of Michigan residents that identify as deaf or deaf blind or hard of hearing.
- We spend a lot of time educating, advocating, and raising awareness about the needs and the barriers and the experiences that our community goes through on a daily basis relating to employment barriers.
- Since the COVID pandemic has happened we really shifted our focus to interacting with the community and interacting with community-based organizations. Specifically, about the current impact of COVID and public health

and how it relates to the community whether it be communication access and/or information sharing.

- We are partnering with both Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Governor's office to make sure that the information relating to the pandemic and COVID is accessible in American Sign Language.
- The Protect Michigan Commission is looking for candidates who are interested in serving. If you know anyone who might be interested in participating in that commission, we can nominate their name. To apply: [Whitmer - Protect Michigan Commission](#)

Michigan Department of Education (MDOE) ~ Janet Timbs

- J. Timbs provided an overview of the Michigan Inner Agency Transition Team. Or what we call MITT, MITT because we are the mitten state. MITT is not a Department of Education team. It is a collaboration between a variety of agencies. The co leads for this is MRS, BSBP and our office and the Office of Special Education. It is a grass roots team, we came together, decided we wanted to form a team that was cross agency, had a focus on secondary transition. MITT was formed in 2017 as a result of the capacity building institute with the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition. We have representation from about 16 different agencies or offices. Our goal is to align transition services across the state, across state agencies so that we avoid duplication of services. We promote a common understanding of secondary transition and improve student outcomes. We are looking at developing a model for secondary transition planning. We have already done a resource map across the state. It was a survey that we did to find out what services are being provided in what areas and we defined what services we were looking for. We are in the middle of creating a perception survey now so from the consumer and/or from the professional end are you aware of the services in your area and are you using those services. We are hoping to get that out this spring. And then gather some information, see if there are gaps between the services that agencies say they are providing and what consumers are saying they are using.

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) ~ Vendella Collins

- We are in the process of developing our next five-year strategic plan. We have had community conversations and some preliminary work by the staff on the issues that we have heard. We will make every effort to include in our plan those things that people deem necessary for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) to have a good life. We hope to have it ready for public input in late May or early June.

- We are working very hard to engage our office, our Council members and our community partners on the race equity work we are doing. So, when people come in to receive any human services that they will receive services in a way that is acceptable for themselves and their culture.
- We are working to continuously update or tweak information that goes out around COVID so that individuals with I/DD understand the process. Right now, we are working on the vaccine distribution prioritization plan that the department put out. We are trying to make that a more accessible language so that people will understand where they fit in. And then to know that they need to really make contact with their local public health office so they can understand where they fit in, in that county's or that city's prioritization process.

IL Network Update ~ Mark Pierce

- FY2021 contracts concerning our core services and fee for service are signed and ready to move forward.
- In the past 90 days many of the CILs including myself have hired new staff.
- Sara Grivetti, the CEO of Disability Network Michigan resigned, and all of her tasks and duties were turned over to the board of the network. They have done an internal distribution of her duties until new leadership is found.
- CILs have put a big initiative out to advocate for people with disabilities to get a clear understanding as to where COVID vaccinations can be given and which particular group, they fall in.
- The CIL Network has a Legislative Day coming up. We have a three directors who are handling that. Jim Moore in Northern Michigan. Dave Bulkowski in Grand Rapids and Lori Hill in Wayne County, Detroit. I would be happy to send information to Steve and Tracy if you would like to volunteer and be a part of it.
- The CIL Network is using the Cares Act dollars we received for FY2019 and FY2020 to create ways to make sure that people with disabilities are getting vaccinated. If you know people out there that are really struggling with how they are going to get to a vaccination site or they need some extra equipment or technology to be a part of it, check with your local CIL. They have funds out there available to assist with that.

SPIL Monitoring

- Y. Fleener will be reaching out to each council member to find out what area/SPIL goal(s) they are interested in becoming involved with. We would like to have each member involved in at least one goal.

NEW BUSINESS

Strategic Planning Discussion

- Y. Fleener and S. Locke will be talking with Regina Penny, a consultant from Jackson on January 29th regarding facilitating a strategic planning event. More details will be available at the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Corporate Bylaws Amendments

- The bylaws were reviewed.
- Gender neutral language needs to be added.

Motion by J. Lampman, seconded by M. Pierce to approve the Bylaws with the modification of language making it gender neutral. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment ~ None.

OTHER:

Member Education ~ On Wednesday, February 24th from 5:30pm – 7:00pm Joel Cooper, Director of Disability Network Southwest Michigan will be providing a Board Governance training for the council.

ADJOURNMENT *SILC Business Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.*