

**SILC COUNCIL QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 17, 2021**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**SILC Voting Members Present:** Frank Animikwam, Allen Beauchamp, Jamia Davis, Stephanie Deible, 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).

**SILC Staff:** Steve Locke, Tracy Brown.

**Guests Present:** Regina Pinney

**SILC BUSINESS MEETING**

Y. Fleener called the meeting to order, 5:35 pm. Y. Fleener welcomed Council members, Ex-Officios and guests, introductions were made. A quorum was present.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The March 17, 2021 Quarterly Business Agenda was reviewed. Jan Lampman's Personal Care Attendants report will moved to Staff/Committee Reports and one addition to Council Education, Regina Pinney from Nonprofit Network will provide a Strategic Planning Presentation. Approve January 20, 2021 Draft Business Meeting minutes, Executive Committee minutes, Financial Reports and Executive Director Report.

***Motion by M. Kulasa, seconded by S. Deible to approve the March 17, 2021 Consent Agenda as amended.*** Motion passed unanimously.

**Personal Care Attendants Report/SPIL Monitoring – Jan Lampman**

- There has been a lot of work over a number of years around maintaining a stable workforce for both personal care aids and direct support professionals who are working in either the MI Choice waivers, the Behavioral Health waivers or in aging and other systems.
- One of the most active and effective has been the Direct Support Professional Wage Coalition that is made up of a number of statewide organizations working together to try to improve the wages.
- At the beginning of the pandemic the Governor in one of her executive orders added \$2 calling it Hero Pay and now it's called COVID pay but this extra \$2 an hour for people providing adult home health, people that are working under any of the waivers in Michigan, people who are working in nursing homes.

- The most recent update is that when the legislature passed the current supplemental budget, they put in \$2.25 an hour that would go to direct support professionals and personal care aids that are working under those various programs.
- The next step is to create our strategy and meet with legislatures about making it permanent.
- The Impart Alliance received a grant and will be working over the course of the coming years not just on wage issues but also on all of the issues related to the direct support professional workforce, appropriate training, career path, etc.

## **COUNCIL EDUCATION**

Regina Pinney, Nonprofit Network provided a presentation on developing the five-year strategic plan for the SILC Council.

### Staff Report ~ Steve Locke

- Timely expenditure of Part B funds ~ MRS did an excellent training and part of the Council packet tonight is a two-part PowerPoint explaining how the state prioritized the expenditure of the three different pots of money that the Centers for Independent Living receive.
- Appointments ~ On February 24th Theodore Dorsette resigned from the Council. He had a lot of competing interests and because of time on his own calendar he did not feel he was able to fulfill his SILC duties and it was very sad to see him go but he did put in his resignation letter. Staff is working with the Governor's Appointments Office to get a replacement and have strongly encouraged Teddy to reapply to the Council when his schedule permits for him to come back on to the Council.

### Financial Report ~ Mindy Kulasa

- At the January meeting, Carrie Bevard presented, and we reviewed the FY2019 990 Form and the 2020 SILC Audit.
- Some verbiage was corrected

***Motion by J. Davis, seconded by M. Pierce to approve and submit the IRS 2019 990 Form and 2020 Audit. Motion passed unanimously.***

## **SPIIL MONITORING (For more detail see CART Transcript)**

**<https://www.misilc.org/s/31721-CART-Transcript.docx>**

Advocacy and Leadership - Theresa Metzmaker

- One of our current programs is called YELL, Youth Engaged in Leading and Learning and works with high school youth and young adults with and without disabilities in schools. The youth learn about disability history, culture, pride. Nondisabled youth learn about what it means to be an ally. Youth with disabilities learn what it means to have a pride activity and work together on activism projects in their schools. This program went on two to three years in multiple school districts, and they were in rural, suburban urban communities and then the pandemic happened, so we had a shift. Some of the outcomes of that program is students were able to get Braille. They had a successful signage campaign for their high school and a lot of these schools still want to work with us.
- Due to COVID we did a shift, and the program is now called YELL Ambassador Program because we could not work in the high schools. Stephanie Deible is a new ambassador for this program. It was an application process where adults with disabilities who were interested could learn the whole curriculum of YELL. The way the program runs is we teach the curriculum for the first chunk of the day and then the second chunk the YELL ambassadors teach it to each other and then they do constructive feedback to each other, how did each other do on teaching it. The end goal would be that the youth YELL ambassadors would then be able to do this program in their communities.
- The other large program that we run is the HER Power Program which is for teen girls with disabilities. This is a four-day overnight event for girls with all cross disabilities. The program itself is rooted in ending violence against women and girls with disabilities. we focus on teaching the girls about media literacy, identity, looking at the way that identities are portrayed in the media and how we interpret those and how we want to interpret them for ourselves. We look at self-love. Consent and advocacy actions and teaching girls how to look at what is being told to them and how they can advocate for the world they want to see. The curriculum is focused on inter sectional justice. This program has been going for over ten years now.
- Our MDRC staff is all women with disabilities. It's people with disabilities mentoring youth with disabilities.

#### Emergency Response – Frank Animikwam & Mark Pierce

- There is always new information and updates coming from Federal and State level government on when COVID-19 vaccines are available and who they are available for.
- Frank and Mark met in January to discuss transitions of care and the CIL perspective.

- One of Frank's mentors generated an emergency information form that can be used for children with special needs. It includes: Physician's name, the different specialties, diagnoses, medications, allergies, procedures to avoid and why, immunizations, etc. This document could be scanned into the patient's chart and every time the patient comes through the hospital or medical setting this could be flagged as an emergency information form. And this could tie in with the Smart 911 too.
- DNCAP hired a person full time to work on this Emergency Preparedness piece and the objective in the SPIL. Her name is Maria Paton-Glassbrook and she used to work for FEMA. Maria is touching base with all of the counties, especially the ones in Lansing, Shiawassee, Clinton, Ingham, and so forth, and looking at their Smart 911 plan.

#### Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) ~ Bill Addison

- This Friday we will give an update on the spending trends for all the CILs and as a result of that training seminar which I heard was really good.
- Every month we will provide all CILs in total with how much funding they have expended, how close they are to reaching these different buckets there is a pecking order in how we are spending the money basically it's state funds what we call SSA funds and then the Federal dollars we give them idea percentage wise where they are in total and spending their budgets and again in total is all CILs then we also tell them what bucket they are still in. For the most part they are still in the state fund bucket.
- MRS will be providing another training seminar for all of the updates for CFR200.
- MRS will be returning to their offices. The proposed date is May 1st.

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

- BSBP is slated to return to offices on May 1st.
- BSBP is being asked to provide information about what we might need as far as PPE and what we might need like Plexiglass guards and stuff like that.
- Our training center in Kalamazoo has resumed in person services this week.
- We are pursuing a survey project with Mark's team and we are actually looking to set up focus groups in the next few weeks to do that. We have names identified of people that we will be surveying.
- Our Pre-employment Transition Programs are moving forward with Jim Moore's team in the lower northern area and Jim and BSBP are working on an initiative to extend our reach between employment transition services by providing extended

programming and assistance with coordinated services such as attending IPEs and experiences like that.

- We are also partnering with Disability Network Southwest Michigan utilizing benefits planning. And also doing some additional programming with them for a Pre-employment Transition students.

#### Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) ~ Annie Urasky

- Last week the state announced the expansion of eligibility for the vaccine starting March 22nd and that includes people with disabilities.
- The Protect Michigan Commission or PMC. I've been assigned as the staff manager for the disability workgroup to help facilitate the social media communication, with group members and we also discussed resources and barriers that impact the disability community here in Michigan. We have been learning about the vaccines and resources for how to access the schedule, to actually schedule an appointment for the vaccine.
- Starting next week March 24th, Ford field they will be doing a mass vaccine sites and that will be open for eight weeks. Their goal is to do 6,000 vaccines a day.
- Starting March 13 well last week Wednesday to April 15th my office is doing a social media competition for deaf history month. We are posting different things on our Facebook page.
- The Michigan Department of Civil Rights Commission and our director put out a statement in regard to hate crimes to the Asian American community.
- And one last thing I do want to mention next month I will be reaching out to you individually through e mail. My office is getting ready to release an ASL survey for Michigan residents with disabilities about the impact that COVID is having on people with disabilities specifically related to fair housing. We got a HUD grant to do the survey and so the first part we will do the survey and then we want to recruit people from the community who are willing to do interviews.

#### Michigan Department of Education (MDOE) ~ Janet Timbs

- MDE is looking to going back to work on May 1st. There are discussions occurring within MDE about doing some hybrid work.
- The superintendent has asked the Federal Government for a waiver of state assessments. Last fall all school directors were required to do benchmarking assessments to find out what the learning loss is and then to see what kind of progress students are making so he wants to substitute the benchmark assessment data for the statewide testing. We have not gotten a decision yet so stay tuned on that.

- We do have some workgroups within the Office of Special Ed working on some issues with county jails and adult Ed and how Special Ed interfaces with them.
- That's been a neglected and underserved both places have been under served and you know kind of miss information out there that you cannot get Special Ed services if you are in adult Ed or if you are in the county jail, so we are working on that to make sure everybody understands what their responsibilities are. And really kind of unwinding the funding streams that support each of those programs so that we are addressing the issues appropriately.
- And then the last thing that I have to say is I have accepted a position in a different office with an MDE. I'll be in the Office of Early Childhood so the Office of Great Start I'll be leaving secondary transition and so my administrator is talking with Dr. Rice on who should be the designee for this group so I will be resigning from this Council.

#### IL Network Update ~ Mark Pierce

- The CILs are signed amendments with MRS to receive more funding.
- Many of the CILs staff are getting vaccinated.
- The CILs have hired a lot of new staff members to provide direct services.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Council Education Committee – Jamia Davis

- I came up with a survey and it's based on the guidebook that we all received. I am going to send out a link to everyone. And it's just testing our knowledge on the different IL concepts to kind of gauge where we are. I figured that could be a strategy how we can come up with more educational presentations and anything that we are interested in learning more about outside of the meetings, we can use that as a tool. I'm going to leave the survey open for about a week and give people time to fill it out and then we will just compile the results and see where we can go from there and if anyone has any ideas on how we can you know for educational opportunities and ideas feel free to send e mails around.
- Upcoming events: NCIL Conference, July 19th through July 30th. The theme is Liberty, Independence, Freedom, Equity.

### **INFORMATION SHARING & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Public Comment ~ None.

**ADJOURNMENT**     *SILC Business Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.*