**SILC COUNCIL/CORPORATION SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**September 8, 2023**

**Disability Network Southwest MI & Zoom Meeting**

**SILC Voting Members Present**: Aaron Andres, Dr. Frank Animikwam, Glen Ashlock, Allen Beauchamp, Jamia Davis, Stephanie Deible, Melinda Kulasa, Theresa Metzmaker.

**SILC Voting Members Absent**: Erica Coulston, Jan Lampman, Mark Pierce.

**SILC Ex-Officio Members Present**: Lisa Kisiel (BSBP), Shawan Dortch (MDE), Bill Addison (MRS), Annie Urasky (MDCR).

**SILC Staff:** Tracy Brown.

**Guests Present**: Rachel Prevatt, Yvonne Fleener, Paul Ecklund, Holly Baker, Anne Kooy, Lisa Brink, Mona Khaled, Lisa Fuller, Miranda Grunwell, Asiana Tidwell, Allison Leece.

**SILC BUSINESS MEETING**

J. Davis called the meeting to order, 12:04 pm. J. Davis welcomed Council members, introductions were made. A quorum was present.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

September 8, 2023, Quarterly Business Consent Agenda was reviewed.

***Motion by M. Kulasa, seconded by S. Deible to approve the items of the Consent Agenda as presented.*** Motion passed unanimously.

**COUNCIL EDUCATION**

* Voting Rights and Accessibility Issues Presentation by Rachel Prevatt, Michigan Disability Rights.
* Disability Network Southwest MI (DNSWM) Presentation by Yvonne Fleener, Executive Director, and staff.

**STAFF/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Director Report ~ Jamia Davis

* The Executive Director’s written report can be accessed at [www.misilc.org](http://www.misilc.org) under Council Meetings and Materials.

Strategic Planning Committee ~ Jamia Davis

* After the Council held our annual retreat at the end of August 2022, it was decided that the balance of strategic plan goals will be aligned with SILC goals created in the next SPIL through advocacy related objectives. A SILC goal writing team has met several times to develop SPIL goals specific to Council activity. The life areas that have been selected based on community needs assessment survey responses are mental health, direct care workers, housing, transportation, and the aging blind population. The CILs are developing advocacy teams and SILC will try to coordinate with them in our efforts.

Financial Report ~ Stephanie Deible

* There are no real things to be concerned about as far as our budget versus actual. You will see in a lot of cases we are just under budget or right about budget.
* I do want to let you know that in our Chase Bank account we currently have $51,369.59. And as far as total assets, we have $77,618.92.
* General overview - things are going well with finances.

SILC Financial Policies Workgroup

* Nothing to report.

Policies and Bylaws Committee

* Nothing to report.

**EX OFFICIO REPORTS**

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) ~ Bill Addison

* I'm Bill Addison. I’m a Division Director for the division located in Michigan Rehabilitation Services. I'm a non-voting member and I provide updates for MRS. I would like to give you the statistical update of MRS and where we stand in serving customers and how many people we have employed.
* The first slide is a five-year comparison of the services that we provide. Prior to application, is before they become an applicant for VR services as an adult, as you can see the five-year span here, all of this is good news because when the pandemic hit, obviously our numbers went way down. MRS has never closed their doors. We had to use other methods to provide our services. Even despite that, you could see that the first brown line on the top is the number of folks with PTA referral services went way down in those years which we kind of expected that. That all service providers numbers went down. I think the good information though on this is you look on the lower access for August, for July and August you will see they are starting more aggressively to come back to MRS for our services. More people are coming to MRS for services.
* The second slide are new VR applications and those are folks who come in the door and fill out an application. It's a good indicator of how busy we will be in the future. Again, it's the same scenario as when the pandemic first hit, our numbers went way down. I think the real positive thing now if you can see the blue line in the middle of the graphic that is the current year, we are starting to catch up with pre-pandemic numbers already.

In August, as you can see when you go down the numbers for the last couple years pre-pandemic was 1,181. And right now, we are looking at 1,077.

* The third slide is eligibility. What eligibility means is after they come in and fill out an application the next step in the process is to determine whether or not they are eligible. The blue line in the middle their kind of shows where we are right now. We are catching up to pre-pandemic numbers. Numbers have gone way up in the last couple of months. In August we are now 1,006 in August which is close to what we had back in 2019.
* The fourth slide is IPE services. What an IPE is it's an individualized personalized plan for employment, signed by MRS counselor and it's the plan that is also signed by our customer and it's exactly what it says. It's a plan of the services that we will provide with the idea that it will end up with an employment outcome. We are kind of right on again getting close to pre-pandemic numbers. The other thing you can see our services or at least the people who come in the door is it's kind of seasonal and goes up in the spring and it usually tapers off when we get closer to the winter months here.
* The last slide is employment outcomes. The blue line in the middle shows our employment outcomes. And as you can see, we are doing very well at it. We are getting more individuals employed as part of the process. And so very encouraging. We are striving to continue to make that blue line in the middle go up and up.
* We are in the process of issuing 15 CIL contracts starting October 1st. The total amount that is dedicated and people are all on the CIL contracts is $13,760,000 which is an increase from the prior year. We are in the process right now of approving each CIL's budget. We will take the contracts to the Ad Board on September 14th for approval.
* The MRS slides can be accessed at [www.misilc.org](http://www.misilc.org) under Council Meetings and Materials.

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

* The written report can be accessed at [www.misilc.org](http://www.misilc.org) under Council Meetings and Materials.

Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) ~ Annie Urasky

* At 12:30pm today the Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Health, and Human Services, announced that the 988 suicide and crisis hotline now is going to be accepting ASL phone calls. So, what that means is that that hotline now has a contract for deaf people to provide the video services that we need. For those that need assistance, call 988 hotline number.
* There are two Federal actions I wanted to highlight. CVTA is the Communication Video and Technology Accessibility Act of 1923. And that was going to focus on enhancing the new legislation by amending the act to strengthen accessibility requirements related to video, digital access, different things that apply to the deaf and disability community. The national organization supports the bill as well.
* The Department of Justice every so often they will send out the NPRM, and that stands for Notice of the Proposed Rules Made. What they are proposing is they want to strengthen the Title II requirements for state and local governments in relation to websites and mobile devices and mobile and web accessibility to make sure that those programs and services are accessible to deaf people and people with disabilities.
* September is Deaf Awareness month.
* Last month was the first time we went to the National Black Deaf Advocacy Conference. We hosted a policy panel discussion at the conference and invited key people from VR who are deaf and hard of hearing, voc rehab counselors and that was under RSA. We also invited someone from CEASD. They oversee the state schools for the deaf, superintendents, and we also had someone from the National Association of the Deaf that spoke. And so, it was really key in such a priority to have the awareness and focusing on these different issues and highlighting issues that deal with telehealth, education, and employment within the deaf community.
* We did some summer camps. We talked to deaf, deaf blind and hard of hearing youth at some of the camps and talked about our journey. And you know, just working with them and seeing what their plan is for school and talking about the future. And even next steps. And it's so funny because some of the campers you know had already met us in the school year so then they saw us again at their summer camp and were able to make that connection. And oh, you came to my school two years ago, I remember that. It was great to have the connections with the youth in the community. Several things have been happening in our community.
* Later this month, on September 28th, we will go to the Detroit Public Schools. They are going to have a platform with students and parents and everyone within the community and vendors and agencies and so we want to be there promoting services for the deaf and hard of hearing. Also, Grand Rapids is going to be hosting another deaf awareness day. So, we will have a booth there at those events as well.
* On September 30th an organization in Oakland County called Deaf Can, they are hosting the largest deaf awareness event of the month. There are interpreting agencies, interpreting training programs, and students, health associations, and people from the health system.
* Our next fiscal year we are going to focus on increasing visibility within the community. We will be going to disability organizations and other places that serve the deaf community. And help people understand their legal rights and advocacy and understanding the language and what is required to get accommodations or services.
* Our Advisory Council is meeting on October 13th. From 1-4pm in Lansing. Our guest speaker will be someone from the Michigan Department of Education. They are involved with low incidents outreach. And in terms of the deaf and hard of hearing communities we are going to have a discussion about that.

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) ~ Shawan Dortch

* The Office of Special Education is starting back with their monthly in person meetings with MASE and SEAC and SEIL, that is Special Education Instructional Leadership. And SEAC is the Special Education Advisory Committee. And MASE is Michigan Administrators of Special Education. So those meetings are getting underway.
* The Office of Special Education is also ramping up their technical assistance for ISDs as well as monitoring to ensure students are receiving VAPE in the least restrictive environment. We will start monitoring for that in 2024.
* We are diligently working with diversity, equity and inclusion in our office and starting to have more conversations and presentations by all committees to subsidy veracity, equity, and inclusion in our office. As well as in the Department of Education and across the state.

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

* No report given.

IL Network Update ~ Mark Pierce

* No report given.

**SPIL MONITORING**

Advocacy and Leadership ~ Theresa Metzmaker

* Since the last time we met, Jon Hart, Steve Locke and I met with the DD Council to talk about YLF and talking to their program committee about possibly doing a YLF next year.
* Jon Hart was supposed to hold his 2-day leadership program. That event was cancelled due to low participate numbers.

Diversity and Inclusion

* No report was given.

Personal Care Attendants

* No report was given.

Emergency Response ~ Frank Animikwam

* SILC continues to meet with CIL partners, organizations outlined in executive report and minutes and the Michigan public health institute.
* Our focus continues to be on supporting CILs in their emergency management preparedness kit, smart 911B profiles and needs assessments for consumers.
* We are also collaborating with Michigan Public Health Institute with needs assessment for aging population as it pertains to emergency preparedness.
* And more updates to come as we continue to meet monthly. And work day to day. So, we will be cognizant of the recent updates with emergency preparedness outlined by the Biden administration.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Audit Engagement Letter with The ALG Group

* The ALG Group will be providing auditing services for FY2022, FY2023 and FY2024.

IDEA 39 Outreach Contract

* Idea 39 is the contractor that SILC hired to provide outreach services. Idea 39 has been working with us for the past couple of years to provide social media content, our blog, our website and so forth.
* This contract begins on October 1st, 2023, and ends on September 1st, 2025. After which a new agreement can be negotiated. The monthly fee for the Agency’s services is $4,635.00 per month. The suggested media budget is $18,600. For fiscal year 2023 and 2024. And for $18,600 for fiscal year 2024 and 2025. But will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

***Motion by A. Andres, seconded by G. Ashlock to approve the IDEA 39 Outreach Contract as presented.*** Motion passed unanimously.

SILC FY2024 Budget Approval

* SILC’s budget was negotiated with MRS/BSBP at the end of August with Stephanie and Steve representing SILC. You are being presented with a budget that is almost $700 less than our current fiscal year’s budget. Unfortunately, the DSE was not able to fund our request to contribute $45,000 toward the 2024 Youth Leadership Forum. SILC staff will work on alternate funding sources with our partners.
* This is Mindy Kulasa, I just want to go on record to express my disappointment. I think on behalf of the entire SILC that funding was not approved for the youth leadership forum. And it's my understanding that the DSE felt that we should only fund SILC operations in accordance with Federal regulations in terms of, quote, unquote, necessary, and sufficient for SILC to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities.
* This is Theresa Metzmaker and I'd also like to state my extreme disappointment in our partner at the DSE for denying that.

***Motion by A. Andres, seconded by M. Kulasa to approve the FY2024 SILC Annual Budget as presented.*** Motion passed unanimously.

Election of SILC Executive Committee Officers

* Slate of Officers was reviewed. Past Chair ~ Jan Lampman, Chair ~ Jamia Davis, Vice Chair ~ Aaron Andres, Secretary ~ Stephanie Deible, and Treasurer ~ Mindy Kulasa.
* There were no nominations taken from the floor.
* Jan Lampman, Jamia Davis, Aaron Andres, Stephanie Deible and Mindy Kulasa accepted their nominations.

***Motion by A. Andres, seconded by A. Beauchamp to approve the Executive Committee as presented.*** Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Annual Evaluation

* Jamia Davis provided an overview of the executive director annual evaluation results.
* The recommendation is to provide Steve Locke with a 3% increase in his salary based on the fact that in 22/23 he substantially met and exceeded all of his goals.

***Motion by A. Andres, seconded by G. Ashlock to approve a 3% cost of living increase to Steve Locke based on his annual performance review.*** Motion passed unanimously.

Set SILC Council FY2024 Meeting Dates

* We will be meeting face to face and will offer a virtual option through Zoom.
* SILC staff will reach out to the CIL Network for locations to hold our meetings.
* We will be meeting on Fridays from 12:00pm to 3:00pm and a working lunch will be provided.
* FY024 meetings dates will be January 12, March 8, June 14, and September 20, 2024.

***Motion by S. Deible, seconded by M. Kulasa to approve the FY2024 SILC Council Meeting dates of January 12, March 8, June 14, and September 20, 2024.*** Motion passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION SHARING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* This is Mindy Kulasa. I just wanted to mention I read a statistic that was very troubling to me. And it's about the new 988 crisis line number. The fact that only 21% of the people who were polled within the State of Michigan are even aware that this number exists. So that is why I believe for the first-time mental health is going to be a SILC led advocacy goal at the statewide level. And I will be leading the charge on that. And we have to do something to improve access and awareness amongst the disability community. I mean, we can't create, obviously, more psychiatrists and more psychologists and therapists. But we can certainly connect people to resources. And make sure that they are aware of them. Because that's very troubling to me.

Public Comment ~ Theresa Metzmaker, Aaron Andres, Miranda Grunwell, Jamia Davis

* Public comment can be accessed at [www.misilc.org](http://www.misilc.org) under Council Meetings and Materials, CART transcript, page 43 and 44.

***Motion by A. Andres, seconded by S. Deible to adjourn the meeting.***

**ADJOURNMENT**

*SILC Business Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.*