# FY2025-2027 SPIL Public Input Session January 15, 2024

20240115-1800 Meeting

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 >> STEVE LOCKE: All right. It is 6:01. I don't see any members of the public yet, but we will go ahead and get started and hopefully some folks will join us good evening and. Thank you for joining the Michigan Independent Living virtual public hearing on the 2025 independent living. I'm Steve Locke. And I am the executive director and staff to the Council.

 This meeting is being recorded and closed captioning and ASL interpretation is being provided. The MISILC is a Governor appointed, consumer-controlled counsel that develops a three‑year state plan for Independent Living, also known as the SPIL or state plan, with the centers for Independent Living in the state after public input from individuals with disabilities, stakeholders, and the public. The SPIL establishes a blueprint for present and future Independent Living programs and services in Michigan and reflects our commitment to comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements during the three years covered by the plan.

 The MISILC is conducting a survey to gather information about programs and services that provide support and opportunities for people who have disabilities to live independently in the community. The information collected will help assess how these programs and services are meeting the needs of people who have disabilities living in Michigan. Results of the survey will provide the statewide Independent Living Council with the information necessary to work with advocates and policy makers to create new initiatives and to enhance existing services for Michiganders who have disabilities.

 Your participation in the process is vital. And we appreciate your time and consideration in completing this survey. The Statewide Independent Living Council needs to hear directly from people who have disabilities, their family members, friends, caregivers, and other stakeholders.

 The 2025‑2027 SPIL timeline is as follows: Between now and May 1st the Council will continue gathering input into the state plan. Between May 1st and May 30th, a draft state plan, based on public input, will be available for public comment and that will be posted to SILC's website. The draft SPIL, once public comment is considered and any modifications made to the draft SPIL based upon those public comments during the comment period, is due to the administration on community living no later than June 30th of 2024 with an implementation date of October 1st of 2024.

 Along with participating in today's meeting, you may also submit your comments by completing SILC's community needs assessment survey online. A link to the survey may be found at www.msilc.org. That's www.msilc.org. You may also submit your comments via e‑mail to Tracy@misilc.org, that is TRACY@misilc.org. You may also submit written comments by mail to PO Box 71, Middleville, Michigan, 49333. That's PO Box 71, Middleville, spelled M‑I‑D‑D‑L‑E‑V‑I‑L‑L‑E, Michigan 49333. Or by calling us toll free at 833‑808‑7452. And all of this information can be found on SILC's website as I said earlier, www.misilc.org. If you need any accommodations to participate in the survey, please contact Tracy Brown who is SILC director of operations at 833‑808‑7452 or by e‑mail again at Tracy@misilc.org.

 To encourage orderly administration of this meeting and to minimize the possibility of any disruptions, this meeting will be conducted in accordance with the following two protocols: Number one, the sole purpose of this meeting is to receive public input into the development of the 2025‑2027 SPIL.

 Number two, members of the public who desire to give their input will be given a single five‑minute time period for each question to make their public comment. Members of the public or groups or organizations wishing to submit written or recorded comments may do so by providing their written or recorded comments again to Tracy Brown, SILC operations director.

 We have five questions in the survey, and these are the same questions that are found on our survey monkey. And I will begin with the first question. What barriers have you experienced or are experiencing now that impact your ability to live independently in your community?

 Are there any members of the public that would wish to give public comment on question number one? Again, any members of the public that would like to give public input on question number one?

 Okay. And we will move on to question two. If at any time members of the public do join us while we are going through these questions, we can go back and start on question number two. I'm sorry, question number one.

 Question number two, members of the public who desire, I'm sorry, what would you like to see change in your community? Are there any members of the public who would like to give public input on what would you like to see changed in your community?

 We will move on to question number three. What Independent Living services are most important to you? And we have a list on survey monkey that you can select from. Those are advocacy. Information and referral. School to work transition services. Peer support. Independent Living skill support. Transition to community‑based living. Or other. And these services reflect the services the Federal core services that centers for Independent Living provide in your community.

 Are there any members of the public that would like to give public input on question number three? Seeing or hearing no one, we will move on to question number four.

 What services would you like your CIL to provide, your center for Independent Living in your area to provide? Again, the question is what services would you like your center for Independent Living to provide? And seeing no members of the public have joined us yet, we will move on to question five.

 What have we not asked about your experience with Independent Living that you feel is important? Are there any members of the public who would like to give public input into question five, what have we not asked about your experience with Independent Living that you feel is important?

 While we are waiting for members of the public to join us, I will give a brief update on where we are at with public input on our community needs assessment. We posted the survey online last summer; I believe in June or July. So far we have received 122 completed surveys, which is quite a few more than we received during the previous state plan for Independent Living developed. We ended up receiving 76 completed surveys at that time.

 >> JAN LAMPMAN: Steve, it's Jan Lampman.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: Yes.

 >> JAN LAMPMAN: I know we have another video or Zoom session scheduled. Do we have any in‑person sessions that we are thinking of doing at some of the centers or anywhere?

 >> STEVE LOCKE: We are going to start scheduling those when the spring rolls around. Typically, you know, when I held those in Lansing and Detroit and also up north. In Detroit I think we had about five consumers show up. When I was in Lansing, Mark was having a community, I'm sorry, a consumer celebration at his center and we ended up talking with about seven or eight consumers at his place. And then I went to Flint to Luke Zelley's CIL, and he was having a consumer party downtown at a really large event. He had over 150 consumers there. And I had a table set up there. And nobody came over to speak except for his dad, Mike Zelley. So, we have not had a lot of luck with in-person. So, I'm more than willing to do in person meetings again and travel around the state. It's just about generating that public interest and getting folks there and getting that input. So, I am wide open to other strategies for getting public input. Going places. Not necessarily the centers. Other places where you think consumers may gather where we can obtain more information. So, the next Zoom meeting is scheduled for this coming Saturday, January 20th, at 1:30 in the afternoon. This is to accommodate folks that just simply can't make it to a Zoom meeting on a weekday or a weeknight.

 >> JAN LAMPMAN: Great, thanks.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: Yeah. It looks like we have had someone join us, Beth, and we have just went through the five questions. Is there anyone from the public who would like to give public input into the 2025‑2027 state plan for Independent Living? And I would be happy to go back through the five survey questions if there are any members of the public who would like to give input into our next state plan.

 >> Sorry, this is Beth Kohler. My Internet is down and have issues and logged in late, so I would love to hear the five questions again. I'm really sorry.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: Yeah, thanks for joining us, Beth. The first question, let me see here, is: What barriers have you experienced or are experiencing now that impact your ability to live independently in your community?

 >> So, I am the parent of a young adult with a disability, and I would tell you this is not going to come as a surprise to you. It's just we are working really hard on getting him into an apartment and we just cannot find the staff. And that's the single biggest barrier we have right now.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: Great, thank you very much, Beth. The next question is: What would you like to see change in your community?

 >> That's a really, really big question. Do you have any ‑‑ is there any way to narrow that down a little bit?

 >> STEVE LOCKE: What would you like to see changed in your community in terms of increasing Independent Living opportunities and community integration for people with disabilities?

 >> Okay, so one of the things that I think could be ‑‑ so do you want me to tell you where I'm from or do you want me to leave it generic in general.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: That is up to you. You can tell us where you are from, or you don't have to.

 >> Monroe County. So, I think that some of the biggest challenges that we face here locally, at least in our family's experience, is an understanding of self‑determination and understanding of what true community inclusion looks like. I think it's very prescriptive. I think that there's a lot of loss in translation from our policy makers and our policy implementers in Lansing to the local level. And I find that we are often asking our supports coordinators or other agency providers to do things that they have never heard of before but have been widely practiced elsewhere across the state.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: Great, thank you very much for that.

 >> Yep.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: The next question ‑‑ do you have anything else, Beth, on that particular question?

 >> No, which was very broad in scope I know as far as an answer goes. But that's the biggest thing. Because, you know, when you go to conferences or you interact with other people across the state and you hear about things happening, you know, there is that local control aspect. I think that sometimes, you know, an example would be, you know, let's talk about employment skills and training. What could be beneficial to one individual might not necessarily be beneficial to another individual. And from a provider standpoint, I get the desire to speak to the middle because everybody uses grant dollars. And they have to make them stretch. But, you know, when my son was thinking employment training, it was, you know, a PowerPoint presentation in the classroom. And that simply doesn't work for him. Unfortunately, after lots and lots and lots of advocacy, he was able to get a job developer and a job coach that helped with that more individualization. And I'd like to see that more widely used. He was the first ‑‑ I can with confidence say he was the first person in our county to use this. Because the community mental health system had to change the programming for their computer to bill for it.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: Excellent. Thank you very much, Beth.

 >> Yes.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: The next question is: What Independent Living services are most important to you? And feel free to be as detailed as you want. We are using the input to craft goals and objectives for the next state plan.

 >> So, you know, I feel like right now and, again, we all are very well aware that the pandemic ruined everything. And I think right now what he needs and what I need is somebody else to help. He does not want to hear his mother yammer on about one more thing. But I'm the person that pushes for this. I'm the person that helps keep the agencies accountable. And make sure he gets to his job. And all that kind of stuff. And I would love to see a wider use of a supports broker. I know that's not necessarily a CIL activity. But, certainly, more important on the things that are available so that the family members and the consumer or loved one don't have to so heavily rely on each other for everything. That's not going to serve him when I'm gone at all.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: Great, thank you very much.

 >> I don't know that that answers the question, but that's what I got.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: Excellent. Thank you so much for your input. The next question is: What IL services do you currently receive? And there are a list of centers for Independent Living advocacy. Information and referral. School to work transition. Peer support. Independent living skills support. Transition to community‑based living and other.

 >> So right now, none. In the past if you want to know we certainly had I'm not sure what you call them, but when he was applying for food assistance there was a Navigator or somebody like that, that was helping us with that. They certainly provided training in the past, social skill building in the past. But all that was pre-pandemic.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: Okay, great, thank you. And the next question leads right into that, what services would you like to see your center for Independent Living provide?

 >> And, you know, this is one of those things where I struggle. Because what I would like to see them provide and what he would like to see them provide might be two different things. And so, I think part of that is really making an effort. And it's not easy to communicate with people who maybe have an intellectual disability to figure out truly what is it that they want. What is it that they need? And I know that is going to require some partnership. But what I think he needs and what he thinks he needs are probably not always going to be the same thing. He's lonely. So, if there was a way for a center for independent living to provide, gosh, I don't know, some authentic community activities, I love what Cincinnati does. I can't remember the name of the project down there. And it's been a while since I followed them. They really do, you know, for example, if you have somebody that, I don't know, likes to drink beer you know then they will have a night at a local brew pub. And invite lots of people to come. Not just people with disabilities. It's something that is more authentic to the person's interest.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: Excellent. Thank you very much, Beth. And our final question is: What have we not asked you about your experience with Independent Living that you feel is important for the Council to know?

 >> Well, I can tell you that they have always been responsive. Whenever I have reached out to them with a question, they have always been responsive. Very pleasant people to work with. We are a subsidiary down here; I think of Ann Arbor. Or the Washtenaw, I can't remember what they are called, Disability Network. And so, I'm appreciative of that. If they don't know the answer, they will try to find it. Because we live in such a rural, rural area I think transportation is a big deal. I don't know how they can help that truthfully. I don't know that many people have the answer to that one across the State of Michigan in urban areas as well. But transportation certainly is a huge barrier. And then I would like to see some more guidance and support on how can you make a home, what's the word I'm looking for, more adaptable. And accommodating. With, you know, kind of like some supports in a local level from, let's say, like the Disability Network of Michigan. No, that's not what I'm talking about. The disability rights coalition. I would get them, and Michigan disability rights and disability rights Michigan confused but I know they have an assistive technology person up there. It would be nice to have something like that at the local level that you could go in and talk about, you know, an example would be showering. It's really, really hard for him to adjust the temperature on his shower. And so, what are some low cost…I know there is 2000 devices that you can break a wall out and install and have that work. But what are some low-tech areas that you could implement to help him maintain his privacy and independence. Stuff like that.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: Great, thank you so much, Beth.

 >> You bet.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: We are going to continue taking public comment into the state plan all the way up until May 1st. If you go to our web page, the first thing that comes up is a link to our survey monkey. So, if you have additional comments that you would like to provide, you can do it that way. You can do it by e‑mailing Tracy at misilc.org. Our next Zoom meeting is going to be this coming Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and we will continue scheduling Zoom meetings each month up through the beginning of May for additional opportunities to give your input.

 >> Okay, great. And.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: Yes.

 >> I was going to say I'm a member of the state's Developmental Disability Council and if I have not already, I will ask Travis to promote the sessions as well on our social media so more people know about it.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: Thank you so much, Beth.

 >> You bet.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: I appreciate you joining us tonight.

 >> I'm sorry I'm late.

 >> STEVE LOCKE: No worries. Thank you so much. Seeing no other members of the public on the Zoom meeting, that will conclude our public hearing for this evening. I thank you all for joining us tonight and again our next Zoom meeting will be Saturday, January 20th at 1:30 p.m. And I hope to see more members of the public there. Thank you, everybody, and have a great evening.