**FY2025-2027 SPIL Public Input Session January 20, 2024**

20240120 Public Hearing

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>> STEVE LOCKE: Good to see everyone. We will just wait another minute here to see if we get any other folks that will be joining us this afternoon. All right, it is 1:32. We are going to go ahead and start up our public hearing.

I want to thank you for joining the Michigan Statewide Independent Living Council's virtual public hearing on 2025 to 2027 independent living. My name is Steven Locke and staff of the Council. This meeting is being recorded and closed captioning and American Sign Language interpretation is being provided. The MISILC is a Governor‑appointed, consumer-controlled Council that jointly develops a three‑year state plan for independent‑living, also known as the SPIL or the state plan. We jointly developed this with the centers for independent living in the state after public input from individuals with disabilities, stakeholders, and the public. SPIL establishes a blueprint for present and future independent‑living programs and services in Michigan and reflects our commitment to comply with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements during the three years covered by the plan. 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 to assess how those 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. Statewide Independent Living Counsel needs to hear directly from people who have disabilities, family members, friends, caregivers, and other stakeholders. 2025‑2027 is as follows: Between now and May 1 of 2024, the Council will gather public impact into the next SPIL. Beginning May 1st to May 30th the public comment period will begin on the draft SPIL. So, we currently have a SPIL writing team that is looking at all of the comments that we are receiving from our online survey, which is on survey monkey that is accessible through SILC's website on the landing page. As we consider the public comments, the SPIL writing team is crafting goals and objectives based on feedback from the public. So, the SPIL writing team's goal is to have a draft SPIL ready for public review for a 30‑day comment period from May 1st to May 30th and the draft SPIL will be available on SILC's website. The SPIL is due to ACL, which is the Administration on Community Living, which is our federal oversight agency, no later than June 30th of 2024. Once public comment is received on the draft SPIL, the SPIL writing team, the CIL network, and the Statewide Independent Living Council will consider the comments and make any necessary adjustments to the draft SPIL prior to submission to the administration on community living.

Along with participating in today's meeting you can submit comments by completing the assessment survey online. A link to the survey is www.misilc.org. That's www.misilc.org. You may also submit your comments via e‑mail to Tracy TRACY@misilc.org. Or by mailing them to PO Box 71 Middleville, Michigan, that's M‑I‑D‑D‑L‑E‑V‑I‑L‑L‑E, Michigan. Zip code 49333. Or by calling and leaving comments at area code 833‑808‑7452. If you need any accommodations to participate in this survey, please contact Tracy Brown, SILC director of operations, again, at 833‑808‑7452. Or by e‑mailing her 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 two following protocols. Number one, the sole purpose of this meeting is to receive public input into the development of the 2025‑2027 Statewide Independent Living plan. Number two, members of the public who desire to give their input will be given a five‑minute period to make public comments. Members of the public or groups or associations who want to do written or recorded comments again to Tracy Brown, SILC operations director, by those means that we just reviewed earlier.

So, without further ado, we have six questions we are going to ask and at the end of each question we will take those comments from members of the public that may be present on the Zoom call.

The first question is: 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 who wish to be recognized to give their input on this question? And I'll read that question one more time. 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 like to give public comment on this question?

Okay, seeing and hearing none, we will move on to question two.

What would you like to see changed in your community? Are there any members of the public who would like to give public input on this question? And I'll read the question one more time. What would you like to see changed in your community? Anyone from the public who would like to give input on this question?

>> This is Michael Astley from Disability Network Capital Area.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Hi, Michael.

>> Hi, how are you Steve and everyone else?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Good, how are you doing?

>> Good. I have been concerned this season because we've had such an ice problem. Because I've seen a number of people with difficulties of any nature, whether that be someone who is a runner or someone who actually uses a device having trouble navigating through the ice and such on the sidewalks. I see this as a real problem. The sidewalks are being, you know, the little motorized vehicles are clearing the sidewalks. But that often leaves ice. And what can we do about that?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Great, thank you, Michael, for your input on that question. Are there any other members of the public that would like to have input on two, what would you like to see changed in your community? Okay, we will move on to question number three.

What independent‑living services do you currently receive? Questions listed on the screen, or the service types listed on the screen are advocacy, information, and referral, to work transition, peer support, independent living skill support, transitions community‑based living and other. Now, these services reflect the Federal services that are provided by centers for independent living. Are there any members of the public who would like to give public comment on question number three, what independent living services do you currently receive?

>> MINDY KULASA: Steve, I have a member of the public with me who currently receives services through Disability Network of Southwest Michigan. He receives peer support services and I believe he would like to share a comment at this time.

>> Yes. Hi. My name is CJ. I'm curious to know because it's finally only taken me three years to get my SSI. And I feel imperfectly able to be able to start living on my own independently. I'm curious to know how I'm going to be able to find, you know, an apartment or wherever I may be able to live at what price, you know, like is I don't get nothing for an income. But like 600 and some odd dollars and 300 in food stamps.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Thank you, CJ, for your public comment. Is there anything else that you would like to add in terms of this particular question for public comment?

>> I just got kind of brought into this situation. I haven't really had any time to think. But I will keep it in mind and put it towards Mindy and see if she comes up with something.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Again, we are taking public comment through May, up until May 1st on all of these questions. Was there...

>> Steve, I just wanted to add to CJ's comment. I am housing an accessibility specialist for our CIL. And housing is a very difficult problem. There are resources such as 211, which I think can be very valuable generally. But it is a very large problem. And I would encourage anyone to be diligent and really advocate for themselves or short of that, find a good advocate. Because, you know, again, it takes a lot of digging to solve these problems.

>> Yeah, fair enough. I appreciate that.

>> Thank you, CJ, thank you, Steve.

>> Yeah. It's pretty much what it has come down to advocacy of yourself for any situation in this world anymore. It's almost coming down to you know medical and all the above. I get it. Thank you.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Great, thank you both for your public input on that question. Any other members of the public that would like to give input on what IL services you currently receive? All right. We will move on to question number four.

What services would you like your center for independent living to provide? Any members of the public who would like to give public input on what services would you like your center for independent living to provide?

>> This is CJ again.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Hi, CJ. Go ahead.

>> Like I say, I was in a coma two and a half years ago and I progressed so far and so over coming, you know, like I say I've only had SSI because I was a builder and a concrete manager all my life. But over the years I kind of went off on my own and was not paying into the taxes. And so that's why I got SSI instead of, you know, the actual support. But anyway, so I'm kind of curious to know between SSI and how many hours I can work, you know, if I actually live somewhere I can be a maintenance man. So kind of wondering you know if I can get some kind of place to live that I can be part of the maintenance company and you know help with my rent.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Thank you, CJ, for your input. Are there any other members of the public who would like to give input on what services would you like your center for independent living to provide? All right. We will move on to the next question.

What have we asked about your experience with independent living that you feel is important? Are there any members of the public who would like to give input on the question? What have we not asked about your experience with independent living that you feel is important?

All right, with no further public comment on our survey questions, that will conclude our public hearing for today on this Zoom meeting. We will be scheduling more Zoom meetings throughout the winter months leading up to May 1st. We are also, the Council is looking into having in‑person public hearings around the state sometime in the spring. Generally, we hold those at centers for independent living, but we are looking at other accessible locations where we can find consumers to possibly hold these meetings. So, again, if you can ‑‑ if you want to have more public input into these questions, and you just simply couldn't come up with some information today, you still have until May 1st to get those comments to us through the different avenues and channels that I outlined earlier in the meeting either by e‑mailing them to SILC, mailing them to our PO box, by calling our toll‑free number and leaving a recording or joining some of our future Zoom meetings. Future meetings will be advertised on SILC's website. So, keep your eye out for upcoming future meetings. And if you do have public comment that you would like to give, we will always welcome that. Our community needs assessment survey is available on survey monkey. There is a link to that on SILC's landing page on our website and please feel free to fill that out at any time. So, thank you all for your participation today. And I will look forward to the next time we are together. Have a great day, everybody.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Good‑bye, thank you.