# MISILC Council Business Meeting

Zoom Council Meeting

06/13/20 10:00 am

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[ Waiting for meeting to start]

 >> Hello.

 >> Steve: Good morning this is Steve how is everyone doing this fine Saturday morning.

 >> Jamia: I'm doing pretty good, thank you.

 >> Steve: Excellent.

 >> Glen: Good morning everybody.

 >> Steve: Good, yeah, looks like we have Glen, Jamia, Aaron, Mairead, Tracy and myself on the line so far.

So, we will get started here in just a couple of minutes.

I'll be right back.

Joe: Jamia, can you hear me?

 >> Hey good morning Aaron it's Steve it's 10:00 and looks like we have four Council members on the line so far, do you want to wait a minute or two to see if we get one more to join for a quorum?

 >> Aaron: Yes.

Let's do that.

 >> Joe: You need more than one.

 >> Joe: Can you hear me?

 >> Steve: We need five out of nine voting members.

 >> Good morning everybody this is Yvonne.

 >> Steve: Good morning Yvonne.

 >> Joe: How come you only have nine members?

 >> Aaron: We have a quorum now correct since Yvonne joined?

 >> Steve: I believe so.

 >> Aaron: Okay.

>> Joe: Can you hear me?

Hello?

 >> Aaron: Let's start with welcome and introductions.

I'd like to welcome everybody to the Saturday June 13th quarterly business meeting of the SILC.

Does anybody have any accommodation requests?

 >> Do we ‑‑ Tracy could you call the roll?

 >> Tracy: Sure.

Aaron Andres, present.

Glen Ashlock, I'm here.

Jamia Davis, here.

Yvonne Fleener, here.

Will Harrison?

Mindy Kulasa?

Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce?

Mairead Warner, here.

You have a quorum.

 >> Aaron: Thank you.

 >> Joe: Can people hear me?

Hello?

 >> Yes, Joe we can hear you.

 >> Joe: Yes, I wanted to make an accommodation request, but I was being muted out.

 >> Aaron: Very well, Joe.

Please state your accommodation request.

 >> Joe: My accommodation request is that we take eight minutes and 46 seconds of silence to not only go against the police abuse of people of color without disabilities but those with disabilities.

That continues on to this day including Boba Baxter Jones from Detroit abused at a nonviolent protest by the state police.

 >> Aaron: Thank you for that accommodation request and in lieu of that, we can do that after we approve the agenda.

 >> Of the accommodation request.

 >> Aaron: What.

 >> I don't think that is an accommodation request.

That is just a request.

I think we can do it but it's not an accommodation request.

Perhaps an agenda item.

But.

 >> Aaron: Okay.

If someone would like to make a motion to add that to the agenda, we can certainly do that.

I know I need to add a clarification statement before public comment.

So.

 >> Yvonne: I have an agenda item I would like to add, and I don't know if Steve can tell us the best fit for items.

 >> Steve: Yeah, go ahead.

Anyone that would like to make a modification to the agenda if you would state those and I can live type those into the agenda into the appropriate places then we can have a vote on the modified agenda.

 >> Yvonne: Mine is just a discussion about attendance for members.

I don't you know this will be perhaps our last meeting before we start the new year.

I guess September will be one more.

But there are people on this Council who have not responded to anything or shown up to meetings on anything.

And we need members who actually want to be present.

And I'd like to have a discussion about that.

 >> Aaron: Very well.

 >> Steve: I added that under new business as item number three.

 >> Aaron: I believe it's important to honor Joe's request about having the eight minutes whether eight minutes and 45 seconds I believe.

I don't know when we want to necessarily have that.

Either before or where that would specifically go in the agenda.

 >> Steve: We could put that as number four under new business, Aaron, if you would like.

 >> Aaron: Okay.

>> Aaron do you want me to make a motion or is there another item being added?

 >> Aaron: I was waiting for Steve to get done typing then I was going to ask that.

 >> Yvonne: Okay.

 >> Steve: We are all set with number four under new business 8-minute 46 seconds moment of silence.

 >> Aaron: Is there any other changes, additions to the agenda?

Hearing none, Yvonne, if you would like to make the motion.

 >> Yvonne: I move that we add the 8 minutes and 46 second and the membership attendance agenda items under new business.

 >> Aaron: Is there a second?

 >> Glen, I would second.

 >> Aaron: Tracy could you call the roll?

 >> Tracy: Sure, I just want to let everybody know that Will Harrison has joined the meeting.

 >> Aaron: Hello Will.

 >> Hi Will.

 >> Tracy: Aaron Andres, yes.

Glen Ashlock, yes.

Jamia Davis, yes.

Yvonne Fleener, yes.

Will Harrison, yes.

Mindy Kulasa?

Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce?

Mairead Warner, yes.

Motion carried.

 >> Aaron: Thank you.

Now we need to approve the minutes for March 6, 2020.

Is there a motion to approve those minutes?

 >> Jamia: I motion to approve the minutes for March is it the 6th?

2020?

 >> Aaron: Okay, is there a second?

 >> Glen: I would second.

 >> Aaron: Any discussion?

Hearing none, Tracy could you call the roll?

 >> Tracy: Aaron Andres, yes.

Glen Ashlock, yes.

Jamia Davis, yes.

Yvonne Fleener, yes.

Will Harrison, yes.

Mindy Kulasa?

Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce?

Mairead Warner, yes.

Motion carried.

 >> Aaron: Okay.

Is there a motion to approve the March 24, 2020, business meeting minutes as presented?

 >> Yvonne: I move we approve the March 24th meeting minutes.

 >> Glen: I would second.

 >> Aaron: Any discussion?

Hearing none, Tracy could you call the roll?

 >> Tracy: Aaron Andres, yes.

Glen Ashlock, yes.

Jamia Davis, yes.

Yvonne Fleener, yes.

Will Harrison, yes.

Mindy Kulasa?

Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce?

Mairead Warner, yes.

Motion carried.

 >> Aaron: Okay, I would like to clarify a statement I made about the during the last finance committee meeting.

I stated this is SILC chair Aaron Andres for the record.

I did advocate for a better SPIL, but we needed our partners on board and because they had to make some changes in order for everyone to be on board, it is what it is.

What I meant by that statement is ‑‑ what I was referring to is that in the current shortfall state budget during the coronavirus pandemic, the budget ‑‑ hold on.

I'm sorry.

I lost where I was at.

Shortfall that the State of Michigan is experiencing due to the coronavirus pandemic, the budget currently is affecting the ‑‑ currently is affecting and will continue to affect a lot of state workers.

A lot of state services including the three‑year state plan of the SPIL.

The CILs state core grant is made up of 93% state funds.

And 7% Part B funds.

Knowing the current state budget shortfall at this point in time, the draft SPIL was crafted because the public input balancing it against the knowledge that finances, and resources have become and will continue to become scarce over the next three years.

Over the next three year's span of the SPIL.

The SILC and CILs and DSE maintain their strong collaboration working relationship.

And we look forward to further strengthening our collaboration over the next three years of the SPIL.

Thank you.

 Okay.

Now, we can move on to public comment.

Let me get me timer ready.

And I will make sure that we are good to go.

Hold on just one second.

Let me also get my public comment statement up here.

Okay.

Members of the public who wish to speak will be called on by the chairperson.

You will be allowed five minutes as an individual and five minutes as a group.

As the designated representative of a group, individuals must refrain from ‑‑ you must address the Council directly and refrain from any other conversation among our peers.

Thank you.

Is there anyone that wishes to give public comment?

 >> Joe: Yes.

 >> Aaron: Mr. Harcz, you have five minutes, go.

 >> Joe: The disability rights movement and Independent Living was born out of protests and strife including the longest sit‑ins in the nation's history when the takeover of the Federal office building in San Francisco was conducted by the founder of the independent living movement Ed Roberts and people like Judy human, that was the grandfather of all our civil rights.

Yet you fast forward to today and consumers are not listened to.

They are not incorporated.

We have centers for independent living and the SILC itself which has violated the ADA, section 504 and other civil rights laws.

When Eleanor Canter and I talk about independent centers for living do nothing or virtually nothing, that is documented in the current SPIL.

No action taken.

No action taken.

No data.

Tell you what, friends, they don't do anything.

We have no notice on the amount of people that were diverted from nursing homes last year except for in IRS‑990 and went from 1500 to 300.

What is happening?

What is happening here?

Ladies and gentlemen?

Is that people are dying in nursing homes during the coronavirus pandemic.

I have 17 people five miles up the road at the nursing home that have died.

People are not getting resources.

They are not even getting information about resources.

But yet we plowed all kinds of money into many nondisabled hacks including with the DSE.

Including corrupt individuals who have miss appropriated Federal money.

And who have allowed people like Richard Hartwig to literally steal 2.1 million from the blue water CIL and come in and steal I'm told amounts of money from the SILC.

Just as the people in Detroit and around the nation are calling for defunding and diversion.

Or reallocation of funds, I'm calling for that.

With our centers for independent living.

I am sick to death of people who have discriminated against me and my brothers and sisters over decades now.

Getting money to flush it around a merry go round.

We have no performance.

We have no monitoring of the current SPIL going on.

None.

That is our obligation.

That is our obligation, that is our number one thing.

I hope these centers get shut down and rebuilt upon the independent living philosophy.

And upon inclusion and upon access.

And nondiscrimination.

When I have my own center, you know can't even hold a functional ADA event in fully accessible or for people with all disabilities over decades or years and not even answering the phone or give information in a referral about resources.

And I hear yesterday let's go do this ‑‑ emergency preparedness in the pandemic we have emergency preparedness in the past two SPILs.

Nothing was done.

Nothing.

Not a dang thing.

We went through the Flint water crisis and people who are deaf could not get any of the information related to these things.

And school for the deaf was here and it was a hotspot.

You have people in wheelchairs rolling down the streets because the sidewalks were so inaccessible to pick up water.

This is an outrage, ladies and gentlemen.

And yet you get people making 140,000, 150,000 a year public money.

Nondisabled people.

You know, to go around the merry go round and to destroy lives.

And to engage in abuse.

 >> Aaron: Your five minutes is up.

Is there anyone else that wishes to give public comment?

 >> Yes.

 >> Luke: President of the Disability Network.

 >> Aaron: Luke, you may go.

 >> Luke: So, I'd like to start again by thanking and encouraging every member of the SILC Council and the SILC Council itself.

I think you are taking potentially taking a step today with a moment of pause.

But again, encourage the Council to make a public statement in support of solidarity.

Black lives matter and organizations committed to ending systemic racism and oppression and discrimination.

And just, you know, on this day when you are electing officers and planning the work of the Council for the next year.

It can feel like the world is barking at you.

That they are looking for and demanding solutions.

And they are.

And it can be overwhelming.

And it can feel like quicksand.

Like every inch that you fight forward that quicksand drags you backwards.

You put forward a SPIL.

You are taking action.

You are moving forward.

And I would say it's hard to do alone especially in this environment where there is division, decisiveness everywhere in our country.

There are people who are looking to divide the disability community.

And I've never heard of black lives matter saying to people the color of their skin is not significantly black enough to participate in a protest.

Or participate in amplifying voices.

Just like I've never heard anybody in the IL movement say to someone with a significant disability you are not significantly disabled enough that it requires some kind of doctor's note for you to have a voice or cheer a voice or amplify a voice.

So, Aaron your statement at the beginning about the SPIL and your comment, we are united in this SPIL and accomplishing things for the next three years.

Just know there is no division between SILC and the IL movement in Michigan.

We are united.

And it's important that we, you know, SILC, CILs, the disability community stand together in this.

Just remember you're not alone.

We are in this together and we need all voices.

People with significant disabilities, disabilities, family, friends, caregivers, allies everybody to amplify the voices of this community.

And it's not an oppression Olympics that one minority is more important than another.

For decades people with significant disabilities have fought for and carried the burden for inclusion and we are not asking allies to take on that burden for us.

Rather to stand with us and share their weight in carrying this.

So, you know, the public input, you got input from thousands of people with disabilities across Michigan.

And that's why centers for independent living are run, led by, governed by people with significant disabilities.

A majority and it follows the IL principles.

But it's also important to know it's not only people with significant disabilities.

You know, the IL movement is a big tent approach that welcomes all who live, breathe and value the Independent movement.

So, I just my last statement is just we need to unify, continue to bring productive voices together and keep moving forward.

So, thank you for the SILC Council and the work that you're doing.

Keep focused on moving forward.

Thank you.

 >> Aaron: Okay, thank you.

Luke.

Is there anyone else that wishes to give public comment?

Hearing none, we can move on to the reports.

 Steve, do you want to do this?

 >> Steve: Thanks Aaron.

Yep, this is Steve Locke executive director.

The draft 2020‑2023 SPIL was posted to SILC's website 31 days ago.

Yesterday we held our public hearing on the draft.

Public comments that were received will be considered for possible modifications to the draft and the final draft will be submitted to ACL no later than June 30th, 2020.

 The final draft will be complete by the end of next week.

The SPIL must be signed by the SILC chair after a public vote by the full Council authorizing the chair to sign the SPIL on behalf of the Council.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services acting as the designated state entity and at least 51% of the directors of the Michigan centers for independent living.

We will be scheduling a SILC meeting for the week of June 22nd for a Council vote on the SPIL.

And also, to authorize the SILC chair to sign the SPIL on behalf of the Council.

We will be posting to our website the summary comments received prior to the development of the SPIL.

And comments received yesterday during the public hearing on the draft.

The draft SPIL has been reposted to our website.

With the instructions removed just this morning.

So that the public can navigate that document easier.

 I will continue working with the CIL networks and net CIL users’ group to assist with capturing data for CIL in the net CIL database system.

 SILC's executive order is on the front burner with the Governor's office.

I had a meeting with the Governor staff last week to refine language in the new executive order.

Once the executive order is issued by the Governor, the issue of FOIA as it relates to the Council and corporation will be clarified by the Governor's office.

Once we receive FOIA guidance SILC will update the FOIA policy to be in alignment with the guidance we will receive, and the updated policy will be brought to the Council for a vote.

 The bylaws workgroup will reconvene next month to update the bylaws and brought to the Council for review and a vote.

 The in collaboration with the DSE and BSBP SILC submitted our annual ILS, PPR report which was formally known as the 704 report.

That is the annual Federal report that we jointly develop with the DSE and submit to ACL by December 31st of each year.

Our PPR has been approved but I ACL and has been posts to the SILC website.

 The DSE has also offered to assist SILC's finance committee and our accountant in redrafting our financial policies and procedures to be in compliance with 2CFR200 the uniform cost and cost principles and audit requirements for Federal awards and procedures will reflect a new accounting system that SILC implemented last year to tighten up separation of duty and checks and balances as relates to accounting functions.

A meeting request has been sent out to begin work on this project.

 Upcoming training opportunities.

SILC members encouraged to participate in one national conference every year and lunchtime trainings during business meeting lunches based on budget negotiations with the DSE and the state budget crisis we are encouraging members to take advantage of online training opportunities that do not involve out of state travel.

Upcoming training opportunities include the NICKLE annual conference typically head in Washington D.C. this year it was scheduled for July 20th‑23.

But this conference will now be held virtually this year.

So, if you are interested in participating in that by electronic means, please contact Tracy to get registered.

Instead of having it over a three‑day period they are going to have breakout sessions over a two-week period so it's not so intense.

So please go to NICKLE website and look at the breakout sessions I'm not sure if they have them posted there or not or if they are still accepting proposals for breakout sessions but that is always a very valuable conference full of timely information related to independent living.

ILRU hosts a monthly SILC speak monthly peer call that is typically from 3‑4.

I believe it's on the third Tuesday or Thursday, but I send those notices out to the Council members.

You do not have to register for those SILC speak calls.

And they are really a great interactive opportunity.

They typically have a timely agenda.

This last time we had it it was on the SPIL and the submission of the SPIL.

Those are typically facilitated by Paula Macala from ILRU and the attendance is typically SILC directors from around the country and also Council members from around the country.

It's an opportunity to talk about timely IL topics and have an exchange with your peers in a learning environment.

And I have always found those to be quite valuable.

I know Aaron has joined one of those and I think Yvonne might have been on one as well.

 We were scheduled to have a parliamentary procedure training for today.

But with the COVID‑19 pandemic happening, we had envisioned having this in person and having the parliament tarry come in to conduct the training.

We have postponed that for right now, but we intend to engage the parliamentary at a very near future meeting for the Council.

 ILRU.org is also your repository for everything that is independent living related and it's the Federal contract holder to provide technical assistants to SILC and CILs across the country and they consistently they are consistently conducting timely and relevant IL trainings which are posted on their website.

If you go to their website, you can access those trainings at any time through their on-demand archives.

I know they have done several of those in terms of what SILCs and CILs can be doing during the coronavirus pandemic.

So that is a great resource that I strongly encourage all Council members to go to and take advantage of.

 Lastly, the SPIL monitoring committee is being scheduled for August 10th and I believe that is going to be from Noon to 1:00 but invites will be going out for that.

As well as it being posted on our website.

So, any questions on my report?

 >> Jamia.

 >> Steve: Yeah.

 >> Jamia: I have a question.

If we decide to attend are, we required to attend all breakout sessions or is it up to our discretion?

 >> Steve: Yes, that is entirely up to your discretion on subject matters you would be interested in.

 >> Jamia: Okay, thank you.

 >> Steve: Yeah.

You're welcome.

As I mentioned earlier, please know that there is going to be a meeting doodle going out for another Council meeting for the week of June 22nd.

And it's imperative we have all Council members attend that meeting.

We are going to be asking the Council to vote on the draft SPIL to authorize the chair to sign on behalf of SILC.

Knowing the SPIL is due no later than June 30th to ACL.

We will also be sending out the signature pages electronically to the DSE and also to the CIL directors for electronic signatures.

So, we can have that signature page ready to be submitted prior to June 30th.

During that meeting also we are going to be presenting the draft budget for 2020 and 2021 for SILC's resource plan that we negotiated with DSE and BSBP about a week and a half ago.

So, know that the budget that was negotiated we are also trying to schedule a finance committee meeting for towards the end of next week so be looking for that meeting doodle for the finance committee members.

So, the finance committee can review the negotiated budget.

And take a vote on whether or not to advance that to the full Council during the week of June 22 for approval by the Council.

 >> Aaron:

 >> Steve: That is all I have if anyone has any questions.

 >> Aaron: I guess I'm up next.

I don't really have anything to really comment on other than we did have a committee meeting I believe it was on the 29th.

Of, hold on, I will look at the date.

29th of May.

And that committee minutes are on the website and everything else.

They are in the public domain.

So, I don't have anything else to add really.

Steve has been keeping me updated about the executive order.

And different stuff.

And we've been trying to figure stuff out with the Governor's office.

And that seems to be going smoothly.

Other than that, I don't really have anything to add.

Anything specific that you had questions on or wanted me to talk about further?

Okay.

Yvonne, finance committee.

 >> Yvonne: Yeah, Steve covered most of it.

And I'll let him go over the reports.

The one thing I want to add is we talked again about making sure that we have the proper policies and procedures in place for checks and balances.

Not that we don't.

But we want to review it as a finance committee.

So, and our goal is to have that done before the next fiscal year begins.

There are some, you know, again because of COVID‑19 there are some hold up, Bill Addison is going to be involved in some of that and he has other things he has to prioritize right now.

But our goal is to have that done by the next fiscal year.

Other than that, are you going to go over the financial report, Steve?

 >> Steve: Sure.

We are also probably going to invite Brad Jacokes who is our accountant who knows our current accounting system really well so we will include him in on that.

 >> Yvonne: Further items sorry if you look at the notes you will see other items that we discussed but Steve already covered those so I'm not going to go over them again, all right.

Thank you.

 >> Steve: Sure, so the first report is our statement of financial position which is the balance sheet from April 30th through April 30th of 2020.

Current assets are at 134,451.

If we drop down to the liabilities line item number 2900, we have deferred revenue of 67,866.

This amount represents the pre‑2015 grant drawdowns that SILC drew down prior to 2015 from the BSBP grant.

There was an agreement to spend down the post 2015 overdraws and SILC expended those through the end of April and now charging the current year BSBP grant opposed to the backlog of money we had.

We spent that down and holding on to the deferred revenue pending be.

SBP's upon as they confer with LEO how to deal with this overdraw prior to 2015.

 Let's see any questions on the balance sheet?

Okay we will move on to year to date budget.

 The three columns I'm highlighting are year to date financials through April 30th of 2020.

The total actual revenue is 169,854.

We were budgeted for 185,627.

The difference is partly related to the third employee position that we did not fill.

In addition to several line items being under spent.

For instance, I don't currently participate in SILC's retirement plan.

So, anticipate a cost for several of these line items have not played out to what we projected through the end of April 30th.

Some of this is also based on budgeting where we have spread for instance the net CIL user licenses across 12 months when that payment actually occurred, I believe in January.

So, when we spread our budget for the next fiscal year, we will look at each of those items for the ones that should actually be spread across 12 months versus the ones that have a one‑time lump sum payment in a particular month.

And we will place that within the month that it should occur.

So that we should be more in alignment with what our projected budget is.

 When we get down to the bottom of our year to date financial statement, we should be at zero because we are on a reimbursement basis budget.

So, we should always be going towards zero money in, money out.

Our actual for through April 30th of 2020 is a negative $81.18 so we are pretty much on target with what we have projected through April 30th.

 The next financial statement is our check register.

We have the check register is tabbed out by month.

There is nothing unusual.

Just our standard monthly bills.

The finance committee went through these during our meeting.

And we walked through some of the vendors that were unfamiliar to some of the committee members and clarified those.

So, again, standard payments to Zoom meeting.

Our healthcare, dental, payroll, CART services, insurance.

Were there any questions on the check register the year to date financials or the balance sheet?

Okay, the last item that I have is the review of the 2021 draft budget.

We initially put together a budget for 2020‑2021 totaling 422,868.

Our budget is split 65% that is chargeable to MRS and 35% is chargeable to BSBP.

As I mentioned, myself, Yvonne as the treasurer and Aaron as the chair, had a meeting with the DSE and BSBP about a week and a half ago and negotiated our budget.

The revised budget comes in at 350,239 which is in line with our current year's budget.

And this will be referred to the finance committee meeting that we are trying to get scheduled for next week for their review, consideration and vote on whether or not to advance it to the full Council for the week of June 22nd.

And I will turn it back over to Yvonne.

 >> Yvonne: I had to get my mute off.

Yeah.

I don't think I have anything else.

Are there any questions from people?

Okay I think that wraps up our finance report.

 >> Aaron: Is there a recommendation to place on file those reports?

Of staff executive and finance committee?

 >> Glen: I would move to put them on, yes, place on file.

 >> Aaron: Yes.

Okay is there a second?

 >> Jamia: I second the motion.

 >> Aaron: Any discussion?

Hearing none Tracy could you call the roll.

 >> Tracy: Aaron Andres, yes.

Glen Ashlock, yes.

Jamia Davis, yes.

Yvonne Fleener, yes.

Will Harrison, yes.

Mindy Kulasa?

Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce?

Mairead Warner, yes.

Motion carried.

 >> Aaron: All right.

Now down to MRS.

Is Bill on the call?

 >> Steve: It does not look like we have anyone from MRS on the line, Aaron.

 >> Aaron: Okay.

 >> Steve: I'm going to need to check with MRS.

Currently the state has furloughed their workers and for one day a week because of the budget crisis.

And I'm not sure if Saturday meetings are going to interfere with their ability to participate but let me ask that question of Bill.

When we get to Monday or Tuesday to see if this is going to affect their ability to participate.

And the alternative whether or not they could submit a written report if they are not able to participate on a Saturday.

So, I will find that out.

 >> Aaron: Is it the same with ‑‑ now Lisa, I saw Lisa on.

 >> Steve: Yes.

 >> Lisa: Good morning everyone.

 >> Steve: Good morning.

>> Lisa: From BSBP Saturday meetings are not a problem.

I am furloughed one day a month.

And staff below me are furloughed a day a week.

Although they are able to participate in the work share program through the unemployment system.

So, I think what is challenging for us right now with that being said is that all furlough days are Fridays and Mondays.

So interestingly enough we only have Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays to actually have days where we can plan things where everyone can attend.

So, when you are planning your well, I guess it doesn't really matter if you are planning your board meeting for the week of the 22nd, I'm, you know, I'm working all five days.

So, it's not a problem.

I don't know what Bill Atkinson's furlough day is, but I know he was working yesterday so my guess it would be Monday.

 Anyway, so I'm fine with that on BSBP perspective and glad to be here, appreciate the opportunity to present to you.

 As you well know the last three months have been quite a challenge for all of us responding to the COVID‑19 interruption in all of our lives and in many ways.

And I have learned more about virtual platforms and teams and Skype and Zoom and WebEx and Uber and Google classroom.

You name it we have used it.

And it's been a definite learning curve.

But there have been unintended positive consequences that I think we are trying to make use of.

And you know the fact that we are able to communicate virtually and that we are working through the accessibility issues.

And keeping those on point because it's important and everyone should be included.

 So, I believe it was August 13th or I'm sorry March 13th when we all started to go home and at this point BSBP is working virtually.

And we are telecommuting so our field staff, are telecommuting from their homes and meeting with clients via telephone, Zoom, whatever platform works best for the consumer.

 When we first went home our biggest concern was making sure that we reached out to the people that we serve.

And making sure that we are doing well check calls and making sure that folks had what they needed in order to navigate the COVID‑19 interruption.

And since then we have continued to communicate with our consumers, communicate with our staff.

We have weekly meetings with our staff at least twice a week with all of our field staff.

Our training center has stepped up to the plate hugely by designing virtual training opportunities.

And we are not suggesting that any of this takes the place of face‑to‑face service.

I want that to be clear.

But we are saying that we are making the best of this situation.

And we are making as much lemonade as we can.

Our biggest priority is the health and safety of our staff and our consumers alike.

And as we are reengaging and reopening our state, we kind of as Bill Robinson said we sort of have to move you know we have to move backward in that we started this adventure by telecommuting with some face‑to‑face.

Then no face‑to‑face.

So, we have to reengage the same way.

Metaphorically purposely and responsibly so we are in the process of engaging return to work teams.

Through LEO.

And we are looking at how best to do that.

How best to ensure that folks have PPE.

That our consumers are safe.

We are putting together protocols so that everyone can maintain an integrity of safety and consideration for what is necessary in order to provide the services that we are.

 As has been mentioned there is a huge state revenue shortfall.

And we don't know where all of that is going to land just yet.

To date our GFGP has not been affected that is our general fund has not been affected.

We are considered essential because we deal with employment.

But once again we don't know you know what exactly is in front of us.

The furlough days are slated to end on July 25th.

But there again we don't know you know stay tuned.

You know, we sometimes we learn things from the teleconferences, the press conferences just like you do.

 So, we are moving along, and we are doing our best to again make sure that folks get what they need.

We are also working on our state plan.

The unified state plan is a process that VR and the core partners of WIOA work through every four years with a mid-cycle review.

So, we are in the process of completing our comments or responding to the comments by RSA.

To the state plan.

And just to highlight just briefly, the goals that we've established in the state plan that we are looking forward to are ensuring that we are aligning appropriately with WIOA partners to make services available to everyone who is eligible and appropriate to receive them.

We are another goal that we are pursuing is making sure the youth and our students are served appropriately and inclusive in the education system.

And receiving the preemployment transition services that they need.

 And then we are also working with our Braille and talking book library to make sure that groups are provided services through assistive technology and making printed, I'm sorry audible and Braille materials available to people who cannot access print.

And we are absolutely always committed to ensuring or at least providing the opportunity for success for individuals who are interested in demand driven competitive integrated employment outcomes.

So that is just kind of a synopsis of some of the goals that we are pursuing in our state plan which will be available for review you know as always, we post that.

And it was posted.

It's been posted several times but obviously we will be posting it again.

Actually, the LEO will labor and economic opportunity because it's part of the WIOA.

So, we are trying to keep it as clear and succinct as we can.

I don't remember how many pages your SPIL is.

But I know the last time I checked the unified state plan was over 300 pages.

So, it's imperative we try to keep it as readable as possible.

But it's a challenge because you have so many people that are working on it.

 So, I did have the opportunity to work with the SPIL writing team.

And advocate for the needs of blind individuals to be served by our centers for independent living as equally as everyone else.

Whether they work with VR or whether they don't.

I've also ‑‑ we asked for that B‑as centers for independent living are acquiring talent, they consider the needs of blind people when doing so.

And also, in ‑‑ when upgrading you know skills and abilities of their staff to include blindness.

It's very important that as the movement says that everyone with a disability can be represented.

And we know that our blind constituents absolutely need to be included in that.

 We are also the state is through project excellence a comprehensive assessment of rehabilitation needs has been conducted and we did not get necessarily the best representation in the last go around.

So, we worked very closely with project excellence and Michigan rehab services to ensure that the information related to blindness is included.

And so, I know that our 911 data was included and other data we collect as well as interviews with individuals who are blind.

So, I'm hoping and feeling much more positive about this particular cycle.

So, we will have a there is a review of that on June 24th for the final draft.

So unfortunately, that came out a little bit later than what we had hoped.

But as a result of COVID‑19, some of the folks that worked on that were not able to do that anymore.

And you know there were students that had to go home and different things like that.

So definitely COVID‑19 has created an interruption in lots of different things for all of us.

And I'm confident that we are going to get through it.

And we are going to make sure we do that with the best outcomes that we can.

But I do think as the slogan says we are all in this together and I think we need to remember that we are all in this together.

So, any questions?

.

 >> Aaron: Thank you, Lisa.

 >> Sure.

 >> Aaron: On the IL update, is there any information that Mark sent?

 >> Can you hear me.

 >> Aaron: Go ahead, Mark, I'm sorry.

 >> Mark: I'm so sorry, I got a little time screwed up here.

I'm not able to get into the Zoom but I can give you what I have as some notes as far as the IL and the centers over the past 90 days since the 16th of March.

 >> Aaron: Great, please proceed.

 >> Mark: Thank you.

First off, I would just like to say that this has been very challenging with the pandemic.

It was really very different situation for the CILs.

However, all the CILs maintain their ability to serve consumers and due to service with our core services and from MRS services.

 We really never closed.

What we did is we just kind of redesigned it the way that we administer services.

 During that time, we have had a guy from ACL with the frequently asked questions concerning the cares act fund which is constantly going on.

We were mandated to have everything completed for that by the 30th of May.

And all of the CILs got their policies and procedures done in order to bring on the funding.

That was really a challenge for all of us in the midst of having a pandemic going on.

 One of the bigger things that we really were able to accomplish is that I'm really proud of the CILs and the ability to convert from a more face‑to‑face to the virtual piece.

We've all worked together on improving our technology and actually able to get out there and apply the services.

Amongst a whole lot of different change.

This has been accomplished through us coming together and discussing our services.

And going with best practices across the state.

One of the ways we are able to do that is that the directors were to every Monday morning we would meet and discuss some of the challenges that went on at the CIL in the way each one of us was dealing with it.

It was really a leadership challenge.

And I have to say with the 14 CILs that are in place all of the leaders there have done a magnificent job and handling their services.

And keeping their nose up during a tough time.

 There was one more thing I did want to share with you.

They are in my notes.

Yes.

Overall, it's been a challenging time with the funding that we have.

And it's made it very difficult, but we are able to make sure and make it through.

 I think that is about it that I have.

As far as update over this past 90 days.

For the CILs.

I would just like to say that I was really impressed with the way we all came together, and we did not look at this as an obstacle.

We looked at it as a challenge.

And I really care for my fellow brothers and sisters as far as CIL directors.

And even those that have people that they serve under them.

And I think that is about the gist of my particular update.

 >> Aaron: Thanks, Mark.

Moving on to new business, we are right on time.

The election of the officers for the executive committee.

So, I will go through the officer positions and ask for nominations three times and then if ‑‑ then I will close the nominations and we will vote on the officer positions.

We want to do that after everybody has liked it or are, we doing that individually with each position?

 >> Steve: You can do that individually with each position.

And know that Council members can nominate themselves for any of the officer positions.

 >> Aaron: I don't have the officer position description.

Tracy or Steve do you have that available?

 >> Steve: I believe that's in our Bylaws.

Tracy, are you able to post the Bylaws and read those descriptions?

Let me see if I can fine it here real quick.

 >> Tracy: I'm looking them up right now.

 >> Steve: I've got them here, Aaron would you like me to read the descriptions from the Bylaws for all four positions real quick?

 >> Aaron: Yes.

 >> Steve: Okay.

The chair shall be the director elected to the position of the chair of the Council.

The Council chair shall, A, see that all orders and resolutions of the board of directors are carried into effect.

B have oversight over the general control and management of the business and affairs of the corporation as carried out but I the staff of the corporation.

And C any other power or authority granted to the chair by the board of directors.

The chair shall preside at all meetings of the members of the board of directors at which he or she is present.

Vice chair the vice chair shall be the director elected to the position of vice chair of the Council.

The vice chair shall have the power to perform all duties that may be assigned by the chair or board of directors if the chair is absent or unable to perform his or her duties the vice chair shall perform the chair duty under the board of director's directions otherwise.

Secretary the secretary shall be elected secretary of the Council and shall A approve records of all meetings of the board of directors of the corporation.

B have oversight for all notices required to be given to directors.

C be responsible for the custody but not need personally keep custody of the articles of incorporation.

These Bylaws and other corporate records and D in general shall perform all duties as may from time to time be assigned by the chair or board of directors.

The treasurer shall be the director elected to the position of the treasurer of the statewide independent living Council and shall A have charge of the funds and other financial assets of the corporation.

B be responsible for seeing the accurate books and records of corporate receipts disbursements assets and liabilities are kept.

C be responsible for all acts of the corporation at banks and other financial institutions.

D be responsible for the preparation and filing of all financial information which is required by law or otherwise.

And E shall present such information to the officers and board of directors of the corporation as required by law or requested by the board of directors and perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned by the chair or the board of directors.

 >> Aaron: Okay at this time I'm going to open nominations for the chair position.

If anyone would like to nominate themselves or someone else, they may do so at this time.

 >> Yvonne: I would like to nominate Aaron Andres to serve again if you are willing to do so.

 >> Aaron: I'm willing to do so.

Thank you.

Is there anyone else that wants to be nominated for the chair position?

 >> Jamia: I nominate Aaron Andres as well to serve as chair.

 >> Aaron: Thank you.

 >> Will Harrison I would also like to nominate Aaron to continue in that role.

 >> Aaron: Okay, is there anyone else besides myself that would like to continue ‑‑ that would like to be elected to the chair position or continue in that role?

Steve, I've lost how many times I've said that, would that be twice or three times?

 >> Steve: That was three times and once the third time goes you can close nominations and go for a vote.

 >> Aaron: So, I'm going to close nominations and go for a vote.

Tracy could you call the roll.

 >> Tracy: Aaron Andres, yes.

Glen Ashlock, yes.

Jamia Davis, yes.

Yvonne Fleener, yes.

Will Harrison, yes.

Mindy Kulasa?

Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce?

Yes.

Mairead Warner, yes.

Aaron, you are the chair.

 >> Aaron: Thank you.

Now, the second position vice chair is there any at this time I'm going to open nominations for the vice chair.

And at this time.

 >> Aaron.

 >> Go ahead.

 >> This is Mairead I'm going to nominate myself.

 >> Aaron: All right.

Is there anyone else that would like to be considered for nominations of vice chair?

Is there anyone else that would like to be considered for nominations for vice chair?

Hearing none I will close the nomination for vice chair and Tracy could you call the roll, please?

 >> Tracy: Aaron Andres, yes.

Glen Ashlock, yes.

Jamia Davis, yes.

Yvonne Fleener, yes.

Will Harrison, yes.

Mindy Kulasa?

Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce, yes.

Mairead Warner, yes.

Mairead, you are the vice chair.

 >> Aaron: Okay.

The finance person, is there any nominations that would like to be the finance person for the SILC?

I would nominate Yvonne to continue in that role if she would be willing.

 >> Yvonne: I'm willing but it's also perfectly fine if there is someone else on the Council that would like an opportunity to be in leadership role.

Please nominate yourself.

 >> Aaron: Is there anyone else that would like to apply for the position?

Is there anyone else that would like to apply for the finance position?

Hearing none I will close the public or I will close the voting window at this time and Tracy, could you call the roll?

 >> Tracy: Aaron Andres, yes.

Glen Ashlock, yes.

Jamia Davis, yes.

Yvonne Fleener, yes.

Will Harrison, yes.

Mindy Kulasa?

Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce, yes.

Mairead Warner, yes.

Yvonne, you are the treasurer.

 >> Yvonne: Thank you.

 >> Aaron: Okay, and then for secretary, is there anyone that would like to be nominated for this position?

 >> Jamia: I would like to continue to serve as secretary and nominate myself.

 >> Aaron: Thank you, Jamia.

Is there anyone else that would like to be nominated for the secretary position?

Is there anyone else that would like to be nominated for the secretary position?

Okay, I'm going to close the nomination round and Tracy, could you call the roll?

 >> Tracy: Aaron Andres, yes.

Glen Ashlock, yes.

Jamia Davis, yes.

Yvonne Fleener, yes.

Will Harrison, yes.

Mindy Kulasa?

Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce, yes.

Mairead Warner, yes.

Jamia, you are the secretary.

 >> Jamia: Thank you.

 >> Aaron: Okay, and down to the 2021‑2023 draft SPIL timeline.

 >> Steve: I pretty much covered that in my executive director report.

I'm not sure if Mark was on the line at that time but I would be happy to give a quick recap.

The draft SPIL was posted to the SILC website 31 days ago.

Yesterday we held our public hearing on the draft, public comments received will be considered for possible modifications to the draft.

And the final draft will be submitted to ACL no later than June 30th.

The final draft will be complete by the end of next week.

The SPIL must be signed by the SILC chair after public vote by the full Council authorizing the chair to sign the SPIL.

Michigan rehab services acting as DSE and 51% of the directors of Michigan centers for independent living.

We will be scheduling a SILC meeting for the week of June 22nd for a Council vote on the SPIL to authorize the SILC chair to sign the SPIL on behalf of the Council.

We will be posting to our website the summary of comments received prior to the development of the SPIL and comments received yesterday during the public hearing on the draft.

The draft SPIL has been reposted to our website with instructions removed and I will continue working with the CIL, CIL users’ group to capture CIL related objectives in the new SPIL.

 >> Aaron: Thank you, Steve.

Moving down to Council member attendance.

Yvonne, did you want to speak or just have a general discussion on you put this on the agenda.

 >> Yvonne: I think the work we do is important, and I think there is a lot of it to go around.

And a smaller group of us carry a lot of that load.

And I guess I just would like to hear from others what is reasonable for not being in attendance, is it you miss one meeting a year given that we only have four?

Is it an unexcused absence and I want to hear from others about your thoughts of attendance and what that should look like.

 >> Aaron: Do we really have any recourse for removing members for not attending?

Or what is the guidelines on that?

I know the Governor ultimately makes the decision, but I did not know anything other than that.

Go ahead.

 >> Yvonne: I think we can put it in our Bylaws when we work on those changes.

And I think I heard Steve say, but I'll let him speak for himself, that the Governor really wants people on this committee who are active.

And I guess that's I want that too.

 >> Steve: Currently in our Bylaws we have one statement on page two that says removal any director who is removed from their position on the Council is also removed from the corporation's board of directors.

Because the Bylaws are written for the corporation, this is something that the workgroup is going to want to take a look at.

I know that in my conversations with the appointments office they want to be made aware of Council members who do not participate.

Because they want to replace those Council members with members that will actively participate in our Council meetings and our committee meetings.

You know, today is the first meeting that we move to a Saturday to accommodate working schedules for Council members who work full time.

Or even work part time.

We do not want to create an undue burden on Council members where they have to take time off from work or try to squeeze it in to their lunch period.

And even today we have five out of our nine voting members in attendance with the accommodation that we made on switching to a Saturday.

So, one thing that we need to do is put language in there regarding the removal or the recommendation of a removal of a Council member what would qualify for that recommendation.

And make the recommendation to the appointment's office.

They are very keen on wanting to know if folks are not participating in a conversation, they said they would look into immediately removing those members.

They did not say if it was one meeting or two meetings but it was in the two meeting area that they would not accept absenteeism being that we only meet typically four times a year, sometimes more than that when we have things like our audit that has to be approved or in the year of a SPIL approval every third year.

So, I think the vehicle for that is going to be the Bylaws workgroup consulting with the appointments office so that we can get that language correct when we go to revise our Bylaws.

 >> Aaron: And this is Aaron.

Have ‑‑ has the Governor's office been made aware that we have been having issues?

Or have you discussed it with them or talked about it in any length?

Or has that conversation not occurred?

 >> Steve: Yeah, when I spoke with the appointment's office several months ago, I did mention we had Council members who simply did not participate.

We've had previous Council members that had gone missing for almost a year and a half.

Who are nonresponsive to meeting requests?

Did not call in.

Did not show up to the meetings.

And were absent for close to a year and a half.

Certainly, in situations like that, we need to have something that empowers the Council to make recommendations to the appointment's office or the office of the Governor based on nonparticipation of Council members.

Because, again, people intentionally applied to be on this Council to represent people with disabilities and their voices.

In accordance with Federal regulations.

And showing up is half of the job.

And when we populate our Council with folks who are nonparticipating, that really takes away the consumer voice from our Council.

And we need to have a vehicle to be able to address that effectively to bring somebody else in who is going to actively participate.

 >> Aaron: Can I make a comment?

 >> Aaron: Yes, go ahead you are on.

 >> Yvonne: One is a question.

Steve, I count seven when I look at the participants that are online with us today.

Am I not ‑‑ I have can you look at the participant list and see if Aaron, Mark, Glen, Jamia, Mairead, Will and myself.

 >> Yvonne: Steve?

 >> Steve: I'm sorry I had myself on mute.

I, yeah, we have 1, 2, 3, geez, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, we have 6 Council members on the call today.

 >> Yvonne: My comment was this would it be appropriate to have either Aaron or Steve either call or send an e‑mail, write a letter to those who consistently are not showing up.

And just ask them where are you at on participating on this Council?

 >> Steve: Yeah, this is Steve.

I think that would be appropriate.

Go ahead, Mark.

 >> Mark: This is Mark.

I think that would be totally appropriate.

I mean, as a CIL if I have a person that is not at a board meeting, I do try to contact them and try to find out what is going on.

And I think Steve is really good at that relationship piece.

I think it would be totally appropriate for him to give a call, a reminder.

Or even let our Council member know that, you know, you really are on the border line here.

We have not seen you.

You know and make them aware of this.

 >> Go ahead.

 >> Mark: By the way I was late.

I'm really sorry about that.

 >> Yvonne: That is all right, Mark, I'm watching you, ha, ha.

 >> Mark: Good because I'm on my cell phone and I can't see anybody.

But anyway, yeah, I can see the time I've been on the Council people didn't show up and we struggled to have a quorum.

I think it's going to take some preparations and a little bit more energy and making sure that people are aware and able to log in.

 >> Aaron: Especially because and this is Aaron.

Weren't they given ‑‑ when we ‑‑ correct me if I'm wrong but when we applied for to be on the Council, we were given a sample of what ‑‑ how often the meetings would meet, correct?

 >> Yvonne: Yes.

 >> Aaron: If we were not able to accommodate that, why would someone apply for the position?

 >> Yvonne: Yeah.

 >> Aaron: I don't know.

 >> Mark: Amen, Aaron, this is Mark.

 >> Will: I want to say thank you for moving on this and helps me clear up my schedule.

Doing the job, I do, it's really hard to take off inside the state.

So, having it on a Saturday helped me keep this in order as a role of a Council member.

 >> Yvonne: Great.

 >> Mark: Great.

 >> Yvonne: You are here, Will.

 >> Aaron: Yes.

 >> Mark: Thank you.

 >> Aaron: I'm sorry, go ahead.

 >> Mark: I was just saying thank you to Will for saying that.

I think that is important.

 >> Aaron: Yes, go ahead.

 >> Jamia: I was wondering is there still an open Council member vacancy?

I know last time there was and we were looking for someone to fill that.

 >> Steve: We currently have two voting member vacancies that the appointment's office is working on.

So, our full Council is made up of six team members five of which are ex officio, nonvoting members from state departments.

And then 11 voting positions.

So, the appointment's office has been continuing to work on getting those two other seats filled.

I think they have a couple of candidates.

And I expect a call from the appointment's office next week on filling those two.

So, yeah, we've got 11 positions, 11 voting positions of which 9 are currently filled.

 >> Aaron: Okay.

 >> Jamia: Thank you Steve for that information.

I'm seeing if there is anyone, I know that would be interested in applying.

 >> Steve: If there is anyone you know that has a significant disability that would be interested in serving on the Council please have them apply through the Governor's web portal for that position.

They are currently they are actively and openly seeking applications for this Council.

So if there is anyone you know please put your feelers and looking for diversity in demographics and diversity on statewide representation on the Council as well and we are looking for people who are knowledgeable in independent living and centers for independent living that is one of the Federal qualifications for being on the Council.

 >> Aaron: I know that Tracy keeps records of attendance or whatever.

I was wondering during your conversation, with the Governor's office next week or whatever could you reach out and let them know about how many meetings that people have missed and that we are possibly looking at language to remove them from their positions?

 >> Steve: Yes.

 >> Aaron: Okay.

>> Steve: I'll have Tracy go back over the past year and a half.

And then tally up attendance for all current Council members to see where we come out at.

 >> Aaron: Okay, is that all for this discussion?

Or is there more anyone else wanted to say?

 >> I will ask a question to you guys.

So, as a Council member let us know how we can do more.

And what role you guys need help with.

So, reach out to me and let me know what I can do particularly that would be more helpful as a Council member.

 >> Aaron: Thank you for that, Will.

I believe we will do that as opportunities present themselves.

 Okay, is there anything else we want to discuss on this item?

Okay, hearing none, we will move on to the moment of silence for eight minutes and 46 seconds.

So, I will start my clock.

Okay okay thank you everybody for that moment of silence.

We will continue with all business committee membership.

 >> Steve: Aaron, so Will was asking about how Council members can become more involved and one way is become agree member of one of our committees.

Currently the way the Bylaws are written sort of limits participation particularly on the finance committee.

We have three standing committees which are the executive committee, finance committee and the SPIL committee.

Currently the executive committee and the Bylaws is made up of the elected four officers plus the past chair of the board of directors so that committee is kind of set in stone.

Current language around the finance committee the treasurer of the corporation shall inform the finance committee along with two members elected at large by the Council.

When we rewrite the Bylaws, we can expand the finance committee membership if that is the will of the Council to be more inclusive of any other Council members that would like to participate on the finance committee.

And the SPIL committee currently states the elected representative to the SILC who is a representative of centers for Independent shall form the SPIL committee along with the following, cochair selected but I the SPIL committee who is an individual who received currently or receiving or benefitted from services by a center for independent living three members at large elected by the Council.

And members determined by the Council these members can be individuals who are not board of directors of the statewide independent living corporation.

So, we when we rewrite the Bylaws, we can modify the language for the SPIL committee.

I know we had spoken about community membership being limited to Governor appointed members of our Council.

So, when the Bylaws workgroup gets together, we will want to revisit that language.

But that is another way that Council members can become more involved with the Councils through committee membership and then there are activities that the Council members can engage in, in terms of SPIL goals and objectives.

And once we have a new SPIL in place, we will review those opportunities with the Council members on how they can further participate in advancing the SPIL.

 >> Aaron: Remind me again when the next by law meeting is and I know we scheduled one.

I don't have the date in front of me.

 >> Steve: Let's see.

I'm just looking at my notes really quick.

I think the ‑‑ Tracy, is that set for ‑‑ is that the one we set for July?

 >> Tracy: Yes July 9th.

 >> Steve: July 9th.

 >> Aaron: Okay.

Anything else regarding committee membership anyone wanted to add?

.

 >> Steve: The only thing I'd like to add is that we could make it easier for more Council members to be a part of the finance or the SPIL committee through the Bylaws revision instead of restricting to a number of seats for Council members.

So again, we will go into the Bylaws revisions knowing that is one of the items we will want to take a look at.

 >> Aaron: Yes, there has not been agenda made yet for that meeting, but you are taking notes and going to make one and put that on it, correct?

 >> Steve: Yes.

That's correct.

 >> Aaron: Sounds wonderful.

We still have about a little more than 15 minutes before 12 for public comment is anybody opposed to starting it early.

Okay, members of the public who wish to speak will be called on by the chairperson and will be given five minutes or allowed five minutes as an individual and five minutes as a designated representative of a group.

The public must address the Council and refrain from any other additional comments towards anybody at any other time.

Thanks.

Okay.

Is there anyone that wishes to give public comment?

 >> Joe Harcz.

 >> Aaron: Go ahead, Joe.

 >> Joe: There is way too much to go over but I'm going to do it anyway.

First of all, I've applied to be on the SILC.

And that Governor's page is not fully accessible.

It bounces people out.

I had to do that with three hours in the morning with the assistance of Mr. Locke.

Thank you, sir.

 Secondly, there is no blind representative.

There is no person who is deaf on this Council.

There is no diversity.

We've also had native Americans quit in disgust.

And those are not filled.

But I'm also going to go into a lot of blindness stuff right now.

But which will apply to many other people with disabilities.

I'm sitting here with ancient technology.

With lack of access fully to even the garbage website of the SILC.

Other people don't even have the assistive technology let alone training to participate in the very type of programs that Ms. Kisiel was talking about.

It's not just a matter of acquisition.

It's a matter of getting the training on it when these new platforms are out.

And therefore, we can't even get on to these programs or get services.

Access is a silhouette, ladies and gentlemen.

That's been defined under both the ADA and section 508 of the rehabilitation act and yet every year things are denied, people.

When we have troubleshooting that we need to go on to get into things, we can't get it.

You know, Ms. Kisiel talked about virtual meetings at home.

Well hey what if you don't have a PC?

What if you can't afford it?

What if you don't have the training on the adaptive aids to it?

You go without.

You go without, ladies and gentlemen.

Now another thing.

We have all these providers out here.

You know, that are like with home health services and God bless the person of care attendants and that type of thing, but you have somebody talking to you right now who doesn't get paid one thin dime.

For his care taking responsibilities.

And his activities and especially an extremist.

I don't get paid one thin dime for my years of advocacy.

For my years of advocacy.

And I'm going to talk very personally about that.

And yet I hear a bunch of whiny hacks who talk about we get furloughed.

We can't do this.

Or we can't attend.

And most of those are people without disabilities who don't do a damn thing.

Nothing except for suck up money.

And I'll tell you what I'm very angry at that.

And I know that my brothers and sisters are going without.

They are put in harm's way right now.

I don't want to hear from Mr. Pierce what a great job centers for independent living are doing.

I don't.

Mine doesn't.

Doesn't do a damn thing.

Nothing.

It doesn't do anything.

For people who are blind.

But they will cut all kinds of deals, you know, with all kinds of agencies and other things like Peckham and bringing them here to Flint.

And getting people jobs in segregated settings.

And getting paid for it.

The segregation must end.

The discrimination must end.

The accommodations must begin.

Not today.

Yesterday.

You're talking to a person right now who got arrested and persecuted with a two‑year felony that I had to fight for more than a year with my own resources.

For informational protest on September 17th of 2015.

We talk about abuse.

We had people who were not let in.

People with disabilities.

 >> Aaron: Thank you Mr. Harcz, your time is up.

 >> Joe: Yeah, so is yours, sir, thank you.

 >> Aaron: Is there anyone else who would like to give public comment.

 >> Luke Zelley of Disability Network Flint.

 >> Please go ahead.

 >> Luke: I will start again thanking you for the important work today including the discussion on participation and attendance.

The world is run by people who show up.

The world is changed by people who show up and you all showed up today.

And I would echo Joe's comments about the urgency right now.

There are family, friends, people that we serve who have with addictions, who have committed, who have overdosed.

We have had people that family, friends that have been committed suicide during this epidemic.

We what past coworkers that have been murdered during this time, this epidemic.

And the important work of the centers right now continues to work and reach out and contact with folks who are isolated and making sure people get the supports they need.

That is what we are doing right now.

For the SILC members today, again, you showed up.

Thank you for your commitment to continuing to show up.

Continue supporting and leading independent living in Michigan.

Thank you.

 >> Aaron: Thank you, Luke.

Is there anyone else that wishes to give public comment?

Thank you.

The meeting is adjourned.

 >> Steve: Thank you everybody.

Have a great weekend.

 >> Thank you, you too, Steve.

 >> Steve: Thank you, good‑bye everyone.

 >> Good‑bye.

 >>

[ Meeting concludes]