# SILC Council Meeting

08/22/20 1000 Meeting

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It is ten after 10:00 we are going to go ahead and get our SILC business meeting started my name is Steve Locke the executive director of the Council and staff to the Council and I would like to welcome all of you to our meeting.

Particularly our new Council members.

We are very excited to have you aboard the Council and congratulations on your appointment by the Governor and the Council plays a pivotal role in the Independent movement here in Michigan.

You should be very excited about your role as you step into your new duties on the Council.

The first part of our meeting is going to be new member orientation.

A few weeks ago, each of you received an e‑mail with orientation materials in that for your review.

We are not going to read back through those things verbatim but have an opportunity for questions and answers you have on the materials.

We also have some reappointed Council members that have a little bit of time under their belt that will be a great resource to you as well.

We are also going to do election of our officers after the orientation.

Discuss the current standing committees of our Council.

And then establish meeting and committee meeting dates at the end of the meeting.

Because we currently don't have officers in place, I'm going to go ahead and chair the beginning of the meeting.

Until we get to the election of officers.

At that point we will open up nominations for the chair.

And once that vote is taken, then the remainder of the meeting will be turned over to the chair of the Council.

Before we do our roll call for to declare a quorum are there any accommodation requests that anybody might have in order to fully participate in today's meeting?

>> Joe: Yes, can you hear me.

>> Please state your name.

>> Joe: Joe Harcz advocate.

People need to announce who they are.

We need to follow appropriate order.

We need to have our website fully accessible which it is not.

>> Steve: Thank you, Joe.

Yes.

Being that we are in Zoom meeting, if you have questions or answers or a comment to share, please state your name before you begin to speak.

That's for those folks that are on the phone, so they know who is speaking.

Also, there are some features of Zoom meeting.

If some of you are not fully aware or have not used Zoom meeting before.

There is a control bar up here.

You can see at the top of my screen.

You can click on participants in order to populate pop up this window to show you everybody here.

That is participating.

Over here there is a raise hand feature you can click on to be recognized by whoever is running the meeting at the time.

There is also a chat feature in Zoom.

If you go over to more and click on chat.

It will bring up a chat box.

Because all of our meetings are public meetings, any questions that you might have you can type into this chat box.

Make sure that it says to everyone so everybody can see those.

Any communications between Council members during the meeting are part of the public record.

And we want to make sure that we capture those and that those are fully accessible to everybody that's participating in today's meeting.

So, I will now ask Tracy ‑‑ are there any other accommodation requests before we go any further?

>> Steve.

>> Yes.

>> Do you want to mention the raise hand?

Did you say that part?

>> Steve: Over here in the participant list if you click on raise hand it will show right next to your name you have your hand raised.

And you will be recognized to be able to make your contribution.

>> All right, so I will go ahead and ask Tracy Brown who is our director of operations, Tracy and I are the only to staff to the Council.

Just to kind of give you an idea of the staffing support that you have available to you.

I'll ask Tracy to go ahead and do a roll call now at this point.

>> Tracy: Frank Animikwam?

>> Present.

>> Tracy: Allen Beauchamp?

>> My last name is pronounced Bochamp, present.

>> Thank you.

Jamia Davis.

>> Present.

>> Tracy: Stephanie Deible?

>> Present it's Deible.

>> Tracy: Teddy Dorsette?

Yvonne Fleener?

>> Here.

>> Tracy: Will Harrison?

>> Here.

>> Tracy: Mindy Kulasa?

>> Present.

>> Tracy: Jane Lampman.

>> It's Jan and I'm here.

>> Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce?

>> Here.

>> Tracy: You have a quorum.

>> Steve: Thank you Tracy.

The next agenda item is recommendation for motion the approval of our agenda.

So, could I get a motion to approve the agenda?

>> I'll move.

>> Steve: Who was that?

>> Jan Lampman so moved.

>> Steve: Thank you Jan.

Is there a second?

>> This is Mark Pierce, I support it.

>> Steve: Thank you, Mark.

Any discussion?

Okay all those in favor please signify by saying aye.

>> Aye.

>> Steve: Any opposed?

And any abstentions?

Okay the motion passes unanimously.

Thank you very much.

The next item of business is our new member orientation.

I wanted to start out first by doing some introductions.

We have some new faces on our Council.

Some returning faces.

And this is an opportunity for all of us to get to know each other.

Because we have to do our meetings by Zoom meeting, if it's at all possible we would really like it if you were able to use your web Cam so we can put names to faces.

Like I said a little earlier, I know that some people were having trouble with their Internet connection and had to call in by phone.

So as much as possible if we could use our web cams until we are able to start meeting in public again.

Once we are able to start meeting in person again, we would like to move our Council meetings around the state to the different centers for Independent.

So that you can get to know your centers.

Get to know the staff there.

And see the good work that those folks there are doing.

Being centers for Independent are primary partner in the Independent network here in Michigan, we really want to continue to strengthen our collaborative relationship with our CILs.

Over here in the chat box we have Janet Timbs says I'm new to the Council representing the office of special education thank you so much and welcome Janet.

And just some welcoming for Janet.

I will go ahead and start introductions.

Like I said earlier, my name is Steve Loche.

I'm the executive director of the Council and staff to the Council.

I started in my role in February of 2019.

So, I've been here just over a year and a half.

Prior to that I worked for the Disability Network of Mid‑Michigan.

Which is the center for Independent here in Midland.

And I worked there for about 13 years as the associate director.

And for the last three years as the executive director.

Prior to that I worked for the city of Saginaw for the housing commission as the associate director.

And as the executive director for my last few years I was there.

Working in public housing.

So that's a little bit about me.

We will go ahead and start down the line and go with Jamia.

>> Jamia: Good morning everyone.

My name is Jamia Davis.

I'm currently a law graduate and my bar exam results are pending.

I'm excited to be here.

And just be a valuable asset to the Council.

I would like to advocate on behalf of those in the community and just be a voice for those who cannot be heard.

And I'm so excited to work with you guys.

>> Steve: Thank you Jamia.

Next, we will go with Mark Pierce.

>> Mark: Yes.

I'm Mark Pierce.

I'm executive director for Disability Network capitol area.

I'm really excited to be here today.

I've been with CIL for quite a while I started over in the Muskegon area.

Working there as a program manager and moving from there to be the executive director of the Lansing CIL.

For over six years now.

I've been on the Council for wow a couple different times.

This last time, almost three years now.

So just excited about the people I see today.

And, boy, I'm really excited about moving forward.

And monitoring our SPIL and participating in the meetings to represent the CILs.

So, of the state.

>> Steve: Great, thank you very much, Mark.

Next, we will go with Allen Beauchamp.

I think you were on mute.

>> Allen: Good morning Allen Beauchamp. I live in the upper peninsula, Negaunee, Michigan, which is about ten miles west of Marquette.

I'm new to the board.

I'm a wheelchair user and in an accident ten years ago, received a spinal cord injury.

I'm involved with sale Disability Network of the upper peninsula.

Who Sara Parakowski is executive director.

I also sit on the board there I'm the treasurer.

I'm just real excited I was chosen to be appointed to the SILC.

>> Steve: Fantastic.

Thank you so much Allen and welcome aboard.

>> Thank you.

>> Steve: Next we will go with Stephanie.

>> Hi everyone.

My name is Stephanie Deible and I am excited to be here.

I'm excited to be a new part of the Council.

Currently I am the executive director for Ms. Wheelchair America.

I've been doing that for about a little over five years now.

Previous to that I also was a graduate assistant in the office that served people with disabilities at Grand Valley State University.

And I'm just excited to be here and get to know all of you better.

>> Steve: Great, thank you Stephanie and welcome aboard.

Next, we will go with Jan Lampman.

>> Good morning I'm Jan Lampman I live in Midland.

And I actually I have a long history so 35 years ago I was a direct support professional working with people who were coming out of institutions.

And then I moved into a role as an advocate at a chapter of the arc of Midland where I work for, I don't know 27 years.

And spent I think half of that time as the executive director.

I since retired and sort of retired.

I now work with a couple of different projects in the state.

One with older caregivers of people with intellectual disabilities and the other project is around self-determination.

And so, I'm doing some work with around the policy for self-determination and promoting self-determination these days.

I have a son; my youngest son was adopted out of the foster care system as a teenager.

And was ‑‑ he had autism.

At a very old age.

And so, he actually receives services from the Disability Network of Mid‑Michigan.

As well.

So that is probably my main partner.

>> Steve: Fantastic.

Thank you very much Jan and welcome aboard.

Next, we will go with Janet Timbs.

>> Hi everyone, I'm Janet Timbs I work in the office of special education with Michigan department of Ed.

I'm thrilled to be on the Council.

I've also been appointed to the DD Council and the Michigan Council for rehabilitation services.

So, I'll have a cross Council connection here.

Prior I've been with the state department for four years.

Prior to that I worked at Saginaw ISD for 22 years.

I was the director of Special Ed.

And a whole variety of roles there.

I also worked for the bay area for a while and worked with Midland Disability Network quite a bit.

My current role I am the lead for secondary transition with special education.

And I colead with VR services and BSBP.

We colead a team of multi-disciplinary or an inner agency team called the Michigan inner agency transition team.

With our goal being that we align services and develop a state model that agencies can support on secondary transition.

>> Steve: Great, thank you so much Janet and welcome aboard.

Next, we will go with Yvonne Fleener.

>> Yvonne: Good morning.

Wow, what a fantastic group of people.

I joined SILC about a year ago.

And I'm excited to get to know all of you.

Currently I'm the executive director of a nonprofit organization that serves seniors with dementia and adults with disabilities doing in‑home care.

We also have a community center.

Jan kind of like you I have a long history.

We probably know a lot of mutual people from way back when.

But I was the director of advocacy for Michigan protection and advocacy for ten years.

That learned a lot and was really inspired by those people I got to work with.

I also have a son with disabilities.

And my sister lives with us and has some pretty significant disabilities.

We provide her care and try to make her life as wonderful as possible.

So, she is really been kind of my backbone and inspiration over all these years.

What got me interested in the disability movement.

And that's it.

>> Steve: Great, thank you so much Yvonne. Yvonne was reappointed to the Council when the new executive order was released along with Mark Pierce.

Next, we have Dr. Frank Animikwam.

>> Frank: Hello, good morning everyone.

I want to say I'm honored to join all of you.

I was appointed by a friend of mine Wynona she works as part of the law group with the Governor's office.

And just wanted to share a little bit of history about where I've come to be.

Currently live in Okemos, Michigan and in my residency training in family medicine at Sparrow hospital.

I'm currently my third year.

And have about ten more months to go until I can go where I would like.

I'm also a citizen of the little Traverse Bay Indians and joining the clinic which I funded in Petoskey.

I do have a personal story I would like to share too.

I was born with clubbed feet, both of my feet.

I had failed bracing and casting.

And ended up having surgery at one‑year‑old.

That was one of the big inspirations for me to go in the medical field was you know a physician and a team of healthcare providers.

Helped you know reshape my life and take me down a different path and they are able to correct my clubbed feet and you know I have little limitations.

Just pain here and there at times.

But I'm really grateful for that and wanted to share a little bit of that with the team.

I have a little bit of sense of understanding.

So really again I appreciate it.

I'm honored to be here.

>> Steve: Thank you so much, frank.

Welcome aboard.

Next, we will go with Will Harrison.

>> Will: Hi everyone.

Hi name is Will Harrison.

I am an adult with a disability.

A rare condition syndrome and affects my facial expressions and also how I pronounce certain words.

I have three kids with disabilities.

So, we almost lost my daughter a couple years ago after surgery.

So that made a career change for me.

So, I went back to grad school and I'm now a social worker working with adults with disabilities.

Up in Oakland county.

I also serve on the board for people with the syndrome itself so a nonprofit that focuses on advocacy for those with this.

This is actually my second time on the Council.

I joined last April.

And just got reappointed.

So, I'm real excited to meet all of you guys.

Real excited to collaborate with you.

And welcome.

>> Steve: Thank you so much, Will.

And Will is also another reappointee to the Council.

Next, we are going to go with Teddy and Teddy has deafness and we have American Sign Language interpreter on the call with us.

Jenny Welling.

Teddy was going to join by phone today as he was traveling.

And I'm not sure if he is here or not.

Jenny, is Teddy here?

>> I only know as much as you do, Steve.

>> Steve: He may just be listening in, but Teddy is a new appointee to the Council from the Detroit area.

He has a degree in film.

I had the opportunity to speak with him.

He comes from a family of people with deafness, six generations of deafness.

And he is an advocate, works for an advocacy organization down in Detroit.

And Teddy if you are out there, I want to welcome you to the Council.

And we are excited to have you.

Next, I'm not sure Mindy do we have Mindy Kulasa on the line?

>> Yes.

Good morning.

My fellow Michiganders this is Mindy Kulasa.

I'm one of those people whose Wi‑Fi decided to go down this morning.

I am from the Kalamazoo, Michigan area.

And I've been involved in the disability rights movement since 2014.

I decided to step it up a notch.

I wanted to contribute more.

And in 2017 I joined the board of Disability Network of southwest Michigan.

So, I was the treasurer of that CIL for two years.

And now I have the honor of serving as vice chairman of that CIL.

I am a substitute teacher.

And I specialize in working with students with disabilities.

So, I'm very excited to have been reappointed.

We have lots of wonderful work to do.

And I'm looking forward to working with all of you.

Thank you.

>> Steve: Thank you so much Mindy.

And Mindy is another one of our recent reappointees to the Council.

The last voting member is Theresa Metzmaker I'm not sure if Theresa was able to join us after we did the roll call.

Theresa are you with us?

Okay Theresa is another reappointee to the Council.

She is the new executive director for the Michigan disability rights coalition and hopefully you will have a chance to meet Theresa at a future meeting.

So, Janet Timbs was the first ex officio member and it's made up of five ex officio and they are nonvoting members of the Council.

So, we've heard from Janet.

Do we have Bill Addison on the phone?

Okay, Bill Addison is the designee to represent Michigan Rehabilitation Services who acts as the designated state entity for the Council and the state plan and essentially means they act as the fiduciary for the money that comes through the plan.

He is representing Tina Fullerton for Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

And then do we have Lisa Kisiel on the line?

Lisa is also ex officio designee representing the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons and she is the acting designee for bill Robinson who is the director of BSBP.

And then do we have Vendella Collins on the line?

Vendella is another ex officio member representing DHHS and has a long, great career as the executive director of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council.

And then do we have Annie Uransky on the line?

Annie is our fifth ex officio who is representing the Department of Education special education services.

So, thank you all for those introductions.

I really appreciate it.

And I am excited about moving forward with each and every one of you.

Let me just check the chat box here.

I think we are all up to date.

>> Steve can this is Janet.

You said Annie was representing the department Michigan Department of Education office of special education.

That's ‑‑ I'm representing Michigan Department of Education office.

>> Steve: I have those backwards Janet.

My apologies.

>> That's okay.

>> Steve: My apologies for that.

Okay, new orientation.

>> So, who is sorry who is Annie then?

I should be using the raise my hand.

I apologize who is Annie?

>> Does she work with you Janet?

>> No.

>> Steve: She is actually I apologize Annie represents the department of civil rights.

>> Okay.

>> Steve: Yes, apologies for my messing that one up.

Okay a few weeks ago everyone was sent an orientation packet with quite a few attachments to read through.

And some videos from ILRU to watch.

I didn't want to take up all of your time going back over all of that verbatim.

I trust that you were able to make your way through that material.

And once I get through some of these sections for the orientation, we are going to have an opportunity to answer any questions that you might have.

The first thing I wanted to start with is letting you know that all communications are a part of the public record.

As a member of this Council so all of our meetings and committee meetings are open to the public.

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

In addition, e‑mails are a part of the public record.

So, each of you have been set up with a SILC e‑mail.

And you should be using that SILC e‑mail for all official Council business.

We don't want to have you use your personal e‑mail.

Because e‑mails are subject to the Freedom of Information Act which our new executive order made clear.

That the Council and our nonprofit corporation falls under the Freedom of Information Act.

You will all be provided with a training at our September meeting.

Which we will establish the date for towards the end of this meeting.

Currently it's scheduled for Saturday, September 26th but we will talk about that under item number four.

We are bringing in the Attorney General's office and they are going to provide a Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act training for the full Council.

During our public meeting.

And during that time, you will have an opportunity to ask questions and get answers to your most burning questions around FOIA and the Open Meetings Act.

At each business meeting we offer a training opportunity the to all the Council members and it typically occurs during our lunch hour.

So, we have a working lunch and we will bring in a trainer.

On a topic that will help you become effective Council members.

We are counting on each of you to represent the diversity of experiences within disability across the State of Michigan.

We want you to participate.

We hope that you can join every single meeting on this Council.

We will be talking about frequency of meetings under number four.

But what we will really hope for is those strong independent voices on this Council to help represent the diversity of views across the State of Michigan.

In terms of the delivery of Independent services here within our great state.

So again, know that your official SILC e‑mails and communications are subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

All of our meetings are captured by CART services which is essentially a Court reporter who is live typing our meeting.

And the transcripts of every meeting are posted to our website within ten days after the meeting occurs.

That includes Council meetings.

So that the public can examine the few record of the contents of our meeting in case they were not able to participate that day.

We also as an accommodation as you see on the agenda down here a link you can click for stream text.

So that you can watch the live typing of the meeting in real time as it occurs.

If there are any other accommodations that has Council members that you need to be able to participate in our meetings, please let myself or Tracy know.

And we will make those accommodations to the greatest extent of the laws as we can.

So, let's start with our mission.

SILC's mission is stated in our most recent state plan for Independent which was submitted to ACL on June 30th.

States that Michiganders with disabilities live independently and participate fully if their community.

So, our Council is structured to achieve that mission.

SILCs and centers for Independent were created under title VII of the Rehabilitation Act as amended and that essentially created the Independent program.

Centers for Independent were created to be grass roots nonprofit advocacy organizations.

That were operated by and designed by people with disabilities.

Under Federal regulations centers for Independent are federally required to be what is called consumer controlled.

That means that at least 51% of their staff and 51% of their board of directors must be people with significant disabilities.

In the same way our Council is structured the same way.

We are required to be a majority controlled by people with disabilities who are neither state nor CIL employees.

So, the way our Council is currently structured we have 16 members.

Five of those are non-voting ex officio members and 11 are voting members.

So, across both memberships we have to maintain a majority of people with disabilities who are neither state, neither state or CIL employees.

We have to maintain 51% majority and in our general membership that is inclusive of our ex officios we must also maintain that 51% majority.

So that is set by Federal regulation.

The purpose of Title VII of the Rehab Act is to promote a philosophy of Independent including a philosophy of consumer control.

Peer support.

Self-help.

Self-determination.

Equal access.

And individual and systems advocacy.

In order to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence and productivity of individuals with disabilities.

And to promote the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

Most of you should be familiar with the Independent philosophy.

Basically, it is different than the medical model where it puts the person with a disability at the center of everything.

It puts them at the center of making decisions about their own life.

About what is best for them.

We see people with disabilities as being the best experts on their own lives.

The medical model tends to see people with disabilities as things that need to be fixed.

We have the opposite view of that.

We see disability as a natural part of the human experience.

Someone can be born with a disability.

You can acquire a disability.

You can age into a disability.

And we see that as a natural part of the human experience.

What we are here to do is to identify barriers that prevent people from living a life of their own choosing.

So truly CILs and SILCs operate hand in hand.

In barrier identification that is outside of the person and we seek to remove those barriers or to reduce those.

That is really the cornerstone of Independent and the Independent movement.

The purpose of SILC we really have three core purposes as Council members.

We are cast with jointly developing with the centers for Independent, with input from the public a three-year state plan for Independent.

Also known as the SPIL which is the acronym for SPIL.

We are also tasked with monitoring the implementation of the plan.

And with evaluating the effectiveness of the plan.

So, when everything that you have read through, through the guidebook and all the other information that was sent out to you.

Those are really the three basic components of why you are here is really the creation of that state plan jointly with the centers for Independent living.

The monitoring of the implementation of it.

And then the evaluation of it.

Every state that receives Federal dollars for Independent is required to have a statewide Independent Council.

Our Council was created and as most Councils are across the country through an executive order.

By the Governor of that state.

I believe that our executive order has gone through three different iterations.

And our most recent executive order became effective on July 15th.

Each of you should have received a copy of that.

If you haven’t, I can provide you with that.

But that lays out the creation of the Council itself.

And it's through the state plan for Independent that those Federal Independent dollars come into the State of Michigan.

So, the what is called the Michigan Independent network is made up of three entities.

The state Independent Council of which you are a member.

The center for Independent Living network here in Michigan.

Of which there are 14.

And what is called the designated state entity.

Every state has to have a DSE designated state entity who acts as the independent fiduciary for those Federal dollars that come into the state through the state plan.

In Michigan our DSE is Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

They have acted as the fiduciary for our state plan for as long as I can remember.

Several years ago, I also was a Council member just like you when I was an employee at the CIL here in Midland.

And I did serve for a six-year period.

So, the three main partners in the IL network here in Michigan are the SILC, the CIL Network and Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

And of course, our disability community across the state.

It is the disability community's voice that drives what we do.

It's what drives centers for Independent and the services that they provide.

And it also drives what ends up becoming the goals and objectives in our three‑year state plan.

We just went through a state plan writing process that we started back in December of 2019.

And we just wrapped that up in June.

The new state plan was due to the administration on community living.

Which is our Federal oversight entity at the Federal level.

And that plan was due to them on June 30th.

All state plans across the country were due to ACL on June 30th.

They are in the process of reviewing those now.

With the implementation date being October 1st of 2020.

And that new plan will carry us through the next three years.

That plan and our current state plan, which will expire on September 30th of this year, was included in your orientation packet.

And are there any questions on what I've covered so far?

>> Steve, I have a question.

>> Steve: Yes.

>> How is the SPIL dilated?

How does that work and how is that done?

>> Steve: We have a SPIL committee that we create monitoring reports for the SPIL and then we sit down, and we look at the progress made on those.

We evaluate it based on what those goals and objectives were.

And where we are in terms of actually achieving those goals through the activities that we've identified.

So, there is really not necessarily a ‑‑ that is the vehicle that we use for monitoring and evaluating it.

Monitoring reports are created by me.

And then the other entities that we've identified in the state plan to receiving data so that we can evaluate and monitor the plan.

Those monitoring reports will be brought back to the Council for discussion during our public meetings.

And then gather input from the Council members as well during that time.

Thank you for that question.

Okay, there is a question in the group chat do ex offico members receive a SILC e‑mail?

Because they are part of the state system, we have not set up SILC e‑mails for state employees who serve as ex officios because state employees are subject to FOIA also.

We could certainly set those up if it was the desire of an ex officio to do so but typically we use your state e‑mail for official Council business.

Okay, I had on my list to cover the Michigan IL Network, which we have covered.

We covered consumer control.

Again, everything we do is based around consumer control.

And amplifying the consumer voice within Michigan.

As I said, our current structure, the Council was created by executive order.

The Council itself of which you're members is housed in the Governor's office.

It's federally required that Councils not be placed within a state department in order for Councils to maintain their autonomy from the state.

The Council also has a nonprofit corporation called the Michigan Statewide Independent Corporation.

And this is a nonprofit entity that was created back in the 90s to act as, one, the operational arm for the Council.

And, two, as the employer of record for staff to the Council.

As I said before, there are only two staff to the Council, myself and Tracy.

And we serve at your pleasure, and we are here to support you and support the operations of the Council including support during our business meetings.

So, for Council membership, again, this was in the guidebook that was sent to you, and I can't stress enough how valuable the guidebook is that was sent to you.

This is a publication of ILRU which stands for Independent research utilization.

ILRU is the Federal contract holder to provide technical assistance to all SILCs and all CILs across the country.

They are an incredible resource.

If you go to their website, which is ILRU.ORG, you're going to find a repository of trainings.

Both video trainings, on demand trainings, written material, resources.

It is a massive clearing house of information on all things related to Independent.

Right down to how to be a more effective Council member, how centers for Independent operate.

They also have live webinars.

There is a monthly call in called SILC Speak that is geared towards Council members and SILC staff.

It is a live, one‑hour call every month.

Where you can speak with other SILC members across the country.

And other SILC staff across the country to discuss different topics and areas of interest regarding the Council, Council operations, current legislation that is out there.

They always have a topic that they select.

And I will be forwarding those invites to you if you have the opportunity to join those.

I find them to be extremely valuable.

Paula McElwee is the technical assistance provider for ILRU.

She is an incredible resource and someone I would encourage you to reach out to if you have any questions about your role on the Council.

Or use myself as a resource.

Or some of our reappointed Council members that do have some time under their belt on this call.

Just backing up here I know there are other members of the public on the phone right now including some of our CIL directors and I want to thank all of you for joining us.

When we get to the public comment section that is where you will have an opportunity to introduce yourselves.

I did not want to leave you out of that.

That was not my intention.

But getting back to what we are federally required to have in terms of our Council membership composition.

This is what our Council must include.

Among its voting members at least one director of a center for Independent living.

Chosen by the directors of centers for Independent living within the state.

Our Council member is Mark Pierce.

Who is here representing the centers for Independent living and there he is waving at everybody.

Also, among its voting members for a state in which one or more centers for independent living are run by or in conjunction with the governing bodies of American Indian tribes located on Federal or state reservations at least one representative of the directors of such centers.

And then as ex officio nonvoting members a representative of the state designated entity and representatives from state agencies that provide services for individuals with disabilities.

So, you just met those folks.

We have Janet on the line.

And then the other ex officios that we reviewed.

Our Council membership may also have other members as well.

Other representatives from centers for Independent.

Individuals with disabilities representing the disability community.

Parents and guardians of individuals with disabilities.

Advocates of and for individuals with disabilities.

Representatives from private businesses.

And then other appropriate individuals.

The Council shall be composed of members who provide statewide representation, who provide represent a broad range of individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds.

Who are knowledgeable about centers for independent living and independent services.

And a majority of whom are persons who are individuals with disabilities and are not employed by any state agency or center for independent living.

Again, that is getting us back to that idea of consumer control.

The law tells us that SILC must be constructed in terms of qualifications.

SILC must be composed of members who provide that statewide representation.

This requirement grew out of a tendency to appoint members from the capitol area.

Similarly, SILCs must represent a broad range of individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds.

We should note that SILC does not appoint its own members.

All of our members are appointed by the Governor.

All SILC members must be appointed by the Governor including ex officios and nonvoting members.

That was one change that we had in our new executive order.

It was previously not called out to have ex officios appointed by the Governor, but we got that Federal requirement put into our new executive order.

Also, knowledge about centers for Independent and independent living services is another requirement.

It seems natural that consumers of services or board members from CILs would be excellent candidates from CILs and appointed individuals who have never been in a center or heard of independent living.

In some instances, these individuals end up being really good members because of the time taken to orient or mentor them.

We will be providing you with access to training to ensure that we are able to meet this requirement and otherwise be prepared for the job that you have so willingly taken on.

Finally, the majority of the members must be people with disabilities.

Again, as I said who are not employed by a state agency or center for independent living.

If their paycheck has a CIL name or the state on it, they would not count in this majority.

This is a clear indication of consumer control for the SILC.

Someone who cannot be included some people who can't be included in the majority are CIL employees.

Including the CIL director selected by the CIL directors in the state.

Even though they are a voting member.

State agency representatives and state employees who are not representing their agency but are voting members.

CIL board members and volunteers with disabilities are included in the majority count.

As are all other people with significant disabilities.

Please note that this majority requirement applies both to the voting membership and to the total membership of the SILC.

So now I want to switch over to the guidebook that was e‑mailed to you.

Which I found this guidebook to be incredibly valuable.

I hope that ‑‑ it's a lot to digest and I hope that each of you had an opportunity to review this.

Again, this is meant to be your guide and your Bible.

While you are here on the Council.

This was put together by staff of ILRU.

And a handful of other SILC directors that have been in the saddle for many, many years and they have gone through a lot of the Federal regulation changes over the years.

And this is supposed to be an easy to use guidebook for all of you.

While you are on the Council.

Does anyone have any burning questions after you had a chance to review this guy book?

‑‑ guidebook?

I would strongly encourage you to have that handy with you when you are at business meetings.

And also, committee meetings because it's a great reference source as you move into your role as a council member.

Any questions on the guidebook?

If not.

We are going to move into assurances and indicators of minimum compliance.

Every SILC in the country has to meet Federal assurances and indicators we are complying with the Federal regulations and carrying out the purpose with why we were created.

So, I wanted to review those assurances and indicators with you because they are guideposts you as Council members can use to measure whether or not we are staying within that minimum compliance.

So, the first of the assurances are the SILC regularly and not less than annually provides the appointing authority recommendations for eligible appointments.

We do this through our working relationship with the office of appointments.

I have regular contact with their office in terms of applications and the applicants that come in.

But at the end of the day the appointments office makes those recommendations to the Governor on who to appoint to this Council.

We act in an advisory capacity only to the appointment’s office.

The SILC is composed of the requisite members set forth in the act and we just reviewed who those members need to be in terms of balance of consumer control on the Council.

The SILC terms of appointment adhere to the act.

Under the Federal law, Council members can serve up to two consecutive three‑year terms.

So, each term under Federal law can be up to three years.

And you can serve a maximum of six consecutive years.

Tracy and I and the appointments office track appointment dates to make sure that we stay within compliance of that Federal requirement.

The SILC is not established as an entity within the state agency in accordance with the regulations.

In order to comply with that our executive order created and houses our Council within the office of the Governor in order to comply with that.

The SILC will make the determination of whether it wants to utilize the designated state entity staff to carry out the functions of the SILC.

The SILC must inform the DSE if it chooses to utilize those staff and the SILC assumes management responsibility of such staff.

Our Council does not utilize the staff or state employees to carry out the functions of the Council.

Instead we have created again that nonprofit arm that employs myself and Tracy to serve as staff to the Council.

The SILC shall ensure all program activities are accessible to people with disabilities.

That is why we read our accommodations statements at the beginning of each meeting to see if there are any accommodations that people need in order to participate in all of our meetings and our activities.

We now have an American Sign Language interpreter.

As one of our Council members has deafness.

And if there are any other accommodations that you or the public need, that is the time that we can look into making those accommodations for full participation in the Council's business meetings and activities.

The state plan shall provide assurances that the designated state entity any other agency office or entity of the state will not interfere with the operations of SILC except as provided by law and regulation.

So, the DSE makes sure basically that the Council is extending its resources in accordance with the contract and budget that we negotiate on an annual basis with Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

So, in terms of the operations, they have oversight on SILC only to the extent that it's articulated in our annual contracts that we get from them.

We will go into more of that in a little bit.

The SILC actively consults with underserviced and underserved populations in urban and rural areas that include indigenous populations as appropriate for state plan development as described in the regulations.

One requirement in our state plan that the Council has to engage in is a formal outreach plan.

Within the new state plan, we have outlined what our outreach strategy is going to be and once you have a chance to read the new SPIL you can see what our outreach plan is going to be over the next three years.

Some of our indicators that we need to comply with that we have written policies and procedures that include a method for recruiting members reviewing applications and regularly providing recommendations for appointments to the Governor's office.

A method for identifying and resolving actual or potential disputes and conflicts of interest that are in compliance with the state law.

Process to hold public meetings and meet regularly as described in the regulations.

Process and timelines for advanced notice of the public of our meetings and compliance with the law.

We comply with that through our website.

We post notice of our meetings ten days in advance of the meeting.

And as Joe had said our website is in bad need of being overhauled.

We will be getting that overhauled I'm hoping before the end of the fiscal year issuing an RFP to make it much more accessible for people with disabilities, there are some broken links in there.

We want to simplify it and also set up a subscription service where anything new that's added to the website people can sign up with their e‑mail and they will get an e‑mail notification.

That there is something new on our website.

Process and timeline for advance notice of the public for SILC executive session meetings that are closed to the public that follow applicable Federal law.

Executive session meetings should be rare and only take place to discuss confidential SILC issues such as but not limited to staffing, legal issues, in the open meetings act it articulates what qualifies being able to go what is called in executive session.

Some people call it a closed session.

Agendas for executive session meetings must be made available to the public personally identifiable information regarding SILC staff shall not be included.

Process and timelines for the public to request reasonable accommodation to participate during our public meetings.

A method for developing seeking and incorporating public input into monitoring reviewing and evaluating the implementation of the state plan.

Back in December we held five public town halls and input sessions to gather public input for the development of the SPIL that we just submitted to ACL.

And a process to verify centers for Independent are eligible to sign the state plan.

Federal requirements require that the Council vote on the final state draft state plan to authorize the chair of the Council to sign that plan on behalf of the Council.

It also requires at least 51% of our directors of our centers for Independent also sign the state plan in order to be able to submit it to ACL.

Then it requires the signature of the director of the DSE which in our case is Tina Fullerton at Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

Attesting to the assurances that they will carry out the duties of the DSE that are articulated in the boilerplate language of the state plan.

The SILC maintains regular communication with the appointing authority to ensure efficiency and timeliness of the appointments process.

The SILC maintains individual training plans for members that adhere to SILC training and technical assistance centers, SILC training curriculum.

The SILC receives public input in the development of the state plan.

Independent in accordance with Federal regulations.

Ensuring that we have advocate documentation of the state plan development process including but not limited to a written process for setting forth how we will gather that input.

That the state plan development meetings and review are open to the public and provide advance notice.

That meetings seeking public input provides advanced notice of the meetings in accordance with Federal law.

That our meeting locations where we are taking public input are accessible to everybody including proximity to public transportation, physical accessibility, and effective communication accommodations.

And materials are available electronically that are 508 complaint.

SILC does have an office in Lansing.

We are collocated with the center for Independent in Lansing.

Which is Disability Network capitol area.

And Mark Pierce who is our CIL liaison to the Council is the director of that center for Independent.

We currently rent two offices on their second floor at that center for Independent.

Continuing on our assurances that SILC monitors reviews and evaluates state plan in accordance with the Federal regulations.

And we have timely identification revisions needed due to any material changes in state law.

State organization, policy or agency operations.

That affect the administration of the plan approved by the administration for community living.

We also need to have a resource plan that includes sufficient funds received from Title VII Part B funds.

Our Council is funded by three different pots of money.

Our what's called innovation and expansion funds, state funds and thenPart B funds that come from the Federal Government.

The funds that we receive need to support staff personnel.

Our Council's operating expenses.

Council compensation and expenses, meeting expenses including space.

Resources to attend or secure training and conferences for staff and Council members.

And any other costs as appropriate.

Once we are able to start meeting in person again, our Council will reimburse you for out‑of‑pocket costs to participate in Council meetings.

That includes mileage.

That includes overnight accommodations.

If you need to stay overnight in a hotel.

Either the night before the Council meeting due to the distance that you need to travel.

We will also reimburse personal care attendant services necessary for Council members to participate in Council activities.

Are there any questions on these SILC standards and assurances?

I know it's a lot of information.

And, again, it's in writing for you to review after this meeting and in between meetings.

But are there any initial questions about these standards and assurances and indicators?

And it looks like Teddy has joined us.

Welcome Teddy.

Next, we are going to move on to Council member expectations.

And responsibilities.

In an effort to pursue excellence as a member of an engaged and impactful statewide Independent Council members are asked to commit to the following.

To complete two ILRU webinars or similar Independent SILC trainings for fiscal year.

And you can do that on your own.

Again, by going to ILRU.ORG.

And perusing their library of on demand trainings.

Attend at least one SILC sponsored or SPIL related activity for fiscal year.

We will review that a little bit later in the year when we have our September meeting.

And go through the types of activities that are going to be coming up, over the next three years.

One event that is held annually by the center for Independent network is legislative advocacy day at the capitol.

And that's always a very impactful day.

And Council members are always invited to participate in that event.

Attend majority of the signed SILC standing committee meetings for fiscal year.

And be excused for no more than one business meeting per fiscal year.

We currently have four to five Council meetings per year.

We recently changed our Council meetings to Saturdays because folks work.

Many of our Council members work full time.

And we did not want to create an undue burden on our Council members by holding the meeting during a workweek.

During the workday.

We found that this was a barrier for them and so that is why we have changed to Saturdays out of respect for those folks that work during the workweek.

The SILC expectations and responsibilities will be over seen by the SILC chairperson executive and not maintaining targets will result in review by the chairperson executive committee.

Decisions of review will be the purview of the person and executive committee.

Additional excused absences from meetings and activities will be considered according to a Council member situation.

We really strongly encourage Council members to participate in any way that you can.

If you're not able to be in front of a computer, we do offer a call in only option where if you are on the road and you have the ability to use a blue tooth technology so that you are not distracted driving.

We do have that call in number where you can at least call in to the meetings and participate that way.

I want to review just a few of our SILC policies.

We have a conflict of interest policy that we would like each of you to review.

And then also there is an area for you to sign and then please return that to Tracy Brown once you have completed that.

But the conflict of interest policy basically states that we have ‑‑ as a member we have a duty to support subordinate our personal interests to the well fair of the Council and those we represent.

Conflicting interests can be financial, personal relationships, status or power.

Council members and employees are prohibited from receiving gifts, fees, loans or favors from suppliers’ contractors’ consultants or financial agencies.

Which obligate or induce the member or employee to compromise responsibilities to negotiate inspect or audit, purchase or award contracts with the best interest of the Council in mind.

Council members and employees are prohibited from knowingly disclosing information about SILC who do not need to know, or interest may be averse to the Council either inside or outside.

Nor may Council members or employees in any way use such information for the dement of SILC.

And they may not have a financial interest in any property which SILC purchases or a direct or indirect interest in the supply or consultant or other entity which SILC does business.

Since it's not possible to write a policy that covers all potential conflicts, Council members and employees are expected to be alert for and voice situations which might be construed as conflicts of interest.

Any possible conflict of interest on the part of any Council member should be disclosed to other Council members and made a matter of public record either through an annual procedure or when the interest becomes a matter of Council action.

Any Council member having a conflict of interest possible conflict of interest or a perceived conflict of interest shall not vote or use his or her personal influence on the matter.

And he or she shall not be counted as part of a quorum for that portion of the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting will reflect that a disclosure was made.

The abstention from voting and the quorum situation.

These restrictions should not be construed as preventing the Council member from briefly stating his or her position in the matter.

Nor from answering pertinent questions of other Council members since his or her knowledge could be of assistance to the deliberations.

This policy will be reviewed by the Council regularly and given to each new member for signature during orientation.

So, are there any questions on our conflict of interest policy?

Again, please fill that conflict of interest policy out and then return that to Tracy as soon as possible if you would be so kind.

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>> Tracy: Steve, we should fill those out annually correct, so if you have one on file, we should fill out a new one.

This is not Tracy.

>> Steve: That was Yvonne speaking.

>> Yes.

>> Steve: Teddy was able to join us so, yes, all Council members should fill those out on an annual basis.

Thank you for pointing that out Yvonne.

I appreciate that.

Okay, the next form is our Council member profile.

This information is confidential and will be kept in our office and only seen by myself or Tracy.

This allows us to provide accommodations if needed.

It also allows us to also track our compliance with Federal regulations in terms of our Council composition.

So, if you could make sure you fill out your Council member profile and get that sent into Tracy as soon as possible.

Our freedom of information policy.

To ensure freedom of information requests presented to the SILC office are processed in a timely fashion under FOIA.

SILC will designate a freedom of information officer to assist the public with requests for official records of the SILC.

In our case that is Tracy Brown.

She has been designated as the FOIA officer.

It is her responsibility to follow FOIA regarding timeframes of a request, reasons for denial and necessary costs.

Requests for records pursuant to FOIA must designate the records with reasonable specificity meaning we need to know what you're asking for.

If a FOIA request comes in that says I want all e‑mails between party A and party B, that is not specific enough.

We need to know specifically what topic it is that the public is asking for.

Charges when minimum search time is required there will be no charge for production of a requested document.

When extensive search time is required to provide the documents, charges are based on the charges of the lowest paid employee.

SILC may require partial payment in advance.

If such advanced payment is required, the time allowed for response stops running until the requester responds.

We are going to be getting assistance in revising this policy from the Attorney General's office.

Just know any revisions to policies or our Bylaws will always come to the full Council for discussion and then a vote.

So, are there any questions on our Freedom of Information Act policy?

I see Yvonne you have your hand up.

>> Or did you forget to put it down.

>> Yvonne: I forgot to put it down and now I can't find it so ignore it until I find it again.

>> Steve: Click on participants there you go, awesome.

The next item I want to go over is our Bylaws.

Let me see here.

Each of you were provided with a copy of our Council Bylaws.

Here they are.

Currently our Bylaws are written for our nonprofit corporation.

There have been some ongoing informational inquiries over the past several years on whether or not our nonprofit corporation and the Council are one or two separate entities.

Our Bylaws currently are written for our nonprofit corporation.

We have done some research with other Councils across the country.

And many of them have Bylaws that are written for their corporation ‑‑ their nonprofit and also their Council and they act as the same document.

We are going to be forming an ad hoc Bylaws workgroup to review our Bylaws because there are several key areas that are currently not addressed in our Bylaws.

That we need to add in there.

We will also be getting some guidance from the Attorney General's Office, but the idea is to have Bylaws that act as the Bylaws of both the Council and the nonprofit corporation in one document.

So, if you have any expertise in Bylaws, please consider becoming a member of that ad hoc committee when we get to the point of forming that committee.

We are also going to be forming an ad hoc committee for review our current policies and our procedures.

Particularly our finance policies to be in align with the new accounting system that we have started using.

And also, to make sure that we are in compliance with the Federal administrative requirements for contracts that is known as 2CFR200 and Bill Addison who is an ex officio Council member who works for MRS has expertise in the administrative requirements.

And he has offered to be part of that ad hoc board group.

So, if you have any interest in serving on that ad hoc committee, you will have an opportunity to join that committee as well.

But just know that we are going to have an ad hoc committee to review these current Bylaws.

The last time they were revised was back in 2016.

Any recommended changes will be brought back to the full Council for consideration, deliberations and ultimately a vote.

The next item would be our e‑mail policy but I pretty much have gone over that.

The thrust of it is that you use your SILC e‑mail account for all official communications while you're a Council member.

All of those e‑mails are archived and kept so that we may comply with the Freedom of Information Act.

Once you are no longer on the Council, so please be aware of that any written communications by e‑mail that you make are subject to FOIA.

As you go forward.

Our Council is subject to the Open Meetings Act.

We post public notice of our meetings typically along with the agenda at least ten days prior to the meeting being held.

Those are posted on our website for public notification.

And so, we are subject to the Open Meetings Act along with our committee meetings we currently make those public as well.

If you have any questions on the Bylaws once you have a chance to read through those, let me or another Council member know, and we can help walk you through those.

The last thing that I have for your orientation is how is our Council funded.

If we go to our current State Plan for Independent Living, I'm going to shoot up here to financial tables real quick.

You will see our funding table for Independent here in Michigan.

For the upcoming three‑year period.

I will shrink this down.

Under the first column is the Council's resource plan.

So out of our 350,000 budget 110,000 of that comes from Federal part B dollars.

269,000 comes from what's called innovation and expansion funding which is another source of Federal dollars that are controlled by each state.

And then 70,000 comes from the State of Michigan.

The State of Michigan allocation.

This is I'm going to shrink these down real quick.

This is the current negotiated budgets that we have with the state.

SILC's resources are made up of two contracts.

We have a contract with Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

And also, a contract with the Bureau of services for blind people.

So, our grand total budget for the upcoming fiscal year is 350,000, 350,239.

That is broken down to where 227,655 comes from our MRS contract.

And 122,584 comes from our BSBP contract.

Each of you will get a copy of this budget.

This is the summary page.

And then there are tabs down below that shows you how these amounts are allocated out by line item.

From our salaries to our fringe benefits, occupancy, travel and then activities that are supported.

That are part of our state plan for Independent that require funding.

Let me get my participants back here.

Are there any questions on any of that?

>> Steve, this is Mark.

Mark Pierce.

Have you heard any word about your budget for this upcoming fiscal year?

>> Steve: Not officially, Mark.

Just the negotiations that we had with MRS and BSBP and then we brought the budget back to the Council for approval.

We have not received any official notification in terms of actual amounts yet.

>> Mark: Okay, because I think it's important, we if we know exactly when that goes in effect.

The list is getting kind of short.

We are probably less than 45 days.

So.

>> Steve: Yeah.

>> Mark: Okay, I just wanted to know if you heard anything.

I know for the CILs we have not heard anything yet either.   
we do have a plan.

Okay.

>> The Steve: And so, the new Council members know we do operate on an October 1st to September 30th fiscal year.

>> Mark: Steve, this is Mark again.

Bill Addison did send out a timetable to the CILs.

Maybe you could ask them what is it for your portion of the budget.

>> Steve: Okay, I will do that.

I think a contract webinar on Monday.

Where I could ask that.

So, thank you for that, Mark.

So are there ‑‑ that's all I have for the orientation.

Again, the majority of that is supported by the materials that I sent out to each of you by e‑mail.

I'd just like to open up the floor for any questions that you might have of myself or of any of our reappointed Council members.

As we move in to ramping our Council back up.

All right, hearing none.

>> I did have a quick question.

>> Steve: Yes, is that frank?

>> Yes.

This is frank.

Frank Animikwam.

I just had a quick question on grant writing.

It's page like 32, 33 in the handbook.

There is some mention there about opportunities for grant writing and looking at ways to increase funding for our work.

Are there formal grant training opportunities offered through SILC or would it be through the ILUR?

>> Steve: Yes.

There are a lot of training resources on ILRU.

You can read through.

>> Okay.

>> Steve: Yeah, if pretty much everything our Council does is controlled through the state plan for Independent.

So, if there is an activity that we envision ourselves engaging in we have to make sure that that is in the state plan.

All of our activities have to be written in the state plan and anything outside of that we would have to look at amending the state plan.

>> Okay.

>> Steve: If we want to engage in those.

And I don't think that seeking grants was written into our state plan for the next three years.

But certainly, there is training for that, that is available for Council members.

>> Okay, thank you.

>> Steve: Great question.

Any other questions before we move on to our election of officers?

>> Janet: This is Janet Timbs I have a question because I'm just trying to understand everything being new.

I read in one of the documents that every member needs to be on a standing committee.

But I'm not really clear on what the standing committees are.

I mean I don't know what, you know, what committees are there and what are they.

>> Steve: We are going to talk more about that, Janet probably at the September meeting but thank you for bringing that up.

Our committees are kind of a little bit limited.

We basically have three standing committees.

We have the executive committee that is made up of the officers that you're going to elect today.

We have a finance committee.

That is chaired by the treasurer.

And then also two members at large.

Selected by the Council.

And then we have the state plan committee which monitors the state plan itself.

Our Bylaws kind of articulate the membership of those and I find them to be a little bit limiting.

They actually don't lend themselves necessarily to full Council member participation on those committees.

But those are the three that are currently called out in our Bylaws.

But again, we are going to have those discussions at the September meeting on what committees look like going forward.

Whether or not we need committees.

And that needs to be considered in the rewriting of our Bylaws and the work of that ad hoc workgroup as we move forward.

So that item on our agenda it's kind of see it as a work in progress right now.

Yvonne did you have your hand up.

>> Yes, I really do this time.

For Janet's question our ex officio are not held to the standard they have to be at every meeting, and they have to be on a committee, are they?

Is that for ex officio members as well or Council members voting Council members.

>> Steve: It's particularly important for voting members because we need to be able to conduct the business of the Council through vote.

But it does apply to ex officios because we really do need their participation.

We need that feedback from what is happening in their departments and how we can collaborate more and support their efforts too.

>> And then to Frank's question about grant writing, we do have our SPIL is underfunded for a lot of reasons.

Some of it COVID related and so there are when you look at the SPIL if there is something in there that you are passionate about, chances are it doesn't have as much funds as it needs to really be carried out to the best extent possible.

So, I think we could write some grants in there.

It's a great opportunity to be better partners with the CILs as well.

So, take a look at that and I know Steve can speak best to kind of what areas we had to cut funds based on budgeting and negotiations so.

>> Yeah.

>> Steve: Thank you for that Yvonne.

Teddy was able to join us.

And we have Jenny on the line doing for our American Sign Language interpreter.

He has his hand up and I would like to open up the floor to Teddy for one for a brief introduction and then any questions you might have.

>> Jenny: I don't have any video for Teddy.

>> Steve: Okay, got it.

I thought you were raising your hand on behalf of Teddy.

He must be on his phone right now.

So, in that instance it's going to be a one‑way communication but we can go ahead and do introductions with Teddy at our next Council meeting.

Hopefully he will be able to be at his computer at that time.

>> It would be helpful for me to know what the best way is for us to communicate with him.

In between meetings if it's e‑mail, you know, TTY services what his preference is too so that we know how to best.

>> Steve: He told me that he has an app on his phone so that if you just call his phone number it interprets for him on his end.

>> Great, okay.

>> Steve: Okay we are going to move on to election of officers.

And I want to pull our Bylaws back up really quick.

So, we are looking to elect the Chair, Vice chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

So, the chair essentially runs all of our regular business meetings.

And calls the meetings to order.

The chair sees that all orders and resolutions of the board of directors are carried out.

Has oversight over the general control and management of the business and affairs of the corporation is carried out by the staff.

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

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

The vice chair is elected and acts on behalf of the chair with all the same duties when the chair is not present.

The secretary approves records of all meetings of the board of directors.

Has oversight for notices given to the directors and is responsible for the custody but not personally keep custody of the articles of incorporation Bylaws and other corporate records and in general shall perform duties as it would be necessary from time to time by the chair or the board.

The treasurer shall have the charge of the funds and other financial assets of the corporation, be responsible for seeing the accurate books and records of corporate receipts, disbursements assets and liabilities are kept.

Be responsible for all accounts of the corporation at banks and other financial institutions.

Be responsible for the preparation and Foo I'm filing of information required by law.

Shall present such information to officers and board of directors of the corporation as required by law requested by the directors.

And perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the chair and the board of directors.

So, at this time I would like to open up the floor for nominations for the position of chair of the Council.

So please state your name and then state who you are nominating for the chair position.

Are there any nominations for chair of the Michigan Statewide Independent Council?

>> Will Harrison: I would like to nominate Yvonne.

>> Steve: Okay, will Harrison has nominated Yvonne Fleener.

Yvonne, do you accept or reject the nomination?

>> Yvonne:

>> Steve: I think you are on mute.

>> Yvonne: I was thinking.

I accept, thank you, Will.

>> Steve: Great thank you we have Yvonne nominated for chair of the Council.

Are there any other nominations for chair of the Council?

And one last time are there any nominations for chair of the Council?

Okay, nominations are now closed for chair of the Council.

I would need a motion to elect Yvonne Fleener as chair of the statewide Independent Council for a period of one year.

>> Jamia Davis I nominate Yvonne Fleener of chair of the state of SILC.

>> Steve: Thank you Jamia.

Is there a second?

>> Will Harrison: I will second that.

>> Steve: Great, thank you Will.

Is there any discussion?

Okay, all those in favor of electing Yvonne Fleener as chair for the Council for a period of one year indicate by saying aye.

>> Aye.

>> Steve: Those opposed?

Any abstentions?

Actually, Tracy I'm sorry backing up here will you do a roll call vote so that we have this on the record?

I apologize, my bad.

>> Tracy: Sure absolutely.

Frank Animikwam?

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Allen Beauchamp?

>> Steve: You may be on mute so unmute yourself.

>> Tracy: Looks like we lost him.

Stephanie Deible?

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Jamia Davis.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Teddy Dorsette?

>> He has his hand up.

Yvonne Fleener?

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Will Harrison.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Mindy Kulasa?

>> Steve: Mindy I think you are on mute.

>> Mindy if you can unmute yourself for the roll call vote.

>> Mindy if you pull up the participant list you can click on the little red phone next to your name to unmute yourself.

Tracy can you do a global unmute?

>> Tracy: She must have muted it on her end because it won't do anything.

>> Go ahead and proceed.

>> Jan Lampman.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce.

>> Aye support.

>> Tracy: Motion carries.

>> Steve: Great thank you very much trace sister and congratulations Yvonne on your election to Council chair.

>> Thank you.

>> Steve: So, at this point now we have a Council chair I am going to go ahead and turn the meeting and the remainder of the elections over to Yvonne.

>> Yvonne: Okay, can I there it is, thank you.

All right so I guess we will move on with nominations for the position of vice president and if you want to see the paragraph about what that job description is, we can pull that up for you again.

The nominations for vice president.

>> Mark: This is Mark.

And I would like to nominate Will Harrison.

>> Yvonne: Okay, Will, do you accept that nomination?

>> Will: I do.

>> Yvonne: Okay, are there any other nominations for vice president?

Vice chair? And one more request for vice chair nominations?

All right, hearing none, our nominee is Will Harrison who you may see in your notes as Charles, but you go by Will correct.

>> I do, yes.

>> Yvonne: Okay Tracy can you do a roll call vote for Will or I guess we ‑‑ do we need to, yeah, I guess we need a motion to elect Will nominate Will in a second.

Can I get a motion to elect Will as vice chair?

>> I move to elect Will Harrison as vice chair.

This is Jan Lampman.

>> And a second.

>> Jamia Davis I second the motion.

>> Thank you Jamia.

Any further discussion?

All right Tracy can you do a roll call vote for us?

>> Tracy: Frank Animikwam.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Allen Beauchamp.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Jamia Davis.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy Stephanie Deible.

>> Aye.

>> Teddy Dorsette?

>> Yvonne Fleener.

>> Aye.

>> Will Harrison.

>> Aye.

>> Mindy Kulasa?

>> Jan Lampman.

>> Aye.

>> Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Motion carries.

>> Congrats Will we appreciate you being vice chair.

Next position sorry.

>> Steve: I just want to let Mindy know if Mindy if you are voting we cannot hear you.

You have your phone on mute on your end.

If you could unmute yourself that would be great.

Sorry for that.

Thank you.

>> Yvonne: That is okay, so secretary and Steve has pulled up the paragraph for the duties of the secretary.

Do I have any nominations for secretary?

>> Jamia Davis I would like to nominate myself as secretary please.

>> Yvonne: Awesome great.

Any other nominations for secretary?

One last time.

Any additional nominations for secretary?

All right hearing none can I get a motion to elect Jamia Davis as our secretary?

>> Will Harrison I will have a motion.

>> Thank you and a second?

>> This is Stephanie Deible and I will go ahead and second the motion.

>> Yvonne: All right any further discussion?

All right Tracy roll call vote please.

>> Tracy: Frank Animikwam?

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Allen Beauchamp.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Jamia Davis.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Stephanie Deible.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Teddy Dorsette?

Yvonne Fleener.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Will Harrison.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Mindy Kulasa?

Jan Lampman.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce?

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Motion carried.

>> Mark: Is Theresa Metzmaker on the line?

>> No.

>> Mark: I just wondered.

Just wondered.

>> Yvonne: No.

>> Okay.

>> Treasurer last but not least do we have nominations for the treasurer?

Again, the description is there, and Steve has pulled it up.

Any nominations for treasurer?

Well, I happen to know, and I wish that she could hear us because she has to accept the nomination.

But Mindy has a banking background.

And she used to audit banks from reading her description.

And so, it would be awesome to have her in that role but I'm not sure if maybe we need to call her, Steve.

Go ahead.

>> Steve: I just texted her to let her know that she needs to unmute on her end.

In my discussions with her I know that she is interested in the treasurer role and would accept the nomination.

So, I don't know what someone has to accept it because if she rejects it when she is able to chime in, we can always have another election at the next Council meeting as well.

>> Yvonne: Okay in the meantime is there anyone else interested in being treasurer?

>> Mark: I just want to add one piece.

>> Yes.

>> Mark: Can Mindy chat us?

Is she able to chat?

>> It does not appear she hears us right now at all.

Maybe she had to step away or maybe something is going on with her phone.

>> Steve: She was having trouble with the Internet this morning with her connection and calling in, so I don't know if there is trouble on her end or not.

>> Yvonne: Okay any other nominations for treasurer?

>> Okay.

>> Yvonne: I think it's important we have a treasurer so what I would suggest we do is that we nominate here as the interim and at our next Council meeting, we can ask again if anyone is interested and we can do that vote.

But can we nominate have a motion to nominate Mindy as the interim treasurer?

>> Mark: I would nominate her as the interim treasurer.

This is Mark.

>> Yvonne: Okay can I get a second on that?

>> Jan Lampman, I will second that.

>> Yvonne: Thank you Jan we will hold the discussion.

Since we can't really hear from Mindy.

Tracy can you do a roll call vote, please?

And again, the motion is that nominating Mindy as interim treasurer, we will do another vote at the next meeting.

>> Tracy: Frank Animikwam.

>> Aye.

>> Allen Beauchamp.

>> Aye.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Aye.

>> Stephanie Deible.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Teddy Dorsette?

Yvonne Fleener.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Will Harrison.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Mindy Kulasa?

Jan Lampman.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce?

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Motion carried.

>> Yvonne: We have our executive committee.

Thank you everyone.

I'm really looking forward to working with all of you.

It seems like a really great group.

Moving on to committee assignments.

So, we have.

>> Steve: Could I make a suggestion?

We can definitely talk about future meetings but in terms of committee assignments do you think we might want to push that to September?

We do need to have monitoring committee meeting between now and the next business meeting that we will push out to all Council members to participate on.

But because of the Bylaws and changes what are your thoughts around that?

>> Yvonne: Yeah, I was taking some notes while you were talking during orientation.

And I'd like to see us expand the Bylaws committee to be overview or to look at all the policies and procedures except for the financial ones.

So, the financial related ones I'd like to create an ad hoc committee to look just at the financial policies and procedures.

But expand the Bylaws committee to look at other policies and procedures.

So, the FOIA policy.

The expectations of Council member policy.

Other ones that you didn't review yet.

It looks like a lot of them have not been reviewed in a long time.

And some of them before you were even executive director.

So, it's good for us to get those updated.

And I'd love to see get some members to join us for that committee with this caveat.

I think it's important that we try to get that done before the September meeting.

That is a short turn around.

But let's start the year if it's possible with as many things in place as ‑‑ that are up to date and make sense with the new executive order.

With the new FOIA information.

So, if you are willing to be on that ad hoc committee know that we will probably meet a couple times and there will be some work related to that group.

It's an ad hoc committee and does not last forever so by September you will be done with that committee.

Is anyone interested in being part of that committee?

You can let me know.

>> Steve: Just to be clear we are looking at two ad hoc committees, correct?

One would be the Bylaws ad hoc committee to review the Bylaws and all nonfinancial policies of the Council.

And then a financial policy ad hoc committee, correct?

>> Yvonne: Correct.

>> Steve: Great.

>> Yvonne.

>> Yes.

>> This is Mindy Kulasa.

I do not know what happened.

I am so, so sorry.

Yes, I am present.

>> Yvonne: Okay.

I would recommend then that we go back really quick and go ahead and amend that motion or make a new motion.

We nominated you as the interim and elected you as the interim treasurer because we couldn't hear from you.

But we would like to go back and make that official if you will accept that nomination.

>> Mindy: I accept with honor.

Thank you.

>> Can I get a new motion to elect Mindy as our new treasurer?

>> Will Harrison.

>> Mark: I second that motion, this is Mark.

>> Yvonne: Thank you.

And let's any discussion?

All right Tracy can you do a roll call vote please.

>> Tracy: Frank Animikwam.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Allen Beauchamp.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Jamia Davis.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Stephanie Deible.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Teddy Dorsette?

Yvonne Fleener.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Will Harrison.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Mindy Kulasa?

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Jan Lampman.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Theresa Metzmaker?

Mark Pierce.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Motion carried.

>> Fantastic.

>> Steve: For the record Teddy has been voting on these when you look at his web Cam, he has been doing a thumbs up in the affirmative for the votes that have been held.

And I just want to read that into the public record.

>> Yvonne: Great, okay.

I don't know what the policy would be to if it's important to have Mindy be able to be a part of the rest of the votes or we just let that lie the way it is.

Thoughts Steve?

Or someone else?

>> Steve: The motion is passed.

So, I don't think it's necessary to go back.

>> Yvonne: Okay great.

So, Mindy, I don't know if you could hear us or not but what we were talking about is having two ad hoc committees that form and start meeting before the September meeting.

One of those will look at Bylaws and other policies and procedures except for anything to do with financial policies and procedures.

That would be the second ad hoc committee would be all the financial procedures.

So, we were just about to garner people's interest in participating in one or either of those.

You can speak up now.

You can let Steve or myself know.

Those committees will be a little bit time intensive I suspect initially.

I don't know that the finance one’s goals are to get done before September, but the goal of Bylaws and policies and procedures is to get the recommendations in place prior to the September Council meeting.

So, we are starting fresh and with good policies.

Anyone want to speak up now and join me on the Bylaws committee.

>> This is Jan Lampman I would be happy to do that.

>> Yvonne: Thank you Jan I appreciate that.

Tracy, are you getting these?

>> Tracy: Yes, I am.

>> Anyone else interested?

>> Jamia Davis I'm interested as well.

>> We have the lawyer with us.

>> This is Stephanie Deible I'm also interested.

>> Yvonne: Thank you so much, how about finance, who feels called to some finance work?

>> Mindy Kulasa: I obviously would be happy to work on that ad hoc committee.

>> Would you be willing to chair that for us?

>> Mindy: Yes, I would be Yvonne.

>> Yvonne: We will reach out again describing what both of those committees are going to do and then give you a chance to mull it over and you're welcome to join us.

We would love to have as many people as possible.

So, anything else on committees at this point, Steve?

>> Steve: No.

That's it for right now.

>> Yvonne: Okay.

>> Steve: We will send out a meeting doodle to those participants and get those meetings set up prior to our September meeting.

>> Mark: Steve, this is Mark.

I would like to interject here.

We do have a SPIL that we need to close out and then we of course we pick up the next SPIL.

We have not done much with the monitoring of the SPIL.

Is there a way to get the numbers and data together?

And to close?

I think it's with the feds we do have to do a formal close out report.

>> Steve: I've been updating.

This is Steve.

I've been updating the monitoring report and we can either schedule a monitoring meeting for the full Council in September.

Or I can bring the monitoring report to the September 26th Council meeting and then at the September 26th Council meeting we could set the dates for the rest of our Council and committee meetings then.

In the interest of time because we are coming up, against Noon.

And we still need to do public comment.

But you're absolutely correct Mark and that has been on the top of my radar to get that monitoring report out in a public meeting.

We will do that by September.

>> Mark, are you in a position to take back the chair for that?

>> Mark: I'm in a position to.

>> Yvonne: Are you willing to?

>> Mark: Yeah, I'm willing to take it back just for the transition.

>> Close it out definitely.

>> Yvonne: Thank you I appreciate that.

All right.

With that, any other comments or thoughts from the group?

We will start using the hand more at our next meeting so that people can get called on.

But for now, just chime in.

Any other questions, thoughts?

>> Mark: This is Mark.

I think in the chat box there is a question about ex officio members expected to participate on the meetings.

>> Yvonne: It sounds to me that you are welcome to and that your input is very valuable to us.

So, if you are able to, please, yes, join us.

Is that a good, Steve, is that what you would say?

>> Steve: Yes.

>> Yvonne: All right, let's go ahead and move on to public comment.

Tracy would you be willing to read the public comment statement and do the timing?

>> Tracy:.

>> Steve: Real quick we are going to set our business meetings and committee meetings at the next business meeting.

Just know that the next Council meeting is set for September 26th.

From 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

So please get that on your calendars and Tracy will send the invite out and all future meetings we will set at that time.

Sorry for the interruption.

>> Can we consider adding one hour to that meeting because we are having training and go over policies?

Can we consider that.

>> Steve: Absolutely.

We will.

>> Yvonne: Okay.

Tracy please can you read the public comment statement?

>> Tracy: Sure.

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

You will be allowed five minutes as an individual and five minutes if you are the designated representative of a group.

The public must address the Council and not utilize this time engaging in dialog with members of the Council.

During breaks we will have the opportunity to meet and engage in such dialog.

Members of the public are requested to refrain from repetitious comment during that portion of the agenda.

>> Are there people on the line who would like to give public comment?

>> Joe: Yes Joe Harcz.

>> Okay go ahead, Joe.

>> Joe: Well, there is so much that, hello.

>> I'm sorry, I'm going to start the clock.

I apologize before you get started so I don't interrupt you again.

Okay go-ahead Joe.

>> Joe: Everything that the SILC has been doing has been illegal.

We do not have an a properly constituted SILC right now.

As Mr. Locke pointed out there is supposed to be geographical representation.

Or broadly.

And we have four members from the capitol area.

We also have not had a SPIL monitoring meeting and under Federal law and under state law those are to be made available to the public.

Period.

End of story.

We haven't even monitored the current SPIL.

We also have had a major redirection with the executive order on eliminating members of the SILC and then nominally putting in new members.

We've had no continuity.

None.

We also Ms. Fleener, have a track record of your open violations of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and the Michigan Freedom of Information Act.

Those are documented, ma'am.

Those are documented in FOIA that have been released.

You keep wanting to change the rules arbitrarily.

We also have tremendous conflicts of interest going on.

And even today.

Ms. Kulasa and I I have nothing against her or anything else but she is on the board of the CIL in Kalamazoo and they are also the fiduciary for the Disability Network Michigan.

There is clear-cut conflict of interest in looking at books and where things go.

We also do not have the written policy for maintaining continuity.

And on the appointments to the Council.

It's just been ad hoc.

As is this meeting.

And again, I wish to go back to all the committees.

All those committees make deliberations.

They must be made open to the public.

Period.

End of story.

Everybody knows that.

They cannot do deliberations for ‑‑ or make final agency decisions.

But those have been done.

They have been done willy‑nilly.

We do not have any type of monitoring going on of our Centers for Independent Living in regard to the past SPIL.

And one of the most important things in that SPIL for the last four years and then prior to that was emergency preparedness.

Nothing meaningful has been done.

We are now in a pandemic.

Affecting and impacting thousands, tens of thousands of people with disabilities.

Including getting services from the Centers for Independent Living.

Which in my center are finally nonexistent.

Nonexistent.

Or inaccessible.

And again, going back to the obligations under the Rehab Act and under the Americans with Disabilities Act let alone the SILC all instruments must be accessible.

The website is not.

It's been pointed out over and over again.

Many of these, many of these instruments are not fully accessible to people.

There are no representatives of people who are blind as well.

There are no cross-disability representatives.

It is a sick and sad joke.

I am disgusted with the violations that have been going on.

And I'm not naming this at any new members because it's been a rolling cascade of a member here, a member there, people leaving.

People not ‑‑ no continuity.

No institutional memory.

None.

No recognition of past violations that have caused grave harm to people with disabilities.

Including the development of the current meaningless SPIL.

>> Yvonne: Thank you, Joe, I appreciate your feedback.

Is there anyone else who would like to give public comment?

>> Yes. Aaron Andres.

>> Yvonne: Hi Aaron for those who don't know was the chair of the SILC until this past year. So, at some point we need to honor you for your time but please go ahead, Aaron.

>> Aaron: I was just going to welcome everybody to that are new on the Council and I'm sure you will contribute a lot to the betterment of the Council.

And the Independent movement in general.

I just wanted to thank everybody that was on the Council when I was on the Council.

And Will Harrison, Yvonne Fleener, I'm for getting other people.

But I just wanted to thank you for your assistance.

And thank Steve and Tracy for helping me along the way.

And if you ever need any assistance please know that you can lean on Steve and Tracy and Yvonne to help mitigate some of those issues and look forward to seeing what the independent movement does.

In Michigan from here on out.

And there always is going to be individuals that may disagree.

And may present challenges sometimes.

But you should always keep your eye on the goal of creating an independent movement that is beneficial for all.

And over all if you do that you can't go wrong.

So, I just wanted to once again thank everybody that I worked with.

And hope that everybody that's on the Council now shares the same goals in moving the independent movement forward in a positive direction.

So, thank you very much.

>> Yvonne: Thank you, Aaron and would you be able to join us at our September meeting so we can properly recognize your contributions?

>> Aaron: Yes.

>> Yvonne: Okay, thank you.

All right, thank you.

All right, Luke Zelley is waving his hand go ahead Luke.

>> Luke: This is Luke Zelley.

I'm a president of the Disability Network Center for Independent Living in Flint.

A person with a significant disability and I want to be respectful of the time because I know we are over.

But three things I'm hoping to just share as one profound thank you.

Second is an opportunity to come together and third is just an official welcome from all of the 15 centers of Michigan.

So first just thank you for your advocacy for your leadership.

For your diverse lived experiences.

Each one of you matter and count on this Council.

So, thank you for accepting the Governor's invite to serve.

Your commitment to showing up on a Saturday.

The opportunity is it's really for us all to come together and identify the state plan.

It's a big tent approach.

The Council and the state plan have an opportunity to bring diverse voices and experiences together at a time when there is great divisiveness and personal attacks and voices looking to destroy a movement going forward.

The state plan is not mine.

It's not yours.

It's a collective disability voice that is set out to change policy and in the community in the movement over the next three years.

It's a plan of work everyone is welcome.

People with significant disabilities.

People with disabilities.

Parents, caregiver’s family members, friends, medical professionals, allies.

Everyone is welcome to help move the IL movement forward.

And it does, it takes all of our voices.

It takes all people showing up with productive voices.

And from those that are new to the SILC Michigan has been a leader in the Independent movement.

We were one of the first in the country to have a center for Independent in Ann Arbor the first to have a statewide database that collects data.

And I tell you a decade ago when no one thought it was possible ten federally designated CILs gave up Federal dollars to five states CILs so we could all be one.

All be unified with the same protections and support.

That could not have happened without strong support from SILC.

We have been hand and glove collective over the past, you know, 20 years in Michigan.

So together we've stood in places and done things together and done them right.

So finally, just a welcome from the 15 Centers for Independent Living in Michigan.

We are all unique and diverse and are led by people with disabilities and may look different.

Transportation may be a priority in Muskegon.

Recreation in the upper peninsula and Veterans in Port Huron and Flint employment.

It can all look a little different.

We are all fighting this pandemic.

In Flint we had a water crisis where the CILs stepped up and partnered with the Red Cross.

Right now, CILs across Michigan are getting people out of nursing homes.

They are providing personal protective equipment and engaging in food giveaways, testing.

So, we are all open.

All 15 centers are open and providing supports and services virtually so there is a network of 15 centers working day in and day out on this.

So, on behalf of the 350 board, staff and volunteers throughout the CIL network, people with disabilities who live, breathe every day the Independent philosophy.

We share your commitment.

Waking up every day, even Saturdays and Sundays and IL forward in Michigan to welcome you and look forward to partnering with you.

So, thank you.

>> Yvonne: Thank you as do we.

We appreciate that.

Anyone else like to give public comment?

No?

All right.

If there is no further business, we will officially adjourn this meeting.

Thank you everyone.

>> [ Meeting concludes at 12:09 p.m.]