## MISILC Council Meeting

10/28/20 1750 Meetings

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>>Yvonne: Okay looks like we have enough for a quorum so let's go ahead and start on time. Why don't we go around well actually before we do that even, Tracy just go ahead and call the roll to officially have our quorum.

>> Tracy: Okay, Frank Animikwam.

>> Here.

>> Allen Beauchamp.

>> Present.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Present.

>> Stephanie Deible.

>> Present.

>> Teddy Dorsette. Will Harrison.

>> Present.

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Present.

>> Jan Lampman?

Theresa Metzmaker.

>> Present.

>> Mark Pierce.

>> Present.

>> Yvonne Fleener.

>> Present.

>> You have a quorum.

>> Is Teddy here do we know?

I don't see anything on the chat. Let's see is he on the participant list?

I just don't want to.

>> Tracy: Not yet.

>> Okay.

>> Tracy: Sounded like he was coming and he would be here though.

>> Yvonne: Cool great I will make sure I have my chat open so I can see his responses. Sometimes I go too fast and miss what he had to say so.

All right, for any one on the phone who is not a Council member who would just like to introduce themselves.

>> This is Bill Addison.

>> Hi Bill.

>> Hi Bill.

>> Good afternoon.

>> Hey Bill.

>> Hi Bill.

>> Hello Aaron Andres.

>> Hey Aaron.

>> Aaron, Bill, good to hear you.

>> Yvonne.

>> What?

>> Jan Lampman just joined.

>> We are just getting started.

>> Okay.

>> Hi Jan.

>> Hi there, how are you?

>> I'm okay.

>> Awesome.

>> All right so if possible today I know it's hard by Zoom but if you can either use the raise your hand feature or chat, hey, I have something to say so we can try to keep some order to who is speaking when. You know, if for some reason you try that, and you don't get my attention just go ahead and say my name and I will ‑‑ then you will get my attention. We will do the best we can using Zoom to make sure everyone gets to participate fully.

Were there any other changes to today's agenda?

I am going to go through it quickly just so people can see it.

>> Excuse me Madam chair this is Joe Harcz can I make my accommodation request.

>> It's not on the list, is it?

Oh, there it is.

>> Joe, it is. I forget that every time. Let me just officially ask for everybody but are there any accommodation requests for at this time for Council members or the public in order to participate in today's meeting?

>> Joe: Yes this is Joe Harcz. Blind citizen. First, I would like to ask for people to try to announce themselves both for the public record and who we are for. Because we can't see all these hand signals. I can't access it at all.

Secondly, I have requested over and over again through a FOIA subscription all materials related to the meetings in a timely manner. I just got some about 3:30 today and they were not accessible to me. They were, in fact, locked and I want to point that out. That is a very important thing.

Third, people need to read certain things when they come up. Thank you very much.

>> Yvonne: Thank you. So back to the agenda and this is Yvonne and I will try really hard to remember that, Joe. I'm a big offend R of saying my name so remind me to do that agenda is approval of the agenda, approval of the minutes, staff reports. Can you scroll down for me, Steve?

>> Lisa: While you are reviewing that I'm sorry this is Lisa Kisiel from BSBP wanted to let you know I'm on the phone.

>> Yvonne: Hi Lisa. So, we have.

>> Steve: Yvonne I'm sorry this is Steve we should include the ex officio members in our roll call also.

>> Why is that?

They are not part of the quorum.

>> Steve: No but they are still part of the Council and the governor appointed to acknowledge the presence on the Council during the meeting.

>> Yvonne: Okay, I guess what we will need to do then is establish a quorum with Council members and do a roll call of ex officio members separate from that, so it keeps it clean.

>> Steve: Yeah.

>> Do you want to go ahead and do that too Tracy?

>> Sure Bill Addison.

>> Present.

>> Lisa Kisiel.

>> Present.

>> Janet Timbs.

>> Present.

>> Annie Urasky.

>> She is here.

>> Vendella Collins.

>> I am present yes thank you.

>> I'm here. This is Vendella.

>> We have everyone.

>> Yvonne: Great, so after reports from staff and Council reports then we have our ex officio reports. Then we move to there is currently no new business. We move in the unfinished business we started last time which is the governing policy the MISILC procedure and proposed bylaws change then a discussion about the financial policies. Then public comment and member information and announcements. Steve or anyone else do we have any other additions to that agenda?

>> Mark Pierce: I want to ask are we going to take any type of break in these?

>> Yvonne: Yes, definitely.

>> Mark: Okay thank you.

>> Yvonne: No problem. All right it looks like it's all here. I don't see any other additions so with that being said, if someone could please make a motion to approve today's agenda and you do so by saying so moved.

>> So moved this is Jan Lampman.

>> Thank you, Jan, and a second, please.

>> Frank Animikwam I second.

>> Thanks Frank. And we will do a roll call vote please Tracy and remember I'll only vote if it's a tie.

>> Tracy: Frank Animikwam.

>> Aye.

>> Allen Beauchamp.

>> Aye.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Aye.

>> Stephanie Deible.

>> Aye.

>> Tony Dorsette.

He did join the meeting.

>> Great hi Teddy.

>> Will Harrison.

>> Aye.

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Aye.

>> Jan Lampman.

>> Aye.

>> Theresa Metzmaker?

>> Aye.

>> Mark Pierce.

>> Aye.

>> Tracy: Motion passed.

>> Yvonne: All right great and hopefully you had a chance to look at the minutes from the last meeting. I believe you all were present. Will I know you had to leave a little early, but everyone was there. Can we move to approve the minutes from the September 26th meeting?

>> This is Jamia so moved.

>> Thanks, Jamia and a second?

>> This is Mindy Kulasa. I'll second that motion.

>> Yvonne: And another roll call vote please, Tracy.

>> Tracy: Frank Animikwam.

>> Aye.

>> Allen Beauchamp.

>> Aye.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Aye.

>> Stephanie Deible.

>> Aye.

>> Teddy Dorsette?

>> Will Harrison.

>> Aye.

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Aye.

>> Jan Lampman.

>> Aye.

>> Theresa Metzmaker.

>> Aye.

>> Mark Pierce.

>> On mute, aye.

>> Motion passed.

>> Yvonne: All right, great, thank you. All right let's move on to reports and we are still on schedule, that's great. Steve go ahead and start for us, please.

>> Steve: Sure. Our fiscal year ended on September 30th as you know. And we prepared our year-end financial statements that Mindy will be reviewing under the financial reports. We are working with our auditor as you know as I reported in September, the ALG group out of East Lansing is in the second year of a three-year contract with SILC to conduct our audit and also prepare our 990 form. We are currently in document delivery to our auditor and we will be meeting with them in the next couple of weeks for our initial meeting and then to work through the auditing process. The hope is to have the audit completed and presented to the Council for review and approval in January.

The next item is our website redesign. Back in September I issued a request for a proposal to redesign our website for ADA and 508 compliance. We did receive three proposals. And those proposals were evaluated and I'm going to bring up the evaluation document to share with you now.

So, this is the summary and evaluation of the proposals received. We received proposals from Court land consulting out of Lansing. Keystone media and Zgraya. We evaluated I evaluated them based on the fee structure whether an employee training component was included in their proposal. Their responsiveness to the RFQ elements. The company’s qualifications and similar clients. So, Court land consulting their fee structure was 2250 for 30 hours for website building testing and launch. They also proposed 35 per stock photo if we were going to use photos on our website. They did include square space hosting fee to be determined. And 85 per hour for any additional support. We did specifically ask for square space hosting because that is the platform that our current website is on.

Keystone media fee structure came in at 6,000. Ongoing maintenance at 85‑135 per hour for copy editing and programming respectively. And Zgraya came in at 6850 with no additional information.

Under employee training Court land consulting included that in the proposal as well as Keystone media. Zgraya’s response was quote in built content management system a that will allow anyone with or without IT background to easily take care of the website content once we are out of the picture. In terms of responsiveness to the RFQ elements, Court land quoted square space as we had requested. Staff training and the subscription services that we had asked for.

Keystone media included staff training and square space hosting. And then Zgraya included use of web flow platform instead of square space as we had requested in the RFQ.

In terms of qualifications and similar clients, Court land has 20 years of experience Government websites nonprofit private sector created 110 plus websites, ADA508 compliance experience. Keystone did not include any qualifications or similar clients. They just stated references upon request.

And then Zgraya did not include any of that and provided screen shots of website examples.

In the RFQ I had put a budget between 2000 and 6,000. So, based on the responses we received, I am recommending and issue of a purchase order to Courtland Consulting in the amount of 2250. Under our current financial policies, the executive director's authorized to issue purchase orders for amounts between 500 and 2500. However, I wanted to bring this to the Council in a public forum to review the proposals that we had received and to let you know that we have engaged Courtland Consulting and after today's meeting I will issue the purchase order for these services.

Also, to bring you up to speed, last week myself, Yvonne and Tracy had our initial meeting with Courtland Consulting with their website developer. And we walked through our current website and talked about what we wanted to streamline, how we wanted to make sure it was ADA508 compliant, that that was the primary purpose of this entire redesign. We wanted it to be accessible and usable by people with all types of disabilities. Screen readers, low vision. I'm very excited about that first meeting because they laid out a timeline on redesigning and relaunching our website. So, the timeline is our website is going to go down tomorrow. October 29th. They plan to have it rebuilt and reup for us to review by November 13th. Once we look at the redesign website and give our approvals, they plan to launch it live by November 15th.

One feature that they are going to build into this website I'm excited that I wanted to show you is something called user way. What this is an artificial intelligence widget that is built right into our website. It allows for a full suite of artificial intelligence power accessibility functions. It is WCAG2.1AA, ADA and section 508 compliant and helps your website stay compliant in real time.

It has continuous real time monitoring so when we make a change to the website, up load documents make changes to it it's monitoring and scanning the website for full accessibility compliance and will let us know if we did something that is not compliant and will help us fix it. It's fully customizable. It's an always on cloud update sort of basis. And then it gives you immediate no advance prep time reports to make sure that our website is constantly compliant with ADA and 508 requirements.

So, I'm real excited about that feature of this. Are there any questions about the timeline?

One thing I do want to say is that because our public documents are mainly on our website, if there are documents that the public would like to have access to during the time that we are down, please send Tracy an e‑mail and we will get those documents to you. If there is anything you need that you ordinarily get from our website, we will e‑mail those off to you right away without a FOIA request between October 29th and the time that the site actually goes live.

>> Mark: Steve this is Mark.

>> Steve: Yeah.

>> Mark: So, while the site is down, is there something that says this site is under construction and does it have e‑mails or phone numbers for people to call?

>> Steve: Yeah, we will have a splash page like that and direct them to our contact numbers and/or our Facebook page. So, we made the announcement on Facebook and there will be an informational sign that comes up when you hit the dead end at our website address to let people know that it's down. Here is our contact information and when we anticipate it coming back up.

>> Mark: Thank you.

>> Steve: You're welcome.

So, if there are no other questions on that, I'm going to bounce back to our agenda.

The next item is something that's very exciting that I'm told has not happened really since SILC has really been around. Our executive team based on Yvonne's recommendation members of our executive team over the past couple of weeks have scheduled and held one on one meetings with every CIL director here in Michigan. We had one-hour meetings. The purpose of those was relationship building. And getting to know each other on a deeper level. One on one. So that we can become primary partners and deepen the relationship that SILC and the CIL directors have with each other. I think those meetings were very successful.

We got to hear about a lot of the great things that each CIL is doing. As you know when you visit a CIL you have only visited a CIL. None of them are the same. And that was very evident in the meetings that we had. It was great to hear about really the different cultures that exist throughout Michigan. And the different constituency and consumer base in each area. The U P is completely different than Metro Detroit. And that became very evident.

Yvonne, do you want to talk anything about your experience on those calls?

>> Yvonne: I think that captures it really well. I was actually surprised given that they all do five core services and a lot of other things how unique each one was. And how in tune with the community and needs of the community. I was impressed and went a long way with the CIL partnership to build those relationships so.

>> Steve: Yeah, we were able to ask questions what makes their CIL unique, what objectives they are excited about in the SPIL. And it's really about being able to create that base for deeper relationships as we move through this SPIL and as we move through the next SPIL and make the next SPIL even stronger than the SPIL that we currently have. And we just got a lot of great feedback from the directors and we hope to continue having those opportunities by inviting the CILs to all of our Council meetings to highlight a CIL. Have a director come in and talk about their CIL. When we are able to start meeting in person, we want to get our meetings out of Lansing, and we want to have our CILs host our Council at their CILs for our Council meetings. So that you can get to know the staff there. You can see a CIL in action.

And you can hear about the great work that they are doing.

So great steps forward for the Council. And for our primary partner that the CIL network.

>> I want to give a shout out to Jamia, Will and Mindy all attended some but Jamia attended everyone but one and so I appreciate all of your time and being able to join whenever you could. So, and Jamia was terrific at facilitating the conversations and asking really great questions. And so, I just turned it over to her once our meeting started because she had it all laid out really nicely for us. She has the lawyer skills going on there.

>> Thank you.

>> Thanks to the executive committee for being able to join in on those. It was really great.

>> Mindy: Steve this is Mindy Kulasa. The thing that struck me was how focused our CILs remain on serving our clients during this very difficult period of time. The creativity that our CILs have come up with in terms of service delivery. Thinking outside the box. Delivering services that hadn't been delivered before. Perhaps food distribution as an example. So, I was ‑‑ although I did not expect anything less, I was just really heartened and impressed by our CILs commitment to continue to serve our disabled brothers and sisters.

>> We all are Jamia do you want to add anything to that?

>> Jamia: Yes, this is Jamia, I will second your guys' comments and impressed how the CILs have been during this time and being able to move programming online remotely. And that is really impressive, and you know adaptive to the situation now at hand. And I thought that was really good. You know, and not losing sight of the purpose in what we are all here to do. So that was really good, and it was really nice meeting with everyone, seeing what everyone brought to the table, so I really enjoyed those conversations.

>> Yvonne: Well thank you Jamia.

>> Will: So how the SILC previously I think there was a big disconnect between the CILs and the SILC the Council. And I think being able to sit down and let the directors really gave a connection, a personal connection with each region. And I echo what everyone else has said and everyone has a unique culture. And every CIL is really in tune to what are their needs. And I was really excited to meet them about what they are doing. So that was really excited to me.

>> Yvonne: Definitely. All right thank you, Will. Steve back to your report.

>> Mark: This is Mark.

>> Go ahead, Mark.

>> Mark: I have to say something because that was part of my report, but I think this is the time to say it back to you guys. The directives were really impressed with the executive team and the Council members. They were really inspired by the questions that you were asked and they were ‑‑ one of the directors said in the many years season veteran directors that have been around over 24 years say they have never had that type of interaction with a Council member. In all those years. So, my hat is off to all of you. I know you interviewed me also. But I just had to tell you that this was just very exciting. That when we had ours.

>> Great feedback.

>> Mark: When we had our biweekly keep in touch, all of the directors raved about your competency and your true passion for people with disabilities. So, I just had to put that in.

>> Yvonne: Awesome, thank you, that was the hope is that we would you know create that connection so thank you for sharing that, Mark.

>> Mark: Yes.

>> Steve: Yeah, thank you Mark. My last update is the status of our new SPIL. And in a previous e‑mail I had shared with all of you what we received from Regina Blye with the conditional approval of our SPIL.

A couple of them were just technical in nature. Some language changes. For instance, using part B and part C funds instead of the terminology sub chapter B and sub chapter C and use core ill instead of five core services use rehabilitation act as amended instead of rehabilitation act as amended by WIOA. But the meat of what our changes were included sections four and sections five. In section 4.4 it says did not describe how the DSE will not create a conflict of interest with the SILC. Section 4.5 list any state law regulations rule or policy relating to the DSEs administration or operation of ill programs. And again, in section 4.5 this section does not describe how the DSE will ensure compliance with state and post requirements without restricting the autonomy of SILC in murder forming the duties and responsibilities. In section five which is SILC section four is DSE section, section 5.1 missing a description of how autonomy and independence from the DSE is assured. Explain how the state can maintain its autonomy while placed within the Governor's office. Section 5.3 this section does not describe how necessary and sufficient resources are provided for the SILC resource plan to ensure the SILC has capacity to fulfill a statutory duties and authorities. And again, in section 5.3 does not describe how the SILC has the autonomy necessary to fulfill the duties and authorities. I've been working with Bill Addison at MRS so that we are cocreating the language around both of these sections. I've reached out to our region five peer group who actually had some of these sections approved by ACL to see examples of the type of language that they had in there that satisfied these sections.

We also reached out to Paula at ILRU for technical assistance. It seems like putting headers in these sections to specifically state how you're addressing these they also want it to be kept very simple.

I believe that I have our section 5 complete. MRS is working on section four and they are coming into the tail end of having that complete and then they need to have management approval on their section. We hoped to have it before you at this meeting. But we are probably going to look at another special meeting at the beginning of November once MRS is able to approve the language for their sections. We are going to bring it back to the Council for you to review. We are going to ask you to vote on whether or not you want to approve Yvonne's signing the revisions as SILC chair. We are also going to send the revisions out to all the CIL directors for their review and we are going to have them sign off on the revisions once again. And because some of the sections involve the DSE, we are also going to ask Tina Fullerton to sign this once again.

Based on the call that I had with ACL nationwide call on September 24th, the items listed here do not constitute a material change to the SPIL. Therefore, we do not have to go through another public hearing process. But as a courtesy we want to bring this back to the full Council to review in a public meeting and ask for your vote to authorize the Council chair to sign off on that once all of these revisions are complete.

So that's where we are at with this. We have until December 30th to get our revisions submitted back to ACL, but we want to do this sooner than later. We are proceeding as though our CIL is approved and starting to work on the objectives that are in this SPIL. So that is my update and I would be happy to entertain any questions.

>> The meeting that we have to have to do that will not be a full meeting with minutes and approvals. It's really a short meeting just to approve this.

>> Steve: It will probably be one agenda item. One item agenda, sorry.

>> Yvonne: Okay I just didn't want people to panic that man now we are having four-hour meetings twice a month or something. So, this is not a typical situation but okay any questions for Steve about any of his report?

>> Bill Addison.

>> Go ahead Bill.

>> Bill: Is Tina required to sign the modified one?

>> Steve: I don't think she is Bill based on that call. But because some of the language is changing in section four, we would offer her that opportunity to do that. Religion the call on the 24th they said if the DSE was changing or something really significant like that it would require the DSE's signature. But because section four is about the DSE, I think that the ACL would accept it with or without, but we would certainly want to afford her that opportunity since we are getting everybody else's signatures on it again.

>> Thanks Steve.

>> Steve: You bet.

>> Mark: This is Mark again. I missed the date in which you were looking at having everything back and going. You were going to get it back to ACL and what date are we looking at being about to start?

>> Steve: Well, we are proceeding as ‑‑ we have a conditional approval, so we do have an approval, so we are you know it became effective October 1st.

>> Mark: Okay.

>> Steve: Yeah.

>> Mark: I wanted to get clarity on that because we already are in the first quarter.

>> Steve: Yes, we are in the period of the new SPIL right now as of October 1st.

>> Mark: So, I would think that we would still move forward in the gathering of data and preparing for a meeting sometime in January to talk about the first quarter objectives.

>> Yvonne: Yes.

>> Steve: Yes.

>> Yvonne: That is the plan, yes. Meet in late January so that you guys have the first some time to get the first quarter data in order for us. And.

>> Steve: Yep.

>> Yvonne: Any other questions for Steve about his report?

All right, the executive committee you have the minutes attached. We talked about the SPIL revisions. We talk a little bit about the draft procedures. Some of the input that people gave at the last meeting into those. Reviewed financials. Which I will pass that on to Mindy because she is going to go into that in more detail next. Mindy, are you ready to do your finance report?

>> Mindy: You bet it it's Mindy Kulasa with your friendly neighborhood SILC finance report. My maiden voyage in taking it over from Steve. So, Steve I'm glad you're here in case any questions come up that I am not able to answer.

>> Steve: Certainly.

>> Mindy: The first thing I want to remind everyone one of course as Steve noted September 30th is our fiscal year end. So, all of the financial reports that we will be reviewing this evening are preliminary. Okay, because these numbers have not been audited yet. So, they are considered preliminary September 30, 2020, financials.

Once they are audited, then they will obviously be the final September 30, 2020, financials.

So just wanted to refresh your memory on how that worked.

The first report that we are looking at is the statement of financial position. The statement of financial position to many of you is also known as our balance sheet. And a balance sheet is simply a snapshot in time, in this case on the 30th day of September. This is where we stood in terms of our assets and our liabilities and our equities.

And there really, it's no material change from the end of August until the end of September. In our total bank accounts, we maintain $88,368.31. Accounts receivable is another important asset to understand. And I like to look at accounts receivable as money that's coming in down the pike. In other words, we have provided services and we are waiting for payment on those services. So those receivables you always want to have receivables coming down the pike because those receivables should flow into your cash position as they are collected. And all of our accounts receivable are pretty current. 30 days or less if I'm not mistaken, Steve.

>> Steve: Yes.

>> Mindy: So that is good news. Continuing on down, the statement of financial position, we do have a few other assets, none of which are really material in nature. So, on a preliminary basis as of September 30th, our total assets for our SILC are $108,605.55.

So, our assets, assets are what we own, OWN, own.

The second page of the statement of financial position summarizes first of all our liabilities. And liabilities, of course, are what we owe, OWE, to others. So, it's always nice to see that we do not have a big balance of liabilities and amounts that are owed to others. The biggest category there is line item number 2900‑00 deferred revenue of $33,223.76. And that is in essence monies related to BSBP that we are drawing down on. So, we do have that as a liability. So, because we don't own our building, typically you would see a mortgage in this section in a lot of cases.

So, then you get down to our equity which is what's the difference between what we own and what we owe others. And in this case our equities are 51,932.66. And of course, what is most important of all is when we add our liabilities to our equities it is exactly equal to page one which reflects our assets.

So, I just wanted to dive a little bit deeper into what you're looking at. And what sorts of things you should be looking for. When you see this report in the future. So, any questions on this report at this point?

Okay, cool. Steve, if you cue up the next report, please.

Here is the one that looks like all those numbers. And there are a lot of numbers and we are not going to go over them in detail. But this is something that I will be watching very closely from month‑to‑month. And it is our budget versus actuals. Fiscal year 2019‑2020 P&L. And P&L stands for profit and loss.

This is otherwise also known as an income statement. So, it's important to know that as a nonprofit, when you maybe out your budget, which we have recently approved the budget for the fiscal year that we are currently in, a nonprofit budget on a 0 based budgeting. Well what does that mean?

It means kind of what we are, we are non‑profits. You don't budget to make money in a nonprofit. You budget to break even.

So, if you would go ahead, Steve, and scroll to the very bottom for me, I just want to show you, Steve, if you could highlight column, yep, 52 there. For this fiscal year ended September 30th on a preliminary basis, the difference between our budgeted income expenses and actual income and expenses were negative $508.96. So, there you go. That's about as close to 0 base budgeting as you could get.

So, we ran an ever so small loss I guess you could say. Then you can look up at the rest of the report. I know Steve sometimes points out why we are under budget in certain categories. I believe we chose not to staff a position that had been contemplated during this last fiscal year. So, I'm very pleased over all with the management of the SILC as it relates to expense control. And recognition of income.

Questions for me on the P&L or the profit and loss report, the income statement?

Okay, next up.

>> Yvonne: Thank you so much Mindy for all your work on that and really diving in deep. We appreciate it.

>> Mindy: You are very welcome I hope I'm not boring you.

>> Yvonne: No this is the check register which you sent out to everyone is there anything you need to point out to us Steve or can we move on?

>> Steve: No, we can move on. They are pretty much standard monthly disbursements. The only things that kind of jumped out were Klassen family funeral home we sent an arrangement to the funeral of a former Council member. I don't know most of the folks on here Mark Pierce would know, but Michael Hamm who was a board member of the Disability Network West Michigan and a long time Council member passed away in September sadly.

In fact, on my birthday. And on behalf of the Council we sent an acknowledgment to his service.

Other than that, pretty much standard monthly payments, payroll, insurance, CART services, the central Iowa center for independent living of 700 was payment for five Council members and two staff members to attend the implicit bias training that happened earlier this week and last week. Which was an incredible training. It was excellent so other than that that's it. There is nothing out of the ordinary on our check register.

>> Mindy: Just so you know I will be auditing the check register and the bank reconciliations on a monthly basis. As part of my duties as your treasurer in fulfilling the fiduciary duty of financial oversight.

>> Yvonne: Great, thank you.

>> Mark: Thank you Mindy. Thank you for a great report. Appreciate it.

>> Mindy: You are most welcome. That is my job.

>> Theresa: I just want you to recommend you check the chat box because you have a lot of kudos coming your way in the chat box.

>> Thank you.

>> Mindy: Thank you, you guys are great. I just said you're very welcome. So, thank you. As you can tell I kind of like numbers a little bit. I get all excited about them.

>> Mark: Mindy you seem like you sing the numbers, so I know I don't you probably gave Bill Addison a great solo there.

>> Bill: That was very good. That is the most exciting financial report reading I've heard.

>> Mindy: I take that as a real complement coming from you. A fellow bean counter I hear.

>> Bill: You're welcome.

>> Yvonne: One of the things we talked about on the executive committee is that we want the entire Council to feel confident to become an executive committee member. And one way to do that is to break things down and to take the time to go through things and have people join different committees. So that people feel like they are building whatever skills or experience they want to build and potentially then will move on to be our next leadership so and I think what you did really helps us move into that direction Mindy so thank you.

>> Mindy: You're very welcome. It's my pleasure.

>> Yvonne: Mark, SPIL monitoring report. I know Steve you will be chiming in on this too I suspect.

>> Steve: Actually, go ahead Mark.

>> Mark: Steve I appreciate you getting the report to me and aggregated outcomes, I'm going to turn it over to you because we just you wrote it out and I think you can do better than I could. I know it's just a draft.

>> Steve: Sure.

>> Joe: Could I please remind people to announce themselves?

Thank you sorry to interrupt.

>> Steve: Thanks Joe. This is Steve. So, the report has been pulled together from the standard template that we have been using over the past four years which is more in a table format. This was an attempt to create an executive summary of the aggregate outcomes over the past four years of the SPIL. Please know that this is just a draft. It went out late today. We still have some data that's going to come in from MRS and BSBP. And in no way were we intending to even review this tonight. This just hit your in box. This just hit our website, which is going down again tomorrow. So, the intent is for you to have the next month or so to read through this and digest it. And as new information comes in, I will update it, send out the updates to you and post those to our website when it comes back up. So that we can have a conversation around these outcomes in our next public meeting.

The next steps after that is to engage in an evaluation process. And evaluate what happened here. It's going to be a look back over the past four years. Where were the successes?

Where were the weaknesses?

Where did we not hit the benchmarks?

And the reasons why. I'm going to be instrumental in helping you create that evaluation piece because that is going to speak to how we operate in the next SPIL that we are currently under.

So, again, this was for informational purposes for you for today because it came out so late that we are not even going to dive into this. Take this back with you after this meeting. Take your time with it. Read through it. Mark it up. Bring your questions back to the next meeting and then we will engage in a discussion of the outcomes as we see them here once we get all the updates in here. And that is pretty much all I have on this for today.

>> Yvonne: Any questions or comments?

On that so far or if anyone had a chance to look at it do you have any questions or comments about what you have seen thus far?

>> This is Frank Animikwam. And I just took a kind of brief review of it. And what timeframe is this report capturing?

That is just a clarification I wanted to up front.

>> Steve: It captures from October 1st of 2017 to September 30th of 2020. This was an unusual SPIL year. Typically, they only cover three years, but this covered four years. And the reason for that is that ACL us was redesigning the SPIL template and they bled over past the three year Mark and did not have it Federally approved to push out to us so they asked us to continue our current SPIL into a fourth year before ‑‑ until they could come up with a federally approved new template that we based our new SPIL on. So, they were changing the format of the state plan template, so it bought everybody around the country a fourth year with this SPIL. So that's why it's an anomaly. It's unusual. Typically, it's only three years. This time it was four based on ACL template redesign process.

>> Mark: Hey Steve this is Mark. I didn't get a chance to review it before the meeting. The only question I have are we going to mention the pandemic in the 2020 piece?

How is that going to be narrated out?

>> Frank: I second that question, yeah.

>> Steve: I would imagine that that would probably come out during the evaluation piece.

>> Yvonne: That makes sense do you want to explain the difference between the evaluation piece versus this tool that you just created for us?

>> Steve: Yeah, absolutely. So, the three main responsibilities of the Council are the cocreation of the state plan, monitoring the state plan during the years that it's happening, and then evaluating what happened. So, this is really a consolidation of the outcomes in what happened. So, this is step two out of three. The third step is now to take this and say why did this happen, why did these things happen or not happen. And what do we ‑‑ how do we use that information to improve going forward. It's always continuous quality improvement process. So, this is step two of three that we will take the Council through as we Sunset the SPIL we are just leaving as we continue to move through the new SPIL that just started October 1st.

>> Yvonne: I think that is a good point Mark this is Yvonne to definitely talk about the pandemic. When I read the report and you will see a lot of the challenges were data related. Getting data. And some of those have been fixed. One because the system is better net CIL is a better system and, two, in writing the SPIL we were more careful in what we were trying to measure and is it something we could actually collect and measure. So, I think we will see better results in the next SPIL. But we still have to take time to you know deep dive into the previous one and do our jobs looking at that too. So, and any other comments or questions on the last year's SPIL?

All right Steve can you pull up that one pager for this year's SPIL.

So, I've talked to a couple of you offline and you've talked about you know wanting to be more familiar with the current SPIL. And as you know it's a pretty dense document and so I tried to just create something really simple and one page so that we all when we are out doing the work of independent living we know these are the two goals of the SPIL and these are the objectives. You know, it certainly there is a lot more substance in the SPIL than this, but this is just a way to kind of show you what is in it. Is there a way to make that like a full page?

Rather than scroll it?

Okay that is pretty small isn't it.

>> Steve: Yeah unfortunately. So maybe you can describe it Yvonne for people on the phone that can't see it.

>> Yvonne: Yeah, I guess I can't do it like that though because that is too small, and I want people to see it. So, and this will also be on the website once there are any edits to it that you guys recommend. But the mission of independent living network and the SPIL is that Michiganders with disabilities live independently and participate fully in their community. This document for those who can't see it is ‑‑ has basically the both goals and in separate boxes lists each objective under each goal. So, our first goal is inclusion and accessible communities. So, people with disabilities participate in all aspects of society through systems advocacy efforts increased personal care assistant options. Increased inclusion and emergency planning. Effective outreach to underserved and unserved and underserved populations. And increased access to independent living services. And then under that there are five objectives. The first one is people with disabilities are engaged in promoting disability rights through advocacy and leadership. The tasks under that or the measurement or the actions are the CIL legislative day. The CIL youth advocacy and leadership programs, which in that Theresa MDRC has named as a partner organization for that using your expertise in that.

Youth advocacy and leadership promising practices that then can be replicated by other CILs.

And then a statewide CIL youth leadership summit. This is one when we met with the CIL directors there was a lot of excitement around this.

And some good stuff going on out there on youth leadership, so we are excited to work on that.

The next one is people with disabilities have access to strong a strong network of quality personal care attendants to assist them in gaining and retaining as much independence as they choose. And that focuses really working with other partner organizations who are also working on this issue. But the goals would be increase in wages and then a decrease in vacancies of personal care attendants.

Again, if you look at the SPIL it goes in a lot more detail but this is just so we can all kind of get our heads around what this is about. So, number three, a little too high all people with disabilities including people in unserved and underserved populations are welcomed, respected and actively included in community activities to reduce social isolation.

This was something we heard a lot in preparing for the SPIL. So, they want to so the CILs will be creating and launching a pilot project and then five CILs will be trained on that pilot and best practices each year. And 100% of the CILs will participate in diversity and inclusion, independent living philosophy and competence training. This was another one talking to CIL directors a lot of people are excited about and have a lot of ideas for their particular communities and how to apply that objectives to their community. The fourth one people with disabilities and communities are prepared for emergency situations. Establish an increased smart 911 profiles. 100% of state plans include people with disabilities and that is state emergency planning. 100% of CILs report personal emergency plans created.

Which is great. I know some CILs are already doing that and some will begin, so and then the fifth one is centered around the Bureau for services for blind persons BSBP. People who are blind will increase their independence through BSBP provision of part B independent living services, they will maintain the least restrictive environment and complete their independent living goals. So those were the five objectives to our goal number one.

Goal number two is to create an effective and efficient statewide independent living Council. SILC is coordinating monitoring and entity through the SPIL of demonstration of adherence of standard and Federal indicators. Objective is the MISILC will demonstrate operational effectiveness and capability to develop monitor and evaluate the SPIL through compliance with all Federal indicators and assurances. Some ways we do it is compliance and making sure we have to do what we do to monitor the SPIL. Statewide surveys and the outreach campaign that we will be doing as well so that is kind of it in a nutshell. Again, it's you know there is a lot more to it than that. But that at least kind of gets us all on the same page. What I'd like to see us do at each meeting although we will get updates on the entire SPIL, I'd rather break it down and deep dive into one or two objectives at each meeting Mark if that is okay with you. So that in January you'll give us data for everything but then we will actually spend some time really looking at one or to you know maybe that means a CIL joins us and they tell a story under that objective. Or a CIL talks about the work they are doing under that specific objective. A way to really bring it to life for us I think involving the directors and that conversation will be really helpful and the numbers are really important but so are the stories and the lives that represent the numbers. And so, I'd like to bring that element in to those reports.

>> Mark: Yes, this is Mark. Yeah, I think that this is a nice little one sheeter is really nice. Also, emergency preparedness in a pandemic is a big one.

>> Yvonne: Yeah.

>> Mark: I know its number four but my goodness. I'm in line with that. I like that approach.

>> Yvonne: I don't think the objectives were numbered by priority.

>> Mark: No.

>> Yvonne: Just so you know. We definitely have learned how important emergency preparedness is. So that's it. Any questions about that?

>> Jamia: I have a question Yvonne. What exactly are smart 911 profiles?

>> Yvonne.

>> Jamia: I'm not familiar with that.

>> Do you want to answer that?

>> Mark: A profile a person can call in that holds their pharmaceutical needs and accommodations and everything systems profile. So, if something happens in your community you have to be displaced or anything like that a person with a disability all of your records, all of your information on you, anything you need are in that profile. It's a very.

>> Frank: Sorry go ahead.

>> Mark: It's a very good tool especially we had an ice storm here in the Lansing area and they sent out buses to pick people up. What good is a bus if people need a ramp to use. You know, and so for public entities to understand the needs of people with disabilities.

>> Jamia: Thank you for your explanation.

>> Yvonne: Frank were you going to say something.

>> This is Frank I want to share an experience I have with working with 911 kind of care plans. Working in the Pediatrics department at Sparrow hospital in Lansing, Michigan we had a particular patient who has a rare neural degenerative disorder PKAN and approaching adult age now and cared for Pediatrics and he will be turning 23. So, we had to develop a plan for him because he had very specific aspects to his care. So there is actually a couple resources online where there is PDFs you can actually print these off and you can put in detail like who are all the care providers, who are all the family members, what are the Metzmaker, what times, what are specific needs they need with regards to feeding tubes things like that. So that is the experience I had in the hospital side of things to make sure that there are no care gaps for when they come into the hospital for services.

>> Yvonne: Great.

>> Thank you.

>> Yvonne: I hope as we go through these if there is one or two that you feel the most passionate about, that we can get you involved with the CILs who are working or leading those charges and you can be kind of our communication with them. So, I know Theresa MDRC I think you're the only organization that actually is named. I guess the DD Council is too. But to work on youth leadership though. And so, I'm hoping you will represent the Council as one of your hats in that role so.

>> Mark: Yvonne this is Mark.

>> Frank you and I need to get together because you are right in Lansing and we are the CILs heading up the smart 911 I mean 911 profiles. So, yes.

>> Frank: Especially at points of transition of care. Those are very key points where you know patients could have issues with regards to lapse and specific care needs that they need to have.

>> Yvonne: Yeah Vendella.

>> Vendella: Hi, so I like the goals and objectives and as you were reading these, I'm thinking do you have identified organizations that will help achieve some of these goals and objectives?

And I ask that question because when I get a chance to do an update for you, I'm going to be talking a little bit about people with disabilities and direct care workers, personal care attendants and so there is work going on. A lot of these areas and so I'm wondering if you have identified partners that can help achieve some of these objectives.

>> Yvonne: I think some are name I know the DD Council is one of those. But I think part of the work is identifying those partnerships and figuring out where we can add on and add value. So definitely. We don't want to start from scratch because I know there is a lot of good work out there happening already so yeah and if you can advise us and help recommend you know help lead us, we will listen. So.

>> Vendella: I will be able to talk about some of those because we are involved with them. And the more individuals we can bring into that discussion I think the better the entire state will be. Perfect, thank you.

>> Yvonne: Sure. All right so I think we are going to go ahead and vote on all of these reports together and then we will take a small break before we do the next section of reports. So, we just need a motion, you can see it it's in your agenda to accept and place on file the staff report and the executive committee report and minutes as presented.

>> Yvonne this is Mindy Kulasa I'll be happy to make that motion, but I believe it needs to be amended to include the finance report.

>> Yvonne: Okay.

>> Mindy: So, I move that we accept and place on file the staff report, the preliminary September 30th finance report, and executive committee reports, and minutes as presented. Is my notion.

>> Can I have a second, please for that?

>> Jan Lampman I will second that motion.

>> Yvonne: Thank you Jan Tracy.

>> Tracy: Yes.

>> Can you please do a roll call vote?

>> Tracy: Yep. Frank Animikwam.

>> Aye.

>> Allen Beauchamp.

>> Aye.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Aye.

>> Stephanie Deible.

>> Aye.

>> Teddy Dorsette?

>> Will Harrison.

>> Aye.

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Aye.

>> Jan Lampman.

>> Aye.

>> Theresa Metzmaker.

>> Aye.

>> Mark Pierce.

>> Aye.

>> Motion passed.

>> Yvonne: Great. How about 6:50 people we will start again with our first report from Bill Addison.

All right we will see you in ten minutes.

>> Steve: Great, thank you.

>> Mark: All right.

[ Recess taken at 6:40 p.m.]

[ Back on the record at 6:50 p.m.]

Bill are you with us.

>> I am here.

>> Let's stay on schedule and go with your report and thank you for hanging in with us all of you in the late evening we appreciate it.

>> Bill: Not a whole lot to report from our last quarterly meeting here MRS' employees are still at home here. And the Governor is giving us direction it may be January 4th we are going back so again we are at home. And they are working on the plans to return back to the office which is a series of very complex standards that have to be adhered to before we can go back to the office.

I wanted to give an update on the SPIL revisions that Steve talked about here. I had my staff look at these revisions for the document and we have addressed all of them. We have talked to Paula McElwee about a response and she agrees we are on track. I agree with Steve when she says that there are no major changes to the SPIL.

In fact, most of them are minor adjustments and heading adjustments. And we believe we addressed all of them. And look at this document one more time and talk with Steve about it.

The only other thing to report is our director for LEO, Jeff D’Onofrio has left LEO. We are using an acting director at the time. And Steve that is all I have.

>> Yvonne: Short and sweet. Lisa are you back with us?

>> All right well Annie I see you have your hand up and apologize I missed that. Did you want to make a comment about something previously before you start your report?

>> Hold on.

I have to find her. This is the interpreter talking. Going through the gallery here.

>> We will come back to you.

>> This is Annie speaking no I'm good. I was just waiting for my actual report time and I don't know if Lisa is here now.

>> Lisa is here do you want her to go ahead and go and you can go next?

>> Yep that is good perfect thank you.

>> Go ahead, Lisa.

>> Lisa: Good evening everyone thanks so much for making time to listen to us. Like Bill you know we did not talk too terribly long ago but just kind of wanted to update you on just a few things.

I think that I mentioned previously that we were engaging in an exciting project with Disability Network capital area and we have begun to do that by way of working on a survey document that we are going to be using or a survey process I should say that we are going to be using for closed cases, looking at the last three years. And we are actively working as I said to do that work.

We also provided 13 closed circuit TVs also known as video magnifiers across the state to individuals who Michigan works locations as well as centers for independent living to help increase access for individuals whether they are being served by BSBP or whether they are not in keeping with the process and the mission of the independent living movement and the independent living part B movement or program.

So, we are definitely excited about you know doing that. And so, we have got all of them have been ordered and they all have been delivered and they are in different stages of being delivered to the different CILs. So, we provided basically all over the state and provided two units in our Grand Rapids office that will be provided to local centers for Independent. We provided four in the Flint area that will be dispersed between Michigan works offices and centers for independent living. We put one in Marquette and one in Traverse City. Five of them in Detroit that will go to centers for independent living and Michigan works offices. I picked a unit called the DaVinci pro and it can magnify images as well as to ‑‑ it also has a screen reading component if you will so if you put a document underneath it will read it out loud as well. Our intention was to find something that was accessible as possible to as many people as possible and also, we had an opportunity to be easy to operate.

So, we are also regrouping with all of the recipients of those units to provide virtual training. Unfortunately, we are not able to be face‑to‑face at this time. And as Bill said we are looking at January 1st at this point before we will be able to reengage with face‑to‑face. We are reevaluating our return to work plans. There is an executive director that just came out I think today asking us to do that. So, we will be evaluating and making decisions responsibly in the best interests of our staff, the consumers we serve.

We are continuing to develop to provide virtual services. And our training center has over 21 offerings right now that we are providing statewide for both adults and employment transition students. Rehab therapists and Counselors are also working virtually providing services and continuing to engage in keeping people motivated and encouraged to continue their training. As well as employment opportunities.

We are continuing to support post-secondary training. Obviously as you all know it's been a little challenging because most students or many students are not on campus this semester, but we are working with them and helping them to navigate their virtual reality as well. So, we are extremely committed to quality service.

During the month of October, it's national disability employment awareness month. And BSBP and MRS had the pleasure of cohosting to kickoff October with a very thorough and awesome review of what VR is and how it can assist individuals with disabilities in business in accommodating the needs of talent and jobseekers, talented jobseekers and how we support business.

We also are supporting celebrating 30 years of the ADA. And so, we wove that into the conversation as well. And we provided a great presentation on October 1st I believe. So, and we had different sessions running all month long where we were celebrating those two things.

Also, in October BSBP celebrated its I don't know how many years, honor roll achievement awards. Excuse me. And I've been with the Bureau 26 years and I believe we have done even which one of those years in different fashions or another. Where we celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of the consumers, we serve from all of our programs across the state. In looking at our community partners and our business partners as well. So, we did do that virtually via Zoom. And it was a live event so I will tell you that, you know, I got a little more gray hair than I had last week but it was on October 22nd and it went great. I was really worried we had 34 presenters in all and almost 80 people in the audience total. So, it was a little stressful, but it worked out fabulously. So huge kudos to everyone that participated in that.

And I also will just put a plug in that MRS you guys celebrated your champion awards as well which is a similar event. So, ours was on the 22nd and MRS was on the 21st. So great support for that and awesome achievements.

The IL part B data in fiscal year 2020 we served 68 I'm sorry 70 individuals in independent living part B. And we provided a myriad of services with information and referral obviously to independent living skills.

There were 31 new consumers this year and 38 consumers that we brought over.

39, I think.

And we actually were able to close about 57 of those folks successfully. So, we are ramping up for another good year.

Also wanted just to mention that the independent living part B grant that we receive basically through the DSE which is MRS through the ACL ultimately, is designed to provide those as the SPIL goal mentions those independent living services to individuals who are blind in Michigan who want the least restrictive environment in order to maintain their independence. They are not necessarily vocational at all.

In fact, they are not, or they would be sort of VR program. They are not necessarily older blind, could be depends on what their living situation is if they are not living alone but are living in more of a transition living situation than they might be IL part B.

And I wanted to mention that the grant that we are E receive is 180,000 a year give or take. Depending on the year.

And we work really hard to utilize those dollars in order to serve as many people as we can.

In fact, we are no longer using any of the funds to support the SILC we will be using innovation expansion funds to do that through the VR grant. Per RSA's recommendation so we will be really fully allocating the funds that we receive through our grant for payroll and service delivery. So just wanted to reiterate our commitment to that quality service. Any questions?

I think that kind of sums up my report for this evening but I'm happy to take any questions that you might have and feel free to just ask them. I'm not as ‑‑ I tell my staff that the chat is fine but I'm not looking at the chat when I'm talking to you.

>> Yvonne: All right thank you.

>> Lisa.

>> Go ahead Mindy.

>> Mindy Kulasa, thank you that was an excellent report and I learned a lot.

>> Well thanks and I appreciated your report as well and I see that you understand about the draw down so to my point we will support the SILC when that situation is finished.

>> Thank you. Any other questions or comments?

And if there is anything in particular that you would like to hear about from BSBP in subsequent reports, please you know Yvonne and Steve give me a shout out. I would be happy to help.

>> Yvonne: Thank you Lisa. All right Michigan department of civil rights Annie.

>> Annie: Hi this is Annie speaking thank you I appreciate having the opportunity to give this report. So, for those of you who might not know who I am I work with the division on deaf, deaf blind and hard of hearing under the department of civil rights. And a few key updates here Lisa had already mentioned MRS hosted several events this month in honor of the national disability awareness month. And if you had missed an event it's okay.

You can still access that. You can have a chance to watch the event on the state's ADA30 page. So, go ahead and check it out. It's Michigan.gov/ADA30 and I'll also type it in the chat so you can see it there. Again, every month it's an honor of the Americans with disabilities, the act, this is the 30th anniversary so we are hosting different events with different state agencies. And having conversations about different issues and topics related to the ADA. Throughout the month of November. We will be having more events in December as well. So please check out the calendar of events and register. Plan ahead if you want to go to one of the events. And another thing I wanted to mention is MDCR just hosted a virtual Q and A and it was a conference which with the Attorney General, Michigan's Attorney General and the secretary of state. And it's related to voting rights. It's about a 30‑minute Q and A. With our executive director and Attorney General and secretary of state. And it's already recorded. It's uploaded already on Michigan's ADA website. As well with the Michigan department of civil rights page and the YouTube account. The links are going to also be included in the chat. So, you can review it. And at your convenience. And I'm going to be sharing ‑‑ I encourage you to share that information with the community as well.

Our department is also posted a brief FAQ resource. It's about a two‑page PDF content, it's all related to voting resources. So, if you're not sure where to go, how to vote and all that, it's a PDF with these types of information and how to make it accessible.

So, we know that there is a lot of concerns, a lot of questions like what are my rights as far as voting. So, we also are stressing if any individual who is going to vote on election day or before that, if you experience any discrimination you can file a complaint with us in our department. So, if you're experiencing any issues with voting you can file a complaint with us, and I will put that in the chat as well.

And my office is also partnering with the Attorney General's Office and the secretary of state and they have been doing a lot of voting education and a lot of it has been in ASL. And I sent out an e‑mail recently to those of you who are signed up for the subscription and this resource targeted for our community. If you check out the secretary of state's website there is lots of interviews in there. One of them is called ready for November. And I'm participating in a panel with that related to accessibility and voting for people with disabilities. And there is another panel member that will be included on that. And that is Pat Cannon the former Director of the Michigan Commission for the Blind and Executive Director from NAACP in Detroit. And Executive Director of Asian American Community for Michigan. It was a great panel. And we talked about different things, specifically people with disability and awareness regarding November 3rd.

So, I'm happy to send the e‑mail subscribe, the e‑mail and if you subscribe you will be getting that. And I will be copying it over to Tracy and Tracy feel free to share it with your community members and your partners if you would like. And one last thing from me, we are still working remotely. Virtually. And I want to stress that I know that there is a lot of back and forth, as far as communication barriers with the community, wearing masks, what do we do when you go into say a store or a restaurant or place of business or perhaps a place of employment what you do with your mask. We are going to have a bit more conversation about that. And we are going to send out some more information about how to communicate with individuals who identify as deaf or deaf blind or hard of hearing during this time. If they have a mask on how do I communicate with them, how do I communicate with people who are deaf, deaf blind and hard of hearing. I'm open to questions if anybody has them. One last comment for me as well. Earlier I had raised my hand because I wanted to provide some input relating to the smart 911. That portion of this goals the objectives excuse me.

I want you to know that we are happy to collaborate with SILC and any SILC honestly because we want to work with the state, 911 commission. And different emergency responders as well possibly doing what we call a PSA. So, doing a public service announcement regarding smart 911 the text 911. And depending on what county offers what we would have to figure that out regarding their address and texting 911 so please let me know and I am happy to partner with any of you on that well thank you.

>> Yvonne: Thank you that is great. Any questions for Annie?

Okay thank you so much. Appreciate that. Okay.

>> Thank you.

>> Yvonne: Janet was Janet here earlier?

>> Yes, I'm still here.

>> I'm still here.

You are here, hi Janet do you want to go ahead with your report from the Department of Education.

>> I'm Janet Timbs from the Department of Education in the office of special education. I work in the performance reporting unit. Specifically, with monitoring and technical assistance to the field. This is my first time reporting to the Council. Not sure what exactly you want to hear from our office. Because I want to make sure it's relevant to this group. So, I'll get some updates and the longer I'm on this Council then the better I will understand how we connect and how we you know what will be important for everyone.

To everyone else I work from home at least until January. The return to work plans are moving forward. And as I think Bill had said it's not an easy task to develop those return to work plans. If you have ever been in our building, we have four floors that are just a sea of cubicles. Everywhere you go they are just cubicles right next to each other. So, it's a pretty daunting task to try to come up with a plan where everybody can stay safe and healthy. We continue to develop guidance to the field during these odd times right now. And hybrid learning going on. The Federal Government has been very clear that there are no waivers to IDEA. And tools must continue to provide an appropriate public education to students with disabilities. Which becomes very difficult when we are trying to do things remotely.

So, we continue to do try to provide guidance for that. We are also developing monitoring strategies to ensure that schools really are offering things for student for free and appropriate education.

Every state ‑‑ the Federal Government requires every state to develop a five‑year state performance plan and there are 17 indicators that we must report on every year. Well our five years are up, and we are in the process of developing our new plan. And some of the guidance that or some of the directives that have come from the Federal Government are having us reset targets for things like graduation rates and dropout rates. So, resetting those targets and how we gather that data is a big discussion right now. In addition, two of the indicators that are associated with secondary transition are including language that is more aligned with WIOA. So that changes a little bit how we collect our data, but they are including language around Pre‑ETS services and just that competitive integrated employment as part of that secondary outcomes measurement that we have to report on.

So that is actually kind of exciting that there is recognition at the Federal level that what we do in education really needs to align with what is happening in out with Voc Rehab. So pretty excited about that.

The state has ‑‑ the state board of Ed has adopted a revised and adopted top ten priorities of their strategic educational plan. And out of the eight goals they have identified three of them have to deal with secondary outcomes and secondary performance. So that's also exciting that the board of Ed is also recognizing the importance of secondary outcomes and that planning and training for students so that they are successful when they leave K‑12 school.

And finally, this is not a department of education thing, but our office has been working very closely with Michigan rehab services and with BSBP. And so, we have a state initiative that we created. It's not really like nobody has been appointed to this committee. But we named it Michigan inner agency transition team. And it's across agency team where our goals are to align transition services across the state that basically we want to align transition services across the state to avoid duplication of services and common understanding of transition and improve student outcomes and we are in the process of developing a state model for secondary transition planning that begins in school and high school. What would be a collaborative with a partner agencies? And we want to make sure that this is something that all the agencies will stand behind, that this model is something they would agree to and promote and train all their staff on also.

So, we are in the process of developing that, that model. Right now, we have quite an extensive representation. We have our office MRS, BSBP workforce development, health and human services. MDELIO. We have career and tech Ed, Michigan alliance for families. Children's special healthcare. MTSA, DD Council, arc of Michigan, disability rights coalition and step. All on that committee. This is all we fit it in to our workday. This is not anything that one agency is the authority over. We come together and work together collaboratively. For these outcomes. And so that's kind of exciting too because we have been meeting for about two years now and we continue to meet, and people keep showing up, so we are really excited about that.

So that is all I have. Does anyone have any questions for me that I can answer?

>> This is Yvonne I just wanted to say that is really exciting. I'm really glad to hear that you guys are all working together on that. It's been a big issue for a long time so and I do have a question about schools being closed and the pandemic and you said you still have to serve people. How are you doing that?

I know you know I know people who they have online classes has just been impossible for them. So, what should we be telling people if they are struggling with that and they have an IEP?

>> Well you know conversation and you know relationships between school and family is taking on you know the greater importance than it ever has. We need to be talking to each other and join trying to figure out together how they can support the students. You know for our students with you know, really complex support needs, that's where it really becomes difficult. Because you know for some of these students they need ‑‑ they may need a one on one aid to help keep them on task. But you know we are ‑‑ the education system is already stressed with not enough people to fill positions. And then to ask someone to go into someone's home we can find some people who will do it but then you know but it's difficult. So you know we have given guidance on you know if the full IEP cannot be implemented as written that the district has to write a contingency learning plan on how they plan to support those core pieces of the IEP that must be in place for learning.

And that's what we are trying to figure out how do we monitor for that to make sure they are actually doing that. Because there is no standard protocols for that. There is ‑‑ it's not something that came from IDEA. Or Federal Government. So, we are trying to figure it out. And that's you know and that is people have gotten really creative and then other you know we know there is pockets where it's not working out so well. So, we just continue to try to support them. We connect with our other states and you know our colleagues in our other states to see what they are doing, and we are all pretty much doing the same things. But yeah, it's very difficult in these times. Very difficult.

>> Yvonne: Yeah, well thank you for sharing that information. And for what you guys are doing. We appreciate that you're collaborating and really putting students first. So, thank you.

>> Janet: Thank you.

>> Lisa: I just wanted to, and Janet and I work together on lots of different projects. But I'm just wondering if it would ‑‑ and to the pleasure of this team if it would make sense if sometime at some meeting in the future to maybe review the IPE I'm sorry the IEP process and maybe the 17 indicators from kind of an aerial view?

I mean we can't get too far in the weeds. We don't have days and that is what it would take. But just to kind of give the Council members some information about that process.

>> Yvonne: Yeah, we can Steve can you write that down as potential agenda item?

I think it's good for us to have an education component of our meetings and that is certainly a big one. And it would be great to invite CILs to that and make it more of a dialog too rather than a training and CILs deal with transition services too so.

>> Not just throwing you under the bus Janet I'm glad to help.

>> Yvonne: It segues in our youth leadership goals and might be able to find some commonality there too. So.

>> Janet: And I thank you Yvonne for saying that because you know I've been listening to you know like the goals and the objectives and you know trying to figure out where education fits. And that is what I was thinking is youth leadership sounds like we would connect.

>> Lisa: CILs are a huge partner with preemployment transition services so that is kind of what I was thinking.

>> Yvonne: Yeah, great, all right, Vendella are you still with us?

>> Vendella: Thank you so much. So, we have partners at this table so some of what I am going to mention you have already heard so I won't be labor it, but I wanted to start with what we are doing for COVID. So, we have a weekly webinar every Thursday at 11:00 from 11 to 12:30 where I have come and talk about how COVID is impacting people with IDD. And we have speakers sometimes and to give out information for individuals and so we are going to continue that. One of the things we have found is that people need that information. And they need to hear it more than once. And so, we are going to probably even after the pandemic is over, we will probably to continue to host some weekly opportunities for people to talk about things that impact people with IDD. And as part of the COVID management team for the behavioral health and developmental disabilities administration at MDHHS we are a part of that. So that the department hears about how people are affected in the system. And so, one of the things one of the most recent things that we are working with the COVID management team on is testing for individuals and AFC homes. And so that has been a huge issue. And I'm pleased to note that the department ‑‑ there are some headway being made on that. So that's our what we are doing around COVID.

One of the other things that we are working on is some information around voting. As you heard Annie talk about Annie has been part of some of the conversations that we've had. The Council now has radio ads out about encouraging people with disabilities to vote. And we recently cohosted a couple of webinars with other advocacy groups, some groups in the Detroit area and then some groups in the southwest Michigan so that we would again encouraging people with disabilities to vote.

We are partnering ‑‑ we are one of the partners in dealing with the ADA celebrations this year. You heard Annie talk about that. The Council will be involved in planning the ADA celebration for November 18th. That is the day that we will be quote in charge of that. And so, I encourage people to participate in that.

We are working with the adult services adult and aging services administration with direct care workers. And particularly with the increasing wages that individuals who are caregivers absolutely need and then also working with that group on making sure that the department prioritizes direct care workers and the distribution of PPE because they weren't prioritized in this last episode of this pandemic. I think we all know that another is approaching pretty quickly and so we are hoping that as PPE is vetted out that direct care workers are certainly prioritized and receiving and in the receipt of that equipment.

We are also doing a lot of work in our office around racial equity. And more specifically we are looking at racial equity and its intersection with disability. And as part of that we ‑‑ the Council just this past year voted on a value around racial equity in the work that the Council was doing in that. And that work should show up really in our next five-year plan.

In fact, we just recently concluded some community conversations across the state with the stakeholders. And we were not able to get to the U P because of the pandemic. But we are hopeful of getting the feedback from folks in the U P as we embark on the plan and as we can do our annual amendments and hoping to hear from folks in the UP we are currently working on this will be our 2022‑2026 plan.

And so, we are hoping that we will folks will be able to see our model of our community includes everyone on full display because we are going to be having special emphasis on unserved and underserved populations.

We also are working pretty hard on with our employment first projects. I mean, you know some people will say that in this pandemic the employment rate, unemployment rate is rising for a lot of people, why are you consistently you know working on this for people with disabilities. And my response to that is even in good times people with disabilities have horrible employment opportunities. And so, this is a great time. Since employers are saying that they can't find people to do some of the work, so we are still working on that. And some of you may know that we did a report card on employment for people with disabilities in the State of Michigan. And that first report went out in 2013. And we did an update in 2019. And some things have changed. The rate of community integrated employment for folks is going up but we still know there is a significant number of people in the mental health system that want jobs that don't have jobs, so we are still working with that as well.

Another thing that we are working on is we have two community of practice projects going on in our office. And the first and one of the community of practices is about supporting families and we are supporting families through the use of the chartering the life course tools that are available for families to really talk about and work on a trajectory for a good life for folks with disabilities. And one of the great things that I've learned about the charting the life courses you really don't have to be a person with a disability to use that. All of us need to have some life planning tools so we can chart the ways that we want our life to go.

And the other community of practice that we are working on is the culture and linguistic competency and working with Georgetown University on helping to support people of all cultures to have pleasant experiences as they navigate human service organizations. And so, we have several organizations that are working with us to ‑‑ on this particular project and Steve is one of our partners on that. So, we are happy to know that CILs 100% of the CILs want to be engaged in diversity equity and inclusion and cultural competency. So that is great. That partnership is certainly welcome.

And one of the last things that let's see what else did I want to talk about?

I think that is about it to sum up the work that we are doing in this current pandemic. A lot of work is being done around COVID and COVID management so hoping that our work pays off and that people still enjoy involvement in the community as best we all can. Social distancing and wearing our masks, so that's it for me. If you have questions, I will be happy to answer them.

>> Yvonne: Thank you, you are right there is a lot of cross over in our goals in the work that the DD Council and others are doing. Are there questions for Vendella?

Go ahead.

>> Vendella this is Mark.

>> Hi Mark.

>> Mark: You closed out the report talking about the CILs wanted very much on board with inclusion and diversity.

>> Right.

>> Mark: Are you offering any training in that area?

>> Vendella: I'm glad you asked because one of the things that we have done most recently is, so we do have training that our Council members and staff engage in pretty regularly around that. And so, what we have done is we have offered this to our grantees. We offered it to some of our partner organizations as well. The one thing that I need to always keep in mind is that the capacity for our vendor who is helping us with this. And so if we as we have capacity, we are going to be offering our partner organizations an opportunity to be a participant in our training and we are also anticipating that over this next planning process that we are going to actively engage with all of the community around this work. Because as we do webinars, we can open it up to anyone who can participate. So, we are going to be doing more and some of the work that we are doing right now we have offered it, we offered it to our grantees and some of our partner organizations. So, if you are interested Mark, I'm happy to have some conversation with you about the capacity of future events. So, we can do that.

>> Mark: Yes, I noted the CIL directors were very interested in it. It seems to be a conversation that needs real strong dialog as it relates to facilitating an organization for a strategic plan, so, yes, I would like to talk with you. If you can put something in the chat box, I would add it to my notes. Thank you.

>> Vendella: Okay, all right.

>> Yvonne: Any other questions or comments for Vendella? No, ex officio knock it out of the park you guys are busy busy busy, so lucky to have all of you with us and to be able to partner with you so thank you, thank you, thank you. And Mark, you're up next, with the Disability Network report.

>> Mark: Okay, well, I don't have much to say after these great reports. I was trying to move my notes on to the screen so I can look at the screen a little like I know what I'm doing. So as far as IL update the CIL directors continue to meet biweekly. Their meetings are very helpful to letting us know what is going on across the state. Some of the great news for 2021 is to increase the state funding with the reestablishment of funds from 2019 and increased funding for 2021. The total increase for the CILs was 3.5 million. And contracts are due to MRS or were due to MRS today for pending approving. I know I got Bill Addison on the line. I know.

>> Bill: I'm checking, Mark.

>> Mark: So hopefully they all got approved today.

Also, on that same note, there was a part B funding that will be added in the near future also so CILs are really happy about the extra funding.

>> When we talked with CIL directors they were all spending time planning and thinking about how to use that additional dollars and all of it was about service, service, service. Community needs so it was really cool to hear people's excitement around that.

>> Mark: Yeah, we went from a time of leanness to a little bit of time of plenty. It does not happen often but when it does happen boy, we try to expand the services to the consumers. That is the most important thing that we have.

The reopening of CILs are still slow. Most services and programs are being offered virtually. With some changes due to the Supreme Court's ruling on the Governor's directions on the COVID safety measures are at the county health level. I would urge people to check with their CIL on what levels of safety they are offering. I'm quite sure it's the social distancing and wearing a mask. But we are all aware the numbers are rising, and we are hoping that we can maintain doing a few services within our agency.

One of the neat things that happened over the past month or so was the west side directors of CILs put together a program to present services to MRS Counselors across the west side of the state which was something that was offered with the east side directors. What that really means is that services because a lot of them are virtual it allows for CILs to offer other services to train staff in a CIL to offer services that may be unique in one area at the CIL. Prime example there was some services up there in the northern area of the state that my staff was talking with the CIL staff there in Traverse City I believe about ways to learn that service and to offer it in the Lansing area. So, it's exciting things happening around service delivery with the virtual model.

Of course, we all are happy about the executive committee coming out there talking to directors and things.

On another note, there has been discussion about BSBP and Lisa you will be happy to hear this about CILs giving a presentation to BSBP about some of the services that we offer. And having a nice fee schedule out there that will be statewide. So that should be coming up, in the mix pretty soon.

And that is about it. Anybody have any questions?

>> Yvonne: I'm glad people are finding the silver lining in the pandemic and being creative and there are some good things that are happening because we had to think on our feet. So that is great that you guys are doing that. Are there other questions for Mark?

So I'd like to propose something based on a discussion I had with Mindy and Steve and that is to have the Council write a thank you letter to the house and Senate appropriations and to the Governor's office on behalf of the Council. Signed by Mindy and Steve on our behalf. Just thanks them for the increase and talks a little bit about SILC and the importance of these dollars and how they will be used. Generically. So, can we get a motion that Steve and Mindy have our permission on our behalf to send a thank you note to Senate and house appropriations and to the Governor's office?

>> Jan so moved this is Jan Lampman so moved.

>> Thank you, Jan, and a second?

>> Jamia Davis I second the motion.

>> Yvonne: Okay thank you and is there discussion about that?

All right, we will go ahead and vote them Tracy will you go ahead and do a roll call vote please.

>> Tracy: Sure. Frank Animikwam.

>> Aye.

>> Allen Beauchamp.

>> Aye.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Aye.

>> Stephanie Deible.

>> Aye.

>> Teddy Dorsette?

Will Harrison.

>> Aye.

>> He is there, Will are you there?

>> Aye.

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Aye.

>> Jan Lampman.

>> Aye.

>> Theresa Metzmaker.

>> Aye.

>> Mark Pierce.

>> Aye.

>> Motion passed.

>> Yvonne: Great, thank you and when you have that completed will you send a copy to all the Council members?

>> Mark: Yvonne, if you have that completed could you send us a copy to CILs?

>> Yvonne: Absolutely.

>> Mark: Thank you.

>> There is no new business, so we are moving on to old business. Always exciting policies and procedures. So, there are three different things that we need to talk about tonight. And they all relate to one another. We've had a lot of discussions with the Governor's office and the Attorney General's Office and their recommendation is and Steve I'm going to let you jump is in here in a second and go over some of this but that we really separate the nonprofit corporation from the Council. And the governing policy that you received was based on their recommendation of what that policy governing policy should look like. And then we also pulled some of the Bylaws that were applicable to the Council into that governing policy.

So, the Bylaws will no longer apply to the Council. They will only apply to the nonprofit corporation. The governing policy and from that comes the procedures is what the Council will use to do their work. So, the first vote that we have on our I think it's the governing policy one, correct?

Let me look at my notes here.

Right so what we will do is go ahead and get a motion and a second and then we will discuss that governing policy. Hopefully people had a chance to kind of look it over. The governing policy is not that long. The Governor's office really simplified it because they wanted it based really on the executive order. Can I get a motion that ‑‑ motion to approve the governing policies effective immediately?

>> Mindy Kulasa: So, moved.

>> Yvonne: Thank you and a second?

>> Frank is second.

>> Yvonne: Thank you Frank. All right, is there discussion or questions about the governing policy?

Remember this is now replacing what we were using as bylaws now is governing policy.

>> Theresa: Can you repeat, this policy applies to I'm sorry I got them confused. The nonprofit or the I'm sorry.

>> Governing policy is what is what the Council will abide by or use and then the Bylaws will apply just to the nonprofit which so the nonprofit Bylaws will need to be rewritten. Down the road because they don't really make sense the way they are written now. But the Attorney General and the Governor's office has said they don't want us to have Bylaws that over ‑‑ that are the umbrella for both. They want us to have them very separate. And that is why we did what we did.

>> Okay.

>> Steve: If I could give some historical context to this. This Council has long struggled with the concept of whether or not the nonprofit and the Council are one entity, two separate entities, some hybrid of both. And the greatest clarity I've gotten so far even in my time on the Council six years being a Council member was with the Attorney General's Office a few months ago. Where they said bylaws do not apply to a Governor appointed Council. It is a Council that's created by executive order. It's not created by IRS code or tax law. Therefore, Bylaws do not apply to this Council. What applies to this Council is the executive order that created it.

So, we have clarity and distinction between the Council as an entity created by the executive order and our nonprofit that was created by the Council to act as the operational arm.

Non‑profits by IRS tax code have to have bylaws. The Bylaws do not apply to the Council created by executive order nor does the executive order apply to the nonprofit corporation. So, the guiding document for the Council that you sit on is the executive order that the Governor issued. This governance document is steeped in the executive order. The Bylaws apply exclusively to the nonprofit which is the operational arm of this Council that acts as the employer of record for myself and Tracy because the Council chose to exercise their Federal right to hire staff as opposed to using state or DSE staff to function as the operational arm for the Council.

So, this is the crossroads that we have finally got distinct clarity on from the Attorney General's Office and they offered a template to us based on the executive order that is what is before you now. This governance document that grows out of the executive order that acts as an operational document for the Council itself. Separate and distinct from the nonprofit.

Yvonne: Other questions or thoughts?

>> Mark: So, this is Mark. And I'm trying to read this pretty fast. This template was offered by the Governor's office?

>> Yvonne: Correct and they reviewed it as well.

>> Mark: Okay it's pretty simple. It's not really in depth.

>> Yvonne: No.

>> Mark: The only thing I did notice in here was the terms of office. Is that all on the Bylaws?

>> Yvonne: Go back up, I think it's at the ‑‑ I think it's in there at the beginning, Steve. I have so many boxes open on my screen here.

>> Steve: Typically, we have elected officers on an annual basis, and they serve for like one year.

>> Mark: Right, okay, I was just trying to see if it was ‑‑ there were some distinct differences like I was looking for the three-year tender and stuff like that.

>> Yvonne: Go back up I know our procedure describes that. Which is ‑‑ go back to the very ‑‑ is this the first page, right?

Yeah, okay.

I'm not sure why they didn't put that in there.

>> Mark: It's in the Bylaws though.

>> Yvonne: Right but the Bylaws don't really apply to the Council anymore. So.

>> Mindy: Mark your question was about the term of office?

>> Yvonne: Yes.

>> Mindy: That was in the Governor's executive order.

>> Right.

>> Mindy: Specified by individual the term that that given individual was to serve.

>> It has the date on that but what he means is the term limits so up to six years you know how long can you be an officer.

>> Mark: That is what I was looking for.

>> Yvonne: Yeah, I don't think they defined that here. And that is defined in our Federal law. Not under executive order. So maybe that is why they didn't define it.

>> Steve: Are we talking about ‑‑ I'm sorry this is Steve. Are we talking about the terms of the Governor's appointment to the Council?

Or are we talking about the election of officers’ terms in meaning chair, vice chair, treasure, secretary that the Council does the voting on among its membership. Which one are we talking about here?

Because they are separate and distinct from each other.

>> Mark: That is a good point and I was asking about yeah you are right first of all you got to be appointed by the Governor to even be on the Council. And then the terms of which you are saying we reelect officers every year. I don't see that in here. But if that is one of our procedures that we do then I'm okay with it. I was just looking at the ways to explain it. It's a template and it's just talking about the basic positions themselves. It's not putting years or anything like that in it. So.

>> Yvonne: When I look at the procedures it does talk about election of officers and how long they can serve. It does not specify that for Council members. But I think that's because that's already specified in one Federal law and by the executive order when they are appointed. So sometimes less is more. You know, and my preference is to create the documents we need but not so specific that we have to continually readopt them, you know?

So, I think we have it covered but that is a really good point.

>> Mark: Okay, I just was looking for it. I didn't see that piece, but it does tell us it speaks to us as Council members and a quorum and meeting minutes, so I think this is up for discussion at this time.

>> We have a motion on the floor to approve this to become our governing policy. And this was sent out to Council members about a week ago to review. Did anyone get a chance to do that?

Or have other questions for us?

>> Mark: I apologize for that part.

>> Yvonne: That is okay, I wasn't calling you out Mark.

>> I looked at that I had it a week and had not read it.

>> Yvonne: That was not my intent I swear it wasn't.

>> Mark: It's okay, yeah, I'm fine with my question.

>> Yvonne: Okay, are people prepared to vote at this time?

All right Tracy can you go ahead and do a roll call vote please?

>> Tracy: Sure. Frank Animikwam.

>> Aye.

>> Allen Beauchamp.

>> Aye.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Aye.

>> Stephanie Deible.

>> Aye.

>> Teddy Dorsette?

Will Harrison.

>> Aye.

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Aye.

>> Jan Lampman.

>> Aye.

>> Theresa Metzmaker.

>> Aye.

>> Mark Pierce.

>> Aye.

>> Motion passes.

>> Yvonne: All right Steve I bet you that is a relief for you to have a governing policy and finally have some clarity. So.

>> Steve: Yes.

>> Yvonne: That is great the next one is policies and procedures which we kind of looked at more closely at the last meeting. Theresa, I went through your edits that you provided some of them were you know grammar and I did correct those things. Thank you for that. And some of the ones we discussed at the meeting. I did notice in here there are still pieces that refer to Bylaws instead of governing policy. That's cleanup language that we can fix. But it does not or won't change the content. But I did see that in here a couple times.

Are there any new questions or comments, suggestions?

Actually, before we do that, we need to get a motion on the floor to adopt the procedures as presented effective immediately. Can I get a motion for that, please?

>> Jamia Davis: So moved.

>> Thank you and a second?

>> Mindy Kulasa, I'll second that motion.

>> Yvonne: Okay great. Besides the things that we talked about changing last time there have been no edits to this. Again, we have to cleanup a couple spots that it refers to Bylaws where it should refer to governing policy. But other than that, it's the same document that was presented to you at the last meeting. So, are there any questions or comments about this?

.

>> Theresa: I have a question or comment and I have a very upset child in the background, so I apologize for that. And I meant to ask this before the Bylaws I just wondered if we could change the language to gender neutral where we say his her if we could change it to their or they.

>> I did try to catch all of those in the procedures if I missed one.

>> There is one that says his self and herself.

>> That was really helpful and thank you for that comment and making sure we can go through and make sure that is the case with governing policy too. Any other questions, comments?

Was somebody about to say something?

No, are we prepared to vote on this then?

All right, Tracy will you please do a roll call vote?

>> Tracy: Sure. Frank Animikwam.

>> Aye.

>> Allen Beauchamp.

>> Aye.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Aye.

>> Stephanie Deible.

>> Aye.

>> Teddy Dorsette?

Will Harrison.

>> Aye.

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Aye.

>> Jan Lampman.

>> Aye.

>> Theresa Metzmaker.

>> Aye.

>> Mark Pierce.

>> Aye.

>> Motion passes.

>> Yvonne: Thank you and I did forget to mention the Governor's office did review this too. They did that before our last meeting but so it's just good to have that extra layer of advice so okay so the last discussion.

And I am not going to put the motion on the floor for this discussion because you have options. So, the last piece that we have to do is rewrite the Bylaws. The first piece of that to vote on tonight is to decide who will serve as the board of directors of the nonprofit corporation. And there are probably many but there are three main options. One is that it's the executive committee that you elect to your Council and that they serve as your board of directors on your nonprofit.

Two is that it's the entire Council is also the board of directors of the nonprofit.

And, three, is that it's a hybrid and it could include community members as well as Council members.

And Steve I'm going to let you break down the pros and cons of those for people and then we are going to have discussion before the motion is on the floor because that will help us determine what the motion will be. Go ahead Steve.

>> Steve: Sure, so under the three options if you remain with the Bylaws as they are you will have a quorum of Council members as the board of directors for the nonprofit. And being that they are Governor appointed Council members, would open up the nonprofit all meetings to the open meetings act. The other option well let me give you some historical context once again.

Back in the day the nonprofit corporation board used to be comprised of non‑Governor appointed citizens. So, the board members were non‑Council members. What that created was the potential for conflict between the Council's desires and the nonprofit boards desires. And, in fact, it came to fruition one time. There was a big conflict between the non‑Governor appointed nonprofit board and the Governor appointed Council.

The conflict happened over money. And the nonprofit corporation board controlled the money of the SILC. The nonprofit board held SILC's money hostage for almost a year. And the Council wasn't able to expend the money that had been allocated to them.

I was on the Council at the time when that happened. And it was a very strange affair. And it was very hostile.

One of the ways that this Council can maintain control of the nonprofit corporation is by extending its executive committee of the Council to also be the board of the corporation. By doing so, the Council maintains control over the corporation board through your annual election of officers of the Council itself.

And through that removal process. So, I'm not advocating for any way. I'm just trying to explain what the options on the table are. And some of the historical context of what has happened in the past when we had non‑Governor appointed people as the nonprofit board itself. What Yvonne has spoken of is a third option is a hybrid of some Council members and some non‑Governor appointed folks on there but just know when you have non‑Governor appointed people on a corporation board a nonprofit board like this that is set up in fact to serve you as a Council as your operational arm, you may be giving away some control and, in fact, that played out in real time in a very bad way once upon a time, several years ago.

>> Yvonne: I think the idea of having it be your elected officers of the Council is that it's a smaller group, they have to meet to essentially make the minimum requirements to maintain being a nonprofit. They don't have any authority to really do anything outside of the ‑‑ what the Council would do. So, I think that hybrid option was really probably a last resort option so that the two primary choices are really all of the Council members are also board of directors or just your executive committee are the board of directors. And like Steve I don't have a strong opinion one way or the other. There is a little more convenience with having less people. But because we would have to it would have to be a separate meeting just to continue to have our nonprofit status. We want to make sure we are keeping those lines clean. So just discussion about what people think about that.

>> Jan Lampman: I would only support the notion that what we have two options really right because the nonprofit exists solely and exclusively to do the work of this Council.

>> Yvonne: Yes.

>> Jan: I don't see that we would do anything other than either have the executive committee or the full Council at the board of the nonprofit just from the standpoint of the function of the nonprofit.

>> Yvonne: Yeah, I agree with that. It keeps it clean.

>> Steve: So, this is Steve just as a point of clarification when we go back to the articles of incorporation of the nonprofit, it states that it is to serve the Council kind of the operational arm and be the employee of record. However, it also allows it to engage in fundraising opportunities and to provide services to other non‑profits.

So, know that there are other like two other avenues that the nonprofit can flow down and, in fact, a couple of years ago the Council was asked to be the fiduciary of the rehab Council. And, in fact, we are the fiduciary for the rehab Council under those articles of incorporation for a little bit less than a year. So, there are a couple of other functions under the original articles of incorporation that were filed were the IRS. That affords that corporation to do some things other than solely perform the operational functions. That's the only time that I know of that this Council or that that corporation did something like that other than when they did a fundraiser years and years and years ago with Michigan disability rights coalition.

>> But the fundraiser though was for the Council, right?

>> Steve: It was, yeah. The Council was a beneficiary of that fundraiser, yes.

>> Yvonne: Having that nonprofit status for grant writing is nice too. A lot of grants have to be 501C3 to apply for the grants so that is nice too if we decided to go down that road. But I agree with Jan that anything they do has to be kind of at the pleasure of the Council. And so, thank you Steve for pointing that out. I think that adds some clarity.

So, the choice is really up to you guys. If you would like to have us all remain board of directors or if you want to delegate that to whoever you elect every year as your executive committee.

>> Mark: I think it all depends on what your strategic plan is and what you plan to do. So, because I can see that as a hiccup also if the ‑‑ that entity were to put together a fundraiser and did not transfer the money over to the SILC.

I can see great things with it because we do have some programs that need to be funded. Right now, with the staff that we have, this Council the way it looks, I think we have the skills to do both. And create the hybrid. You know it's just that when you lose some of them skills then it becomes a problem. So that's my two cents on all that. I think it's a great opportunity to write a grant to get something done, to do it aside from the Council and maybe a grant out there for a specific thing like the 911 profiles. Some entity may give us some money for that. Would that be something that we would use that nonprofit for?

I'm going to ask that question right now with Steve sitting there would that be the way ‑‑ would that be an easier way to handle funds given to the Council to give them out to a CIL or whatever?

>> Steve?

>> Steve: Yeah, so I pulled up the actual articles of incorporation because I think it's important for everybody to read this. Why this nonprofit was established by the Council and it says it's organized exclusively for charitable persons in the meaning of 501C3 for such purposes including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under 501C3 of the code or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code within these limitations the specific purples of the corporation are to provide administrative and fiduciary services to the Michigan State wide independent living Council and independent state Council established by executive order.

To empower individuals and our mission statement the last sentence. Other specific purples for the corporation shall be to also provide administrative and fiduciary services for other nonprofit charitable organizations and to engage in other charitable activities related to the independent living means of disabled persons.

So, do you have a clear vision of how this corporation was established when it was filed with the IRS?

>> Yvonne: Mark something that you mentioned about people "Going Rogue." I think because if you do just your executive committee, you have the able, we have the ability as a Council to stop that person and to say, no, right?

Once we start adding outsiders onto it, it can get a little more complicated but because we have policies, procedures, codes of ethics all kinds of things that if people are not doing and working in the best interests of the Council we can remove them as an officer for the Council. Therefore, they are removed from the nonprofit board.

I think that there are advantages to both. And it's really if we want to leave it as is then all of us who are members of the Council will be members of the board of directors. If you are willing to give that time, I don't think it has to be a lot of time, but it will be separate from the Council. It will be a separate meeting. Or you can delegate that to your executive committee.

>> Steve: There is another way to look at this too in terms of control. If you go with the executive officers of the Council being the nonprofit board, it's a matter of who maintains control. You can either have Council maintain control over the corporation or you can have the Governor maintain control over the corporation. Because if the entire Council is the board of the corporation, the Governor has removal authority. If you have your executive officers as the board of the nonprofit, the Council maintains removal authority through the annual election of officer’s process. So that is another way to think about it.

>> Yvonne: Yeah.

>> Mindy: Specific to the issue of fund development, again, going back to the executive order issued by the Governor.

>> Steve: Uh‑huh.

>> Mindy: That was part of the executive order of what the SILC is allowed to do.

>> Steve: Yes.

>> Mindy: The last part and it's my understanding Steve from our prior conversation about this we chose not to put any fund development activities in the three‑year SPIL that we are currently operating under.

But the Governor's order does provide us with the authority as.

>> Steve: Yeah, what they did Mindy, was they mirrored the WIOA language so fund development is another optionally activity available to SILCs. But SILCs can only engage in it if they put it in to their three‑year plan. So, they were mirroring that WIOA language that allows for it. But in order to trip that mechanism we would have to intentionally put that into our three-year plan, that is at the Council's option if they want to do that every three years.

>> Right, I'm just saying though that I think it's important that everyone realizes specific to fundraising that that was per the Governor's order.

>> Yvonne: Fundraising is tough to do anyway.

It's tougher to do when you're not a 501C3.

>> Yeah.

>> Yvonne: If we do fundraising, I recommend we do it through the nonprofit. It's just.

>> Mindy: Yeah, I just wanted to clarify that.

>> Yvonne: I did notice that too.

>> Mindy: Executive order.

>> Yvonne: So, any other questions or thoughts?

Anybody feel strongly one way or the other?

About the executive committee versus the entire Council being the board of directors?

Jamia: I don't feel strongly with either or, but I would say that as all the Council members are involved it gives more room for ideas and for fundraising and collaboration.

>> Bill: This is Bill Addison. I don't understand this yet. If I'm a Council member, there is a process to be removed and we just talked about that. We just got information from the Governor. But is that same criteria give us the ability to remove a corporate officer?

>> Yvonne: So, if, yes, because if you are ‑‑ so I think well Steve you can talk about it too if you want. What Steve was saying is if we have the whole Council serve as our board of directors if the Governor doesn't want someone on the Council any more or doesn't reappoint them, then the Governor has more say right over who is on the board of directors. If it's just the executive committee then the Council is always choosing the executive committee. Therefore, having more hands-on control over who is on the nonprofit board of directors. I don't know if that answered your question or not.

>> Bill: Give an example say we do go with the idea that if you're a Council member you are also an officer of the corporation.

>> Yvonne: Okay.

>> Bill: And you have been removed as a Council member, but I just don't see the connection, the whole different concept to be an officer of a corporation.

>> Yvonne: I thought you were using officer as executive committee. The Bylaws state that you are on the board of directors because you're a Council member and if you are not on the Council you are no longer on the board of directors.

>> Bill: That is what I was looking for.

>> Yvonne: Yes, well, it's 8:12 and go-ahead Theresa.

>> Theresa: My question it's okay I think it will just go so long. I am confused, Steve, so when you were on the Council and this group held the money hostage is that why this has been controversial in the past?

I'm trying to understand like so I'm trying to approve like whether we should do all the board on this Council or just executive committee. But like if I go back through the minutes the whole idea of this other nonprofit existing has come up as controversial in public comments over and over and over again. So, I guess I'm confused why it's controversial. Does it relate back to that issue?

Steve?

>> Steve: There was that issue Theresa which was the fiscal issue. But I think later on and in the recent past previous Councils have used the corporation to avoid the open meetings act. And so, it was that blending of Council action and pushing it in to the nonprofit arm and then saying non‑profits are exact from OMA and conducting Council business under the cloak of the nonprofit. Here we are trying to make that distinction between the two.

>> Okay.

>> Steve: Crystal clarity for the public and transparency they are two separate entities, the Council is governed by governance and articles of incorporation for the purpose how do we want to populate the board of the corporation to act as the operational arm of the Council and at what point is that nonprofit subject to the OMA and to FOIA, when is it not?

And so, this is kind of the intersection that we are at right now.

>> Yvonne: The advice we have been given it is an open meeting almost always because the nonprofit is making decisions at the pleasure of the Council. Therefore, it's an open meeting. And so, it's not we are not doing this to shield that or to try to stop that from happening. And I think what Steve said it's what I remember being told is that they took the committees of the Council and put them under the nonprofit and then said they are closed to the public.

>> Steve: Right.

>> Yvonne: That is not what we want to do as a matter of fact I maintain that almost all the work of the nonprofit would be public because your Council members and doing the work on behalf of the Council, kind of the way I see all of your faces right now is the exact same look I had on mine when I had to digest all of this. Wait what?

And I don't think it's a decision we have to make tonight.

>> Mindy: Yvonne I was going to make a motion that we table this decision.

>> I don't think we need to do that because there is no motion on the floor. It's simply a discussion right now.

>> Mindy: Okay.

>> Yvonne: We move it under old business and talk about it some more. You know, in the meantime the advisory the committee that did the work on the policies and procedures if they would be willing to meet and talk about looking at the Bylaws now as separate regardless of who is going to be on the board of directors. We can still do the work of creating that document. And that might actually help give more clarity to it. As well.

So.

>> Mindy: There is a lot of moving parts.

>> Yvonne: There really are. What we got done tonight is the most helpful for Steve to move forward and us as a Council so I'm good with that and I did not expect this meeting to take the whole full time so here we are and thank you for your patience.

So, let's come back to that if that is okay.

And okay

All right let me check my agenda where are we at?

I think we are at public comment. Financial policy discussion, Mindy I'm handing it back to you.

>> Mindy: It's me Mindy Kulasa again. I just want ‑‑ this will be very quick; we are at the point of being ready to start meeting as an advisory group to establish our financial policies and procedures. So, I've done a lot of legwork already and I have my arms around what we need to do.

So far those who have agreed to be involved in this process are Steve, Tracy, Bill Addison, that is Theresa Metzmaker and Yvonne and myself. We will use in a consultative our accountant Brad jokes but we will not be paying him to write you know to do this work for us. I believe we have the talent to do the work ourselves and use him and in an advisory capacity.

So, if there is anyone else this is last call, not for alcohol, sorry, I know it's late, but it's last call if you're interested in joining this adventure. Just so you know too based on feedback I've gotten from the people who have already expressed interest, and we want to get a meeting developed next week, but the likely meeting dates for this advisory group will be on Monday on a Monday or a Wednesday during the workday.

Okay so if that helps anyone make a decision about their participation in this process.

Perhaps the lunch hour was suggested. So again, if you could contact just e‑mail Yvonne and myself if you have an interest in learning more about all this good stuff, let us know.

>> Yvonne: All right thank you very much. Okay we are moving on to public comment. Is there anyone on the line or on the call that would like to give public comment?

Actually, sorry Joe I apologize Tracy could you please read the public statement first and Joe we will go to you.

>> Tracy: Members of the public who wish to speak will be called upon by the chairperson, 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. Members of the public are requested to refrain from repetitious comments during this portion of the agenda.

>> Yvonne: All right Joe please begin when you are ready.

>> Joe: This is Joe Harcz. Citizen with disabilities. Mr. Locke, the issue of having every board member being on the SILC corporation was passed in November of 2014 and required by Suzanne Shaw with the Attorney General's Office. People can go back and get the minutes.

The other issue here that got brought up because I've been around for a while ladies and gentlemen is this whole issue of the SILC becoming the fiduciary for the Michigan Council on Rehabilitation Services. Another public entity. That was never approved by either public entity. And by the way, the MCRS was not a nonprofit. You know so the Bylaws were out of whack on that. And it was a bloody mess. Thousands of dollars were just not put in play. There were ‑‑ I can send it to everybody, everybody the conflicts of interest that were inherent on that. And I was at the public meetings that that was held in. But most importantly I want to go to emergency preparedness and the state plan. We not only had that in the last four years, but we had that that the state plan for independent living prior.

We are in the middle of a pandemic ladies and gentlemen. Services are not being delivered at all. Nothing and I repeat ladies and gentlemen, nothing over seven years has been done to concretely make our centers for independent living and services delivered accessible. It is absolutely absurd for anybody to be talking about this when we have over all inaccessibility. To Dr. Frank, I'd like to state that access is the most important thing. People don't have access to portals who are blind. They are inaccessible, sir. We do not have access to information. People who are blind. We don't have deliveries of services. And also, to people who are deaf. And also, to people who use wheelchairs. My mantra has been if we aren't accessible every day, we are not accessible on emergency day. Mark Pierce brought up a good point. You know sending out you know pick ups and inaccessible buses. We got inaccessible shelters. We don't have a comprehensive plan for this. At all. And we talk about you know, our centers not being open for services, and then we are talking about putting video magnifiers you know in them. I mean come on this is kind of absurd.

If people ‑‑ I'm sorry to sound so frustrated. I've been at this over more than a decade. And this has been a real problem for people with disabilities.

People with disabilities are dying. Literally. Because they are put in homes. We don't have you know, the appropriate care. We can't deliver services to blind people. Including things like orientation and mobility. Especially newly blind. When people don't give them in home.

They have to be there. It goes to we went through a Flint water crisis. In my community. None of the information was out there in accessible format. And people ‑‑ one of the hot spots was the school for the deaf. Nobody was given ASL. No people were communicated effectively. And this is the story not. Ladies and gentlemen, we have to do a better job and many of you are new and I'm not going to throw stones at you. We are reinventing the wheel. Going back to you know what ACL and ILA said you know, back more than two years ago now is that there can be no distinction between the nonprofit and the SILC. The only.

>> Yvonne: Joe you are out of time thank you but we will look into that and thank you for providing that history so we can make sure we get it right on that. So, thank you for that.

It's 8:26 so.

>> This is Aaron Andres.

>> Please go ahead.

>> I was just going to mention I would like there to be some advocacy around promoting the ability for employers to help with care giving hours while an individual is at work. And I say this because back in May I had been approached by a Government agency to work for a Government agency and I went through the process and I did six months and we got through the end of the process. And by the end of the process the governmental agency was unwilling to help me find information or help me to cover the costs of my ability to live independently in my home, which inevitably even though I was qualified for the job and they really wanted me for the job I had to turn down simply because I was unable to come up with the resources to cover the care giving needs that I had.

As far as care giving wages with the lady from the DD Council I completely agree and there needs to be something done with that as well.

If I would ‑‑ if you want to reach out to myself and get a hold of me, I'm willing to give my two cents and give my opinions and see if we can't make some movement on the front again. My name is Aaron Andres. And I appreciate everybody's time, thank you.

>> Yvonne: Thank you Aaron that is a really important issue related to personal care attendants but yet its own issue too so please keep bringing that up. I think that is really important and we don't want to lose sight of it.

>> Mark: Yvonne this is Mark, I have to make one public comment. I'd like to make public comment concerning what Aaron said. I'm go said.

I'm going to say it personally as a director. I have people with disabilities working for me from home. And that time that they spend at home working for our agency personal care attendants may be needed for that. I say this because I think this is something we do need to speak to because at one time Aaron makes a very good point that we could ‑‑ if he came to work it was about him coming into my office but it's not about that any more. So, this pandemic has changed the playing field. So, I just want to make public comment concerning that. You know that we think about that for people with disabilities working.

>> Right.

>> Mark: Personal extended care so they can do their job and their house becomes their workplace.

>> Yep amen I think that is really, really critical and we do need to keep talking about it.

>> Aaron: If I may say one other thing if someone would like to talk to me more about it, they are welcome to contact me. I would tell them the whole story but not to bore you with all the details. I won't go into the full story today.

>> Yvonne: Great, yes and if you want to contact Aaron reach out to Steve and he can since Aaron has given permission to share his e‑mail address and phone with you, that's okay with you Aaron?

>> Aaron: Yes.

>> Yvonne: So, does anyone have an announcement not the member education but any announcement you were hoping to share on the Council member?

Because if not what I'd like to suggest is this: I received, well I guess Steve tell me if I can't do this but those of us who attended the implicit bias training I received the link to the webinars and the PowerPoint. And if I can Steve is it okay if I forward that to the whole Council and people can take time to kind of watch those webinars on their own or is that not okay?

>> Steve:

>> Yvonne: We can't hear you Steve.

>> Steve: Sorry I think that is perfectly fine as long as there was nothing in the e‑mail that said there were any restrictions on that. The person that gave the presentation on that was the same one that opened up the session of the NICIL conference last year and talked about implicit bias and all of the issues that come with it. And it actually triggered a lot of white people that were there in attendance and caused a lot of people to walk out of the room. And I was kind of gob smacked at the reaction of the crowd. And it's such an important topic and there are so many important issues embedded in all of this that people just need to lay their protective gear down and open themselves up to this. And listen and listen and listen and digest. So, I'm sorry I'm getting off on a tangent but yes, I think that would be completely appropriate to share.

>> Yvonne: And maybe something that would be worth having as one of our education times as a Council meeting either talk to Vendella or you know I know that some of the CILs are doing really good work in this issue too. But you know I think having that dialog together is important. So, I will go ahead and just forward that to the Council, and we can watch it and we will do like a book club and have an e‑mail club and have discussion about it. But anything else for the good of the Council?

>> Steve: I wanted to share if I could the SILC speak opportunity that happens every month. The next one coming up, is going to be on November 5th we are going to be talking about our SPIL corrections and our PPR. I had Tracy sign up all your SILC e‑mails to this. So, we don't have the keep forwarding them to you and you can decide if you want to join on each month's topic or not so that is all.

>> Yvonne: Okay, all right, can I get a motion to adjourn?

>> I should be getting ten of those come on people.

>> Mark: Motion to adjourn, Mark.

>> Thank you, Mark, and a second.

>> This is Will I will second that.

>> All in favor say aye.

>> Aye.

>> All right thank you everyone on this call. Ex officio public and members for your time, appreciate it. Have a good evening, stay safe, wear a mask, social distance take care.

>> Good‑bye.

[ Meeting concludes at 8:34 p.m.]