

MISILC Quarterly Business Meeting

01/19/21 5:30pm Meeting

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>> Jan: I would like to call this meeting to order. Our first meeting of 2022. Very exciting. I know we have lots of things to report on tonight. And we have some great folks coming in to talk to us about lots of things. So, I'd like to sort of start with seeing if there are any accommodation requests aside from you know, we have the closed captioning and also, we've got sign language interpreters. Are there any other accommodation requests at this time?

>> This is Annie signing. I sent a message over to Tracy just can you please give me permission to multi pin? So that way I can multi pin the interpreters and the speaker. So, Tracy if you're not sure how to do that just shoot me a message and I can explain to you how to do that. Thank you.

>> Jan: As the host there is something you can do to make that happen so thank you. Any other accommodation requests at this time? I can't see everybody at the same time so excuse me for taking a minute.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Let me stop my share, Jan so you can see.

>> Jan: All right so last call for accommodation requests seeing no other requests I would like to move on to the next item which is to have our roll call attendance to be sure we have a quorum so Tracy can you do the roll, please?

>> Tracy: Sure, Frank Animikwam.

>> Present.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Present.

>> Will Harrison.

>> Present.

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Present.

>> Jan Lampman.

>> Present.

>> Mark Pierce.

>> Present.

>> You have a quorum.

>> Jan: Thank you so the next item on the agenda is to take a look at the consent agenda and I want to start asking if there is anyone that we can approve the consent agenda we have to sort of approve the agenda. Are there any changes necessary to the agenda at this time?

>> Mindy: Yes, Jan this is Mindy. And I would like to propose that we move under staff and committee reports at 7:25 that we move the finance report up to take place right after the audit.

>> Jan: Is there a second for that motion?

>> Mark: This is Mark, and I will second that.

>> Jan: Okay so can we get a vote, Tracy?

>> Tracy: Frank Animikwam.

>> Aye.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Aye.

>> Will Harrison.

>> Aye.

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Aye.

>> Jan Lampman.

>> Aye.

>> Mark Pierce.

>> Aye.

>> Motion carried.

>> Jan: Thank you. So, we have officially moved that report on the finance.

>> I'm interjecting if you are not speaking would it be possible to mute yourself that way there is no background noise and makes it hard to hear the speaker. Thank you.

>> Jan: Thank you, I'm sorry about that. Yes, if we can always be muted when we are not speaking that is always very helpful to thank you for bringing that up. So, we have now moved the finance report to be right after the audit report and so the rest of the -- for the consent agenda having made that change to our regular agenda can I get a motion to approve the consent agenda?

>> This is Jamia Davis, it so move to approve the consent agenda.

>> Jan: Thank you. Can I get a second.

>> This is Frank Animikwam, I second.

>> Jan: Is there any discussion necessary? Hearing none Tracy can we call the vote?

>> Frank Animikwam.

>> Aye.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Aye.

>> Will Harrison.

>> Aye.

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Aye.

>> Mark Pierce.

>> Aye.

>> Jan Lampman.

>> Aye.

>> Motion carries.

>> Jan: Thank you very much the next item on the agenda is to have a presentation of our audit. So that I believe is our auditor, yes? Will be doing that along with Mindy.

>> Mindy: Yes, that is correct. Steve or Tracy has Carrie joined the meeting at this point?

>> Tracy: Yes.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Carrie is here and if you tell me what documents you would like to share, I can pull them up on the screen and where you would like to start.

>> Carri: If you would Steve just pull up the audit report, that is the one with the pretty color cover on it.

>> Mindy: Before we get into that we do have some new members to the Council Carri since last year so I would just like to reintroduce everyone to you who may not have met you yet. This is Carri with the ALG group. And we have retained her firm under a three-year contract to provide our external audit services. Carri has a Master of Science in accountancy and also holds her certified public accountant designation. Plus, another prestigious designation and I can never remember the acronym for it. So, without any further ado, Carri, present away.

>> Carri: And Steve you have the report.

>> STEVE LOCKE: I do. Do you want to start with the statement of financial position? Which document title do you want to start with.

>> Carri: Let's start with the independent auditor's report and start right off with page one. That is actually probably the most important document in the packet. So.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Just bear with me as I get my bearings here. It's not showing me everything I have open. Hold on just a second.

Is this the one, Carri?

>> Carri: Is that the final copy?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yes, it's the one that went out with the board packet.

>> Carri: Okay the final copy would have had a colored cover I thought. I think I sent it to you yesterday morning.

>> Mindy: Yeah, Steve, it's one of the letters that is separate from the financials and the notes to the financials.

>> STEVE LOCKE: I got it and I'm pulling it up right now. Okay, I've got it.

>> Carri: There you go. That is what we want.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Okay.

>> Carri: That is the pretty one with the colors so -- [dog barking in the background]

All right so on page one is the independent auditor's report. That is my report to you on what we found or our opinion on the financial statements for September 30th of 2021. For the SILC. It kind of outlines what your responsibility is for the financial statements. What our responsibility is. And then on page two it gives our opinion of the financial statements. And as you can see, we are saying that the financial statements referenced in the letter present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the SILC as of September 30th, 2021. And that's the opinion that you want. It's what we call unmodified which means there is no exceptions that we found. There is nothing that we thought was amiss basically. So, we were able to give that opinion and doing that we can thank Tracy, Steve, and Brad for all their hard work, to make it so that opinion is available. So, if we will scroll down now Steve to page three, yep, so this is your statement of financial position. For anyone from the for-profit world, that is your balance sheet. As you can see at the September 30th, 2021, 42,652 in cash. And net assets without donor restrictions which is our new terminology that started a few years ago, used to be unrestricted. Is 49823. So, decreasing cash for the year, but with COVID and remembering that most of your fiscal year took place during COVID at the end of 2020 and 2021, it was -- it's not bad. We will say that.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Wasn't the decrease in net assets due to us paying those funds back to BSBP that we had accumulated prior to my arrival.

>> Carri: Yes, for those who don't know, and it's explained in the notes that you got that there were some funds that were due back to BSBP that had been over billed. And during the year there was a significant amount of cash that was paid to them. That eliminated the liability. But of course, your cash balance is much lower. So, and also, you have an accrued payroll expense of 27971. That is your largest liability. What that represents is accrued paid leave for your employees. So that explains the balance sheet pretty much. Any questions on that? Before we go further? Or so we will head in the statement of activities and changes in net assets. This is your for profit will be what we call your income statement. As you can see your revenue and support, that's your funds from the state, BSBP and NHS do I got that right and your interest income from your cash accounts.

For your expenses of course that we separate those into program and management in general. Management administrative expenses are you know basically the way that we have been doing it is with a percentage. And I did mention this to Steve and Tracy when I talked to them about it the other day. That management administrative expenses we probably need to make a separate category for that one. When we are booking the expenses throughout the year. But we will get into that a little bit later.

Overall, you have a 2109 decrease in net assets. So overall not a bad year even with having to pay out that money to BSBP.

So, Steve, if you want to scroll down to the cash flow there, I think is the next page or functional expenses. Okay, functional expenses. This is where we kind of outline what

is included in your program and general administrative expenses on the previous page. It gives you more detail. Gives you a little bit of idea of what is where. Over all 276995 in expenses which we divided, program in general and administrative expense which is approximately 20 to 25%.

We have the statement of cash flow which is where we start with the 2109 decrease. We look at the activity in the asset accounts and then compare it to the cash balance and as you can see that all came out, there is a decrease of 45716 which as expected in a lot of that is those funds that were paid back to BSBP. So, then we start with the notes and then basically the notes summarize what the SILC is and when it starts and accounting policies and goes through a few other items for clarification and I think the last one, is it the last one, is about the BSBP so if you want to keep that, yes. Yeah, a page before there. As you can see, we did outline that under note five. This is where we outlined what you owed BSBP and what you paid back over the last couple years. And as you can see it's a significant amount of money. So, it's great that that was able to be paid off so quickly. But other than that, there is no new accounting pronouncements. I should not say that. There is operating leases. A new accounting pronouncement that will be in effect for you for 2023 I believe, but you know unless you guys do decide to take office space again or whatever it probably won't really affect you. And that is what I have. I also have a couple letters that we write communication at the end of the audit and then which basically just kind of outlines again the responsibilities, some other items about how accounting policies are applied. And what estimates were used and a few other things like that. Basically, did we have any disagreements with managements and things like that. So, it's just kind of an explanatory letter that we attach at the end and basically just kind of say there were no findings or question costs or whatever and that is the way you want to see that one. And then management, I did give a letter of comments and recommendations I thought. Do you have that one? Because I know that is the highlight that everyone usually waits for is the letter of comments and recommendations. I think the main one that I had was that you review the policies and procedures that are in place. COVID has definitely changed the way that everybody has been doing business. It's changed our work environments and changed the way we are working. And so, what we are suggesting of course is that you take the time to go through those policies and procedures, manuals, those employee policy manuals, board policies even and review them and make sure that everything is working the way it should be. Or do some items need to be updated due to COVID or due to the way that things have changed now. So that is what I had for the year. Any questions?

>> Mindy: Carri would you comment on the small size and the importance of Council oversight due to the small size of the staff?

>> Carri: Yes, that one because you have such a small staff it's hard to have internal controls in place that you would have if you were bigger. So, it's important that the

board does provide oversight to the staff to make sure that things are being -- things are operating the way they should. And that should be done on a regular basis.

>> Jan: Any other questions for our auditor? Hearing none I would like to say thank you very much Carri and all the team. Did somebody have a question, I'm sorry? And thank you and Steve and the entire team and Mindy and Stephanie and everybody who helped to make sure number one we were financially solvent but also that we had a good audit that came back really clean. I did want to make one comment regarding the idea of reviewing our policies and procedures, although we did do that sort of at the beginning of the pandemic, I do think that it's a good recommendation to have another look especially since some of the things that we thought would be temporary during the pandemic appear to be less temporary in nature. So, thank you for that recommendation. And we do have a committee that is able to look at that, to bring back some recommendation to the board.

>> Mindy: Excuse me, this is Mindy. We also do need to speak briefly about the IRS form 990. Because part of the action that we are going to be taking at the conclusion of this discussion is we are going to be accepting the audit that Carri just went over. And as importantly we are going to approve and authorize the 2020, IRS form 990 for submission. That is part of our operating policy. So, if we could move to the 990 and Carri just to kind of give everyone an overview of what that is and what its purpose is and how it relates to the audits.

>> Carri: Right, happy to do that, Steve if you want to volume down to the first page of the form.

>> There you go.

>> Carri: There we go, that is what we want. As a 501C3 organization you are required to file a form 990. It's what the IRS considers or calls an information return. And boy do they want a lot of information. These things can be many, many pages as you can see, we have 32 here. Obviously, I'm not going to go through every single one. But what we do, do is we take the audit and the audited trial balance, and we put the revenue expenses, the functional expenses, the balance sheet and then we have to fill out also the board list, the board positions, we fill out a form on a schedule D where we basically restate the audit amount and have to make comments on that. There is a schedule B where we list your contributors which is the mainly the state and generally come out with the same and page two.

>> Mindy: I had a comment.

>> Carri: Page two is where we list your mission and then your and program service achievements and that is where they have you list out what the SILC does and put your mission there so that is how that works.

>> Mindy: And I would just like to point out to everyone look at how wonderful our mission and vision statement looks. And the strategic process and we took a good deal of time in nailing down the mission and vision and we can now showcase that in the

form 990 so if there are any potential donors out there who are looking for disability-related organizations to make a contribution to when they search disabilities will come up if they search advocate inclusion, equity, accessibility, so this really gives us an opportunity to put our best foot forward. So, with the new mission and vision doesn't it look great on this document?

>> Jan: They do, thank you for pointing that out, Mindy. Is there more you wanted to share with us Carri about the 990?

>> Carri: You see the pages with all the check boxes, and we answer a bunch of questions that tells us what schedules have to be filled out et cetera, et cetera and here is the list of board members which is big reminder to board members is that you know your name appears on this return and that is because the IRS considers you to have a fiduciary duty to the organization. So, it's a responsibility that you take when you accept a membership on a board and it's important to keep that in mind that they can you may be sitting in the chair under a light bulb. Put it that way. We outline your revenue expenses, everything gets as you can see gets very, very detailed and like I said I don't want to bore you with all the details. I know Mindy loves it but other than that it basically just restates the audit.

>> Mindy: That helps a lot of what we are asking people to approve for submission to the IRS.

>> Carri: Yes.

>> Jan: This is Jan. Are there any other questions that we have for our auditor or audit team before we look for a motion? Hearing none I would like to entertain a motion to accept our fiscal year 2021 audit as presented and approved and authorize the 2020 form 990 for submission. Can we get a motion?

>> Mindy: This is Mindy Kulasa so moved.

>> Jan: Thank you Mindy do we have a second.

>> This is Mark I will second that.

>> Jan: Do we have any further discussion of the motion that is on the floor? Seeing none I would like Tracy if you can please call the vote.

>> Tracy: Frank Animikwam.

>> Aye.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Aye.

>> Will Harrison.

>> Aye.

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Aye.

>> Mark Pierce.

>> Aye.

>> Jan Lampman.

>> Aye.

>> Motion carried.

>> Jan: Awesome that so much again to our auditor. And our whole audit team. I'm very excited that we are able to turn in our 990 in a timely manner and we have a good audit so thank you everyone making sure that happened. The next item on our agenda as our revised agenda is the finance committee report with Mindy. Please and thank you. And maybe Steve will chime in as well.

>> Carri: I'm going to sign off and I want to thank you for having us this year and hopefully we will see you again.

>> Jan: Thank you so much. Good-bye Carri. Thank you.

>> Mindy: That is just thrilling to have a squeaky-clean audit. So, because in past years we had a finding or two. But there are no findings just simply comments on things to watch out for like remote work and internal controls relative to that and like the small size of our operating staff and the importance of board oversight of the financials, so you're hearing from me this evening rather than your treasurer Stephanie because I'm not sure if everyone is aware we have some Council members who are in a state of limbo awaiting reappointment by the Governor's office. So that is why I kind of jumped back into the fray here to help support the finance function until we can get prop properly appointed so, Steve, I would like you to start perfect. You know exactly where I go to first. The statement of financial position. And if you will scroll up just a bit so people can see not the whole, whole thing but can see a little bit better. So Carri carried this from the audit, but this is an accounting line by line. This is a snapshot as of December 31 where we were at audit were as of September 30th, okay? So, these numbers are much more current than you know three months old from the audit's cutoff date. So, we do have 42000 in change in the bank at the end of December we have accounts receivable from our grantors. In the amount of going on 29,000. Then we have some prepaid assets where we make advanced payments towards something and that counts as an asset until we actually pay the bill for it then if you can move into our liabilities this is where it gets kind of exciting. Because you can see we virtually as of December 31st. Had no liabilities. And we used to see a substantial liability here related to B row of services for blind persons. So that and the money we worked so hard to pay down does not show up at all. So that showed favorably on our equity position, Steve. Is around 50,000 and total liability of equity is about 73. So not big changes since September 30th but good to know that we continued to look really good for an organization of our size through December 31st, this is part of the board's oversight function understanding what these reports are telling us. Does anybody have any questions on the photograph of where we are at on December 31st?

>> This is Mark, Mindy I don't have any questions or anything. I just want to comment on your astuteness and laying everything out. I consider the fruits of your labor in the past year. And coming up, with a nice 990 which is really nice to see that. The first

time it's going to be posted out there in the Federal world as our new mission statement but thank you so much for making and keeping things simple and easy to understand.

>> Mindy: That is my job Mr. Pierce. Thank you for all the hard work that you do. And Steve why don't we jump to the budget piece of this. So, we can see where we are at in our budget as of December 31.

>> Steve: Do I need to stop share and reshare.

>> Jan: You.

>> Mindy: You need to stop and reshare we are still looking at the balance sheet.

>> Steve: Here we go.

>> Mindy: Thank you very much for already collapsing it so we don't have to look at all those columns because we would be here all night trying to interpret those. But basically, we are doing really well as relates to our budget. There is a couple of categories always look a little wonky, a real official accounting term I might add but they look a little wonky which is which is payroll and some employee benefits. It's because payroll is every two weeks. And this particular budget cutoff on December 31st and so there is time lag differences between the cutoff and the budgetary period and when our pay periods fall. So those are really the only exceptional or wonky examples of what we are looking at in the budget. Steve, did you have anything in particular you would like to comment on relative to budget to actual?

>> STEVE LOCKE: I don't. Things are trucking along as we predicted them to be and because our budget is cast on a monthly basis and we have some like you pointed out, Mindy we are on a biweekly way roll so things don't always match with the way the budget was cast so you will see some percentage differences that reflect the way the billings come in, the way the payroll rolls out versus a 12 month budget forecast. That is why some of the percentages are different but by the end of the fiscal year they end up playing out and we get to a zero balanced budget.

>> Mindy: Okay, anybody else have any other questions on the budget? I'm looking forward to the future when we will have a really big operating budget because we are going to grow the SILC so much. So that's what I'm looking forward to.

>> STEVE LOCKE: You know Mindy the only thing I would point out would be line item right here. The 7300 SPIL support. It looks like we have not expended anything from this, but we budgeted I believe 55,000 for this and 45,000 of that was for our outreach initiative which I will get into during my Executive Director report. But this is cast as on a monthly basis and then year to date it does not look like we expended anything, but we just signed that contract for outreach services for 45,000 and you will start seeing that hit this line item. And so that is the only thing I wanted to point out here.

>> Mindy: Very good, if you just go to our check register just so everyone knows what it looks like to look at their own personal checkbook. It's very important that the board has oversight over the virtual checkbook of our SILC and our related Independent Living

corporation. This just shows you the details on where the different expenditures went throughout the month. And again, everything is copacetic. There is no red flags or areas of concern that I have, and we are looking good. So, so far so good as of December 31. And thank you for getting the December 31 financials prepared and turned around so quickly. It's really nice. A lot of the boards that I sit on we don't have December 31 numbers for our January meetings. So, it's a breath of fresh air that things are working so smoothly between Steve, Tracy, and people from supporting strategies who is back there in the background, making a lot of this stuff happen. So that is where the internal controls are the key. So, I can tell you that December 31 also fairly presents our financial positions with no issues of concern. So that's the finance report. And unless anybody has any questions. Okay and that gets accepted as part of the consent agenda. So, we don't need a separate motion or anything like that at this point in the meeting because it's covered under the consent agenda. So, thank you for your attention, pleasure as always talking numbers with you guys.

>> Jan: Thank you very much Mindy. So, at this point in the meeting, we have some Council education and I'm super excited about this. Because we have as our guest Kelly Winn who is the Executive Director of the Disability Network for Oakland and Macomb counties, and Steve I did not know if you wanted to do more of an introduction or if we wanted to let Kelly do more of her own introduction. How do we want to do that.

>> STEVE LOCKE: I just want to say how appreciative I am of Kelly for being here and being a guest speaker and talking about how awesome her agency is. And how they have stepped up to the plate to support the IL network here in Michigan by taking over the Blue Water CIL's service area. I also want to thank Lori for being here. I want to thank Diane for being here and the CIL directors that have joined us this evening and, Mark, I'm just so appreciative of our primary partnership with our CILs. I'm thrilled to see all of you here tonight. And I just encourage more CIL directors to join us. We are working behind the scenes to make a greater connection between myself and the CIL directors. And finding that venue in which we can have that, those informal conversations about what's going on. And with that I'm going to turn it over to Kelly. And Kelly you are so awesome. And take it away.

>> Kelly: Aww, thanks, Steve. I appreciate it. I'm Kelly Winn. I'm the Executive Director. Can I share my screen? I can't. Let's see. Let me pull this up really quick. You would think by now we would all be experts.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Not really. I can have Tracy give you the ability to share too.

>> Kelly: I got it.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Awesome.

>> Kelly: Can you see my screen.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Not yet.

>> I'm Kelly Winn and I'm the Executive Director of Disability Network Eastern Michigan. So, yes, we had a name change. So, I'm going to get into just a couple of minutes, a bit of history with you of how we got to where we are right now.

So, we started here at Oakland and Macomb in 1987. So, we have been going strong since 1987. This is our beautiful first logo. Not really. I look at it and I go who designed that? We were Oakland and Macomb center for Independent Living. Everybody really was basically their counties or their regions and center for Independent Living then we merged with Great Lakes Detroit. We were one. Then we in 1997 separated again and became independent on our own. I couldn't find the first one. We were on 13 mile. This is from 14 mile. Then bam next, we move to 15 mile. For some reason we must have liked mile roads or something. But in 2006 we all underwent changing our names to Disability Networks. It was supposed to be across the state, everybody was going to be Disability Network Oakland and Macomb. Wayne County. Capital area. This, that. Not everybody jumped on the bandwagon. That's okay.

We did, we became Disability Network Oakland and Macomb and had two locations then. One as I said on 15 mile and guess what the other one on 10-Mile. Another mile road. Not sure.

We were there, happy for a long time. Until it started raining on us on 10-Mile. When I say raining, I mean literally raining on us. The roof was leaking. They did not want to fix it, so we merged everybody back in 15 Mile office and had to look for a bigger place to house us. That is when we ended up here in Jon R where we still are today at our fully accessible office that we absolutely love here. We will never leave if we don't ever have to. We love our location, our space, everything about it here.

2020, right before COVID hit a dream of ours came true and we opened an independent living skills training center. You literally can walk to it from this office. It is right down the road. Space came vacant. This is set up like an apartment. So, it is a hands-on training center. They have to take the sheets off the bed. Put them in the washing machine. They have to take them out of the washing machine. Put them in the dryer, fold them cook a meal, medication prep and it has a mock grocery store in it. They have to pick out their supplies for the week. Ring it up, the whole nine yards and go through all of the aspects of independent living to make sure they are really ready to go away to training. Go away to college. All of that.

Fast forward to August 23rd and we were asked if we would be the temporary service provider of the thumb area. Five new counties that really, we didn't know a heck of a lot about. But we jumped in. Said okay.

We will do it. And you know we went blazing from August 23rd until September 30th, we were nonstop. Our team worked fast and furious. You know I pulled some numbers just because I was amazed at how much we did in that six-week period. We did 137INR. We had three ASL classes. Two peer support groups. Outreach efforts. We

hosted an open house. All the staff got trained. We set up the whole place with COVID precautions there was so much that we did in a short, 5.5-week span. It was just incredible.

And during that time, I decided I was going to write the proposal to become the service provider for that area. Because it was really difficult not knowing, well is this going to continue, is it not going to continue, yes, no, what is going to happen. So thankfully on October 1st we found out like two days before October 1st that we were awarded a second designation to run blue water service area. Blue water is no longer. People ask me that all the time, oh, so you are blue water. There is no blue water. Blue water is gone. They are no longer in existence. They are dissolved as an organization, filed bankruptcy, gone.

There is now Disability Network thumb region. That is what the name is. However, that is what the DBA is for contract purposes. The name is actually Disability Network eastern Michigan. We operate under one name. Because we want continuity of services. What we are providing here we are providing the same services there.

I couldn't go in talking to somebody with a business card that said Disability Network Oakland and Macomb up in Tuscola County with any credibility right. So, we sat down, and we said what does that look like? What do we call ourselves? How do we do these services? And make sure that every voice is heard. So that is when we came up with this new name with the board and what it would look like and how do we recruit new board members. What does that look like and all of them good things. So, we still have a DBA of Disability Network Oakland and Macomb and one of the disability thumb region so when we do have to distinguish differences, we can still do that. But on all of our pro motion stuff like that we go out as eastern Michigan.

Before I go on about getting into some services and stuff like that are there any questions on the history of how we got here.

>> STEVE LOCKE: I just have one question. Regarding the name change in terms of how you're structured do you have two different boards for the area or is it all under one board.

>> Kelly: All under one.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Awesome, thank you and thank you for all you guys are doing and how you stepped up to the plate. Absolutely amazing. You guys just got that intestinal fortitude and are here to support you and thank you so much and thank your staff for us.

>> Kelly: I will. So, we now have four spaces currently. Our main office here in Jon R the training center I mentioned. One you guys are the first outside of our office to hear about. We I sign on the dotted line and actually got the keys yesterday. For new space in fort Gratiot. I've been diligently looking for one. I did not -- I was not a fan of the spot they had before and think they needed a new beginning. They really needed a fresh, clean start. So that was my number one priority was to find them a new space.

And we did and they developed it for me. So we will be, I have the keys. February 1st we actually can move in. But by the time we open it will probably be the 14th for consumers and stuff. So, I'm really excited about that. And to have them all over there for that.

We also opened a satellite office in Sanilac County and that one has been up and running and I'm searching for space in Lapeer County, so we are definitely on the move.

So, I'm getting into our services. One of the things that guides all of our services. You know, I am very consumer staff driven. We do our programs and our services by what is needed in the community. And really, I sit down with staff. And what do you feel the -- what are you hearing is needed? What is it that leads you? What is it you think people need and you want to deliver? Because they are the ones that are out there, their feet are on the ground all day. And if I just come up and design something and say here go do this, they are not going to do it with passion. And with that love in their heart. So, they help design everything we do. And it's our mission and our vision that leads us to them places. So, Disability Network eastern division has inclusion for all breaking down barriers and opening independence and choice of resources advocacy support and education. However, this is a project we are working on to change because we wrote it without staff from blue water. So, we want to incorporate them, work together to come up with some new that can be collaborated together with everybody in on the process. So, and our vision is together the work that each one of us does helps our vision of being a community where those living with disabilities are empowered to pursue personal growth and choice through access to community resources and supportive services.

So, this is just a fun fact. We have 40 full time staff and three part time staff. And just so you know when I started here in 2006, we had eight. Eight. So, 43 and 8. That is like huge. Yes, big changes. Big changes from when I first started. So as most of you all know, there are five core services that CILs do. This is everywhere, any CIL that you go to advocacy, independent living skills training, information and referral, peer support, transition services. What they look like at each CIL is different. I don't know how it's changing colors because I did not put that in there but hey that is all right.

But any way they look different at any CIL you go to. So, advocacy is that individual or systems-based advocacy. Services that enable people with disabilities to exercise control over their lives, create a lifestyle of their choice. A lot of things that we do here we do a lot of accessibility services. We assess buildings, businesses, public spaces, we do website accessibility for businesses. We do document accessibility. ADA compliance reviews. We have an ADA coordinator on staff. We have a lawyer on staff. So, they write comprehensive reports on those things. We do ADA compliance trainings. We go out and do trainings on accessible documents, title one, title two, title three of the ADA legal updates. COVID-19 related employment updates. Service animals in all settings. We did anti-ableism disability awareness and prevention and

prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. And we do it, who wants one to show families, caregivers, organizations, communities, how to prevent elder abuse. How to spot it. Recognize it. Report it. All of that. So those are some things we do there.

Independent living skills training you know the skills and strategies to achieve vocational educational and independent living goals. We have a lot of ASL classes. We run beginner classes, beginner level two, intermediate, intermediate two refresher and advanced. We have a huge need right now for ASL classes and so they are constantly running on staff.

We start all of our classes with an introduction to deaf culture. Because we have found that language cannot be separated from culture. So, it's really interesting. We have assistive technology department that we run. Which is a myriad of equipment we use for training opportunities for individuals and groups and independent living skills test with the training center.

Come in and show different levels for job readiness and maintenance hygiene culinary and REC-is the recreation education community team and it's the healthy recreation program. DIY classes, craft or art classes, cooking classes. One of the last ones that I was here and did was this butterfly under a jar. They were in here and they made these nice glass butterflies. And so, one of them made it for me and gave it to me to put on my desk. So, after she was done.

So that is just one of the REC-IT classes we do here.

So, information and referral. Benefits planning, helping we have certified benefits planners that help consumers understand and access the impact of earnings again supplemental security information. COVID-19 support, testing sites, vaccine access, resources. We have a loan closet available to all our consumers. This is if you need a wheelchair. You need crutches.

You need a shower bench. Commode any of the things and most we have here, and we loan out to the community free of charge. So, they call us, come this and we get that. We currently...it's just now got up and running we also will have ramps available as well. So that's pretty exciting. We have one out now already.

And mobile outreach. We love this. We go to every community, a rural area in every community and set up shop. So basically, we contact the library, a coffee shop, somewhere that where people don't generally come to us. We look where have we not got consumers from. We are going to go there, and we are going to set up shop and we are going to blast all over this is where we are going to be so they can come to us. So, they don't have to travel far. They can come in there. We have all of our resources available so we can help them where they are.

Peer support offers opportunities to grow through collaborating with others. We do a monthly game night to help decrease social isolation, general peer support group, living well in the community which is healthy living parents and peer support group which is

for parents of children with disabilities. And our rise LGBTQ + disability group which is relaxing interactive safe environment. It's a safe place where all sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expressions are welcomed and encouraged. So those are some of our peer support groups that are offered here on a monthly basis.

And last, we will transition services. So, nursing facility transition is moving people who want to move out of a nursing home. Who qualify into regular community living. And school transition facilitate and supports the movement of high school students with disabilities into adult life. So preemployment transition is really a program with partnership with MRS. Where we provide the tools to ensure the successful transition. A lot of class work, it's a lot of we provide classes. I think our programs we have 40 different. But just a few are like career pathways. Empowerment for employment, healthy relationships, smart money, soft skills are just some of them.

Some additional stuff that we do in the thumb region only they have cares act dollars still. They provide consumers in the thumb region with food, sustainability, household essentials, personal protection. We also do some one-time purchases if needed. If they are affected by COVID. We are a community liaison. Here in Oakland and Macomb. What that means is that we help seniors and people with disabilities with utility shut off medical enrollment and items like that. We have an MMAP certified Counselor who can help people get Medicare extra benefits and all of that, help walk them through that process.

We have a very large Veteran's programming here. Through two different aspects. One is SSVF which is supportive services for Veterans and their families which helps housing of homeless Veterans. And those in danger of becoming homeless. And the other is through the Veterans administration and referrals from the Veterans administration doing peer support and one on one computer with Veterans who need that.

So, in looking -- I just pulled some info from just our first quarter and just to see like what we did in our first quarter. And just in the first quarter on top of our regular core services just being out in the community, our staff participated in MCR EST a rotating emergency shelter that houses the homeless. We did a special needs ministry and robotic pet adoption. If you have not seen them, I'm going to show you because they are the coolest. This was one of the biggest initiatives that we had last year. They actually [meow]

They actually have sensors. It's purring now. They rollover. There are dogs, there is different types of cats. They are fantastic. This -- it has to rollover. It will continue talking because it's on. So, it was a huge, huge thing we did during COVID. We delivered them to nursing facilities all over the place. So, it was -- [meow]

So, we did one of those this quarter. We partnered with FEMA and did a town hall. Because of flooding, I will turn it off. We handed out food boxes in Port Huron and we did three different food care pack distributions which were food packs as well as COVID

care packs. There were masks. There were hand sanitizers. There were whole plethora of different stuff. So, we have been actively busy in all seven counties. So up and coming we are very excited and launching and we just hired a new staff person to do some adaptable recreation programming. Which will be very awesome up in the thumb. And next month our men in disability and women with disability support group are starting. We are going to be opening a loan closet in the fort Gratiot location as well as assistive technology and a dream of opening a computer lab in both the Troy office and fort Gratiot office. Oh, that was it and those were just in there.

I think that was everything. Questions?

>> Jan: I see no questions, but I would like to say wow. So many cool things that you are doing. And thank you for that. I learned a lot about what is available down in, well, I have to call it sort of Southeast Michigan. Because you know, there is a north part of Michigan that's on the east as well. So, but I love all of the things that you do and want to thank you for doing them. And for sharing that with us.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Amazing Kelly. The energy that you all have and the way that you have grabbed this opportunity by the horns is nothing less than amazing. So, kudos to you and your staff for stepping forward. We are here to support you in any way that we can.

>> Kelly: Thank you I appreciate it.

>> Jan: Okay, so let's move on. We have one more kind of large order of business before we can stop for a quick break. And that is our ex officio members reports. And so, I'm going to just sort of go down the list, although I'm seeing on my screen that we may not have everyone here this evening. So usually, Bill Addison is here and does a report for MRS. Michigan Rehabilitation Services. Is there -- Steve or anyone, is there a representative of Michigan rehab tonight? Or no? I'm not seeing any hands. So, then the next one of our ex officio members is a representative from the Bureau of services to blind persons. Did I see Lisa on here.

>> STEVE LOCKE: We have Lisa, Anne, Vendella and Mark.

>> Jan: Lisa are you ready to give a report from your division.

>> Lisa: Sure. Happy to do that. Let me try to turn on my camera here. Taking its sweet little time. Then I get impatient and turn it back off again.

>> Jan: We got you and see you.

>> Lisa: Good evening, everybody and thank you for the great presentations. Good to catch up on audits and those things.

BSBP and I will speak for both Bureaus when I say this MRS and BSBP we are in the middle of a mid-cycle state plan review.

And I do know that Steve had received and Robin or Tracy the state plan. So, you should all have that, those of you that are members. And I would suggest it's probably posted on the website. And so, you can certainly review that. It's a very large document. But every two years the unified state plan is modified and then on the fourth

year it is rewritten altogether. So, we are in the mid cycle review. So, the state plan is out for comment. So, if you are interested in that, please take a look. And if there are any comments or questions on either BSBP or MRS' plans please follow the directions that were provided as far as the comment section document and so on. You can do that.

And that's open until February 10th I believe.

So that's one thing that I think represents both of us together.

And BSBP in particular we are very committed to helping to continue our in-person services as we have been out in the field since July of 2021. So, we are seeing us customers safely. We have a COVID protocol in place. And we are mask wearing. We are dissonant doing and health screening and doing our best to stay safe and keep our customers safe but also respecting the fact we need to provide in-person services. So, we are definitely open for business. And we are itinerate and most of the staff see individuals in their homes. So, we are doing that. So, if you have any questions or concerns about that, let us know.

We also are really committed to one of our goals this year is benefits planning. And we are mission driven to provide as many benefits and planning services as we can to as many eligible individuals as an appropriate. Our goal is to provide 120 services. So that might not seem like a lot to larger agencies but to us it's a fairly good number and I would like to meet and exceed that number and our reason for that push is that we know that when individuals understand their benefits and understand the ability to work while receiving benefits and the supports that are available when you want to transition into no longer receiving benefits that having that information and having that ability to make good informed choices is going to lead you down a road to that successful outcome. We are promoting financial literacy. I know some centers for independent living are partners in that field and provide services to teach independent, I'm sorry to teach financial literacy skills because we know another factors, when an individual obtains employment, we want them to understand how best to use the new resources, so they don't find themselves in precarious circumstances with overextending.

We have two pilots for customized employment and some of you may have heard me mention that customized employment is a very unique process of developing employment outcomes for individuals who have not been successful in other methods of placement strategies.

So, both MRS and BSBP are highly engaged in this these two pilots one on the east side and southeast side of the state and the other west central part of the state. And we will be adding additional providers and hopefully extending our pilot to more areas within the state so that we can really, really develop customized employment as a household word or household phrase in the field of rehabilitation.

Another piece where we are really focused is helping individuals to develop good IPEs individual plans of employment, strong goals that lead to those employment

outcomes. So that is just a little bit about some of our strategies this year, some of the things we are holding close and really focusing on. And as well as providing preemployment transition services to almost 300 of our customers that we serve. And our Centers for Independent Living are a big part of that. We have relationships with many of the centers across the state. Disability Network capital area has been a good partner. Disability Network in Ottawa county. DAKC in Kent Disability Network in up north by our northern, it's a different name now I'm sorry. But our lower northern partners as well. We have some transferors inter agency transfer agreements with disability lakeshore and with let's see in Lansing as well. So, we are working really hard to get our services out there. Get these kids to get some services and to utilize our CILs as a huge partner. So that's just kind of a little snippet of what is going on at BSBP. There are always tons of things happening. We are also doing a lot of hiring so you may have seen some of our job posts. We have Counselor positions in Lansing, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo. We have manager position open in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo. And we have additional manager position open in our central region. We have an analyst available in Kalamazoo area. So, we've got a lot of, and our training center also has some vacant positions so a lot of moving and shaking going on at BSBP. So, any questions?

>> Jan: This is Jan and don't see any questions, so Lisa thank you for wow an excellent report. Feels like everybody is doing a lot of work these days.

>> Lisa: We are doing work and overwhelmed and over stressed, but we are getting up every day and putting one foot in front of the other and making the very best to serve the fine citizens of the state and the individuals with disabilities that deserve quality service.

>> Jan: Thank you.

>> Lisa: It's Braille literacy month.

>> Jan: Thank you for telling us.

>> Lisa: Take care.

>> Jan: Thank you so much. Next on the agenda is the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and Annie Urasky did I say your name correctly?

>> Hi hello yes this is Annie signing. It's nice to see everyone tonight, hopefully everyone is doing well. So just a few updates. Let me get my list here. So first I want to share with our -- that our state office is still working remotely. In terms of working in the state Government, yeah. So, the office of state employment has let everybody know the expectation to work remotely until the end of February. So, you know, we continue to work remotely, and we are assessing, you know, that as we need the space at this time.

So, I'm pretty excited to announce the department is really launching a new program with interns. And so now the spring semester my office will be bringing in an intern from central Michigan University. CMU. A senior there. So, she studies sociology and it's

really fascinating and criminal justice. And social justice so we are really excited to have them have her working with us. From now until May. So maybe the next meeting I'll have an opportunity to bring Raquel in. So, you know I think it would be nice for her to get in and observe a meeting like this and a Council and she has a background in ASL and taking ASL at CMU, so we are really excited about that.

Later this month and next month we will I have will additional information from MDCR events we will be promoting to the public. We will be getting you know some information about those events, and I'll let you know about those as they come to me. They are some really interesting topics coming up.

And I think it will be great in terms of networking with differ organizations. So, we appreciate you not only taking that information but also spreading the word to anybody in your network as well.

And all of those events will be virtual at this time. Yes. And they will have interpreters and CART provided.

The last time we met I mentioned some information in relation to the state COVID process and the plan in regard to Protect Michigan Commission. And so right now that commission really, they are focusing their efforts on at the end of last year just getting a formal report to the Governor's office and that. And the disability workgroup is going to continue to work even though that commission is over at this time. So, and we are going to be working on specific concerns related to the disability community. So, I would like any input from any of you that if you could, if you want to e-mail me or send me any information that you can or anything that you would or any issues we can work on. So, I can bring that to them.

And also, we are working with MDHHS in terms of getting cards, visor cards and getting things translated into ASL. There are two things that are going to be coming out on the national level and I'm sure you are already aware. But in case you are not there is two things. So first the Federal Government will be launching the at home COVID tests that roll out. So, every household will be able to get four tests to -- for one address.

And the website you know is already up and running and people can log in now. And the website is COVIDtests.gov. And only one person, one household can apply for that. But, you know, I'm going to have a phone call tomorrow with some stakeholders within the disability community and we want to have people aware of that to make sure that we get these resources out to the community. So, I just wanted to emphasize that. And they are prioritizing and making sure they want to focus on those hard-hit communities, making sure that they are giving, you know, equal access to these as well. And make sure that we are sharing information with them. And I'll be on a call with them tomorrow and I will let you and everyone in the group know any information that might come from that. If there are any people who are having issues accessing the form or getting anything like that, or maybe they want to communicate, maybe they prefer

communicating via phone have item connect with the local organization that is passing out the tests as well. Some libraries have already started disseminating tests free of charge at the local level there so that is another resource.

And also, they are also I just want to emphasize there is a hotline number that people can call if they have any questions or concerns. And there is a specific hotline under the ACL for people who need or might have issues with accessibility.

And I also wanted to stress that the department of insurance and finance will be putting out a press release, they put out a press release last week. Just sharing information about the rest responsibility that health insurance companies have to reimburse for individuals who are under their insurance to get COVID tests. So, there are some really beneficial information there. And if -- I can share that with you as well. And there is specifically information related, that is coming up, for okay the DI, the website, the DIFS website. So, if you want a copy, you can e-mail me and I can forward that to you. And now we are specifically our office we are planning some things you know, after the holidays we are shifting back into working on connecting with communities and different organizations, trying to get check in with everybody. And to making sure some of our events that we are going to be in person we decided to postpone because of you know, COVID and everything. So, we've had to have a lot of cancellations. And we put a lot of our events back to virtual events.

And we are actually planning some events related to deaf, hard of hearing educational programs. So, the month of March is deaf national reading month. so, and that's one of my favorite things to do as the director is to go in the classrooms and just read stories with the young kids. You know, and really connect with them. And so, we are planning this year we are going to have several programs going around. And with the different school districts. They will be virtual. And also, we are going to offer some advocacy training to the youth as well. So, within the deaf and hard of hearing programs we are going to go into the classrooms and think about you know what they want to think about for the future or what they want you know thinking about college and University. You know, because of the age range they need to start thinking about those things and thinking about independence and life skills. So, I think one perfect example, we coordinated some training really just showing like they were scenario-based training. So, what would happen if you went to the doctor's office and you schedule an appointment, but they won't provide an interpreter, so that kind of working with the youth that way and acting out scenarios like how are you going to respond to the person at the office and that. And it's really empowering for them to see how they can work through that situation. It was really great, you know. And now we really want to really grow on that, you know, every year. And really be able to work with the kids every year. And see how they can move up through these different trainings and advocacy. And it's really great to do these trainings to have an opportunity to work with them. And you can see, you know, it's important that they have deaf role models,

and they can start thinking about what their life is going to go like after they transition from school.

And then, lastly, my last update I have is related to our advisory Council. As you know because of COVID we have had to suspend our advisory Council meetings until we can be back in person because it's an accessibility reason. So as of right now you know people have been asking are you planning to do any meetings for 2022. And right now, we are still waiting to see what happens with when we can continue to have, when we can actually go back and have a meeting in person. That's all the updates I have on my end. Thank you as always for having me again here tonight. Thanks.

>> Jan: I just did that whole thing with my mute on. So, I'm very sorry. So, our next report is from the Michigan developmental disabilities Council, which is Vendella Collins, and I see she is on the call so if you can take it away that would be great.

>> Vendella: Hi everyone thank you for having me here today. So, I just have to confess that I am suffering from Zoom and COVID fatigue. All my meetings seem to blend right into each other. So, it's hard to differentiate. So, forgive me if it sounds like we are not doing much at our office, but we really are.

So, I wanted to start by saying that October 1st we started our new five-year plan. And that five-year plan I think is a pretty robust plan that is going to really help people with IDD to fully engage with their communities. To really press the system, to have the life that they want. We are doing a lot of work around self-determination. Around alternatives to guardianship. Around employment work. So, I think that we are trying to really deal with all of the life domains. And so, we submitted that our plan to the administration on community living. We've gotten a provisional okay. They have not fully endorsed any state or territories planned thus far. We were supposed to have a decision made in November. That didn't happen and now we are talking probably February before we get full endorsement of our plan. We are continuing to do most of our work remotely. Out of precaution for folks with IDD. And so, and we are spending a lot of time, effort, and money if you will encouraging the -- all of our partners and certainly our Council to focus on our DEI initiatives. Our diversity equity and inclusion. And so, we have used that as a backdrop for our entire planning process. It's not just do your plan over here and then have DEI work over here. We are using it as the backdrop for all of what we do so that we are making sure that we are following our own model of our community includes everyone. And having people to really feel welcome in our work.

More recently we are engaged with ACL all of the money that is being invested in COVID-related activities, I think that one of the last times we met I talked about the monies that we were receiving for vaccine. And we are trying to do some planning around that. We more recently just as the other day as a matter of fact had discussions with ACL on the public health workforce enhancement. And some of you may have heard about that. So, they are giving the feds are putting money into all the networks,

IL networks, certainly one of them, I think you are receiving about 75, 76 million dollars across the entire nation. The DD Councils are probably receiving the lesser amount. We are getting 4.5 million dollars across the network which and they are giving the money out equitably. So, I shouldn't say equitably. They are giving it out evenly and getting the same amount. We are getting the base line of \$80,000. And for this you don't have to accept the money. In Michigan we are going to accept the money.

And so, for those states and territories that decide not to take the money it will increase the pot for the rest of us. So, but we are getting the base line of \$80,000. And that money is specifically used to enhance or grow the public health workforce. So, we can't use it on services. But we can use it on the staff and making sure that because we've all heard that the public health entities are having some issues with staffing. And so, people are not getting the services they need.

So, we are looking forward to getting that money, that money needs to be spent by September 30, 2024. Our previous COVID money needs to be spent by September 30, 2023. So, we are looking forward to developing some programs and processes to make this happen for the COVID money around vaccines we have been working as a coalition. This time for the public health money, I think we are going to probably do something as a Council. And perhaps get involved with other coalitions down the road.

We are looking forward to our continuing work around the public community-based services settings rule. Helping people to really engage and connect with their communities. We are doing some work with we have grants out for that.

And what else are we doing? I'm going to piggyback on something that Annie was talking about, the home testing. We are trying to do some advocacy around making sure that people with IDD who live in group homes get their tests as well. Because you get one per address. And so, we are trying to help figure out how we get that to groups or folks who live in group homes. Because they would want free testing as well. And four certainly is not going to do it for an entire group home. So, we are going to be providing some advocacy around that.

And the last thing or two other things that I wanted to advise you of is that again, I said that our work in Michigan is being done mostly virtually. But there is a disability policy seminar that is coming up, in March, the end of March, March 28 and 30 in Washington D.C. And it's a hybrid approach. They are going to be doing both virtual and in person. It's specifically to connect people with national policy. And helping folks with IDD to really understand the Federal policies and how it affects their lives and have them weigh in on those too. I think over the years that that seminar has grown from mostly professionals to now mostly individuals with lived experience. I'm loving the shift. And the last thing is that March is DD awareness month. And so, in Michigan we are planning some activities around every week in the month of March. There is a coalition that's working on that with the Council. And so, we are looking forward to getting that information out timely. So that people you can pass it out through your

networks. And individuals with IDD and others can enjoy the awareness activities that we are going to be presenting. And that is my report, thank you so much.

>> Jan: Take myself off mute before I speak. Thank you so much Vendella for your report. The DD Council really is doing lots and lots of things and we all appreciate that very much. So, let's see. Last up but not least for sure is Mark Pierce with an update on the Disability Networks.

>> Mark: All right, well good to see everybody and I'm fired up because Kelly, my goodness, she made my job a lot easier with her presentation. You know, giving the update what is going on with the CILs across the state. But in this first quarter I will tell you it's been kind of trying for us. And in November of 2021 we lost one of our CIL Executive Directors. So, Sarah Peurakoski and that was a real hammer to us. It really hurt us hard. But at the same time, it brought us together on what this really is all about as a director over a CIL. And how we all touch each other's life. I just wanted to bring that to the Council's attention. Just in case you weren't aware of it. It was hard for us directors to even stomach that.

But on a brighter note, I think that Kelly done a great job of taking over blue water CIL in the thumb area, renaming it Disability Network eastern Michigan. Thank you so much Kelly. I have that on my things to do for an update for the CILs. And the network, thank you for doing a great job of laying that out there.

Right now, the CILs are still working with CIL first. We are doing implementation of that. There are a few little bugs there, trying to get that up and running and getting the programs going but we will work through it.

We also got we lost one director, but we got a new director. The guy is probably know him named Yvonne Fleener from the Council. She is over at Southwest Michigan, and she has been there over 90 days. I spoke with her today and she is doing a great job. She took over a great CIL. Haven't heard one note from Joel Cooper but I'm probably sure he is enjoying life.

This in the first quarter we all had to get our PPRs and for 2020, 19-20 to ACL by the close of business of December 31st. So, we got them done. And for this one in January, we got to finish off the ones for 21.

CILs are also preparing a budget amendment or preparing for a budget amendment coming from MRS, the state for February 2022. We got to wait on the numbers, and I think we are going through a webinar here pretty quick to how our budget will be increased. And adding that to what we do.

I don't know if any of you know it, but Terri Langley is on new community relations director. I think if you have not got a chance to talk to her you definitely should. Maybe one time I will invite her to give just a nice little spiel to you about her in action with the legislatures here in the capitol area and affects change and advocates for CILs and keeps us on the front line of funding.

Basically, our directors meet twice a month. We have our monthly director's meeting and then we also have our keep in touch meeting where we are allowed to share a lot of best practices and things that are really on the front edge for CILs.

I think it's kind of safe to say that a lot of CILs are doing a hybrid as far as virtual and in person services. However, the new Omicron virus has made it a little more difficult because it's somewhat more contagious. I know it hit my CIL a little bit harder than the delta viruses, but it created a way of thinking about how we are going to handle you know five days quarantining things of that nature and distribute our services.

I thank you Vendella for your update on the ACL funds that is supposed to be coming out. We went to a webinar about that. I'm kind of hoping other CILs don't take money and I will take it. I'm always open to getting more money. However, one thing I understand about the feds they really get the money to us pretty quick. And so that's a good thing.

I think that is about it for the update for the IL network. And what we do. Are there any questions? All right, man, am I good, I'm done at 7:14.

>> Jan: You did great, Mark. You did great although I love your reports and it would have been okay if you would have gone right up to the end. [Laughter]
So, okay everyone so at this point in the meeting we are ready to take a ten-minute break so folks can get another drink of water or stretch a little bit. And then we will come back at, well, so we will come back at 7:25 like we were like our schedule says. And then we've got a few other pieces of really important business, but we should be able to get out of here by 8:30 as our agenda states. So have a good break and we will see you at 7:25.

[Recess]

It's 7:25 and people are turning on the cameras and we are at the point in the meeting for staff and committee reports and the first is the Executive Director report that will be given to us by Steve Locke.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Great, awesome, can everyone hear me?

>> Frank: Yes.

>> STEVE LOCKE: So, the beginning of my report is really the SPIL monitoring report which I'm going to skip over because we will have that later on in the meeting. So, I want to get to appointments, which we touched on a little bit earlier at the beginning of the meeting. Four of our Council members terms expired on December 31st. And one vacancy occurred when Yvonne Fleener resigned in September leaving five voting seats vacant. The four members had requested their appointments prior to their terms expiring. And the appointments office is behind on their appointments due to a staff member retiring last quarter. And reappointments will not be retroactive to January 1st, so we are operating with six voting members until the five seats are filled. I continue working with the appointments office to expedite this process.

As we heard from Kelly, the Blue Water Center for Independent Living their Part C core grant went to Disability Network Oakland Macomb through competitive notice of funding ability. Kelly's team began providing temporary services in August of 2021 and permanently took over the thumb service area when the part C grant was awarded.

The next item is SILC strategic planning and statewide outreach. SILC wrapped up our strategic planning process in August of 2021 which resulted in updated vision and mission statements which were reflected in our 990. We really quite excited about those vision and mission statements. We are in the process of creating smart goals that tie that strategic plan into our current SPIL. On September 10th of 2021, SILC staff issued an RFP for outreach to out served and underserved populations in Michigan. Proposals were due by September 24th. In December at a special Council meeting the Council awarded the contract for 45,000 to idea 39.

On January 18th which was yesterday a three-hour kickoff workshop was held with idea 29 and the steering workgroup. The steering team is made up of Council members, BSBP and CIL directors. Team members include Yvonne Fleener, Diane Fleser, Alex, Lisa Kiesel, Frank Animikwam, Jamia Davis, Jan Lampman, Will Harrison and myself. The next item is the Michigan Council for rehabilitation services, MCRS. Last quarter I was appointed to the MCRS by the Governor to represent SILC at our chair's request. The MCRS' mission is to improve VR services delivered by BSBP and MRS. I attended my first meeting last quarter and look forward to my orientation.

The last item is the SILC Congress in San Diego that is coming up, in May. The 2022 SILC Congress titled pandemic to possibilities and the SILC solutions will be held at the Holiday Inn Bay Side in San Diego California on May 16-18th. The Congress is a great venue for reconnecting with other SILCs and staff from around the country. Meeting with ACL leadership and attending educational workshops and breakout sessions. If any of you would like to attend and we budgeted for almost all of the Council members to attend because over the past two years we have not been able to attend this because it's not been offered because of COVID.

Just let Tracy know if you are interested in attending this. Early bird registration rates are in effect through February 14th. The rates don't go up much higher after the early bird but if you know that you want to attend get ahold of Tracy know and take care of your registration and also take care of your travel accommodations. I highly encourage all Council members to really consider going to this. It's really quite an intimate affair. And you're going to have access to ACL leadership informal and in formal meetings too. There are opportunities to sit around at lunchtime. There are opportunities out in the lobby to meet with ACL. And it's a great way to get face time with ACL. And for you to get them to know them better and for them to get you to know you better as well.

So, I highly encourage anyone that is even slightly interested this attending. I'm not sure if they are going to have a virtual option this year. If you're unable to fly out to San

Diego and stay. But the venue is really beautiful. The hotel is right across the street from the bay. And from the naval base. And there is a beautiful promenade across the street with some awesome restaurants. And typically, our Council members that attend will gather together and with perhaps other Council members from around the country for dinners and lunches. And it's just a really great opportunity for anybody that's not attended I would really encourage you to think about participating in that this year.

And that's my report. And I'd be happy to take any questions.

>> Mark: Steve this is Mark. In your report you said that the group was called was that 29 or 39?

>> STEVE LOCKE: What part, Mark?

>> Mark: When I was reading to the idea it was idea 39 or was it idea 29? As referred to your RFP for the outreach.

>> STEVE LOCKE: The company is called idea 39. So, this company has two different branches. One is idea 39 and the other is called the gorilla project. The gorilla is where they are involved with political campaigns. Idea 39 is a nonpolitical branch of their agency. And so, they initially submitted their proposal under the gorilla project which is more of a political advocacy branch of their company. We let them know that we are a nonpartisan, nonprofit and Council. And we did not want to be affiliated with anything political. So, we contracted under the other branch of their company which was called idea 39. And so.

>> Mark: Okay.

>> STEVE LOCKE: That is where the differentiation is.

>> Mark: You said on January 18, 2022, you have a three-hour kickoff we held with idea 29. So, I don't know if that is just a typo or.

>> Jan: It's a typo.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Thanks for catching that Mark because do you know what it's one sentence and the next sentence, I hit the wrong key so I will correct that typo.

>> Mark: No biggie but I would like to know 29 or 39, yes, thank you.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Thank you for pointing that out. I will correct that and get that put back out on to the website so thank you Mark, I appreciate that.

>> Mark: Yep.

>> Jan: Awesome. Thank you, any other questions for Steve before we move on to strategic planning committee update? If not Stephanie and Steve, were you going to present the strategic planning, sort of the wrap up with where we are with that?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yeah, with our strategic planning we completed that process in August. And Stephanie and I have met to go over the next steps with the strategic planning process. And what we are doing Stephanie and I together are creating smart goals for the strategic plan. I had some difficulty sitting with the strategic plan that our Council had created. Independent of pretty much everything else and how we tie that strategic plan back to our current SPIL.

What I've done with Stephanie is we started creating smart goals that are tied back to our current SPIL. Because our strategic plan is a five-year, forward looking plan, not everything in our strategic plan was pulled back into our current SPIL. So, there is room for growth. Once we either modify our SPIL or when we go into the next SPIL, our strategic plan is going to be the foundational document and the overarching document that we use when we create goals in our next SPIL or a revised SPIL that are related to Council activity.

So, what I did was I took our current SPIL goals and tucked them up underneath the goals within our strategic plan that correlated with what we are doing in our current SPIL. Going forward, we are going to reflect back on our strategic plan when we either create our next state plan or we do a revision of our state plan and pull some of these overarching goals in our strategic plan back into our SPIL and operationalize that. So that is kind of the thought process that we've had with working that strategic plan and marrying it with our SPIL. And Stephanie I don't know if you want to add anything else to that. But I think that kind of summarizes what our conversations were when we met the last time.

>> Stephanie: No, I think you summarized it perfectly. We are trying to correlate what is already in our SPIL with our strategic planning and really utilize both of them and maximize what we have going there.

>> Jan: Thank you, did anyone have any questions regarding kind of the what the thinking going into the writing of the smart goals of the strategic plan at this point? Okay, seeing no questions, the next item on here is really sort of maybe just a conversation/announcements/assignment which is you know we have had in the past a policy and Bylaws committee and we did, you know, a bit over a year ago, maybe it's almost two years now, I don't know. Did some significant work with our policies. And our Bylaws as an organization. However, we also one area that we didn't really focus on when we did that first round of sort of policy review and revision was our financial policies. And so, we had already been sort of thinking about that. And then low and behold our auditor suggested that we do it. So, we need to pull the policies and buy law committee back together to have a look at our -- to look at as our auditor suggested all the policies one more time just to make sure, just given some of the changes and how we work. You know we no longer have an office space and things like that. But also, specifically our financial policies and procedures to assure that we are doing the best we can given the size of our paid staff. And you know our makeup. So, did you want to add more to that, Steve?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yeah, so our financial policies update is something that has been in the popper for a year and a half and for a variety of reasons we have not been able to get there due to obligations by Council members. Some folks having to take a break. Not being able to meet. But that is still on the agenda to get our financial policies updated. Mindy and Stephanie are going to be the leads on that. And we are going to

get those meetings scheduled along with our accountant, Brad. We also have some best practice financial policies in hand from ILRU that have been vetted around the country. So, we will be going forward with that here in the next month or so. And then bringing those to the Council for ratification.

>> Jan: Perfect thank you, Steve.

If there are other Council members that would like to join that that workgroup or that committee, I think you could probably you could maybe raise your hand now or if you don't want to raise your hand now you can e-mail Steve and I and we can make sure we have folks that are interested in that, in doing that work to be able to be a part of that group. Any questions about that before we move on to the SPIL monitoring? Seeing none, let's dig into the SPIL. Did you want to kick us off, Steve, or were you thinking that each of the.

>> STEVE LOCKE: I think each of those folks can handle those sections. But when it comes to the first one, which is advocacy and leadership, that is championed by Theresa and Jon Hart, there has not been a lot of action on that. Theresa has been out with a variety of things that she has happening in her life. And but there has been some action on the CIL's part with this particular goal. And I'm going to share what Jon shared with us during the first quarter of 2021, 22, which will be October through December. The CIL directors discussed the format for this year's CIL network legislative day as the pandemic has continued and will consider the method more fully in the second quarter on how we are going to roll out their legislative day.

Also, during this quarter, a youth leadership and advocacy draft curriculum was shared with groups from Disability Network eastern Michigan, disability connections out of Jackson, and Michigan disability rights coalition. A meeting was held to discuss curriculums and set up the format. Consensus was reached on an eight-week curriculum with pieces pulled from each curriculum. And a meeting is going to be set for late January of 2022 to review the curriculums. So that's the update that I got on that particular SPIL goal.

>> Jan: Excellent thank you. Just as aside although Vendella did not specifically mention it, a big part of their five-year plan has to do with advocacy and leadership as well. So, we are hitting it from every angle. So that is really great. Oh, personal care attendants that is me and Lori was on the call, but it looks like she had to leave.

>> Mark: Yes, she had to step off.

>> Jan: Okay, so you know a lot, there has just been so much work. There a lot of work going on throughout the state with lots of different or a number of different sort of collaborative bodies I'll call it around this whole issue of personal care attendants. As you all may know, the legislature did approve a \$2.35 legislative pass through of wages that positively impacted most categories of direct support professionals throughout the state. And yeah, that was a big win, that was a big win. We all should applaud

ourselves for a minute because that was huge. Very exciting. The we really had a big champion in the legislature, which was Jim Stomos, he has been the chair of appropriations in the Senate. But he is also someone who is just always been a champion for people with disabilities getting the support that they need. And so, he really worked hard on that. If you ask him, he will tell you that the intent is for that to be forever. To not get it taken away at the end of the budget year. So, but I think we will have to do some advocacy with the department and moving forward to make sure that that continues and that we can also improve those wages further. There was a study that was completed the direct care wage coalition commissioned an economic impact study on what the impact would be of increasing the wages for direct support professionals across the state. And it really has a very positive impact both in terms of you know for every dollar that you pay someone it kind of spreads out to like \$2 in the community when they are doing their spending and buying their groceries and paying for movie tickets and those things. But also, in the reduction of system costs. Because one of the things that has been noted in several studies of the direct care workforce is that often the wage is so low those workers are eligible for bridge cards, and you know snap benefits and they are eligible for Medicaid themselves or for their family and as you elevate those wages you reduce that reliance on those Government benefits. So, there is a huge economic impact to paying direct support workers a living wage.

The current sort of estimate that what is needed is that if a direct support professional made \$18 an hour that would pull them out of what we call the Alice population. So, it would pull them into a place where they were making a wage that was a living wage that they could you know work 40 hours a week and make enough money to feed their family and pay their rent or mortgage. So that's really moving forward, kind of going to be the direct care wage coalitions target. And so, we are hoping that others who are joining us in that sort of advocacy will think about that as sort of where we want to try to get with wages for workers.

There is also another great group of people that are working together. And I just lost the acronym in my head. Claire Luz Steve the acronym.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Impart Alliance.

>> Jan: I was thinking encompass and Impart Alliance is trying to bring together the aging services community and people from the behavioral health community and from you know the traumatic brain injury community, all the places you have direct support professionals working for all the silos where you have direct support professionals working. And sort of bring all of those groups together to really focus on how you recruit and retain employees. And how you make it a career that people want to do for the long haul, right? And so right now they are really focusing very heavily on trying to create some framework for developing competencies and creating sort of a not going to say standardized but like a training framework that direct support professionals could engage in that would enhance their skills, cause them to be you know to have more

marketable skills if you will. Elevate the respect that they receive. I mean, if you ask direct support professionals why they leave the industry, sometimes often it's about money, they need to make more money, right? But very often the other leading reason is that they don't feel that what they are doing is respected or valued. Right? And so, I think a lot of the work of the impart alliance has to do with creating a more competent workforce, right? Where people feel like they have the skills they need. But also creating a framework for that workforce to be seen as the value that they are, right? And so, there is a lot of work that is being done around that. And as I think Steve mentioned this earlier, maybe I read it in a report, but Yvonne is on one of the advisory committees and both Steve and I are members at large of the alliance so we've been getting lots of information. And I believe Steve you have been pushing that out, right? To the CIL directors. So hopefully you're all getting all of that information and joining in the conversations as you where you want to be. You know, where you want to join in on them. But I think we are in a really great place to make a big impact and really make some good positive changes for the direct care workforce. Which of course really translates into what, right, my son having great support in his life when he is out there living his life. And so that's what we are going for. So, if anybody has any questions, I'm happy to entertain them. I see none. So why don't we move on to.

>> Frank: I had a question actually.

>> Jan: Yes.

>> Frank: I just wanted to have it clarified for the group, I noticed it stated in the executive report here with regards to MSU led research team. I was just curious about it states improving data, strengthening workforce. Are we going to be having access to any of that data or MSU led research just so we can help with our understanding and initiatives? The data reporting going to play into our work.

>> Jan: So, the impart alliance is really led by that research team that's coming out of Michigan State University. And as they're collecting that data, I mean there is some data they have already shared with us and some of it I sort of you know as I'm spewing forth all of my passionate comments about the direct care workforce some of it you are getting. So that data as they are collecting it and as they are putting it together is absolutely going to be and is available for all of us. And we could probably get that when Steve and Yvonne and I attended a like a kickoff of the project I guess you could call it about gosh it's been almost a year hasn't it, Steve? There was some -- they led with some data that they had already collected. We can try to pull that together and get that out to all of the Council members. You can also get on the like the list serve of the impart alliance so you can just be getting as they are putting things out than then send it out and you will have access to that individually. We will also make sure as a Council we can look at that.

>> Frank: Thank you.

>> Jan: You are welcome. Any other questions before we move on? Okay, seeing none so Steve, unserved and underserved you really sort of already spoke about that when you talked about our outreach project, yes? Was there anything you wanted to add?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Nothing at this time, Jan, it's really under our outreach project that we just launched yesterday. So.

>> Jan: Perfect. Okay so then the next one is emergency response. And Frank and Mark you are the two champions of that, and I don't know which of you or both of you want to report but we would love to hear a report on those initiatives.

>> Frank: Certainly. This is Frank. Mark, did you want to go first, or I can go first?

>> Mark: I was not going to ask to go first, first, I was going to turn it over to Maria so you can go first.

>> Frank: I will provide and the specifics we can get into. Does that sound good? Okay so just wanted to provide the team with an update on what we were able to make progress on since the last quarterly report. We had a meeting in November. And if you have access to the Executive Director report that Steve and Tracy had shared, you can see on page three and page going on to page four. I just want to direct everyone's attention to the 2016-2017, five pillar recommendations. And what we realized through our conversations we had a lot of great ideas. A lot of discussion and trying to identify ways we could tackle this, the larger issue of emergency preparedness. And not having it to be acting in the middle of a disaster or even a pandemic. But we are having a lot of preparation investment going to having things in place before a disaster or pandemic even happens. And so, as I was stating what we realized is we needed to have a framework. And you know rather than reinventing the wheel, I believe we borrowed this from Lisa and the team that worked on it at that time. And I think she is on the call still. And if her and Steve want to share some more of the history around this, I welcome them to.

But the five pillars here or what their team came up with and we thought this would be a great idea to have a framework in which we can work from and help keep things focused so we are not losing progress and missing our target.

And so, the first one here on you know states the Council and CILs should collaborate on finding appropriate grant resources to supplement staff training emergency planning and opportunities for preparedness trainers and assist consumers in their individual preparedness efforts. So over all trying to look at access to funding for services to provide emergency preparedness.

The second one here -- background noise -- the second one here is intake for consumers at the CIL level should include assessments on individual emergency preparedness and whether services are needed. And the third one kind of ties in with our CIL partners focus as well and it could certainly contribute to this is the CILs across the state should create connections with local emergency management agencies in

their regions to offer services disability reviews, emergency shelters other relocation and service location and access for all persons with disabilities. To round it out four Council should engage Governor office on inclusion with persons with disabilities and emergency managers Council with coordinated counsels. A planning official should look for resource opportunities to grow diversity with emergency management professionals to include persons with disabilities. I won't read the next ones and you can look at them now and even at a later time, but the last bullet is going to kind of outline who can help take on those responsibilities. And achieving those parts of the overall goal.

And what we also realized too is the importance for us to achieve this is in partnerships. So really trying to grow a coalition and really try to have making sure we are reaching each constituent within our state. And disasters are going to look different. There may be like the pandemic is affecting the overall state, but they be regional disasters that are environmental or due to weather. That is also kept in mind as well. We like with the coalition building is to have more agency partner ships with those providing direct service to those with disabilities in our state but also support staff and engaging caregivers. As they are often times the most experienced, we are working with their family member and caring for them and they can certainly be a great advocate and contributor to meet the needs of their family.

And then also not overlooking the underserved and marginalized communities with regards to race and ethnicity in our state. And specifically Native American communities and then I'm sure each of our organizations on the call here have different groups as well that have been marginalized that you know if you're not partnering with emergency preparedness and looking at partnerships can really help with us accessing those communities to make sure they have needs addressed during the time of their emergency. That is what I will share for right now and give an opportunity for other team members to share and maybe get into some specifics as well. We are also trying to look at ways to operationalize this and start building smart goals around achieving the goals and for upcoming meetings. And making sure we have a good compilation of tools we can access so the smart 911 being one of them. And then other forms as well for more specific care plans. To make sure specific needs are met for each person. Thank you.

>> Mark: Wow, great job, Frank. As usual. So, the part the CILs was doing and of course you are all familiar with Maria she has been doing some training with well actually having meetings with different CILs across the state. And their representative. So, I'm going to turn it over to Maria to talk about some of the things she has done with them.

>> Maria: Disability area capitol area so we compiled 11 different CILs across the state for our working group to try to further these goals. So far, we've had an orientation. I created some templates on assessing individuals' preparedness with a

pretest and a post test. Each one has the same eight questions. And further integrating that into our intake process too. So, we are in the process of rewriting our own CILs and intake process and creating a "Yes" or "No" do you have a preparedness plan for yourself and your household? Whatever their response may be "Yes" or "No," running that pretest to assess their preparedness. And following up and creating that plan with them, creating that referral. And also offering the smart 911 sign up. Not every county has smart 911. So also, just figuring out for example Jackson County. And in that service from the dispatcher's office so they have a different form on their emergency preparedness website as part of the county's website. So just familiarizing ourselves CILs the service smart 911 or the alternative and facilitating that process and giving the technical support so that people are signed up. And also creating a 90 day check in to assess their supplies. So, part of writing the emergency preparedness plan is also recommended by FEMA to have that supply bag in case you need to go. Or in case you need to stay. So having adequate supplies it would be ideal to create a 90 day check in from the CILs to the consumers if their supplies are still up to date, be it medications, food, water supplies. So, we have been working through that process together and of course administrating will look different for every CIL so I just created some base line templates that can be kind of customized for everyone's needs. And hopefully we will be meeting next week for the third meeting. We had orientation in November. We had a presentation from my prevention. So, kind of going off into the fire safety realm. There is a program called my prevention through LARA through the State of Michigan. And they a lot of you are probably familiar with it but they have smoke detectors housed in every region of our state. As well as devices that work in connection with the smoke detector for specifically for people who are deaf and hard of hearing. So, there is a strobe light. A Google nest which connects to the smartphone. And the bed shaker. So, these resources have been available since I want to say it was 2019. And then the pandemic threw everything off, so we are looking to be that connection. We have one advocate per CIL in each region to make that connection with the consumers. And then have them follow-up with their fire department advocate on the map as well. And then they can bring in the supplies and install that for them. So, two meetings and hopefully next week we will meet again and discuss the logistics of administering the emergency preparedness goals. And kind of trouble shoot that together and figure out what our plan is to make it sustainable program. So, I'm open to any questions that anyone has or any ideas that came up.

>> Mark: Thank you Maria that was awesome.

>> STEVE LOCKE: I want to say thank you to Maria and Mark and Frank for the updates on this. You guys are doing awesome work on this stuff. We are so appreciative of that.

>> Jan: Great work. I love the very direct and hands on stuff Maria that your group is working with. That is really excellent.

one of the things I would just comment on before we move on, I live in a town where we have lots of natural disasters. I live in Midland, and we have a history of bad floods and we had dams burst or whatever. We are still.

>> Maria: The first natural disaster of the pandemic so you have like the double in the country.

>> Jan: Yes, we did it was lovely. The aftermath of that I was talking with our emergency manager here in Midland County and there is a Federal rule, a regulation that says that all of these in every community where there is an emergency manager, they have to have a like a liaison or an organization that focuses on people with disabilities to make sure that they are not when they are making their plans they are considering, you know, accommodations. And so, I was talking to the emergency manager, and you know we were talking about how Centers for Independent Living are the best kept secret in the world. And I feel that is true because when I said well have you are you connected to the Disability Network. They should be your resource. And she hadn't known of them. So, yeah, she knows of them now.

>> Mark: Yeah, that is interesting. We find this all the time that people don't know about Centers for Independent Living, and I had a very in-depth conversation with Maria yesterday actually it was today about the two ways I'm really fascinated by the five pillars. And then when you have a piece like the Red Cross on your VOADs and things up here that deal with disaster and the CILs are dealing with one on ones it's a great mix. But to keep them all going is kind of hard to do. I'm really happy about this. And so glad that Lisa and oh, I can't think of the other lady's name that put the five pillars together back in 2016, 17. They put this together and they did not realize I think they did but realize how illuminating it was as far as disaster. The word disaster and pandemic and emergency preparedness are real words and buzz words now in our country. Where before we only worried about it when it happened. You know you had to have that heart attack then it was then you understood it. But the beautiful thing about now is people are becoming more conscious, trying to be a little bit more prepared and this is an ongoing -- this is an ongoing issue we are going to have for many years. But we can do good at it. You know, and if we only save one more life that is one more life to save through an emergency plan so.

>> Jan: Absolutely so thank you very much. Thank you very much for that work. It's amazing. So, the next couple of things on our SPIL monitoring, I think we have already covered. I think Lisa already talked about the BSBP objective. Am I correct about that, Lisa? Maybe Lisa stepped away. And we of course have spoken already about the outreach here. That is okay Lisa.

>> Lisa: Unless you guys have any additional questions.

>> Jan: Anybody with a last something hit your brain after Lisa was done? Okay, if not, I think we are on to any unfinished business or new business that if we have anything that people want to introduce.

Okay.

>> Mark: This is Mark. Steve, you made a mention that we had some seats on the Council right now that are vacant. Are you going to send something out to the CILs?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yes, I'm still working with Danielle at the appointment's office. They have a few applications in hand to fill Yvonne's seat. They are looking to reappoint our four Council members. Our four Council members have a desire to be reappointed and we have supported their reappointment. So, in terms of Yvonne's replacement, they have some applications in hand. But we are always open to the CILs pushing applicants towards the appointment's office particularly consumers, people with lived experience. People from diverse backgrounds. This is what we are always looking for. Whether it's geographic, racial, across all demographics, we want to diversify this Council so, yeah, Mark I mean the call is always out there to the CILs and the CIL directors based on who they are serving and identifying potential leaders that could serve on this Council. So, we are always, always, always open to that.

>> Jan: Thank you for that question, Mark, that was a very good question. And it really, I mean what you just said, Steve, really dovetails with our goal related to advocacy and leadership, right? We need to be helping to create the new leaders that are coming up, here and working on the Council.

Any information sharing and announcements? So, does anybody have any announcements they want to make or information that you would like to share at this time? Council members and ex officio members?

>> STEVE LOCKE: I would just like to take the opportunity to, you know, repress the opportunity for the SILC Congress. Anybody that has not attended the SILC Congress and Will you can speak to the impacts that that has because you have attended the last time that we all attended together on what that opportunity creates. It really is a small, intimate environment for you to be able to interface with the leadership of ACL, other SILC members from around the country, SILC staff, and CIL staff. Because CILs also come to that Congress. And you have opportunities that entire weekend or those three days to really exchange information with your peers, find out what best practices they have, what blocks and obstacles they have run into. And then sit down with ACL leadership and in an informal way and talk about issues that are happening within our state. Issues that ACL may have with our state. Because we've had some conversations too where you let your hair down and just you know, get it out there on the table. I would encourage anyone that is not attended one of these to really consider going. And I understand what the pandemic that is going on and I'll keep you all informed on whether or not there is a virtual option to this. But I just wanted to reiterate how important and how valuable and what a great take away you will come away with by attending this SILC Congress. They are really, really valuable.

ILRU is there. Paula McElwee is there and do breakout sessions and educational sessions. You've got opportunities to sit with them one on one after these breakout

sessions and get specific questions answered that you have that is burning in your mind. So, I can't stress it enough and I will stop now.

>> Will: It's really great to network, understand what SILC does and it's really cool to see how the SILCs around the country work. So, it's really fun couple days. Plus, it's California so it's beautiful and sunny and warm. You know, it's a good time. One of the things I like about it is that I really got to know people from our SILC. So that is pretty important to me. So, it's good to know people a little bit more.

>> Jan: Thank you, Mark you were about to say something as well.

>> Mark: No, I was going to let Maria she has something she has to share.

>> Jan: Maria.

>> Maria: We have a vaccine and booster clinic at Disability Network capitol area so that is a little bit exciting. That will be Saturday, February 5th, 10-Noon so the Ingham County health department is going to come help us out. They did it once October 29th I think it was. They just set up shop. We have a big open community space so we can space out adequately and fully accessible. Has a rest room and a separate entrance. So, people can get their vaccine or their booster or show their vaccine card and whichever option they pick we will reward them with a gift card. So, Diana who is our deputy director came up with this, but it's called the show your love vaccine clinic kind of on the Valentine theme. So, you show your love, and we show you love with a gift card. So, hoping for a big turnout. So, I don't know which territory everyone covers but we will be posting that to our social media shortly.

>> Jan: Thank you, that is awesome. Who else has announcements or information that they would like to share?

>> This is Frank. I just wanted to second and reiterate again the SILC outreach steering committee. It was wonderful to be a part of the first meeting with the team. And partner with idea 39. I think it's going to be a wonderful opportunity not just for SILC but all of our partners as well as our constituents and consumers. It's really going to benefit us to make sure we are delivering our clear messages as well as giving updates on our goals. And communicating resources. Especially through social media platforms. They are really excited about this. Thank you.

>> Jan: Yeah, thank you Frank, it is exciting, very exciting work.

>> Mindy: Hi, Jan, this is Mindy. I just wanted to apologize for having had to step away for quite a bit of the meeting. We had an illness come up with one of the religious education teachers at my church. And I was just in the next room over teaching sixth grade religious education. So that's what I was doing while I was gone. I wasn't jointing off to California that is for sure. I'm going to get filled in because it sounds like I missed by reading the chat a lot of good stuff. I'll get with Steve, and he can fill me in. Thank you so much.

>> Jan: You are welcome and thank you Mindy with all the work you did with the financials too. Okay anyone else have anything that you want to announce or share?

>> Kelly: I wanted to say thank you for inviting me. This is so informative. I really enjoyed being at this meeting and hearing everyone's presentations so thank you.

>> Jan: You're welcome and tell your friends. Because this is a public meeting. And so, we like to see the public. And we like to see our partners. Okay, well I think at this point we are ready to entertain any public comment. So, any we do have a few folks that you know, are not voting Council members at the moment so if anybody wants to make a public comment this is your opportunity to do so.

Seeing none, then I would entertain a motion to adjourn this meeting. I know we all like to hang out together. But if anyone would like to make that motion that would be great.

>> This is Mark Pierce.

>> Jan: Yes Mark Pierce.

>> Mark: In the Lansing area I would like to make a motion to adjourn this great meeting that we had today.

>> Jan: Thank you for that excellent motion and do I have a second?

>> This is Will from Southeast Michigan, I will gladly second it.

>> Jan: Okay thank you, Will. Do we need to call the vote or can we just do an all-in favor.

>> STEVE LOCKE: I don't think you need to call the vote, but I would just like to express my deep appreciations for the directors and CIL directors that joined us tonight. This is such an awesome thing to do, and I would encourage all the other CIL directors to join us. And thank you Kelly for your awesome presentation. So awesome. What a great collaboration that we have here. Look forward to this going forward. Stronger together.

>> Jan: Uh-huh.

>> Kelly: Absolutely and I will be back to the next one.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Awesome.

>> Jan: Okay well with that, we are adjourned. So, thank you all very much. You made my first, this is supposed to be my second meeting, but you may all recall I had a tire blow on U.S. 10, so this is my first meeting as chair, and I thank you all so much for making it so fun and easy.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Awesome job Jan.

>> Mark: Awesome job and Happy Valentine's Day.

>> Jan: Happy Valentine's Day everyone.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Have a great night everyone. Good-bye.

[Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.]