# MISILC Council Meeting

20230310 1200 Council Meeting

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>> JAN LAMPMAN: So good afternoon and thank you for joining on Zoom for those of you on Zoom and thank you for being here in person for those who were able to come in person. It's always nice to be able to see people. I'm Jan Lampman, the chair of the SILC and we will call this meeting to order. Are there any accommodation requests at this time?

>> ALLEN BEAUCHAMP: You don't need the computer at all do you?

>> JAN LAMPMAN: I hear no accommodation request. I will ask the participants to mute yourself if you're not speaking just so that we don't hear the background noise. It will make it a little bit easier I think for everyone involved. I would like to say thank you for that in advance. And then at this time I would like Tracy Brown to please call roll.

>> TRACY BROWN: (Roll Call)

>> AARON ANDRES: Present.

>> FRANK ANIMIKWAM: Present.

>> GLEN ASHLOCK: Present.

>> ALLEN BEAUCHAMP: Present.

>> ERICA COULSTON: Present.

>> MELINDA KULASA: Present.

>> STEPHANIE DEIBLE: Present.

>> MINDY KULASA: Present.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: I'm having a hard time hearing you.

>> This is the interpreter I can't hear who is speaking.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: We will fix that.

>> STEVE LOCKE: I will DM on some equipment.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: How can you hear me now?

>> GWEN McNEAL: Yes.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you. We had to move the ‑‑ we are trying to use some equipment we are borrowing so sorry about that I would entertain a motion to approve the consent agenda at this time.

>> MARK PIERCE: Hi, this is Mark. I did not say I was here. Maybe you thought I was here. Don't know. But any way I want to put a motion out there to approve the agenda.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you Mark. We saw your name but didn't hear your voice so thank you.

>> MARK PIERCE: I was trying.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: That is hard when you I can't get it off mute so thank you. Mark has put forth the motion to approve the consent agenda do we have a second?

>> AARON ANDRES: Second.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you. The motion has been put forth and seconded. If there is no discussion at this time, looking for any questions or comments? Seeing none, Tracy can you call the vote?

>> TRACY BROWN:

>> AARON ANDRES: Yes.

>> FRANK ANIMIKWAM: Aye.

>> GLEN ASHLOCK: Yes.

>> ALLEN BEAUCHAMP: Aye.

>> ERICA COULSTON: Yes.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Aye.

>> STEPHANIE DEIBLE: Aye.

>> MINDY KULASA: Aye.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Aye.

>> THERESA METZMAKER: Aye.

>> MARK PIERCE:

That was hard to hear, can't.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: We are asking for the vote. Do you vote to the consent agenda.

>> MARK PIERCE: I put in the motion but I I'm just saying I can't hear Tracy that well.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Move it down closer.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: We will try to fix that Mark. We are using one of those owls like you have at your place but it's not working like yours does.

>> MARK PIERCE: I'm so sorry I'm not there. I would have brought my own. So sorry.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: It's okay.

Okay can people hear me now.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Yes.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Okay, thank you. And then Tracy, do you want to test for them to be able to hear you.

>> MARK PIERCE:

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Could you hear Tracy just now Mark?

>> MARK PIERCE: Yes, I can.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Perfect thank you. Motion carries. Thank you. So, let's move on now to our audit. We had reviewed the audit at our last meeting, but we were waiting for the form 990 so at this time we want to have -- who is going to talk about that, Steve? Is that Stephanie? You.

>> STEVE LOCKE: I can talk about it a little bit. Can everybody hear me? yes.

>> STEVE LOCKE: What you have in front of you is our 2021 form 990 and looking for approval to be signed and submitted by our auditor. The 990 was not quite ready at the January meeting since the draft is prepared and it was given to both Stephanie and Mindy for review. We did have a couple of modifications on it that were not material in nature. It was more semantics. And.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Can you mute yourself, please? She is muted.

>> STEVE LOCKE: So, with those minor modifications we have the 990 before you for your vote on approving for its signature and its submission to the IRS. We did file an extension, so we do have some time to get that in.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: So, at this time I would like to entertain a motion to approve the 990.

>> AARON ANDRES: Motion to approve the 990 as presented.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you. Aaron. Do we have a second?

>> MINDY KULASA: I will second that motion.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you, Mindy. Do we have any questions? Or discussion before we call the vote? Seeing none, Tracy, can you call the vote.

>> TRACY BROWN:

>> AARON ANDRES: Yes.

>> FRANK ANIMIKWAM: Aye.

>> GLEN ASHLOCK: Yes.

>> ALLEN BEAUCHAMP: Aye.

>> ERICA COULSTON: Yes.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Aye.

>> STEPHANIE DEIBLE: Aye.

>> MINDY KULASA: Aye.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Aye.

>> THERESA METZMAKER: Aye.

>> MARK PIERCE: Aye.

>> TRACY BROWN: Motion carried.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you that takes us right into the next item on the agenda which is Council education. And we are going to learn about some mapping software from Dave Wickstrom. And I am going to let Steve, did you or Yvonne want to give introduction to Dave or shall we let Dave do more of his own introduction.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Is Dave on the Zoom call? I did not see his name listed.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Oh.

>> STEVE LOCKE: He accepted the invitation. So perhaps Yvonne would you like to talk about the software since you were the one that introduced me to Dave? And maybe give a little background on it? And see if Dave pops in here while we are talking.

>> VENDELLA COLLINS: Steve, this is Vendella. Before that happens, I just want you to know there were two different Zoom links that went out for today's meeting.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Really?

>> JAN LAMPMAN: One happened just a little while ago and this one we are on now is the one that was on our calendars from before. So that could be ‑‑ I'm just offering that as something that we or you might want to consider.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Thank you, Vendella. I'm going to look at that right now to see if the links are different.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: It could be the same one.

>> This is Yvonne because you addressed me. I can text Dave. I had the same trouble getting in. The link kept telling me it was not valid. So, do you want me to text Dave Wickstrom and ask him if he is trying to get in?

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Yes, please, and maybe you can send him the link you were successful with.

>> Yvonne: If I can remember which one it was. I just kept clicking until I got in.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yvonne I just forwarded the calendar invite I believe with the correct one to Dave's e‑mail just now. So, if you can text him, have him check his e‑mail.

>> Yvonne: All right, one second.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: We will give Yvonne a minute to do that. And.

>> STEVE LOCKE: The one on the calendar was 9654 with the last three digits in the link. The one that went out at 11:48 had a 517.

>> TRACY BROWN: Who sent one at 11:48.

>> STEVE LOCKE: It came from your e‑mail Tracy Brown is it doing it automatically or something.

>> TRACY BROWN: I did one early this morning and I added your report to it, but I did not send anything else out so.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: While we are waiting for Yvonne to get a response from Dave, if we could just move ahead a little bit in our agenda and look at some staff and committee reports. Steve, would you have anything that you would like to highlight from your Executive Director report?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Just a few highlights a delegation of us traveled to Little Rock Arkansas for the 2023 SILC Congress. The delegation returned home some Wednesday and some Thursday after attending very informative sessions and listening to keynote speakers. Sessions covered a variety of topics including creating effective DSE, SILC and CIL relationships. Utilizing your state's Ms. Wheelchair. Regional networking and peer sharing. The national association of SILC's annual meeting. The New York SILC did a presentation on the history and value of SILCs. There were other breakout sessions regarding part erring with local colleges to foster change. Independent living and emergency planning. IL net SILC 101 for folks that were newer to the IL world. Transition outside of the box and then HCBS rules and updates to name a few.

One of the keynote speakers was Regina‑Bly and a former program officer at ACL and serves as the program officer of the Christopher Reeve Foundation. We also had ACL Commissioner Jim Jacobs there as the close out keynote speaker.

During the first quarter so far, this first quarter meetings and trainings I participated in are one peer to peer interactive workshop for CILs and SILCs. Two SILC speak peer discussions that are facilitated on a monthly basis by ILRU. Region five quarterly peer meeting where I get together with five SILC directors in our region and we provide peer support to each other. Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services quarterly meeting. I'm the designated liaison to that Council. And then two meetings with Dr. Richards regarding the Michigan public health institute grant that is assisting us with emergency planning and emergency preparedness.

There is going to be a flyer coming out as we are starting to schedule some listening sessions. Anna Lee Campo is the research scientist on Fiana's team and trying to establish a base line of where folks are at in the emergency planning process for themselves. So, they are interested in speaking with direct care workers, family members, and people with disabilities to get a base line on where they are at with their own emergency planning. And also, any barriers that they faced. So, there is a lot of data collection that is going to start happening here pretty soon and looking to the CILs for partnership on that.

I reviewed the draft flyer. Fiana is finalizing it today. And we hope to have that pushed out to all the directors next week.

Regarding CIL director meetings, quarterly meetings with CIL directors have been scheduled where we share collaborative updates. I'm going to be meeting with them again on April 21st in Lansing. I also have scheduled a lunch and learn meeting series with each CIL director at their CIL and are designed to learn about each unique CIL and how SILC can better partner with them. So far, I met with Lori Hill, Alex Gossage and Jon Hart, Will Wilson and Kelly Pelong the balance of the meeting is end of March and first few weeks of April. I don't know what I was thinking scheduling in January and February with the snow flying getting to Marquette. I'm not as brave as Aaron with my bad rear wheel drive vehicle didn't get me very far. So I really appreciate the CIL directors' flexibility in being able to get those rescheduled.

The last thing I want to highlight is our statewide out each reach services and making progress with statewide outreach promoting Independent Living in the CILs through the state through our monthly newsletter, online blog and weekly social media posts. We have two summertime inclusive arts events taking place in Madison heights and Traverse City. We are hammering out dates and locations. More to come on this.

We are also reaching out to be guests on various disability related Podcasts. Our contractor has found a couple that are national, and Jan and I are probably going to tag team on some of those Podcasts which is really exciting.

Finally, we are excited to announce that musician Gaelynn Lea has agreed to do a live Facebook roundtable with SILC next week. We are pinning down the exact date and time but it's going to be in the evening. And invites are going to go out through Facebook and a variety of other places. And we strongly encourage participation. If you look up Gaelynn Lea, she is a musician who won the NPR tiny desk concert back about six or seven years ago and her star is really rising right now. She has become pretty high in demand. She was very good friends with Judy Heumann and Judy interviewed her and you can see the interview on YouTube, and I am thrilled to have Gaelynn be part of Michigan's IL program. Gaelynn also was tapped to write the original score for Macbeth on broad way that played in New York City this past summer that Daniel Fred was the star of. So, we've got a pretty heavy hitter coming to join us and I'm thrilled about that and hope you all can make the time to join that roundtable. We are also looking at possibly getting Gaelynn here to Michigan next year to be a keynote speaker at the youth leadership forum. Next week would be an opportunity for you to be able to interact with her and ask questions and pretty exciting. And I would be happy to take any questions. All right thank you.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Seeing none. Yvonne, were you able to reach Dave?

>> Yvonne: I texted and called, and I haven't heard from him. By the third call it went to voicemail quickly. So, I don't know if he is dealing with something, and you know.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Sure, it happens.

>> And put me to voicemail. I pulled up a video that talks about their mapping services. I'm not going to do it justice like he could. But maybe if I just talked to you a little bit about the basics maybe he will be joining us. And he can do a thorough job.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: That would be great.

>> Give it a try.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Tracy can you make it so Yvonne can share her screen if she needs to play a video for us.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: She is on top of it and has already done it. I'm going to pull up a couple screens. So, what got me excited about this, well, first of all let me start with this. Let me tell you a little bit about, okay, you can see Dave Wickstrom's photo on the screen. Let me introduce you to Dave Wickstrom. He runs the Dave Wickstrom Consulting Firm. He worked for the Administration on Community Living (ACL). As we all know is our federal counterpart. He evaluated the effectiveness of 350 Centers for Independent Living, ordered 90.8 million in funding. While he was there, he also developed program guidance and FAQs to support grantees on multiple topics. I know he does training for whatever the equivalent is of the voc rehab technical assistance center at a federal level and does a lot of work nationally with different CILs and SILCs. Consulting in a variety of ways. One of the things that intrigued me that they offer is a mapping system. And I like to think I know a lot about technology. But this is sort of beyond me. But here is the gist of it. Let me see if I can make that bigger. This is something if he were here, he would have gone through and shown you examples of that. But it's called geographic information science technology. And here is what I liked about it is we are really focused on at our CIL as I know many of us are on how to really hone in and reach underserved and unserved populations in our counties.

This system is a really cool way to really do that in a data driven way rather than okay we are going to try to market to this zip code or this town, right? This is based on data. So, it's not just kind of a shot in the dark.

So what their program does, they take all kinds of public data including the U.S. census and they lay all that out into this mapping system. He works with one of the universities there. He just texted me. Hold on. He said oh, I thought I was on at 12:30. So let me just give me intro of why I think this is fascinating and when he joins us, he can really walk you through it. But so here is my interest in it. So they take all of this public data including different types of disabilities and where do those people live. Where is their public transportation? Where is their, oh, I want to say like community parks? And all kinds of data. And they can customize that based on the needs of whoever he is working with.

So then like for our CIL, he can then take our data that we report on federally and to the state of who we are serving based on zip codes, addresses. So, he can overlay that data on top of all of that census and other public data. And we can see, okay, here is where let's say in Van Buren county here is where people with disabilities live according to all the public data. And here is where we are serving people and here is where we are not serving people with our overlay of our specific data to our CIL.

That to me I love that. Because, again, it feels like I can really hone in on groups that we are looking for. Or rural areas we are looking for. That, you know, we either already have maybe some momentum in that area. Or maybe it's just a complete gap that we want to focus on. So that's it in a real nutshell. I'm going to show you go ahead.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Yvonne he has joined.

>> Yeah!

I'm so glad you are here, Dave. So, I showed a picture of you and read your bio, so I'm thrilled to hand this over to you, Dave. And I will stop sharing my screen now.

>> DAVE WICKSTROM: Well, hello everybody. I thought we were starting at 12:30, sorry I thought I was going to be six minutes early so thank you, Yvonne, for hanging out. I believe my colleague Eugene is on as well or was on or he's coming on. I don't know if he has jumped on yet.

But he should be on here momentarily. Let me text him. Thank you everybody Yvonne I have no idea what you said about me. Hopefully, it was all good things and not bad things. If I did not have the pleasure of meeting you, my name is Dave Wickstrom and I live in Raleigh, North Carolina now and used to be a CIL Director in Lexington, Kentucky and Raleigh, North Carolina before going to the feds at ACL. Where I was a Program Officer then was Compliance Team Lead where I had the opportunity to come to Michigan to visit all of you CILs and so that was fun. Had multiple opportunities to come there and to work with you all.

So that is wonderful. We came after a snow and visited Muskegon, Flint and the CIL that is now shut down Bluewater. So that was the fun we had for a week.

I'm sure all of you are familiar with probably some of that. But when I got out of ACL, I started my own business and working with CILs and currently I do a lot of work. So right now, I'm training Federal employees about ethics today. But I have a federal contractor to train Federal employees about Federal grant management and everything that comes with that.

Then also on the side we are doing some data mapping. I'm big into data so I want to share a little bit of a PowerPoint with you all. Kind of walk you through some of the things we can do. One of the things that I saw when I was a CIL director and when I was at ACL is a lot of times the decisions we were making were making based on our own experiences as an individual with a disability. We are not making them based on data. We see a lot of times CIL directors and not just CIL directors, and this is common, not just Michigan across the country. The CIL director has low to no vision for instance. I can almost guarantee their services will be heavy with low to no vision. They will be heavy if they have a spinal cord injury or if it's mental health. And understand but that is not always what the community needs. And so, what we can do is kind of help people understand what their community means by data that we have. Public and private data. Then also overlay their current data. So, the information they put in their PPR. Over we can pinpoint it. We have done this in Florida. We will show you some examples. We have worked with their SILC on a couple different things. But really looking at data in a different way. Not just numbers in a spreadsheet but putting it on a map. Putting it so you can kind of visualize it to say there is this whole area right here that they say they have a lot of individuals with low to no vision for instance. Or they are unemployed but we are not pro voiding services so we can be more targeted as a SILC trying to get funds for CILs to do work in those areas. And so that is one of the things we are really, really passionate about, I'm kind of a data nerd so that is what you will get with me. Let me share my screen and kind of explain to you what we do.

All right, so I believe you all can see my screen, is that correct? Can you all see my screen data mapping for SILCs. For those with low to no vision I will be telling you what is on the screen as well. This slide says data mapping for SILCs. The next slide, what is GIS mapping? My colleague Eugene is on the line as well. He is at temple University. I will introduce him in a minute, but he is our GIS guy and a rock star. What is GIS mapping? It's a system that creates, manages, and analyzes maps of all types of data. Basically, if you have a data source and we can put a location or some type of identifier on it we can put it on a map, right? It's going to connect data to a location, right? So, we can see trends. We can see data in a different way, right? It's going to help us understand patterns, relationships, geographic contents, right? The benefits are going to be, include improvement communication, efficiency as well as better management and decision making. So, for instance when we talk to CILs with this, and we have one in Winston Salem who uses this. They can look at outreach who is responding to the outreach and kind of analyze and wonder why it's not working in this area. Do we need to communicate in a different way. Obviously, different communities need outreach in different ways. Maybe they don't do mail or e‑mail. Maybe we have to be out in front of a grocery store handing out information because that is where everybody is in the neighborhood. Maybe we need to be more connected to the more connected to the local faith communities to get in touch with folks.

So, GIS mapping is going to help you see this. Help you see data and be more efficient and effective.

Why does data in SILCs, how do they come along? As a SILC, as a state Independent Living Council you need to understand what services are needed to be able to track to see if they are meeting their goals, right? You create these the state independent, the state plan for Independent Living. You all I think you all extended it. I'm not sure for an extra year. But when you're creating this, it's going to help you understand your state at a different level. Not going out or what the CILs are telling you. We will be able to tell you what data from the census and the data survey. All the different data and what the transportation looks like. We can pull this and put it on one set of or one map for you so you can see it all and see everything. We can even go down to the neighborhood level in different areas, all right?

You can use this mapping for to determine if you have equitable funding formula. You all one of the things you had to do is equitable you had to do a funding formula. It does not have to be equitable. Nothing says it has to be equitable, but you probably want it to be equitable. And Florida recently did this and did a project for them over four months where we looked at four or five months actually. In what was it 2020 I think Eugene. Where we looked at their funding formula. We looked at the relationship it had. We are ‑‑ I'm going to show you that in just a moment. But so, you can look at doing something a different way.

I often tell people we work with every system is perfectly designed to achieve exactly the results it gets. Every system is perfectly designed to achieve exactly the results it gets. So, if you don't like ‑‑ I often told CILs this if you have a finding during a review. It does not mean you are bad. It means your system is perfectly designed for you to get a finding. We have to fix the system. Now some people were bad. But we dealt with that. But majority of CILs and people of SILCs, you have a massive passion for serving people with disabilities so getting the system right is super, super important. SILCs can use data and data mapping for resource development. When you are educating legislatures. When you are doing grant proposals you can take this information to kind of show what is going on in communities and show impact, right? And it is really good to show unserved and underserved populations.

We can take that from PPRs, from all the CILs, put together and we can place the data and you can kind of overlay where the services are being provided and what the data says the services are needed.

Which is super important. Not just, hey, maybe people aren't responding because they have no idea what a state independent living Council is or maybe the CILs are. So maybe we need to do some outreach to these areas then. Data from the census there are a ton of CILs in the area, but nobody is responding, why? We can use data mapping to really target those areas.

I want to talk a little bit about ‑‑ and I'm talking kind of fast about some of the project we did for the state of Florida. At the end of it, it was over 60 pages of data. So, we will give you a couple highlights of what we did. We looked at funding formula. And so, this is what the map of ‑‑ there is two pictures of Florida here on the left is a picture of Florida with the different service areas. So just like Michigan, every area is served in Florida. Which is not common in most states. There is a lot. So, in North Carolina half of our state is unserved. There are over 50 counties unserved. So, it's not common that everybody has every county served. It's not common.

And so, in Florida they have every county served. With Federal funding. And so here you see kind of what that looks like, how many counties and so we kind of color coded that. We also had it in a neutral color for folks that were colorblind.

On the right side you see a heat map of public transportation in Florida. So, they could see where public transportation is. When they were looking at creating an equitable funding formula, they were also looking at one of the things we wanted to look at was they dictated what the definition of equitable was in the state of Florida. Right? And we are looking at public transportation. And so, you see the darker and there is purple. That is where there are public transportation routes. And then you see parts of Florida that have nothing. Bare. Which I assume is probably just like Michigan, but you probably have never seen it on a heat map of, showing kind of where the public transportation is.

One of the things we did is we did a kind of a ‑‑ go back. We did a couple different charts that kind of talked about the relationship of different points like relationship between disability and their current funding formula. And then we plotted those on a graph. Right? A scatter plot graph with regression line. Then we also did total population. So, Florida's previous funding formula had like 14 steps. And obviously you want to fund where people with disabilities are, they would ideally have more money right? Ideally. They will be serving more people. Well, when we looked at the contract amount and where people with disabilities were, we found that as a percentage of individuals with disability goes up by 1%, the current funding goes down by 35,000. So, the more people with disabilities, the less money they got. Which is kind of ‑‑ they never had realized that before, right? So, we were able to show them that. And then we said, hey, you have this funding formula that is 14 steps and when we do it by population of just how many people you have, it's almost a perfect relationship.

And so, we were able to show what the current funding formula was. Was it actually doing its job. Was it equitable? And how can we make it. So, what we ended up doing after multiple conversations with them was giving them multiple options of how they could change. And so, on this slide you see all the CILs and we kind of blacked out what the numbers were. But we showed them the percentage change. Did they lose money, did they go up in money. How did it work? So, we gave them four different options of how they could change their own funding formula, make it more equitable. So, they could use a funding formula use population, percentage of people in poverty and public transit for instance. Much shorter, kind of hey when they are explaining this to people how much money they get they can explain easily or they can just use population only, right?

Which wouldn't be much change for the majority of CILs.

And so, we tried to simplify their process for them and let them decide which one they were going to use.

This is just one project that a SILC could come in with. Now the SILC and the CILs work together on this project. They were hand in hand. We had meetings with the SILC and the CILs together to talk about this, to come to a conclusion together. Not working independently of each other. Working together and that is the ideal. And we led those meetings. The idea here was the funding formula can get really dicey. If you are a director obviously you don't want to lose money, right? But we can agree on what is the definition of equity. And then let the chips fall where they may. In Florida they talked about hey we want to hold no harm, you know, kind of language in here so we don't lose any money to which we came back and said hey, look, if you have that somebody is being harmed. If we have a definition of equity and they are and somebody is being treated unequitable, right, and we hold no harm, then they are going to continue to be treated unequitable. So, somebody is always going to be theoretically quote unquote harmed. What we are trying to do is get to an equitable funding formula that everybody can agree on. In Florida this had been a point of contention for a long, long time which is why they wanted to tackle it. It might not be an issue of contention in Michigan. Which is fine. But just being able to see data in a different way, understanding how things happen and not just oh, this is the funding formula. It's always been this way. It doesn't always have to be that way. And so, and you can make changes.

Now I want to turn it over to my colleague Eugene who is going to talk about some of the different things we can do with a ‑‑ with data mapping. So, Eugene, go ahead.

>>EUGENE BRUSILOVSKY Thanks, Dave. I'm going to share my screen if it's possible. Oh, I guess I will go off of this presentation for now and then share my screen. But we are able to obtain data from a lot of different sources. And these data points are really, you know, we are able to get them at different geographic levels and able to get them from the states to county level to zip code level to substantially smaller levels such as census track and bloc groups which are about three to 10,000 people. The variables we are able to get are anything from demographics to transportation to housing to lots of different variables on socioeconomic status. Including education, poverty and we also use the social vulnerability index which uses a bunch of different characteristics of the neighborhood to talk about the different needs of the community.

We look at things like walkability. And availability of different community amenities such as, you know, places of worship. And so on.

Availability of different recreation centers. We look at things like Internet connectivity, availability of I guess broadband, availability of various technology devices and so on.

Lots of information on health and disabilities. So, we have data on health insurance. We have data on the locations of health providers. And those are usually just points on the map that show where the health providers are located. And we have anything from medical facilities to pharmacies to, you know, different hospitals to anything that you can really think of. A lot of indicators of mortality and health including life expectancy, physical inactivity. Substance use. COVID rates which is a big one. We have data on disability as well. So, disability we have by hearing, vision, ambulatory, cognitive, self-care and Independent Living. We have this data by age and gender. We have overall disability data as well. Which is tabulated by race, insurance, availability, income, and employment. We also have data on the criminal system involvement as well criminal justice involvement. So, a lot of different data points that we could get from secondary data sources. And I should mention if there is anything that you guys may want to put on a map, we are happy to do that as well. We have that capability as well. So, if you have some data you would like to see overlaid with any of those variables it's certainly possible to do.

Dave, could you take me to the next slide, please.

Yep. And as I mentioned we have data available at different geographic levels. So, at the country, state, county, census tract and it usually contains about 4,000 people between 1200 and 8,000. And census tracks are divided in smaller bloc groups and usually contain about 1500 people and range between 600 and 3,000. And we use data which are most recently available. So usually that's from the latest American community survey. Or whatever other source. So, we use data from a bunch of different sources. And these things normally don't change very often. So, if we provide data, you know, from two years ago for example then these data are still pretty stable for most variables. But some variables are updated very regularly. If you guys decide that COVID information is something that you need, then that is something and a vaccine several times a day. So, there are some live data sources in there as well.

I would like to show what this map looks like. And if I could share my screen, Dave.

>> DAVE WICKSTROM: I added you.

>>EUGENE BRUSILOVSKY If it's possible to share my screen. There we go. So, this is a system that looks like this. We have basically a bunch of different layers on the left. And here we have the map. And we can turn on and turn off layers. This is a map we did for North Carolina. And these are the different counties that serve, that are served by different CILs. And we have basically I want to say eight or nine CILs there. And each one -- each of the service areas is covered, is colored in a different color. So, if we wanted to look at for example, average variables by CIL we are able to do this. So here we look at for example, all of the variables right here. And this tells us the average values of the variables by this coverage area.

We can also get to all of the other variables organized by themes. So here we have travel time to work. And so on. We have transit routes and bus stops in North Carolina. So, we can see all of the different transportation systems for the different cities in North Carolina. There is lots of data by demographics for example. So, I'm going to turn this on. And here is information on veteran status for example. So, this will color in by veteran status and we can do this at the county level or the census tract level with counties being larger than census tracks. The darker the color the more Veterans live here. And again, just a lot of similar types of maps that you can get for a bunch of variables related to computer and internet access. Factors related to mortality, disability, and health and so on. What I showed on the previous slide.

One thing we may want to look at is health related variables and that is a disability variable. Sorry. Yep, here we are.

I'm going to close this out. And we could go to data on disability. And here we see that we have data on like say hearing disability by age and sex. And one of the things that we could do is we could also open the table and when we look at the table, we could see that ‑‑ oops, sorry. Excuse me, they reorganized some of this stuff recently. So, disability and health. There we go. Hearing disability. And let me turn this on by county.

And I could look at the ‑‑ so here the darker the color the more people there live with a hearing disability. And we can look at this attribute table which basically contains all the data. This data could be exported in Microsoft excel or exported in anything else. Although my screen is not too big. But here we go. Sorry. And now my computer is freezing. But think of this as a table that contains a lot of information about all of these counties for let's say hearing disability. We are able to export the stuff. Here we go, it finally showed up sorry about the delay. We have this for each county. We have all of the variables related to hearing disability. And this is just an example we have this data for all types of disabilities by age, gender and so on. We have overall disability by employment status. And so on. For example, this is percent of male adults between 18‑34 with a hearing disability. You can of course map this variable on the map. So, this map currently shows the percent of all adults with a hearing disability, but people do it by age.

So that is really my spiel. This is very flexible system. You can show more than one variable at a time. You can see there is multiple layers turned on meaning that you could basically see how some of those variables relate to one another.

And that could be helpful in seeing where you know for example people with certain disabilities live or people with certain conditions live and the types of things they have in their communities. Maybe some of the barriers to full participation. Barriers to full independent living and so on.

So, I'm going to turn it over back to Dave. And that is all I have.

>> DAVE WICKSTROM: Yeah, so thank you, Eugene. We have 30 minutes. I could spend two hours going through these and talking about it. We have done multiple reports for other agencies as well. For different CILs. And kind of talk about the different demographics so I'm going to share something that we have done with another CIL with you just really quickly.

Kind of some of the work that we can do. Hold on one second.

Come on, pull up. All right here it is. All right so I'm going to show this. This is I know this is nerdy, but this is a ‑‑ my screen is not showing. Hopefully, you all can see my screen again. Nod your head yes or give me a thumbs up if you can see it.

This is a report that we did for a CIL. We can do this for a whole state. There is 145 pages. But we basically looked at a bunch of demographics and put them for a CIL on a report. And told them everything we needed ‑‑ they needed to know. Then we said some things of why is this data important for you to know. And what is some research around this data? So, what does this research show? And then she will give you some research that kind of says if we are going for a grant why is this important? We did this for all kinds of race. Being able to, you know, in Forsyth County in Winston‑Salem what the races are. You go down for veteran status and lasting trauma from services and disadvantages and post-employment. Maybe that is why it's important to look at veteran status looking at your state plan. Where are the Veterans at? We know that is a group of individuals that are experiencing a disability. Poverty. Median household income why is that important for the CIL. This is crime. Violent crime. We did a lot. But one of the things I was interested in we did for this agency is we actually took a look at every one of their legislatures from the Federal all the way down to school board. And we talked about what -- is it important. What do you need to know. We basically gave them a face sheet of all of the legislatures in their service area that said, hey, what are their main policy stances, what committees are they on, what are relevant bills they have. So, when you go in to meet with legislatures you know what they are passionate about. Don't talk to them about transportation when they are on education committees. Talk about disability in education not transportation. They give two craps about transportation. So, it helps them also understand what new stories they have been involved in recently. You know, this guy is against Medicaid expansion but is for a well-funded foster care network. Could we talk to this guy? We shouldn't maybe talk to him about Medicaid but the win maybe helping with children in the foster care system that have disabilities. That might be an avenue to get him on board with some of the work you all are doing. Some of the committees. Again, this is just some of the work we can do. We kind of dig into people. And so, again, this is a pretty major report an agency had us do.

Opioid, ED visits, smoking, alcohol, unsafe sex practices, all kinds of different things that you might want to know. Again, this is all through data mapping. And then we analyze the data mapping. You can do it, or we can do it for you, but these are all kind of things that would be interesting to know as you are making a state plan. As you are trying to figure out, okay, how do we make the State of Michigan great?

So, any way even more than it already is I should say.

And so, we are both here for questions. We have a few minutes. I have to jump back on and continue to each ethics for Federal employees. But I have a question for Mark. Were you able to overlay the database for CILs of the CIL, so we actually ‑‑ they use CIL suite but yes. We can't show that for you all for that one. Just because it has other people's data information in it. But, yeah, we can ‑‑ one thing we can do for CILs specifically is put ‑‑ so Florida we are working with Florida right now. With emergency management. And they want to know where their people with disabilities that they serve are. So, when a disaster hits like a hurricane they know exactly where they are and can Mark them safe or unsafe or not hurt or heard from. On an actual physical map. And so, they can start to see physically where survivors are. Where they need to send help because they are in their secretary operation center during disasters which is really cool in Florida. I'm sure, Steve, you know Beth Meijer. She is a pretty passionate human being. But there are some different things you can do with the mapping. Great question, Mark.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Are there any other questions at this time for Dave or his team? Mark has his hand up again.

>> MARK PIERCE: I'm trying to be really quiet. But I did like that piece, I remember seeing your program, what you did before, Dave. But how are you gathering that information for the ‑‑ from the representative or legislature perspective? Are you able to actually go and pull all of the information and compound it so we already know who is doing what? I mean that is awesome.

>> DAVE WICKSTROM: We had three staff working on that for one agency. We just dug into people. I mean it's not easy to pull it all down. I mean it's Google. But a lot of times it will save you time and money because it's already there and you are ready to go. Teri, doing what she used to do, I'm sure with the network, she knows having a face sheet, knowing who you are talking to when you walk in. Do they have a child with a disability. We do the research for you, and you are able to do your advocacy and you’re lobbying if you are doing lobbying more effectively. And that is the kind of idea there.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you. So, there was also a question on the chat. Is there any data or info used typically that is not public? And what happens to any nonpublic data?

>> DAVE WICKSTROM: Yeah, so sometimes there is. So that would be like CIL specific data about their consumers. That would not be released. So, like if CILs wanted to do this and they wanted the CIL like Florida where their consumers live that would be very private. It would not be open to the public. It would only be open to a couple people. And you would have access to that. But if there is a public map like we would do for a SILC all that information would be public. What we would do for a CIL like we work with Disability Network West Michigan. When Diane was there some of their stuff was very, very private that they put on there. So, we talked about information that is private and public when we start working with folks. Great question.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Any other questions? Yvonne would like to comment. Yes, you may comment, Yvonne.

>> Just, you know, trying to follow the rules. So, what I got really excited with Dave and doing this for our CIL are the things I started talking about. But then I start thinking about applying that to as he has touched upon you know our policy makers even at the local level. And having that impact with them. And a lot of this is public information. But who is going to do that? Right. Who is going to download all this information and put it in a map. Nobody. It's not going to happen. I do think it's important that you know one of the things that we are committed to if and when we make our purchase is, okay, if we are going to get this information, we have to be prepared to actually use it. Doesn't do us any good if it's just sitting on a data drive somewhere. But then I've kind of delayed a little bit and I'm so excited about it that I had reached out to Jan and Steve about it. I think the biggest benefit or biggest impact for us as a CIL network and a SILC would be if all of us could partake in it together. And you know, have dialogs, discussions, goals, and ways that we are all using the data. So, I can certainly purchase it for our CIL. But that's not going to be as impactful as if Teri had access across the state and Steve and all of you have access to it. So, my hope is that is something we can consider as a network together in purchasing this. And finding great ways to use it.

>> DAVE WICKSTROM: Yvonne we did a case study recently of one of the CILs we are working with. Before we allow someone to purchase it, we have a deep conversation about what you want to do with it to make sure it is very specific to what you need. And you have a plan on how to use it. Because we don't want people to purchase this and not use it. We want ‑‑ it has an impact. The CIL and what is in Salem their budget has grown 400% because they had a plan. Over 400% because they had a plan to use it and have used it on grant proposals. They used it for state funding. There is a purpose. Behind what they are doing. They have gotten creative with their outreach materials.

So just something to think about.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Okay.

>> THERESA METZMAKER: I don't have a question for Dave, but I have a comment is that okay?

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Sure.

>> THERESA METZMAKER: If we think about it from like all the CILs using it or SILC my one concern with the idea that where people live, certain CILs get more money based on the population is that you would have to go like a step further to show that your services were actually serving that area. So, like let's say you serve multiple counties, and you have Detroit in your county. And nationally people of color have more disabilities than white people. And so, you have like this huge population of people of color with disabilities, but your data does not show you are serving the areas. I don't know if an increase in funds. Like there is equitable like more money for more people with disabilities and equity are you actually serving those people. So, I just feel like the data would have to be used two ways and have to be follow‑up to layout that CIL data over to make sure that are actually serving people that have disabilities.

>> DAVE WICKSTROM: And you bring up a good point. What we found in Florida sometimes we would have outcomes that were quicker in cities than we would in rural areas. They were still serving. They were providing more services but the lack of healthcare, the lack of MCO managed care organizations led to the PPR showing that they did not have as good of outcomes as somebody like in Miami. Because there was a lack of doctors, lack of care. So, it's those things and I agree. You have to be able to analyze it. And kind of really say why is this happening and kind of overlay different things, which is one of the reasons we like it because you can overlay different data sets. Theresa perfect example, yes, I agree.

I'm going to put a YouTube video about solutions or independent in Salem and you can watch it on your own time. Some of the stuff we are doing with them. With their data mapping and why they did it. So, feel free to look at that. We are available. I'm going to be in Michigan next week for like four days. So, starting Sunday. So, if you are around in Grand Rapids, come by, say hello, I will be around. Love to meet you.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Awesome, thank you very much, Dave and I think this gives us lots of food for thought. I know Steve as he has his next quarterly meeting with CIL directors and will have it on his list to talk about and I know Yvonne will as well. So, we definitely will take this information you have given us really great. I like data too so for me that is pretty cool to hear about how we can use data in a way that would help people. So, thank you so much. And we appreciate you being with us. And I know you have to go teach ethics but if, Eugene thank you to you as well. If you want to hang around and listen to our very exciting meeting, you may and are welcome to. If not thank you for joining us and we will see you again, I hope.

>> Thank you.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Mindy has a question.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: And Mindy is applauding. Thank you, Mindy.

>> Thank you.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: All right, awesome. So, let's move on at this point to back into our staff and committee reports. And the next up was Steve, if you can continue on and talk about the strategic planning committee's work.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Really quick on that one. We moved from strategic planning into goal setting for next SPIL. Particularly goals that focus on the Council. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 23, so more to come on that.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Okay perfect thank you. Next, we have our financial report with Stephanie. Do you have things ‑‑ Tracy is putting them up.

>> STEPHANIE DEIBLE: Can everyone hear me, okay? I'm going to try to project as loud as I can.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Can people hear Stephanie. Allen is saying yes. I want to be sure the interpreters can hear. I don't know why I'm not seeing them on the screen.

>> We are here, and we are able to hear. Thank you.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you very much.

>> STEPHANIE DEIBLE: So just as a general overview, things are going well with finances. As I believe you guys talked about last meeting, I was unable to attend, but Mindy filled in for me. So, thank you, Mindy.

But as was mentioned at our last meeting, for the most part things within our budget, Tracy has got the budget versus the actual pulled up right now on the screen. We are right on par with that. When you see over or under budget a little bit, it's basically because of the timing that came in our line.

But there is one thing on the budget versus actual that I wanted to call to your attention. Just so you guys know. Towards the bottom there is a miscellaneous. And I believe it says that we are 200% at 200%. I wanted to just call your attention to that. Yep. Right where Tracy has her cursor. And that is because our different memberships that we have come out. And so that is why that is reading at 200% right now. But we are well in line with what we are supposed to be. So, it's nothing to be concerned about. It's just our memberships with NICIL and different memberships we are a part of come out all at one time. So that is all I had to call your attention to on the budget versus actual.

Next, we are going to look at the financial position document. Tracy. If you can get that pulled up.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Right there.

>> STEPHANIE DEIBLE: And, again, there is just one thing that I want to call your attention to. Towards the bottom of the first page there is the accounts payable. And it says that negative $1190.46. And that, again, is from bill.com. Bill.com is pulling the money all at once. So that's again, it's a timing thing. And that is why that is showing a negative balance.

As far as our checking account goes, things are going well. And in that realm right now we have just under $24,000 in our checking account. And as Steve mentioned earlier, some folks just got back from SILC Congress. So, Tracy has been really on top of their reimbursements and things of that nature. But if anything, else comes in related to that, that will come from our checking account. Otherwise, things are looking good as far as finances.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you. The next report is the SILC financial policies workgroup. Was there anything new to report from that committee?

>> STEVE LOCKE: This is Steve. Nothing to report on that or policies and Bylaws committee at this time. Those are standing agenda item topics.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Okay so we are about one minute into the meeting. A minute and eight or one hour not one minute one hour and eight minutes into the meeting. We will be taking a break at this time. If we can just or if we could just take a quick so ten-minute break so folks can get more water or use the rest room. Or anything that they might need to do then we will come back at 1:18. And reconvene with ex officio reports.

(Recess until 1:18 p.m.)

>> JAN LAMPMAN: It is now 1:18 so let's call ourselves back to order and we will commence with the ex officio reports. And we are going to start with Michigan Rehab Services and Bill Addison, and I believe you have a PowerPoint to share with us, is that correct, sir? Can you unmute yourself?

>> BILL ADDISON: Tracy, I'm going to hit the share button. Is it supposed to happen then?

>> TRACY BROWN: Click on it and then do you see your PowerPoint. You have to put that in.

>> BILL ADDISON: Hold on. I do not.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Click on share screen.

>> BILL ADDISON: Hold.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Green share screen at the bottom.

>> BILL ADDISON: Got it.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: If you have your PowerPoint open it will come up as a choice to share and click on it.

>> BILL ADDISON: Can you see it now? I can see it on mine.

>> TRACY BROWN: Not yet.

>> BILL ADDISON: I don't know.

>> TRACY BROWN: I think if you highlight that one and share you have to hit share.

>> AARON ANDRES: If you have two monitors you may have to select a different monitor.

>> BILL ADDISON: I do.

>> TRACY BROWN: There is a little blue share on the right side on the bottom.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Click on the green share screen and then a window should pop up that shows you everything you've got open.

>> TRACY BROWN: Click on your PowerPoint and then hit the blue share in the right bottom corner.

>> BILL ADDISON: It's coming up, on mine.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Did you click the blue share?

>> BILL ADDISON: I did. In any event I can go over with it without you seeing the document itself. Because there is a point in time information. And so, what we have here is every month we do statistical reports for all the managers within MRS. And I apologize. We went three months without it because the individual responsible for it got promoted and we have another individual in this place. I will go over what we consider pretty important statistics related to MRS.

And the first one is the prior to application. And that is services before they become a regular VR customer. And in the past and we compare February's. So, what we are going to do is compare February's of the last several years. This February 2023 we had 271 prior to application referrals. 271. It's a little bit down in 22. It was 329 in 21 and it was 332. So that number went down a bit.

And, again, that is before they go into our system of becoming a regular VR customer.

Some really good news on other fronts though. We also track VR applications. And those are folks who have not yet been approved but have submitted an application to become one of our customers. And, again, that number is up just slightly from last February. This February 1184 folks submitted applications. That is a little bit. That is about five above last year's number in February. And that is 184 above the number of applications in year 2021. So definitely going in the right direction. Of course, when new applications come in that means all the rest of the gears in the system are going to move a little bit faster because we have more people entering the system.

The next item we have is eligibility and after application. The question is how many of those people who have applied for services actually become eligible in February? And, again, that number is also up. So, this is a really good trend. And at its peak in 2019 it was 1163. Right now, in this February for February 2023 we are at 987. So again, this is really positive information. More folks are coming into our system this February than the last three Februarys. Our low point for eligibility was in year 2021. Where it dropped down to 787. So, again, all good news. More folks are entering the doors in our 13 district offices.

Next one is just a services IP. For their personal plans. And, again, this number is up slightly. The low point was in 2021. When we provided services for only 645. This February it's up to 867. So, again, another real positive one.

And that is what I have. The only thing that is as decreased and this is actually kind of positive is we also monitor how many open ‑‑ how many open VR cases we have in any given time. That's down. And the reason it’s down a couple of factors. Is one is they are going into employment faster. And usually the number of cases being worked on is the sum of several years, several prior years. As you know when we went into COVID, those years the number of people entering the system went down. I think we are down to about 20,000 open cases this February. And again I think we have a good reason of why that happens. They are getting employment faster. And the sum of it all is from the last three years the numbers going into the system have gone down.

Another aspect of MRS goes to the SILC Congress. And again, Rodney Craig's replacement for doing all services related to the CILs and SILC. Learned a lot of stuff. I believe Rodney, I and Nate will attend SILC Congress next year. We will throw our hat in the ring to do another two CFR200 presentation then.

Another aspect of change here at MRS is Tina Fullerton, who has been our Bureau of director, the last four years I believe, has ‑‑ is going to retire. She is going to retire at the end of March. Right now, she is on personal leave. So, the org chart has been adjusted slightly. Sigrid who was just hired, Sigrid Adams who was just hired as our deputy director for MRS is now acting in the role of acting director. All of the division directors, me and the rest of them, will now report directly to Sigrid Adams.

The last thing on my agenda to talk about today is a conference that pretty much all of our MRS managers will attend in April. And that is it's called CSAVR. And that stands for the Council of State Administrative Vocational Rehabilitation Managers. This year's theme, and this conference lasts about four days. The theme is focus on finances and accounting. And that is kind of the area that we and my folks address the most. So, most of the folks here in PED will attend that conference as most of the higher-level managers within MRS will also attend that conference.

And that's all I have.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you, Bill. So would you be able to just e‑mail that PowerPoint.

>> BILL ADDISON: Yes.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Perfect since you spoke of the numbers in there it would be good to go ahead.

>> BILL ADDISON: It's hard for me to explain but when you see the charts and what the chart does is compare year to year and that is also real good information.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Excellent we will make sure to put it on the website and make sure all Council members are able to access it.

Next up is the Bureau for blind persons and I think Gwen McNeal is going to report out for that.

>> GWEN McNEAL: Hi, everyone. I'm Gwen McNeal the manager for BSBP or Bureau of Blind Persons and subbing for Lisa right now because she is currently in Poland.

So, our data I'm going to make it brief. Our total number of customers for the month and I'm just going to go for the month of February for this. Totaled 934. Our students with disabilities 310. Adults 624. Average caseloads of our Counselors are running at this point 58. And with out of the 58, 39 are usually adults.

Our Independent Living Part B for February is a total of 91. Our Independent Living older blind is 425. Currently BSBP is working in tandem with MRS and will be hosting an acre training with an emphasis on customized employment that is presented by Griffith and associates. Currently we have approximately nine providers and BR staff participating in the training. Each provider will be matched with a jobseeker to begin the process of customized employment that will lead to independent competitive integrated employment.

Another item is BSBP will be opening a hosting an open house in Flint in March to celebrate the recently relocated office space as of August 22. BSBP will also be facilitating a culinary arts program at the training center in Kalamazoo in April of 23 and a hospitality program at great wolf lodge in May for students who are eligible for preemployment transition services. BSBP is also partnering with MDLIO or low incidents outreach via the Michigan Department of Education. And we are focusing on financial literacy called it's all about the money and career conversation with exploration. Please visit our website. We have a lot of programs available to our Pre‑ETS students and that is Leo‑transition/pre‑employment transition services Michigan.gov. Of course, we continue to partner with SILC as a SPIL writing partner and appreciate the opportunity to work with CIL partners and thank you so much for the opportunity to present today.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you, Gwen. Next up we have the department of civil rights and Annie Urasky. I thought I saw Annie on here.

>> ANNIE URASKY: Hi this is Annie signing. Sorry I was a little bit late. I just arrived coming back from Lansing. So, the roads were okay though. Just a little bit delayed by process.

So, I missed the presentation earlier. Unfortunately. So, I just have a few announcements. Our office hosted a position, I think it was last month, for a student assistant position. Working in my office. And so, we interviewed we are interviewing candidates now. And we are hoping that person will start maybe at the end of the month or the beginning of next month. So, we are excited for that.

And advisory Council we are still waiting on the next replacement appointments. Our next meeting will be Friday, May 19th.

And it will probably be on the west side of the state. And, also, just wanted to share this month we posted on social media about assistive technology day. So, with AT&T just partnering with people with disabilities and including the community of the deaf, deaf blind and hard of hearing community returns of assistive technology, communication tools, anything that can really aid and assist a person's everyday experience. So, you can definitely look at any of our social media pages to see those posts.

Next month is deaf and hard of hearing month.

>> That is history month.

>> ANNIE URASKY: Deaf history month. And we will be posting things in relationship to that. So, if you have anyone in your organization or your workplace or community members who would like to promote that in regards to that history we have that and you can share that on your plat forms as well.

I also wanted to post in the chat, and I mentioned it last time in our meeting, we are a community inclusion division. So they have what is called a my response to hate campaign. The community engagement division. And we are hosting different events. And they will be through Zoom and we have various topics. This Thursday, March 23, from 6:00‑8:00 the focus will be on how we can reduce hate crimes in schools.

So in the chat I sent the registration link for that. For that specific event. And also, the flyer.

I will also send it to you, Tracy as well. And if you can send it out to your members, anyone in your community. So, it will be in the chat for everyone.

And I will also send it via e‑mail.

So, and if you could just continue to share those fliers and it will also have the calendar of events that are coming up throughout the month. And continuing on.

And the last thing I wanted to mention our office has been focusing on hosting different workshops in regards to cultural competency. And so we have been getting more requests for those services by providers.

So, for example law enforcement. Court in terms of relationship to Judge trainings and community organizations. And also, schools. Teaching students about self-advocacy skills. And how to transition from school to work. And how to request an accommodation when you go to the doctor's office. And really giving those students that self-empowerment. So, I don't know, maybe someone in your organization or anyone you might know feel free to contact us. And we can provide those trainings.

And one of my favorite things to do in the month of March is as director is we schedule several, you know, it's national reading month. So, we schedule several events for the deaf and hard of hearing programs throughout the state. Just highlighting reading month. And getting an opportunity to connect with children in the school and the elementary schools and that. And encouraging learning to read. So that is definitely one of my favorite things to do right now, to be able to connect with the kids in the community. So that's all I have right now. And I am open to any questions or comments.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: This is Jan. Thank you, Annie. I'm going to move on to the Michigan Department of Education next with Shawan. Are you on?

>> SHAWAN DORTCH: Thank you. Good afternoon, everybody. Just a few updates from the Office of Special Education.

Our federal regulations that implement the IDEA individuals with disabilities acts required annual public reporting for local agencies on the targets established by the state performance plan for two weeks period. The member districts and the public-school academy will be able to look at their data and preview their data. That will start March I'm sorry May the 10th, 2023. And as of June 1st, 2023, the data will be available publicly on the Michigan school of data portal, which is www.mischooldata.org.

Also in our efforts to provide continuous technical assistance for school districts, MDEO has released training on IEPs, individuals plans and IEPs and transition aged students, IEP for transition aged students. This training is on the Michigan virtual professional learning portal. It's free for everyone and provides opportunity to receive sketches for teachers and administrators for certification renewal.

We are also continuing to minimize language barriers throughout information line to support districts and their families. And that is all that I have for right now.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Awesome. Thank you very much.

>> SHAWAN DORTCH: My pleasure.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: The next up is the Michigan developmental disabilities Council. And Vendella Collins. I saw Vendella on there.

>> VENDELLA COLLINS: Hello. Hi. I have a couple of things I wanted to share. And I'll start with on March 6 at the Lansing center we had a statewide self-advocacy evening where we had self-advocates from across the state coming in to prepare basically for the next day where we had individuals meeting with their legislatures. But on the evening of March 6 advocates really came to listen to how they could start or engage with other individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities in their community and form a community group that is linked with our self-advocates of Michigan. And so, we had about 50 individuals at that evening meeting which I thought was a great turn out. From across the state. Learned some things about how they can form a local self-advocacy group. And really engage and invite other partners and allies who may be interested in helping self-advocates find their voice in their own community.

Then on the 7th we had the disability day at the capitol where we had about 75, 80 individuals from across the state meeting with their representatives. From the Senate and from the house. And I thought that was a great turn out. And I had engaged in conversations with a greater majority of their legislatures. And then the next thing I wanted to just inform you of is that some of our work is really gaining some steam. One of our projects that is called beyond tokenism is really taking off. Where we have a former grantee really working with a variety of boards and community boards and Councils. Helping them to understand how to engage with people with disabilities to be on their boards. And I think that is moving quite well. Because one of the things that we really strive for is having individuals with disabilities really to be part of typical boards and communities that people with disabilities don't always have to be on board of organizations that are spearheaded by folks with disabilities. So, this is a great way of engaging people in typical activities in their communities. And so, I'm pretty excited about the work that that project is doing.

And continues to do. And the last thing that I will say is that March is DD awareness month. The Governor did do a proclamation for DD awareness. And that we at the Council have opportunities to ‑‑ for individuals with DD to tell their stories and some of those stories are on our website. And they are on YouTube and Facebook and all the other social media avenues where people can get a sense of how individuals with IDD are involved and engaged in typical community activities. So, thank you very much.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you, Vendella. And then our last but definitely not our least important ex officio report comes from Mark Pierce from the IL network.

>> MARK PIERCE: Thank you so much, Jan.

Appreciate it.

A report for today is David, one of the CIL directors over in Grand Rapids was recently appointed to the Governor as the newly created Michigan State housing developmental authority statewide housing partnership. A long word. I will turn it into an acronym or what they are going to do with it. But they will be representing disability community with strategies concerning our housing and affordable housing in the state. A big shout out to Dave.

Another thing that is going on in the network, yeah, give him a good clap. There is nothing wrong with that. If he was here, he would definitely say something.

The next network continues to work with the department of civil rights. And the civil rights Commission on implementing dramatic character law. This law changes the symbol that is included in reserved parking signs for people with disabilities. And so while the department and the Commission raised some concerns that have caused a delay with that, being implemented as a law. I think you know what we are talking about the sign, it's the one with the logo moving forward. So we will be seeing how that all plays out.

The next one that is our legislative day. That is going to be on May 10th of 2023. And that is headed up Teri Langley who is our community relations director here at the network. We appreciate her and the CILs will be in Lansing to talk with the legislatures about our priorities which is affordable housing which got Dave out there and direct care worker crises we have going on across the state. So, two big initiatives for people with disabilities. I'm sure Jan can talk all day on direct care workers.

Some of the directors Steve would like to know and kind of fire up the SPIL writing team. I don't know if you can get some type of invite or something out there to see what is going on with that.

And I want to say to everybody we lost a great advocate with Judy Heumann. She passed just less than a week ago. Look her up. She was a great advocate, and it really did affect our network and what we do. So, we want to take out a little bit of time to honor her and her great life and what she has done.

I have to say that here in the Lansing area with the recent things that have happened we are trying to stay strong. And I think our slogan is Spartan strong and we will try our best to stay strong. That is all I have for the updates for the network at this time.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you very much, Mark.

We can move on to the SPIL monitoring. And maybe before we get into the actual reports of the current SPIL Steve could you give a quick update on when we are going to reignite the team for the future SPIL?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yes, for the next SPIL we are looking at the month of April to start our initial meetings. So, there is going to be an invite coming out for that. We will send out a doodle to see the best day and time for everybody on the team. And along with that is going to be the initial results of the community needs assessment surveys that we've had in survey monkey. As they have been coming in, I've been categorizing them according to the I think it's like 11 different life areas that the CILs used to classify services in. So that we can at least have a table broken down by life area for all the comments that are coming in. Because there are quite a few lengthy comments for that team to start reviewing. And making some determinations on it.

And then what I envision for that first meeting is starting to layout some public hearing dates. And different methodologies for soliciting public input into the next SPIL. So that is coming your way. We were going to hold off until the beginning of spring so that is coming right up on us, so we are looking at April Mark.

>> MARK PIERCE: Okay.

>> STEVE LOCKE: We will get the doodle out within the next week or so. At least the first initial date on our calendars.

>> MARK PIERCE: Okay thanks, Steve.

>> STEVE LOCKE: You are welcome. Thank you.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you Steve and thank you Mark for raising the question.

So on to the SPIL monitoring reports. And the first one is advocacy and leadership. And Jon Hart is the CIL lead, but Theresa Metzmaker is the SILC Council member, the Council member that is working with that group. So, Theresa, can you give us a quick report?

>> THERESA METZMAKER: I actually couldn't make the meeting with Vendella and Steve. So, I would ask Steve to do so.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Sure of course.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Sure, I would be happy to. We talked about in the previous Council meeting the CIL network will go forward with a hybrid YLF this year and the SILC is providing seed money for that. It's going to be a blend of in person and virtual. And Jon Hart from the Jackson CIL is spearheading that along with the curriculum they are going to use.

Our next meeting is going to be on March 14th with Theresa, Yvonne, and Lisa Cook‑Gordon a former Council member who is, let me see here.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Michigan family voices.

>> STEVE LOCKE: She is the codirector there and a special interest in YLF. Our initial meeting is going to be kind of talking about when and where. But the big question, the big elephant in the room is funding. So funding is really what we want to get our arms around. So that is kind of where we are at right now with that.

>> THERESA METZMAKER: I thought that meeting happened. I did meet with Jon this pastime. And we talked about, they decided on the curriculum. Which they are using a lot of the yell curriculum from Michigan disability rights coalition. I know that Laura from Michigan disability rights coalition and Jon met yesterday to kind of get some of those details out for the hybrid version this summer.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Awesome.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Excellent, thank you. Thank you both. That is going to be some fun work this summer.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Mark had his hand up.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: You wanted to ask a question.

>> MARK PIERCE: Wanted to remind you Aaron was on that committee too. She is a part of the one of the YL, not the YL but one of the leaders that went through it earlier. I believe she is going to the meetings with Jon.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Yes, she is representing Jon sometimes.

>> MARK PIERCE: Okay, thank you.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thanks Mark and since you had your hand up you are next to talk about diversity and inclusion.

>> MARK PIERCE: Wow, I really wish I had more to say about that. I have no new reports on that at this time. I will hopefully have a report by our next meeting in the next quarter but nothing to report on that at this time.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Okay thank you. Well let's see, I think Mark gave me license to talk all day about personal assistance, correct?

>> MARK PIERCE: Yes, all day.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: So, I wanted to say some things. I did want to say.

>> This is the interpreter speaking I'm having a hard time hearing you. I don't know if other people are struggling, yes, okay, yes, we are having a hard time hearing you.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: I don't know what to do because I'm literally sitting in front of the owl.

>> Actually, now it's better so we will see what happens.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: That is really interesting. Okay I touched it and now it just said oh, I better listen to her.

>> STEVE LOCKE: It lit up and going red.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Okay, so let me start again. So, I wanted to start by letting folks know that the Department of Health and human services did issue a memo to the HIP in the community mental health organizations confirming the $2.35 an hour increase that had been built into last year's budget and this year's budget as well is considered permanent. It's now part of the base rate. Which means that it's not going to go away. We don't have to call it COVID bonus any more or whatever it is some of the organizations were calling it. It's part of the base.

So, the direct care wage coalition, however, recognizes as does the Department of Health and human services that we ‑‑ that the crisis is not going to end in terms of our shortage of direct care workers until we are at a minimum base wage starting wage of $18 an hour. And right now, the average starting wage across Michigan is $14 an hour. So, the coalition is asking the legislature to provide enough funding for a $4 an hour increase for direct support professionals. That also includes direct supervisors. Who often do a lot of direct support any way when they are working with folks in those provider agencies. The Governor's budget proposed somewhere in the neighborhood of $1.50 increase and so we are just saying thank you, Governor. That's wonderful but we know it's not enough to really stabilize this workforce.

So, there will be some e‑mails going out to CIL directors in the next couple of days. Probably by Monday I guess now that it's Friday. Asking you to help us by supporting the requests we are making with the Senate appropriations committee. So, we will send you some instructions who those folks are. And they have like a form they want you to fill out with your request. We will ask for some help from our CILs to again make sure that the legislature knows that it's not just this little band of you know, advocates but it's across the state. The CILs agree. The labor of health folks agrees and we all understand this is very necessary.

So that is my report on direct care attendance. For right now the CILs will be getting I'm sorry I got distracted by a message on the thing.

(Laughter)

Sorry CIL directors will get an e‑mail with an ask. We will ask you to support the work and continue to advocate for that increase.

And next we have emergency response with Mark Pierce is the CIL lead but Frank Animikwam is the SILC member who is the lead. So, who is going to report? Is it Dr. Frank?

>> MARK PIERCE: Yeah, Frank will be going first.

>> FRANK ANIMIKWAM: This is Frank Animikwam. So, we had met, it was over a month now. And we had some weather issues the past month that has pushed back our should have been our last meeting. So, we have a doodle poll out there right now that Tracy submitted so we are looking to meet here soon. But that meeting was kind of exploring more of our partnership with NPHI with regards to the grant focus. And so we have not had any new updates since our last meeting and it's just kind of getting more of that information back from the grant and looking at what the need is with regards to our service population who are elderly or, you know, and they have disabilities. And seeing how we can best serve them.

So that is the primary update I have right now. And there was also a reference to the ACL at the end of last year they gave an update kind of on their new planning and the focus. So just wanted to make sure our team was aware of that. So, we kind of made an effort to make sure our collective efforts were also in alignment at the national level too and what they are doing for emergency preparedness.

And so I will turn it over to Mark if he has anything to provide on the CIL. And then also welcome Steve if he would like to add anything. Thank you, everyone.

>> MARK PIERCE: Thank you so much. I think we -- I got the same kind of record there. The SILC, the CILs were getting ready to meet together on March 3rd. And we had a nice little storm that kept us from meeting. As a matter of fact, we were supposed to meet over in Midland there. And we never made it.

But that meeting did get rescheduled for April 14th.   
I think it's supposed to go according to the notes I have here supposed to go from 10‑4:00. That is a pretty long meeting. But any way Travis gave me some updates on that. And we thought we were out of the winter but seemed like winter doesn't want to let go. And I don't quite understand that one.

AARON ANDRES: Join the club with the UP.

>> MARK PIERCE: Gosh, really, I can't compete with the UP. Who competes with the UP? Nobody.

Any way I do want to put a piece out there for legislative day. One of the things that was put out there, we talked a little bit about smart 911. But I will get with Teri if that is something we will do legislative day.

Just a comment in there from Teri and I don't know if you will allow her to come on board. And she could talk a little bit about what she has had a conversation with the legislatures over.

I think that's about it. There is no new number. Not for in quarter but we will have numbers for the next meeting we have which will be the second quarter. That is all I have.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you so much, Mark. Did you have anything, Steve, you wanted to add?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Just real briefly we are still trying to get the emergency preparedness team meeting on the calendar. So, if folks could respond to the doodle that would be great. In the meantime, I have met with Dr. Richards a couple of times via Zoom trying to prepare a flyer to put out to schedule listening sessions. These listening sessions are going to be geared towards service providers, caregivers, people with living with disabilities and families who provide support to those folks. The purpose of this interactive series participants will share experiences related to navigating existing emergency preparedness offerings and resources. Discuss strengths, weaknesses and opportunities with current emergency prepared services and discuss what ideal emergency preparedness resources and information would look like in Michigan.

And then also provide insights on how to improve emergency preparedness services to the aging populations with disabilities. So those listening sessions are going to help NPHI form a base line as we move through the work jointly with the CIL network and all the great work that CILs have already done to build upon each other and kind of bring those achievements together to ultimately come up with a tool kit that can be used statewide for all those populations. That is really what we are going towards here. That is all I have to add. Thank you.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you. So, the BSBP SPIL objective usually Lisa would give us a little bit more information on that. Gwen, did you have anything, Gwen McNeal did you have anything you wanted to add about the specific SPIL objective? Is Gwen still with us? I don't see her.

Okay, we will wait until next meeting to get that report from Lisa. Next up we do not have anything in unpunished business at this time. So, we are going to move on to new business and we have an update on something that's in our personnel handbook related to our tax deferred annuity, the 403B that is for our employees. And who is going to report about that? Steve? Okay.

>> STEVE LOCKE: I will go ahead and do that. What I wanted to do is just make the Council aware. When we go into budget negotiations with the DSE, frequently where the benchmark that is used is what state employees get. So, if we ask for something that is above and beyond what state employees get, we do get some push back sometimes. So, what I am proposing to do, and this is for informational purposes. We are not asking for action at this meeting. But at the June meeting. I would like to go through the personnel handbook for SILC employees and those sections including the 403B update those sections so that they are ‑‑ they reference state employee levels for things. Right now, for the retirement system in the employee handbook SILC contributes 3% of an employee's base salary. State employees right now for those that were hired after 1997 who do not get state health insurance upon retirement anymore because they changed that, what the state is doing now is giving 4% across the board of a base wage. And then a 3% dollar for dollar match of the employee's contribution. So what that would mean for us is we would go from 3% to 4% of the base wage and then there would be an additional 3% dollar for dollar of the employee's contribution. That 3% dollar for dollar would be a minimum amount. In my case it would be another $450 a year. It's a minimum amount but I just wanted to bring this to your attention that that's something I was going to work on. And I will run it by the executive committee also before it comes to the full Council and will highlight those sections that may change. I want to be able to word it in a way where it can live into perpetuity without forming particular numbers saying what the state gives at any given time. We will bring the language back for review, approval or send it back to the drawing board.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Okay all right are there any questions on that at this time? I this I we will have more information by next meeting that we will be able to you know ask some questions.

We are on to the information sharing and announcement portion of our meeting. And I'm going to start us off because as Steve earlier mentioned a number of Council members went to the annual SILC Congress in little rock, Arkansas this week. And one of the presentations was related to a some legislative, some Federal legislative advocacy that needs to be done in the very near future. And, Teri, I'm going to give you an opportunity to talk about a few things too if you would like to today.

But it's the five for five campaign if people have heard of it, right? And I wanted to just point out because it was aptly pointed out at the Congress that you know one of our jobs as a SILC, right, is to help the CILs to be able to do the five core services. To be able to follow the SPIL but also to advocate for the CILs to have money so that they can provide those core services. So the five for five campaign is we are asking the Congress to provide 500 million in addition to what's already in the budget for centers for Independent Living to provide the five core services. So there is going to be some more information coming down about kind of the campaign and what that looks like. But we are really going to be talking to legislatures, Federal legislatures and going to be asking people that you know are Centers for Independent Living and are asking too and doing the advocacy, but we will ask our partners and people that care about independent living to get on board and help with this advocacy. It's an important time to be able to do this. We have this opportunity, right, to infuse this funding. And you know what can happen? Well first of all I think we all know as in most human services the level of funding has lagged behind the cost of doing business. The cost of things, right? And so, we are now asking Centers for Independent Living to do the same work with less money if you take the time value of money number one. Two, wouldn't it be great to serve more people? And so those advocates that have kind of picked that number out of the sky, that 500 million number tell us that not only would this be able to help centers across the country be able to pay competitive wages to the people that are doing the work but it would also help them to be able to support more people that are out there, that have not been served previously.

This is really important and just encouraging everyone to get on board and help advocate for that funding to come through.

Any other information sharing that ‑‑ oops, Jamia has her hand up, then Theresa. Lots of people have their hands up.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Hi everyone. So, one of the breakout sessions that I attended at the conference was BIPOC coalition. Once I received for the national SILC membership organization that we are a part of. And so, I did sign up to become a part of that group. And once I have more information, I will be sharing it with you all. So, if anyone of the Council members or ex officio members want to join in on that coalition, I will be sure to send that information to you all. And it was a really great Congress. And the breakout sessions were very informative. And it just allowed for us to really connect with our peers. And it was very valuable. So, I appreciate being able to join.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Awesome thank you. Theresa, I think you had your hand up.

>> THERESA METZMAKER: Yeah, it was kind of related to what you said but our last agenda item. I'm just still kind of confused about how the process works of us asking for money from MRS. And how our budget actually is like that process of how much money we have to ask for and how that happens. And so, I can put this in an e‑mail. But would I be able to meet with Steve? I just want to understand.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Yes.

>> THERESA METZMAKER: How we asked for that. I'm a little confused by them saying a push back of us having benefits the SILC having benefits that are different than a government agency. We are not a government agency. And so, I just want to understand more. Because I'm still confused too, like why we can't just ask for more money from ILRU, so I want to understand and I don't know who to talk to about that. I'm confused I guess on how we ask for how much and how much we have available.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: As a SILC Yeah. So, I think that is a really great question, Theresa. There are likely other people who have that same question. I'm wondering Steve if we couldn't maybe schedule a public meeting where we can describe that process and people can ask their questions. Is that something we can do.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yes.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: That will be helpful for lots of people, Theresa. So, we will get that. We will get that on the books. And we will open it up so that because other people, this should be really transparent how we ask for money, how that works, right? So, let's do a little educational session on that. Okay perfect. Thank you. Mindy Kulasa, your hand is raised.

>> MINDY KULASA: Yes. I was just wondering if someone could comment on the amicus brief that was attached to the meeting materials, but it didn't appear as an agenda item?

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Yes, Steve would you like to comment on that?

>> STEVE LOCKE: I sure can. So, Mindy, I received an e‑mail from the Detroit office of the ACLU a few months ago. And they were reaching out to state level disability organizations seeking support or signing on to this amicus brief regarding Michigan's no-fault insurance. What they were filing, there is a case that's going to the Michigan Supreme Court. And what it really hinges on is folks that had valid claims from the catastrophic claim fund, prior to this new law going into effect, what insurers, the insurance industry is wanting to do is people that have valid claims prior to I want to say it's 2019, they want to apply the law retroactively to those folks and start capping their benefits. The ACL U's position is no. It should only effect folks that go into the fund after the law took effect. So, they asked us MDRC and a couple of other state level entities if we would be willing to sign on to that. We did our due diligence regarding lobbying. We did a lot of research. And found that when we are dealing with the judicial branch it is not considered lobbying to put your support behind an amicus brief.

In fact, some SILCs across the country have signed on to amicus briefs before. So that was the nature of it.

I ran it past the executive committee before we went forward with it. Because it was in between Council meetings. And they agreed that that was something that we could support. Those are the documents that you see on the website today.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: And so, the question, you know, really is, you know, as advocates for people to get the support that they need, right, did we want to support this idea that people who had a valid claim prior to the new law shouldn't they be able to still complete that claim essentially? And get the services and supports that they need.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yeah.

>> ERICA COULSTON: If I could just comment too on that. Because I have advocated in favor of preserving Michigan's auto no-fault system for over a decade. And I'm a recipient of the system myself. As a survivor of an auto accident here in Michigan. And also, my therapy clinic is a provider for many individuals under that system.

And the Supreme Court case actually was heard last week. It will be several months, I'm sure, until there is a decision that is given by the Supreme Court. But I do think in that particular case it spoke to the issue of retro activity for individuals injured prior to the law. The law that was passed in 2019 there were several provisions regarding fee schedules and also levels of care that you can choose, right? So, prior to 2019 it was actually quote, unquote unlimited benefits. So basically if you are injured in a car accident or by a vehicle in Michigan or car insured in Michigan you had access to this fund for the remainder of your injury or your life.

And what this law did was allow people to opt out of that unlimited system and choose different levels of care. And then it also put in place fee schedules for providers of different types of services. The issue with some of those other provisions besides the retro activity is it's severely limiting providers ability to exist. And to provide services. And in some cases cuts that reimbursement level to close to 40 to 45%. So, it's an ongoing issue. This is particular amicus brief and case spoke to retro activity but I expect the legislature and the judicial branch has to speak to people injured after 2019 as well. So just a heads up on that. It is sort of like an ongoing issue that affects a broader group of people also.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Yes, thank you.

Thank you for adding that important information.

So more to come probably. I think we are going to see some maybe in the next in this legislature we might see some action taken around that issue. Any other information or announcements from members of the Council?

Okay, I don't see any. So, at this time I would like to invite public comment. And I was hoping, Teri, I did not know if Mark kind of intimated you may want to talk about some legislative activity you are engaging in right now.

>>TERI LANGLEY: I would be happy to. It's fine. It was not my intent. I wanted to be as much of an observer as I could. But I am happy to share with you that, you know, going to the legislature and reminding them of the valuable services that CILs provide across the state is very necessary and we are excellent fiduciary of any state dollars we receive. I'm spending a lot of time educating new legislatures of what CILs are and the services we provide. I'm turning on a lot of light bulbs for them because some of them I would say most of them don't put the two and two together. They know that there are services available. They don't know that that's what our CILs do. And then I spent a lot of time explaining that centers are not residential centers. We are resource centers. So, I'm doing a lot of education which I don't mind doing it and I like the legislature. But how state funding impacts the services with people with disabilities receive throughout the state. I also spend a lot of time chasing down conversations that we can be a part of that are referring to accessibility. Or DEI. As I have explained to people, accessibility, and inclusion as they are used now in certain spaces don't include people with disabilities. And so I'm there to say we would very much like a seat at the table and to be a part of these conversations because we applaud that there is a lot of focus on inclusion accessibility. We want to make sure you are using the words the same way we use the words. Because we found that sometimes accessibility in other spaces does not mean what we want it to mean. And so you know, examples of that are Trevor Paul before he left his position with you know, the department of mobility. I reached out to him specifically because he was very big on the word accessibility, talking about electric vehicles. And turns out he was not talking about accessibility for people with disabilities.

So I made sure he was understanding that, you know, when you talk about accessibility, please be aware that there are other spaces that that word is used. And by the way we would very much like to be a part of that conversation. Because we do believe that there is a space for EVs and people with disabilities special autonomous vehicles. That was a great connection I made. So, I don't spend a ton of my time talking about state funding as much as I do talking about accessibility and inclusion.

And honestly educating folks about the, you know, the age of the ADA. And we are still having barriers that we are trying to remove for people with disabilities.

So that's what I'm doing at the network. You know, I am constantly lifting up everybody that is in this space. Because the work that everybody does is important. And what I'm also doing is trying not to get down every day that I realize that as old as the ADA is there is still a lot of work out there for us. And you know, I'm having very positive meetings with legislatures. They want to understand. And at the end of the day, I walk out, letting them know there is another resource available to their constituencies when they call this and have families who don't know where to go. Who need answers to questions that they may have.

So, there is a lot of conversation that I'm involved in. And, you know, I just want the SILC to know that you know the partnership that we have is very valuable to us. And you know, that I tell everybody I work with including staff and the CILs this is a marathon and not a Sprint. So don't get down if in the first two months of the new legislature we are still having questions, you know, thrown at us, what is a Center for Independent Living because we are in it for the long haul.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you. Thank you. Yvonne Fleener, you have your hand up to give public comment.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Yes. The clap was for you, Teri. Thank you for what you do for the network. You are appreciated and needed.

A couple things I'm going to put in the chat. I had the pleasure when I was at Origami brain injury rehab and Erin, I'm sure I have met you along the way I helped create a video to tell the story of the Andary family. I put it here if you are interested in learning more about them. They are a phenomenal family. Take a few minutes. It's only a couple minutes long and watch that video.

Not to bring up MRS rates again but when you talk about auto no fault cuts and Erin mentioned I forgot her exact words but being cut to the point where vendors can't do the work, which is a very similar experience that vendors of MRS, voc rehab are experiencing but on a smaller scale than auto no fault. It is one of the reasons why the Southwest Michigan CILs chose to step away from that work for now. We just are not interested in doing a Walmart business model. The rates were cut by two thirds. So, we would have to have three times the amount of customers to meet the same budget line. And keep in mind those cuts happened during a budget cycle. So those budgets were already approved, planned and in process. So, it was pretty traumatic not only for us but for people with disabilities that we serve. So just had to throw that out there.

Again.

So, I'm going to share my screen for just a second. I'm going to send these to you. They are, let's see, a couple fun things that are going on. We do a collaborative film festival. Nothing about us without us with what used to be the Ann Arbor CIL and you may not know. I don't want to steal their thunder, but they have now changed their name officially to Disability Network Washtenaw, Monroe, Livingston. These are the dates and would appreciate if you could pass it on. It's a statewide event and virtual and please share with others.

Second, I'm going to ask Tracy to sent you a list of our upcoming educational events. Those are free. So, if you have people on your teams who would like to attend those, please check those out and share that information.

And then lastly, we also do the advocacy academy. And that is a paid employment where people with disabilities between the ages of, I should know this, 16‑29 come together over eight weeks over the summer. You may remember last year that Senator McCann designated disability awareness and education day. That was a combination of the work of this group. They really want that as a goal. I will tell you those of us helping facilitate thought, okay, all right. But they did it. They accomplished it. And it was fantastic. I got to meet that group on day one.

And they were very shy. And unsure of themselves. And then I got to see them do their presentation at the end. Then I got to see them again in some other interactions.

I'm not saying this is all because of the advocacy academy but it's night and day. Their confidence level as humans and as representatives of people with disabilities. So, it's such a cool program. I want to do it throughout our eight counties. Right now, it is just in Kalamazoo and it is in person. It's not virtual. So, if you know people who can get to Kalamazoo, it is paid. It's $13 an hour. You know we would love to have them fill out an application and join us.

I'm also going to send you just thinking in advance our April events that are also free and virtual. To please share with others. And attend. It's so great to see you all. It seems like it's a big warm hug seeing all these familiar faces. Nice to see you.

Lastly, I want to say great work. You know the SILC has come a long way. And you are action oriented. And it shows. And I'm really pleased to see that. So, thank you for all your hard work. Appreciate it. That's it.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you. And we will make sure to get all of these on the site and also in our socials, Yvonne, of these events and things. This is all great stuff. Any other public comment.

>> AARON ANDRES: I have something.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Can the interpreters hear Aaron?

>> AARON ANDRES: As most of you know.

>> So far so good.

>> AARON ANDRES: The SILC went to the SILC conference. And on the way back I lost a wheel for my shower chair. So, I'm working with three wheels.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Did that happen on the plane?

>> AARON ANDRES: Yes. And I'm looking to replace this one-part wheel on my shower chair so it can be a usable wheelchair instead of a yard ornament at this point. So if anybody knows where I can find one to put on a shower chair that would be wonderful.

>> ALLEN BEAUCHAMP: What brand is it?

>> AARON ANDRES: What brand of chair? Can I get back to you on that? Made out of PVC. Completely out of PVC. The only metal on it is the wheels. And of course, the first thing to go on a shower chair that is in water constantly is the metal on the wheels. So that is why I lost it on the plane. So, I'll get with you Allen and we will go from there.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: I'm going to add one final comment and then we can look for a motion to adjourn. But one of the things that came to light are that we talked about at the conference, particularly with our region is the area of transportation and advocacy that still needs to happen. And are planes accessible for people who use a wheelchair? No. Not at all. And you know one of the things I was remembering is a time when I was in charge of like the logistics for a national conference. And I literally engaged a wheelchair repair company, Saginaw medical if anybody wants to know who it was to be at the airport waiting as people got off the planes so they could make the quick repairs on the wheelchair because every wheelchair was broke coming off the plane. That is another area for advocacy that we still have. That really came to light hanging out with Aaron for a week. So, thank you all.

And, with that, I will entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

>> AARON ANDRES: Motion to adjourn.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you.

>> ALLEN BEAUCHAMP: Support, Beauchamp.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you Allen. Can we do a voice do we do a role call or a voice, let's do a voice all in favor say aye.

>> Aye.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Anybody opposed to adjourning the meeting same sign. We are adjourned. Thank you all very much.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Thanks everyone.

>> GLEN ASHLOCK: Good‑bye all.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Good‑bye.

(Meeting concludes at 2:24 p.m.)