# MISILC

05/24/2023 6:00 PM ET Executive Committee Meeting

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>> STEVE LOCKE: It's 6:05 and I think we should go ahead. We have a quorum and Jamia, I'll turn it over to you.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Good evening, everyone. We are calling this meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

>> STEVE LOCKE: We'll ask for Roll Call and any accommodation requests, Tracy.

>> TRACY BROWN: Jamia Davis?

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Present.

>> TRACY BROWN: Stephanie Dieble.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: Present.

>> TRACY BROWN: Aaron Andres.

>> AARON ANDRES: Present.

>> TRACY BROWN: And Jan Lampman we are hoping will join us shortly. You have a quorum.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: I go to the accommodation requests. Hearing none, let's go forward. To the order, now for today, I'm going to go to the agenda.

 Now we will have the Approval of the Agenda for today. Can I get a motion for the approval of today's agenda?

>> AARON ANDRES: Aaron Andres and I motion that we approve today's executive committee agenda.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: This is Stephanie and I second the motion.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Do we have to do a vote for that or no?

>> AARON ANDRES: Yeah.

>> STEVE LOCKE: We do but the next step would be, is there any discussion.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Any discussion? Thanks, Steve.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yep. This is Steve. Within modification I would like to have number six the Personnel Handbook Tax Deferred Annuity update, if we can change that to financial policies update. I have a different strategy for this if that's possible.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Okay. All right. Do we do a motion to approve the amendment agenda?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Correct.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: May I have a motion to approve the amended agenda as presented by Steve?

>> AARON ANDRES: Motion to amend the agenda as presented by Steve. Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: For the SILC financial policies update.

>> AARON ANDRES: Yes.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: This is Stephanie. I'll second the motion to amend the

agenda as presented by Steve.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: And may we do a vote?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yes. We'll do a Roll Call vote.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Please, Tracy.

>> TRACY BROWN: Jamia Davis? Yay.

>> TRACY BROWN: Stephanie Dieble.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: Aye.

>> TRACY BROWN: Aaron Andres.

>> AARON ANDRES: Yes.

>> TRACY BROWN: Motion carries.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Agenda for the ninth.

>> AARON ANDRES: We approved but don't we need to approve the agenda, or does it happen within motion?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yes. You just voted to approve the amended executive committee agenda.

>> AARON ANDRES: And now we have to approve the agenda?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yes, we have to go through the agenda for the business meeting. You're right on track, Aaron.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: This is the agenda for our June 9th meeting in Marquette and does anyone see any changes, any discussion, questions, or comments that need to be changed?

>> STEVE LOCKE: This is Steve. Under Council Education, we have booked two for that meeting. When I asked Julie Shaw who is the Executive Director of SAIL to present on her CIL up in Marquette I forgot we invited the general counsel of civil rights to present in the change in the action character on handicapped accessible parking spaces. There's some conflict that’s going on, even though the legislature approved it. The civil rights department has issues with I am premeditating it. So, they are going to present and then Julie is going to present on SAIL. What we decided to do was split a 45-minute session between the two groups so that both of them could present to the council because they are both important topics for you to know about. The only other change that I would recommend is we had Personnel Handbook Tax Deferred Annuity under New Business. I would respectfully ask that that be deleted and that the change that we made on the financial policies on the discussion we're going to have tonight, that information be shared up here under Staff committee reports SILC financial policies workgroup update. I'm going to show you what I'm suggesting that we modify in the financial policies on June 9th. And those are the only two.

 Within is informational and the second within is an actual material change to the agenda.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: Steve, I have a question and maybe we're going to cover this tonight, but I know that Theresa Metzmaker handwrote asking for us to go over some financial things. Is that going to be included in the changes that you're proposing?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yeah.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: Okay.

>> STEVE LOCKE: That is not going to be part of this, Stephanie. And you'll see, it's a very minor change that I'm recommending in the financial policies. I did send out an informational training oscillating budgeting process. And I think that what we can do is old a special council training session on the budgeting process for SILC, predicated on that earlier information I sent out to everybody about how we go about the budgeting process and what the CIL budgeting process looks like. And I would like to ask someone from the CILs to come in and talk about their budgeting process. I understand that from being a previous CIL director but I with like to extend an opportunity for a CIC director to come in during that special meeting and talk about the budgeting process as well so that council Members can understand that. I think we can do that shortly after the June 9th meeting because I don't want that to fall off the radar. I think the council Members need to be informed and know what that process looks like and how we get to where we get to.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: Okay and in that special meeting are we going to be addressing the information that we got from Bill Addison regarding the letter that he sent, addressing it? What's the plan?

>> STEVE LOCKE: We're going to talk about that tonight under the 2024 SPIL submission.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Okay. So, the two changes as Steve mentioned: Within is the Council Education with the two presentations regarding the parking initiative and the presentation by CIL and then we also have the change under Staff and committee reports for the SILC financial policies workgroup update. And so, may I have a motion to approve the agenda for June the ninth?

>> AARON ANDRES: This is Aaron Andres. I motion that we approve the agenda for June 9th with changes as presented.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Okay. And may I have a second.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: This is Stephanie. I second the motion.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: And then Tracy, may we have a Roll Call vote, please.

>> TRACY BROWN: Sure. Jamia Davis.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Aye.

>> TRACY BROWN: Stephanie Dieble.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: Aye.

>> TRACY BROWN: Aaron Andres.

>> AARON ANDRES: Yes.

>> TRACY BROWN: Motion carried.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Great. Okay. And now we will have the 2024 SPIL Submission Update.

>> STEVE LOCKE: So, we are working on a submission for the 2024 SPIL. I have been working with the CILs on any changes that they wanted to see in this gap year SPIL. The only modification that SILC is asking for was a one-time increase in funding for the Youth Leadership Forum in 2024.

 I've been working with Theresa's group, Michigan disability rights coalition. Vendella Collins and John Hardt, the Executive Director of the Jackson CIL, to really help a hybrid event happen this year. SILC has budgeted $15,000 to support that effort. That hybrid youth leadership forum which is going to be in person and virtual -- John estimates the cost to be around $17,000 and SILC has budgeted $15,000 to support the effort and so we're almost completely funding the hybrid event.

We met last week, Vendella and John and I to talk about what the cost for a 2024 modified full blown youth leadership forum would cost and it looks like it's going to be about $150,000. At the last council meeting the council approved me asking for up to $100,000 from MRS to support the 2024 youth leadership forum or 25% of the cost, whichever was less.

 After meeting with the team, we believe that the SILC ask from MRS in our budget negotiations coming up this summer somewhere in the ballpark of about $45,000 and I think that that's a reasonable amount for SILC to contribute. That represents about 25% of the actual cost. The DD Council's program committee has money budgeted for a while that they were going to do on their own. And they have decided to go ahead and partner with SILC, the CILs, and MDRC which is fantastic they do also have money that they are going to contribute to this effort, and I think that that's really exciting. The other two technical amendments, what we did find out from ACL is these three amendment that's we're proposing constitute technic am amendments and not substantial amendments and we don't have to have a public hearing on the 2024 SPIL which is good news; however, two amendments that the CILs want to have in the SPIL has to do with the PASREP Program. Are you all familiar with the PASREP Program? Personal Assistance Services Reimbursement Program. And there is a lot of controversy along this program.

 The State legislature appropriated money to the tune of $459,500 probably 20 years ago and it's been funded at that amount ever since. Somewhere back in 2000 -- and MRS was the fiduciary for this grant. Somewhere back in 2012, 2013 MRS had staffing changes and they also moved from within the state department to another state department. Somewhere in that shuffle that grant got misplace and they believe that it was left behind when they were in the Department of LARA. Nobody can seem to locate this money. We are having a meeting with -- Jan and I are having a meeting with Sigrid Adams and Bill with MRS and CIL membership tomorrow at 1:30 to talk about this because the amendments as written by CILs are going to cause MRS to not sign the SPIL. They believe the language that the CILs have drafted is not an accurate reflection of MRS's budget right now.

 What I believe happened is the grant got left behind at another state department and nobody can find it. And after the personnel changes that happened at MRS, MRS continued funding the program, but they ended up funding it under MRS's own vocational budget which it was never intended to be. This was above the line and above the budget that MRS was the fiduciary for.

>> AARON ANDRES: How do we lose that much money without having an idea where it went? That's confusing to me.

>> STEVE LOCKE: We don't know, Aaron. I have been working with folks at MRS looking back at budgets. The three-year report retention policy has caused a lot of the records to disappear. But what we did find with the PASREP grant above the budget line for MRS to administer in the 2012 LARA budget but when they moved to DHHS in 2013, all of a sudden it did not appear in the DHHS budget. There were personnel changes in the department that year at MRS and nobody noticed it.

 What's been happening is that instead of MRS we’re airing that legislative allocation, their accountant -- and I believe and cannot prove it -- has been funding it out of MRS dollars. That's why they have been trying to sunset this program after discovering they were funding it out of their own budget, and they no longer desire to do that.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: This is so unfortunate because it's a program that wasn't intended to be funded that way and it's a program that a lot of people could be utilizing and so yeah. Is this meeting tomorrow, is it open to others or is it just going to be the leadership, yourself, and Jan?

>> STEVE LOCKE: It's a closed meeting. I can tell you; I have had probably ten phone calls per day for the past two weeks on this. I have been working with Terri Langley, the new Executive Director of the CIL association. I was on a call with her for an hour and a half Monday trying to broker a deal. Working on the MRS channels trying to broker a deal. And I think that we're almost there. My proposed solution to this is that MRS fund for one more year at the $360,000 current contract rate and allow the CILs to go back to the legislature and get the money reappropriated for PASRAP, either in the original amount or even more beyond that. And I am really hoping that we can pull this negotiation off tomorrow and if we are, perhaps these two CIL amendments that are giving MRS heartburn can come off the table.

 So, everything is in a really fluid state right now. I have to talk with Jan in the morning before we go into that meeting so I can breach her on the things I have been doing behind the scenes to broker this deal. Thing right side so bad between the MV and the CILs. There are some folks at MRS that want to kill the program completely. It's an important program for the CILs and it's important to people with disabilities. I think that we can get to a mutual win-win on this if everybody plays nice during the meeting tomorrow.

>> AARON ANDRES: What if the legislator doesn't approve it.

>> STEVE LOCKE: That's going to be the location. The negotiation, Aaron, is going to be, we're going to ask MRS to fund this with their own money for one more year because nobody knows where that grant went to. I personally believe it got absorbed into LARA's GFGP and they kept the money and didn't know it was for this program. I don't think there's a place to lay blame. At the end of the day the people that are going to be around the table tomorrow in this meeting at this potential negotiation had nothing to do with what happened back in 2012, 2013. Everyone here is an innocent party and what I'm going to recommend is that we draw a line in the sand, and we stop arguing about the past and pointing fingers and focus on the solution that is going to put legs back underneath this program going forward. That's what I want to happen. So, there's going to be more to come on the SPIL Submission Update and I'm hopeful the CILs will withdraw at least the within amendment that they want that states that MRS has this in their allocated budget because MRS is pushing back on that saying it is absolutely not in our budget and we did not absorb that into our GFGP. They are not sure what happened because there isn't a paper trail there. So, without enough evidence, it's time to stop finger pointing and it's time to come together, get a solution x get this program up and running. And that's the push that I am going to go for tomorrow in this meeting.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: Steve, and just so you know, I looked into this program back in the fall as a resource for myself. And I got told that they weren't enrolling anybody. So, I don't know if things have changed since then but I got told the enrollment has stopped for the program.

>> STEVE LOCKE: We're going to try to reverse that, Stephanie. Those were the restriction that's MRS put on this once they discovered that they were funding it out of their own GFGP, and they wanted to actually sunset the program. So, tomorrow is going to be the culmination of about four years of agreements between the two parties and I'm going to try to facilitate a mutual negotiation that's a win-win for everybody.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: Good luck.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Thanks. If MRS funds it for one more year we may do a memorandum with the CILs that MRS is going to do this one more year but after the next year is over, this is a CIL program and it's up to them to fund it one way or another. MRS is done funding it. We don't know where the grant went to. I think it got sucked up into another state department. But, again, we don't have clear evidence of that so with a lack of clear evidence, we have to stop the finger pointing. We cannot continue warring with each other. We need to come together as the IL Network and move forward in a positive fashion together and that's my goal for tomorrow during that meeting.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Absolutely. And I will say too when it's renegotiated that due to inflation, that money needs to go up too. You know, with the cost of living and everything.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yep. Absolutely. So that's my update on the SPIL submission. More to come on that after tomorrow's meeting. I will have a 2024 SPIL for you to approve tonight. Within way or the other. So, I'm just waiting to update that document until we can get clarity on the outcomes of tomorrow's meeting so more to come.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: All right. Do we want to move onto our next topic? It's the financial policies update.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yep, and so we just discussed that during the approval of the business meeting. And that's where I want to show you. Let me stop this right here and pull up my next document. So, what we had talked about at the last council meeting was updating the SILC Personnel Handbook policies in order to.

>> AARON ANDRES: I'm not seeing it there we go.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Are you? Okay. Do you see it now?

>> AARON ANDRES: There we go.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Yes.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Okay. So, I was going to suggest updating the Personnel Handbook to reflect retirement benefits for Tracy and myself, to reflect that state employees are getting.

 Between then and now I thought instead of doing that, we should probably go right to the financial policies themselves and put a blanket statement in there. And so, this is my recommendation for the changed to financial policies in red font here where we put in under the annual budget process where it says the Executive Director and treasurer of the Board should prepare an initial budget to present to the applicable Board committee and develop a budget for the entire fiscal year. Here is what I would like to add:

Annually employee benefit levels may be benchmarked against current state employee levels and adjusted accordingly at the council's discretion. That gives you full control over your employees' benefits and being able to bounce off what state employees are getting in any given year and that's kind of the pattern that we have been following in terms of wage adjustments. Anything like that. This empowers the council to use what state employees get year after year. You're not locked into it, but you can benchmark against it, and you can have the discretion of whether or not you want to go with that or not. And so that's my recommendation for the financial policies and I welcome discussion on that.

>> AARON ANDRES: I like the idea.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: I like the idea as well. We'll see what the council says but I like the idea because it gives us room to explore what state employees get. But also, if we feel for any reason that we don't need to align with that, it gives us room to do other things as well.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yeah. It gives you a point of reference to bounce things off. I'm sorry. Go ahead, Jamia.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: I conquer as well with Stephanie and Aaron's statements. Yeah.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Awesome. It's just within statement that I would like to add to empower the council to have a point of reference when you're thinking about these types of things during the annual budgeting process.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Okay. Okay. Is there any more discussion? I think it's Public Comment up next, I believe, for the agenda.

>> STEVE LOCKE: We have the Strategic Planning Update. But there's really no update there. That's just kind of a standing agenda item.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Okay. And then the SPIL Writing Team Update for 2025 to 2027.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yep, so do you want me to take that Jamia?

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: I can take it if you want.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Okay. Yeah.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Yes, so as you guys know with myself, Steve, Stephanie, Lisa, and Aaron, we just met today in regards to the next SPIL writing team and we went through the survey responses and from the report we kind of got a consensus of what were the main issues that we wanted to tackle from a huge umbrella standpoint. And those were transportation, housing -- I'm sorry. Mindy was also on the call as well. Mental health, housing, transportation, and –

>> AARON ANDRES: Direct care workers.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Direct care workers. So, we each took a topic and we're going to come together on the next meeting which willing June the 14th to kind of see what coalitions out there are already doing the work so we don't necessarily have to reinvent the wheel. And Mindy took on the mental health piece. I took on the housing piece. Stephanie, Aaron wanted to tackle transportation. And then it's implied that January is going to assist with the direct care workers' aspect of that. That's pretty much it for the writing team and we're just trying to, you know, stand behind organizations that are already doing the work in those areas. You know, to make it easier for us and to actually tackle the issues that many customers are concerned about. Any other comments or questions regarding the SPIL writing team?

>> STEVE LOCKE: Jamia, the only thing I would like to add is that the meeting we had today was focused on the SILC advocacy goals. There's also the larger SPIL writing team that includes the CIL Directors and Jamia, you're on that as well.

 The updated document of the community needs assessment survey comments that I sent out to all of you earlier today, I also sent to the joint SPIL writing team. We are trying to get a meeting together with the joint SPIL writing team for, I believe, the week of June 5th.

 The last meeting we had with the joint SPIL writing team committee was based on mostly what we talked about was the technical amendments to the 2024 SPIL. Once we get that off our plate, then we're going to start taking a deep dive into the survey results and start crafting the 2025 to 27 SPIL which will be inclusive of the meeting that we had earlier today which will be the goals specific to SILC and what SILC wants to work on as a council in that next SPIL, if that makes sense.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Yes, yes, thank you.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Awesome. Sure.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Also, Steve, I was going to say too that we did have an increase in survey responses so we are nearing 100 responses now and that's really good and we just want to push the survey out to our respective list serves and people and organizations that we're connected with to encourage more responses.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Thank you for that, Jamia. I did send an email out for all the CIL Directors a couple of weeks ago after I participated in their monthly directors' meeting and asked them if they could push that survey out through their social media, newsletters, and blogs and after I asked them to do that we started getting more surveys in. We're going to hold more public information gathering sessions virtually and in person coming up in the summer and into the fall so that we can start gathering more information and not just rely on survey monkey. We need to give people opportunities to give input. The more information the richer the SPIL is going to be, and we can tackle the burning issues that are rising to the top.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Absolutely.

>> AARON ANDRES: This is Aaron. Have you met with the statewide quality management collaborative that runs the My Choice Labor in Michigan?

>> STEVE LOCKE: I've not, Aaron. But I have worked with waiver agents in my previous role as disability network of Michigan who are also engaged in nursing homes.

>> AARON ANDRES: I think giving -- if I can arrange it, I Chair that group. If I can arrange it, we can a presentation by the SILC and what the -- it's a group of disabled individuals talking about drug care services and all of that stuff. So, if we had a presentation to discuss what the SPIL does, then maybe there would be more opinions there to have responses from. I don't think it's a tapped resource. Even though they should get the surveys through their Centers for Independent Living, I don't think most of them are connected if, internet wise or in person. I don't know.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yeah, Aaron. If you can make that connection for me, I would be happy to do a presentation and, on our SPIL and our survey.

>> AARON ANDRES: Okay.

>> STEVE LOCKE: I just gave a presentation last No, I can't to disability network of Michigan's Board of Directors at their annual meeting oscillating and what SILC is about and how we all work together and how we all form the Michigan Independent Living network together.

>> AARON ANDRES: Yes.

>> STEVE LOCKE: I would be more than happy to give that presentation to that group if we can pull more folks in and get more input for sure.

>> AARON ANDRES: Sounds good. I'll work on it on my end and I'll be in touch.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Wonderful. Thank you for that.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Okay. Now it's time for Public Comment. Is there any Public Comment by anyone? Okay. Hearing none, may I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

>> AARON ANDRES: This is Aaron Andres and I motion we adjourn tonight's meeting.

>> STEPHANIE DIEBLE: This is Stephanie and I second the meeting be adjourned.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Meeting adjourned.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Great thank you and great job Jamia. I appreciate it.

>> VICE CHAIR JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you Steve. Thank you everyone.

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

[ Event concludes]