# SILC Quarterly Business Meeting

6/9/2023

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Good afternoon, everyone. I am Jan Lampman, the chair of the Statewide Independent Living Council, and I'd like to welcome everyone who is on the Zoom and also who is in person to our meeting.

Before I go on any further, I'd like to ask if there are any accommodation requests. Seeing none ‑‑ wait, there is one?

>> No, sorry.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: So, seeing no accommodations ‑‑ welcome. So, I want to thank, first of all, the disability network of the upper peninsula, SAIL, for hosting us. They provided us with a very delicious lunch to get us started, so we appreciate that. What warm hospitality in a town that's a little bit chilly still. I'm wearing my jacket. But it's a beautiful community, and we are very happy that we were able to come up and have our quarterly meeting here with you all. At this point, a roll call.

>> Glen Ashlock.

>> Here.

>> Allen Beau champ.

>> Here.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Here.

>> Stephanie Deible.

>> Here.

>> (Inaudible).

>> Looks like she's connecting to audio.

>> STEPHANIE DEIBLE: Her audio has been connecting since I got on, so I don't know if she's having connection issues.

>> So, maybe if you could log out and try to log back on and skip over here, Tracy?

>> TRACY BROWN: Sure. Jan Lampman.

>> Here.

>> Theresa Metzmaker.

>> I don't believe she's joined yet. And Mark Pierce.

>> Here.

>> You have a quorum.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you. Hopefully, maybe we'll be able to sort out the connection issues and get on ‑‑

>> Oh, there she is.

>> Welcome, thank you. Can you ‑‑ get Mindi into the record?

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Present.

>> Thank you.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Okay. We're going to move on to our consent agenda. Looking for a motion to accept the consent agenda.

>> Motion to accept the consent agenda as presented.

>> Second.

>> I second the motion to approve.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Okay. Do you want to call the roll, please, Tracy?

>> Glen Ashlock. Allen Beau champ.

>> Yes.

>> Erica Coulston.

>> Yes.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Yes.

>> Melinda Kulasa.

>> Yes.

>> Theresa Metzmaker.

>> Don't believe she's joined.

>> Mark Pierce.

>> Yes.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Moving on without further ado, we have council education. Do we have two things, Steve?

>> On Zoom, regarding the ‑‑ (inaudible) ‑‑ then presenting on the great things they are doing up here.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Awesome. So, let's start off with the Office of Disability Rights and Compliance. Is that where ‑‑ we're going to do accessibility symbol. I'd love to learn more about that symbol, so I'm going to hand it over to Tyra and Lamont.

>> TYRA KHAN: Is it morning or afternoon? I never know. But good day, everyone. I'm Tyra Khan, and as you stated, I'm with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights here with my colleague Lamont Satchel, who's General Counsel to our commission. General Counsel and Special Counsel to our commission. I'm with the Disability Rights and Compliance Division. What that means is we do a lot with ADA compliance, training, we oversee the Title 2 grievance procedure for the state of Michigan, executive branch departments, oversee the voluntary service identification program, and then just whatever, you know, the department needs as far as advice and counsel on disability‑related matters.

First, thank you very much for allowing us to join your meeting today to talk about some recent changes to our state law. And if ‑‑ I know most of you are familiar with all of the concepts that I'm going to be talking about, but just in case. The state law is called the Michigan Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, it touches and concerns most areas of public life and is akin to the Americans with Disabilities Act. I'm going to talk about some of the concerns that we have with the changes to that law, and then Lamont will talk about efforts underway to try to resolve some of those issues.

And, please, feel free to ask any questions throughout the ‑‑ while we're with you. At the outset, I would like to say that MDCR is not against the idea of becoming more inclusive and having a symbol that's more welcoming and representative of people with disabilities at all. Our paramount concern is that we have to do this the right way before moving forward with any symbol.

Since most of you know, since we're all in the same field, accessibility issues are issued under the Americans with Disabilities Act and are applied to businesses with the public, local state, and government entities, when it comes to new construction, alterations, or additions. The 2010 standards require use of that international symbol of accessibility for many accessible spaces, not just parking. We think about it as parking, but entrances, restrooms, other accessible elements, and spaces.

(Captioner getting Zoom captions set up)

‑‑ only when the entity that's putting forward a new symbol can show that it results in equivalent facilitation. And that is a legal term baked into the regulations that means the new symbol will provide substantial or greater accessibility. Now, the problem also is that the Department of Justice's regulations don't lay out any process for approving or certifying equivalent certification alternatives, and there's no court that we can find that has weighed in on this matter yet.

And more pointedly, the issue is that the Department of Transportation's ADA regulations lay out processes, procedures, and requirements for public transportation facilities to seek approval for equivalent facilitation, so that would apply to our Michigan Department of Transportation and any use of those symbols, but right now the federal entity has said no departures from specific provisions from those DOT standards can be made without a determination from the Federal Transit Administration, and they have declined to approve anything at this point.

So, in the event that we do use a new symbol, if we go ahead and, you know, implement the law that as written right now, the responsibility for demonstrating that equivalent facilitation, as I said earlier, is in the event of a legal challenge, would be on the state of Michigan's shoulders. We would have to show that we based the decision on sound independent research and reliable data, we've involved disability groups and human testing of people with varying disabilities in the process, and that we documented those efforts and sought feedback from, you know, various sources.

In this case, none of that has been done as far as testing. And documenting testing. That's where we’re right now. And I'd be happy to answer questions, but better to turn it over to Attorney Satchel to what we're doing to rectify some of this. So, I'll turn it over to him.

>> LAMONT SATCHEL: Thank you, Tyra, this is Lamont Satchel speaking, and thank you, Tyra, for that very comprehensive breakdown and understanding with respect to the issues that are involved here. What we're working up against.

I want to reiterate what Tyra said, which is that the Michigan Civil Rights Commission and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights are allies of the disability community. We're not in opposition to the legislation. Our concern is we want to make sure that this very important legislation and the intent behind it is beyond reproach and that there are not any legal issues with respect to the implementation, and more importantly, the state does not jeopardize the transportation funds, the billions of dollars in transportation funds, that the state receives and other cities and municipalities and jurisdictions within the state receive.

So, what we've done is, on our side, maybe about a month ago, we have convened a meeting with all of the stakeholders. And the state government who are impacted by this who have a role with respect to the implementation of this. We had a meeting with the representatives from those departments and their paternities from the AG's office, and we talked through all the legal issues, practical issues, and the barriers with respect to getting this done under the current language of the legislation. With the idea that the parties would go back and try to figure out a way to resolve these issues, so that we can get this moving.

Of course, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights took the primary responsibility with respect to trying to resolve these issues. Subsequent to that meeting, there was an internal meeting with the folk within this department, including myself and Tyra and others, as we sat down and tried to work through, along with our attorneys in the AG's office, what is the most practical, reasonable way to resolve the legal issues, so that we can avoid any financial issues to the state and other municipalities, but also avoid any legal challenge to getting this done.

And, so, we've put together what we believe is a fix to the legislation, which we're in the process of shopping, if you will, to the other constituent partners, to get their blessing and input on it. We're probably about a week or two away from finalizing what that is, and it's our expectation and our intent as we have, since this issue cropped up, to meet with the disability community to share with them what we believe is the reasonable fix to this. And, of course, to solicit any input from you with respect to that.

I apologize that we cannot give more to what it is we're trying to do, because there still is, as I said, it's being shopped with those individuals being impacted by it to get their input into it, any final comments that they have, before we roll it out.

And the idea would be to, of course, go back to the legislature to resolve some of the unanswered questions and issues, many of which were brought up by my colleague, Attorney Khan, again, so that we can get this done as expeditiously as possible and without any future problems or substantive challenges to it.

I see Terry Langley has her hand up, has a question for me. Let me recognize, Teri has been involved in this. In fact, Teri brought a team with us and worked with us and expressed with us the issues in the interests of the disability community as it relates to this legislation. I know there's been a lot of frustration on the part of the disability community, particularly Teri, who is very involved with respect to getting this legislation done, that it hasn't been implemented as expeditiously as folk intended it to be. But I can assure you that it is our intent to get it done. We just need to make sure we get it done in a way that's responsible. Thank you.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you. So, Teri, I do see your hand up. Typically, because this is a formal council meeting, you know, people that aren't on the council wait until public comment. However, it appears that you had a specific comment or question for our presenter, so do you want to go ahead and ‑‑

>> Teri: Nope, I'm happy to wait until public comment, Jan. I appreciate the department's presence today, and giving us an update, but I'm completely happy waiting until public comment.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Okay, awesome. Thank you so much, Teri. Do any of the council members have any questions for our presenters? Clarifying questions or anything? Or comments that you would like to make to our presenters?

Seeing none, I would like to just express my appreciation. It always is, you know, tricky when enthusiastically we try to push forward with some legislation and then we hit roadblocks, right, we get passed and then there's roadblocks. But we appreciate the work of the Civil Rights Commission to try to get this sorted out, and we especially appreciate you coming today to share an update for us. So, thank you very much.

>> LAMONT SATCHEL: Thank you.

>> TYRA KHAN: Julie, may I ‑‑ this is Tyra speaking. I don't know what Lamont's schedule is, if you have carved out time for the entire meeting, I'm not sure where your public ‑‑ I'm trying to pull up my agenda.

>> LAMONT SATCHEL: I think it's at the end.

>> TYRA KHAN: I don't know if it would be prudent to ‑‑ obviously, deference to the Council's decision, take questions related to what we've presented now, because I don't know if, you know, your schedule allows you to stay on, Lamont.

>> LAMONT SATCHEL: Yeah, I did not ‑‑ I did not plan on that, but, if necessary, I can stay on. I assume it won't be more than another hour, so...

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: So, our meetings tend to go long. My name's Jan, by the way, Jan Lampman. Teri, why don't you go ahead, so that we can respect the time of our guest speakers, if you have a comment or a question.

>> Teri: Okay. So, my question in respect to the information given by the department is how is the Secretary of State allowed to use the go logo symbol on her website?

>> LAMONT SATCHEL: I think I can answer that. I don't want to speak for the department, but I'll tell you what I know. That was a question that I had. It appears that they have it on their website. What I was told, perhaps some of you can verify this or relate to this, that there was some lawsuit that the department was involved in some years ago, and as a condition of the settlement, they agreed that they would adopt and put that symbol on their website, which they did at the time. So, that's my understanding of how that got there.

It is clear that they did not go through the equivalent facilitation process that would be required with respect to what we're proposing to do, but that's how that got there, because I was very surprised when we found out about that.

But, again, as we said, we've met with a number of internal departments, including the Secretary of State. So, they are in with respect to this meeting that we've had. And it's our expectation that once we do this, everybody in the state will be subject to it, and will change whatever signs that are currently being used to the new symbol that would be adopted.

>> Teri: Okay, my follow‑up question, then, what, if any, confusion do you see being caused by the use of that symbol versus the one that's almost 15 years old now? Which is older than that. It's actually almost 50 years.

>> LAMONT SATCHEL: I guess ‑‑ it's a good point. Here's what I would say. Any confusion that would result from that is confusion that exists now, because they've been using that for some years now, that symbol up there, it's been more than, I think, three or four years. So, whatever confusion is there is confusion that exists. It hasn't percolated up to the point where it needs to be resolved. However, thanks for bringing that up, Teri, because one of the issues we have is that we don't want to cause further confusion. So, one of the things we're doing is we made sure that everybody in the state would have to change their signs, because what we don't want to do is have people using the current sign, and we've migrated to a new sign, or people using both signs.

So, what we've tried to do is bring everybody to the table, so that everybody knows what we're doing, and they can work out in the process whatever the timetables that they need to migrate over to whatever the new symbol would be. So that we could prevent as much confusion that could likely result from that, Teri.

>> Teri: And I appreciate that. Then, finally, the comments I was going to make during public comment about this issue is that Disability Network Michigan and the Centers for Independent Living maintain that there is no confusion between the symbols, and there are currently ‑‑ this symbol is being used nationwide currently, including the Supreme Court of the United States has this sign posted in their parking lot in Washington, D.C. there are several businesses throughout the state of Michigan that have, you know, put up these signs voluntarily, even before the law was enacted. Or I should say sign, because it has not been ‑‑ it has not been ‑‑ it's enacted, but it has not been, you know, it has not been fruitfully put forward.

So, those are my comments. I just want to make it clear where Disability Network Michigan and the Centers for Independent Living stand on this issue. It is very disappointing that the Department of Civil Rights is continuing to delay implementation. That's the word I was looking for earlier. And we will continue to work with the department, but it does remain disappointing that the department is delaying implementation of this law that, as far as we can see, it causes no confusion, and, you know, to the best of our ability we'll continue to work with you.

>> TYRA KHAN: This is Tyra speaking. If I can just add one thing to the Michigan Secretary of State website. If we go back and look at the guidance, the regulations, under the international symbol of accessibility, I agree, it's very confusing to have that there, for sure. But where it is required is for accessible elements and spaces. And the website is not an accessible element or space. So, it may be a permissive use of that symbol. Again, very confusing, totally agree with that, but it's ‑‑ and you can see that it's not used in other places as far as their parking lots and things like that, because those are accessible elements and spaces. I just wanted to clarify why that may be ‑‑ in addition to what Lamont said about, you know, some type of settlement agreement. Using it is confusing, but it's not identifying accessible elements or space on a website.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you both for answering Teri's questions and also for staying on to hear her public comment. What I can hear out of this is that the disability networks across the state of Michigan have a wealth of information and have a strong stake in this. And, so, I heard you say that you were going to be reaching out to stakeholders, so I would ‑‑ maybe this is a presentation you can give that executive director meeting of the CILs and then have the dialogue with the directors, I think that would be a good use of time on this ‑‑

>> Jan, can I say one thing?

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Sure.

>> I would disagree with the point that the websites aren't an accessible format because disabled people need to use the websites, too. And if we don't know they are accessible or they say 501(c)(3), that symbol shows, says they are accessible.

So, that would be my opinion.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Okay, thank you for that, Aaron. So, I'm hopeful that those of you from the civil rights commission will get with Teri and schedule a time you can go and share this information and have some dialogue with the CIL directors, as I feel this is a very important issue for the community as a state, and I think that staff of those organizations and their constituents are very valuable voices to be heard. So, again, thank you all so much for that presentation.

And if any council members have any further questions, let me know. If not, seeing none, let's ‑‑ thank our guests, and then go on to our next educational presentation, which is the superior ‑‑ I love that, Superior Alliance for Independent Living.

>> Julie Shaw: Thank you, Jan, and welcome to everybody here virtually with us as well as in the room. So happy to have you here, what an honor to have you in our community. Thank you so much.

So, I want to welcome you, and I want to share with you that I think those of you who are virtual can see the orange sign behind Steve's head. That's the upper peninsula shape. And that consists of 15 counties and 17,000 square miles. And that is what this one CIL does cover. So, we're very proud of the work we do. And I can go on and on with a lot of things for you, but as you see... well, you can't see, but we're going to have them stand up so you can see, stories and staff that want to share with you exactly what we do. And I'd rather it come from them than me, because while I'm very passionate about it, they do the day to day, walk the walk, and it's very exciting to hear what they have to share with you. I'd like to start with Liz Shaw. If she wants to come up ‑‑

>> Yeah, I'm going to introduce myself. Hi, my name is Liz Shaw, I'm the finance director here at SAIL. Very proud to say I've been here just shy of 8 years. Working behind the scenes, again, very proud of the work that our staff does.

>> Up here, so everyone can see. My name is Tim Schumann, I am program manager for our health and wellness department. I oversee two main programs, one of which is right here, SPAR, single point for activities and recreation. What we do is set up different recreational and health and wellness activities for people with disabilities all over the UP. Kind of building ourselves back up from the bottom right now because we're kind of disbanded for a little bit. However, we're going strong. We've got at least two activities, if not three, every single week. And by the end of the summer, will have hit all 15 counties. Cool thing is it's all donation based. Every bit of funding that goes into it, every craft idea that we have, it's all donation based. So, saw the flowers when you came in, those were planted just a few days ago by what we call our SPAR participants, those who participate in the SPAR programs. Just before this meeting, there was yoga in this room, so tells you how fast we move sometimes.

Another program that I oversee is UP Best Served. It’s got some similarities to the SPAR program, but it's specifically geared towards veterans and their families. And not only is it just a general health and wellness thing, but we also try to create an environment that we can build communities, kind of really take apart the isolation. Been at UP for more than ten minutes, you know a lot of places are far apart from each other. Not everywhere gets cell phone reception. It's good we need to break out of isolation, come together, talk, especially people with similar lived experience like veterans have. So, we have events for them. We have a camping trip coming up in July, we have a biking event coming up at the end of the month. Yeah.

>> Thank you, Tim.

>> My name is Ali; I've been with SAIL for four years. When I first started here, I actually started in our SPAR program, and like Julie often says, sometimes you have to find your red seat on the bus. I found my right seat on the bus working with our IL skills department. So, I work with those from MRS, so I do benefits analysis, and everything else that kind of comes along with that. Right now, we're really gearing up towards our summer program, so that's actually where our program director is today, up kind of getting everything last‑minute set up for the summer. For me, I just wanted to share one success story. This is one that just hit me earlier this week. Worked with the same student for the last six years. Work readiness training I'll be doing for the next couple weeks. Summer work‑based learnings, parent mentoring, and she started so insecure, really just trembling with fear. And through years of getting to work with this individual, she graduated high school by the skin of her teeth. She decided to go to college even though she was sure she was going to fail. Through just support and just the consistency of working along with MRS and with SAIL, gave me a letter on Tuesday when I met with her, we're getting ready for a summer work‑based learning. And I opened it up, and tears started running down my face, and that's when you know you care, because the tears are coming, and you don't want them to. All of a sudden, the dean’s list. So, she was going to graduate with a certificate of completion. I said, hey, I think you can do this. I think you can get your diploma. So, she actually switched track. She graduated barely, and then not even a year later, on the dean's list with a 3.85 GPA.

>> Katie Poston, I am the program manager for our peer support team. We have a few moving factors in our program. So, our initial contact with consumers is with Grace, our office assistant at the front desk. She just asks some general questions, and from there she determines whether they go to our information and referral specialist, where they could receive some fast general information or resources or referrals out to other partner agencies, or perhaps they just need assistance with a simple application or something, and Allie will provide that. That way we're able to meet their needs a little bit faster. And then if they have more complex needs, they go to Kayla, who is our intake specialist, where she gathers a little bit more information about their situation and what their needs may be. Then from there they go and work with one of our advocates.

So, our advocates work whatever the consumers are requesting, whether it be some vocational training, housing applications, social security applications, let me see, community, building communication skills, just general advocacy and helping them, whatever they may need with being independent.

So, lot of daily day‑to‑day skills in home they work on. So, anything whether they work with Elliot or advocates, just working on being more independent, increase their independence, or maintain their independence at home, at work, or whatever their goal may be.

So, we have Allie as one of our advocates, and she is going to share a few of the success stories that she has.

>> Hello, my name is Alie. Like Katie said, I'm a disability advocate on the peer support team here at SAIL. And I have just a couple success stories I want to share with you all. One of which is a consumer who was living with and providing care for her aging parents, who, unfortunately, passed away within a year of each other, which was incredibly difficult for her. She completely gave up on keeping up her home, she was starting to experience financial insecurity, and she had given up on just personal appearance all together.

So, when she reached out to SAIL, she was looking to obtain part‑time employment and further develop her independent living skills. She had a lot of anxiety about seeking employment, because it had been over 20 years since she was in the field. And, so, in one month's time, we developed her resume, we have multiple mock interviews to shake away those nerves, and we just went over the overall importance of personal hygiene and professionalism.

And by the end of one month of doing that, she got a job. And since then, it has now been eight months that she has been working. She has lost almost 100 pounds. She has gained confidence, and she now has the motivation to get her house in order. And as of last month, the house is in good enough shape to have family over for the first time in several years. And by working with SAIL, she now feels purposeful, which has significantly increased her quality of life.

Another story I'd like to share with you all is with a consumer of mine who was 89 years old when we first started working together. He lives about a mile away from McDonald's, he would always drive his scooter down on Mondays and buy a week's worth of breakfast sandwiches to freeze and reheat. And, so, one of the first things I did was get him connected with Meals on Wheels, so he now has a healthy eating plan in place. He is visually impaired, so his main goal was to explore assistive technology that could help with overall daily living. SAIL has provided him with lighted magnifiers, a talking clock, and we coordinated with services for blind persons to get his screen reader. I have worked with him biweekly on learning how to use these devices properly, and as of May 15th, he turned 90 years old, and he had 26 of his old staff members of the school he was a principal for 30 years throw him a party. He was so over the moon and excited about it, that he used his screen reader to write a letter to the editor in the newspaper. And during our last appointment, he had this printed and copied for me to keep. So, that was just the absolute sweetest thing. The last goal we're working on is finding the right piece of assistive technology so he can continue to play piano. He does some things by ear, but he wants to be able to read his sheet music again. And he is just, honestly, my goal of how I hope I am at 90 years old.

And, so, lastly, I have a consumer who recently graduated from high school. He was adopted as a kid, and his parents are quite elderly. They reached out to SAIL in a bit of a panic of, you know, we're just worried that we haven't taught him the independent living skills in case something should happen to us. And, so, the goals this consumer created were working on time management, learning how to clean, meal preparation, as well as learning how to manage his money. SAIL was able to provide him with a plethora of kitchen assistive technology to ensure safety and after just two appointments of working with him on grocery shopping, identifying all the ingredients needed for a specific meal, reviewing a few basic recipes, the next time I arrived at his house, it smelt like a five‑star kitchen, and he made his very first meal for him and his mom.

And, so, if he has been able to be this successful just a few appointments in, I'm beyond excited for where his potential will take him.

>> Jamie Glenn, I am an ADA coordinator and accessibility advocate here at SAIL. I work directly with the Americans with Disabilities Act. So, our department works more specifically with the community and the DNR. It is summer season, so we are gearing up for lots of site visits and lots of field days this summer. The national forest and with the accessible ‑‑ initiative. One thing that we are really proud of is, you know, being able to not, you know ‑‑ the community, provide feedback and allow the community room to grow and make sure all of our beautiful spaces are accessible and easy for everybody to enjoy. So, we are really making stride in our department. Yeah.

>> Hi, I'm Tanya Johnson, assistant director here. I started with our nursing facility transition program, we have patients medicated in the nursing facility transition back into the community and address barriers that are preventing them from moving back. I also started doing assistive technology, which you'll hear a little bit more about, and then I started working with SOAR. That is helping individuals who are homeless or experiencing homelessness apply for disability or SSI. That to me has been like my favorite program because we really had some great success stories, even though they've got such a bad ‑‑ at social security and DDS. One person took a year and a half, and it's supposed to be a fast track program, because we get the medical records, write a report, so that way the examiners really see how people are affected and not just reading the medical reports, but seeing this individual has a crippling anxiety, he doesn't even use his own bathroom, because he can't go in there. That individual I worked with him when I started working with him, he was homeless and living in his ex‑wife's car. Find someone who could let him sleep on the couch, she would, but she decided to move, so the car was no longer an option. I got in touch with a ‑‑ (inaudible) ‑‑ able to get a hotel room for about a week, food, utensils. Give someone food, but also needed can openers, plates, forks, and all that. Then we worked with the local homeless shelter here, housing for men. We were able to get him a taxi paid all the way down here. Taxis aren't cheap. Yep. So, we were able to ‑‑ he stayed at the homeless shelter for one night and then at the Jansen House for Men. I was meeting with Julie one day and I got a phone call for a woman who works with the program that's supportive housing for individuals that don't have an income. And she said I have two spots at Grandview and Marquette, do you have anybody? And I was just talking about him. Everything happens for a reason, I'm a firm believer. So, we were able to get him into housing. And we also were able to get him social security. He got $20,000 in back pay. Now he's living independently, and we are still working with him with case management. So, yeah. Pretty exciting when you can help someone go from, you know, living out of a car to being housed and having an income. Yeah.

>> Hi, I'm Laura Brooks. I work with the assistive technology program. And I have been with SAIL for about two and a half years. And I've kind of gone through a couple different programs, finding my seat on the bus. But I wanted to talk a little bit about the assistive technology program, because I know it is one of Julie's pet projects, and she's, you know, we're proud of the strides that we're making to get this to work. We have ‑‑ sorry ‑‑ on hand we call the resource closet that people can utilize, they can have it, or they can borrow it for a period of time. We've had people contact us about knee scooter post‑surgery, you know, insurance, if insurance covered it, it may probably take a while, all of that red tape, or they have to pay for it and get it reimbursed.

A lot of the popular items that we've been going through lately. Kind of touched on that, have been kitchen items. And we had a gentleman that Allie and I have been working together to help. We reached out ‑‑ reached out to us ‑‑ was developing more symptoms and afraid that he was going to be progressively more dependent on in‑home care, which he wasn't qualified for at the time. We went over, assessed what he was doing of the apparently, he loves to cook, even though he has trouble doing it. At one point dropped a knife on his foot and had to go to the hospital. So, we went through... we gave him a chopper, a safety chopper that you can put things into and chop. We got him a knife and cutting board that you can put a vegetable on top of, hold it in place. We give him the little rack protector, the silicone protecters, thank you, to stop him from burning himself. How did you do reaching into that oven? Oh, I burn myself every once in a while. So, we got him all set up, and he's so happy and continues to work with us on gaining more independence.

There's also a lady, young woman, she is, I believe, just a few years out of high school, who has hemiplegia. She had an accident ‑‑ she's now in that role along with navigating becoming an adult and trying to become more independent. And she was really having a hard time with her confidence, but we are working on getting her some kitchen items, so she can learn to cook. And eventually do that on her own. Adaptive cutting board. Other things that are popular, walkers are popular, so we get donations from the community. We have funds that we can replenish our stock sometimes. So, we do what we can to help people. Then other ways that we help with assistive technology is, you know, we have those items, but we also help with advocating with medical professionals helping to figure out how to talk to them, how people can talk to those medical professionals, and let them know what their AT needs are. Advocating with insurance companies and figuring out what's covered and how. And helping find alternative funding to loans and charities. And then, of course, if there's no other route to get that, if we don't have it in stock, and if they can't get it through other resources, we do have donation banks funds. We limit how much each person can get, but this has ‑‑ even if they have to pay out of pocket, that really made a difference.

>> Before our next speaker starts, we're getting a little bit of feedback. If you're not muted, could you please mute yourself? Thank you.

>> Julie Shaw: I just wanted to share why some of us have UP gear on today. So, this is not our normal attire, but on Fridays we recognize that there are some barriers that individuals had that we couldn't find a venue to pay for certain things, such as how to pay for an ID so they could get a home or fill out an application or whatever. And we identified a lot of barriers and this amazing crew behind me and the rest of them in this building and our three remotes, we have people in remote, so Saint Mary area, as well, to serve those communities. Came up with the idea that on Fridays we could wear something out of the ordinary of what our normal protocol would be to wear. We pay a little fee. It goes into that fund to help pay for those barriers for individuals. Today was UP day, for all of you who came from down state. So, that's why we have our UP attire on. You want to say something?

>> Yeah, I just wanted to share. Oftentimes at staff meetings you can share any success stories and a lot of times we get crickets. Everybody is like, no, I don't think so. Well, I decided to have them start sending their manager and myself monthly a success story and a challenge story, because there are challenges, too, that we need to share with our funders. Now they are starting to realize, wow, I really do have great success stories, you know. They were just thinking it's what I do, you know, and they are not realizing how they were impacting people's lives. So, really proud to be able to hear them share all these stories.

>> The last piece I want to share with you with the accessibility team is that we have created for Marquette, it's the beginning of what we hope will spread across the entire UP and Pure Michigan has helped with this project, a guide that will tell you, so far we've done 91, am I accurate? 72 more businesses this year, it's on our website for Travel Marquette, but we also have a paper copy in our lobby. It shows you not what's inaccessible, but only the businesses that we can highlight that are totally accessible to attend. So, the four points, the entrance, the restroom, Amy, help me. Circulation and seating. And parking. So, we have like those four spots so when individuals come into the Marquette community, they know what is accessible to them. And we're really super proud of that project. If you would like a copy, they are in the lobby on the way out the door. Thank you for the time.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you so much for your presentation.

>> If you don't mind, we're going to allow staff to get back to work.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Yeah.

Oh, maybe that's for Amanda. Did you have a question, Mindy? Mindy?

>> You're on mute.

>> MELINDA KULASA: I'm sorry. I couldn't get off mute. I'm having audio difficulties today. No, I just wanted to say, I am so sorry that I could not be with all of you in the UP today. The UP has a great fondness in my heart for winter sports. I'm an avid snowmobiler and have journeyed across the UP in a snowmobile activity. I have a family commitment in Indiana tomorrow. So logistically wasn't possible, but I can't even begin to express how it makes me feel and how wonderful it is that you have found a way to provide such phenomenal services to such a diverse geographical area. My hat's off to you, Julie, and everyone up there at SAIL. Thank you.

>> Thank you, thank you, Mindy, very much.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Okay. So, with that, we are going to move on to staff and committee reports. And the first report we have is from Steve Locke, our executive director.

>> STEVEN LOCKE: Thank you, Jan. My report was distributed to all of you a few days ago. I hope we had a chance to read it. I'm not going to go through the whole thing, but happy to take questions on anything you have. Just a couple things I'd like to highlight. The 2024 gap year CIL. It's due on June 30th, you're going to be presented with some changes, just some technical changes, toward the end of the meeting. We meet with ACL and IL, and it was determined the changes are technical amendments as opposed to substantial amendments, so we don't have to have a public hearing on those.

We got with the CIL leadership to see what changes they wanted to have in this gap year still, what CIL was proposing was changing the amount for the youth leadership forum, from $15,000, which we currently have in the 2023 CIL to support the hybrid event that Jon Hart from the Jackson CIL is spearheading. I've been working with the DD Council, Michigan Disability Rights, Theresa Metzmaker, and we estimate that is going to cost around $154,000. So, one recommendation is put in that ability to negotiate $145,000 as SILC's contribution. There was some language that the CILs wanted to put in around the ‑‑ program. Are you familiar with that program? That's run by the disability of Michigan. It's the services reimbursement employment program. That allows people to be reimbursed up to $1,000 for out-of-pocket costs for personal assistance services necessary to gain or maintain employment. There's been some confusion and back and forth about MRS and CILs over that funding and where the funding is. And it's a long story, but I'm glad to tell you about it. You know, offline. Jan and I have been facilitating negotiations on MRS leadership and CIL leadership, because they came to an impasse on this and have been at this impasse for about three years. We were able to get a deal between MRS leadership and CIL leadership that has resulted in MRS funding for one more fiscal year, while the CILs approach to state legislature for a new appropriation for the program. In exchange, the CILs have removed the narrative from the 2024 SPIL and MRS agreed to lift all program restrictions for the 2024 year, but last year the MRS is going to fund this.

The 2024 SPIL changes that you're going to be asked to approve later in the meeting are a change to the funding amount in the funding tables. It was put in there about 224,000 when we did the SPIL three years ago, but the full contract amount is actually 360,305. So, you'll see the two sections highlighted, small changes in the SPIL for 2024, and with your approval at this meeting, we can get that into ACL by the June 30th deadline. As far as CIL director meetings, I've been meeting quarterly. The last time I met with them was on April 21st. These have been proven to be very beneficial. I've also completed the lunch and learn to do one‑on‑one meetings. I've had a couple of false starts with Julie because I thought I could somehow make it up here with a rear‑wheel drive car in the winter. What was I thinking? Managed to get out here in April on one of the most beautiful ways just before a snowstorm. And got out of dodge. And I had a wonderful meeting with you, Julie. I'm still trying to schedule with Andy from Travers City and one director that didn't respond to the request, so once I'm able to meet with Andy, they will be fully complete. I had a couple of false starts with her also for a variety of reasons, but I do intend on meeting with her.

After the council, how our annual retreat at the end of August of '22, decided the balance of the strategic plan goals were going to be aligned with SPIL goals specific to council activity. The SILC goal rating team has met several times to develop SPIL goals specific to the council. The life areas that have been selected based on the community needs assessment survey responses are going to be mental health, direct care workers, housing, transportation, and the aging blind population. We are scheduled to meet at the end of next week on the 16th. Any council member can join our team if you'd like to. We have a core team in place. We're going to work on strategy. We're going to talk about what aspects of these giant umbrellas that we really want to focus on and what other state and community partners are out there already doing this that we can either bring to our table or we can move to their table and join forces with them.

So, some exciting stuff coming for the council to really get into the game in the 2025‑2027 SPIL through advocacy.

Statewide outreach services. We're still making great progress from independent living and CILs across the state through our online newsletter. We have an online blog and are doing weekly social media posts. We also did our first two Facebook live events. Jan did one last week that was excellent. I hope you can all at least view that. We have that on our Facebook page. Then we did one a couple of months ago.

We also have an inclusive arts event coming up in the city of Madison Heights. That's coming up on Saturday, July 22nd through our outreach contractor, we put out a call for entries for a one‑month art display, art gallery, in Madison Heights. And it's going to run from July 1st to July 31st. Entries were due by May 31st, and I believe we have about ‑‑ was it 35?

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Close to 50 entries.

>> STEVEN LOCKE: Close to 50 entries for this. Be aware that on Saturday, July 22nd, at the Madison Heights Civic Center Park is going to be held on Saturday, July 22nd. There's going to be a large-scale inclusive arts project that everybody there can participate in. We're going to have a food truck there, face painting, balloons, it's going to be a nice family community event. So, we hope folks can come out. It's our first one that we're doing. We were going to do a second in Traverse City but decided it would be best to focus all of our energy on one event, our maiden voyage, make sure we got it right and it was completely inclusive and look at possibly doing some in collaboration with the CILs in those areas. We're really excited about this coming up in July. I'd be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Council members have any questions for Steve on his report? You combined the strategic plan and executive director report, yes?

>> STEVEN LOCKE: Yes.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Mindy?

>> MELINDA KULASA: Yes. Steve, I have a question specific to funding for the 2024 youth leadership forum that you made reference to. If I'm not mistaken, in the executive committee meeting minutes, it referenced funding amount of $100,000 or 25%, whichever was less. And I noticed in your executive director report that the amount had been reduced to $45,000. I just wondered what is going on with that.

>> STEVEN LOCKE: What that is, Mindy, which represents 25% of the budget that is estimated for 2024. She estimated it at around $150,000, so we came in at ‑‑ when I spoke with the group last, we landed on $45,000. Because there's going to be money coming from the DD Council and the CILs may also possibly contribute financially to this, as well, and possibly Michigan Disability Rights Commission. So, the $45,000 reflects the 25% that we landed on after we had that executive committee meeting.

>> MELINDA KULASA: Okay, I just wanted to make sure that the SILC was appropriately allocating the necessary funding to make this an amazingly successful event. And I wanted to make sure we weren't hung up on a budget issue that we needed to resolve. So, thank you, Steve, for clarifying that.

>> STEVEN LOCKE: My pleasure.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you, Mindy. Erica, I see your hand is raised.

>> ERICA COULSTON: Thank you. Sorry, I had a question about the event in Madison Heights. Will you be distributing a flyer or something we can share with our respective communities and social media pages and everything?

>> STEVEN LOCKE: Yes, absolutely. It's on our Facebook page. I know that a flyer was done up because Madison Heights had asked for a flyer. I'll make sure to get that flyer emailed out to the council members and also all the CIL directors. If you jump on our Facebook page and our Instagram, you will see the event listed there, as well.

>> ERICA COULSTON: Great, thanks.

>> STEVEN LOCKE: You're welcome.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you, Erica. Any other questions from council members at this time for Steve? Seeing none, let's move on to the next item on our agenda, which is our financial report. Stephanie?

>> STEPHANIE DEIBLE: Hi, everyone. So, as far as the financial report goes, I just want to mention that currently we have $45,924.85 in our Chase account. So, that's all good. Tracy, do you mind pulling up the statement of financial position, please?

Or do you have the ability to do that? Thank you. And as far as finances go, things are looking pretty on course. There are a couple of things I want to mention. The statement of financial position that's on the screen currently, I want to draw your attention to the liabilities and equities. You're going to notice a couple of ‑‑ there's a negative amount for $248.23. Again, as we've talked about in previous SILC meetings, which is due to the timing of payments going in and out. So, there's really nothing to be alarmed about in that area. So, that's what I wanted to draw your attention to on that specific document. Tracy, do you mind pulling up the budget versus actual document? Thank you.

Again, everything is pretty ‑‑ we're doing really well with our finances and everything's tracking really well. There is one specific thing that I want to draw your attention to in this document, and it's towards the bottom under miscellaneous.

And, so, in this specific category, it's showing that we're over‑budget a little bit. And I had some conversations with Steve and Brad, and why that's currently reading over budget is there were some unexpected expenses in regard to our costs for memberships for different membership fees. But moving forward, it is expected that estimated that we're going to have $23 a month come out of this miscellaneous, so it should get back on track as we move forward. It's just due to the timing and the different membership fees. That's why that's currently reading over budget, but it should balance back out as we move forward.

And then one other thing that I did want to mention is Steve, I, and Jan will be looking at, as we work together to develop our next budget that we want to move forward with, we are also going to be looking at expenses for council members to participate in in‑person meetings. This is the first time in a long time that we've been able to actually meet in person. So, we want to make sure that we're allocating the appropriate amounts for council members to be able to do that. And looking at are we on track with things or do we need to adjust that specific expense line to be able to make sure that council members are able to participate in person.

Steve, did you have anything else you wanted to add in regard to the things that I went over, or anything else financially related?

>> STEVEN LOCKE: Yeah, just the last thing you said, Stephanie. Just this meeting alone has given us an idea about the cost per member to come to the CIL that's probably the furthest away for most of us. Excluding hotels, the average cost is between, I'd say, between $5 and $750 per council member to come up here, plus hotels. So, now we at least have a per‑meeting cost as far as mileage, per diems, those reimbursements, so we're going to be in a much better position to financially forecast for four to five quarterly meetings, and make sure that we have enough in that budget to cover all council members participating in person.

>> Making sure you count ‑‑

>> STEVEN LOCKE: Yep, yep. And drivers. Any of those accommodations that folks need. And extra hotel room for PAs, all of that.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: All the things, Aaron.

>> STEVEN LOCKE: All the things.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you for that reminder, though, always good to have it put in our ear, right. Thank you. Any other questions for Stephanie regarding the financial report from council members? Okay, seeing none, I want to thank you, Stephanie, for all your hard work, working with Steve and our accounting firm, to keep our books up to date and to know what's going on financially. So, we appreciate that very much.

Do we have a SILC financial policies workgroup?

>> STEVEN LOCKE: We don't have a workgroup update, Jan. This is Steve. But I do have a recommendation for a slight modification to the financial policies that the council approved about a year ago. If you could pull that up, Tracy. So, under the annual budget process, it currently states the executive director shall prepare an initial budget to present to the applicable board committee and develop both a preliminary program and administrative budget for the entire fiscal year.

There is a question by a council member at the last meeting about what we base our employee benefits, things of that nature on. Our policies didn't speak to that. So, my recommendation is to add one sentence to that paragraph that says, "annually, employee benefit levels may be benchmarked against current state employee benefit levels and adjusted accordingly at the council's discretion." So, this gives you a really wide framework within which to work that you can benchmark against employee benefits of state employees. Because currently, when state employees get a cost-of-living increase, when we go on to negotiations, we get pushback sometimes from our partners, from MRS or BSBP. They want to know where we're coming with this from health insurance, retirement, any wage increases. So, we kind of generally follow what the state of Michigan employees get. So, this puts it in there for perpetuity purposes when none of us are here anymore, so it says annually employee benefit levels may be benchmarked. Doesn't mean you have to, doesn't pigeonhole the council having to do that. Again, adjusted accordingly at the council's discretion. It gives you discretion, but it gives you a benchmark and a touchstone for which to base what you want to do in the annual budget request. So, that's my recommendation for approval.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: So, Stephanie and Steve, are you asking the council to consider that language change today at today's council meeting?

>> STEVEN LOCKE: Yes.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Yes, okay. So, let's see if we can get a motion on the floor and then we can have some discussion, as the council desires. So, do we have a motion to accept and adopt the language?

>> MELINDA KULASA: This is Mindy Kulasa. I make a motion that we accept and adopt the language as presented.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you, Mindy. Aaron, would you be willing?

>> Willing to support that, yes.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you. We have a motion, moved, and supported. So, do we this time have a little discussion? Anyone on the council have any questions about that or opinions, thoughts, that you would like to share at this time before we call a vote? Yes, Mark?

>> MARK PIERCE: This is Mark. Using that ‑‑ is that ‑‑ (inaudible).

>> STEVEN LOCKE: I believe it has, Mark. Certainly, comes down to that when we get into negotiations with MRS and BSBP. When we ask for certain line items, they wanted justification for it, particularly around employee benefits. When we find out what state employees are getting, that's the justification from the negotiation table. Well, this is what the state is getting, this is what the council can, kind of predicate that off of. So, just gives you a framework, but does not lock you into it.

>> MARK PIERCE: Right, just wanted to make sure that's the norm, you know. I know as a CIO, we keep ourselves a little bit behind what the state is doing, day offs, things like that. No way we can compete with them. Benefits are a really important piece. I don't know if that was how it worked or not.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you, Mark. And I think that our recent negotiations with the MRS and the Centers for Independent Living as relates to the program, you know, the personal assistance program, speaks to the fact that getting things in writing is really important, right. And so, this sort of puts on paper what the historical negotiating process was and gives, again, as you said, Steve, council something to hold on to and use as a framework. Any other questions, or opinions, or thoughts among council members?

>> MELINDA KULASA: Yes, this is Mindy once again. Steve, specific to the change related to the 403B plan funding level, I fully support that change, as you well know. And I'm just curious as to what date you're targeting for implementing that change in our employee benefits program.

>> STEVEN LOCKE: Mindy, that would be something we would negotiate probably in July, August, with MRS and BSBP. Based on what state employees hired after a certain date are receiving. The state gives ‑‑ puts in 4% of the annual salary, and then they will match dollar for dollar up to 3% of the employee contribution. That 3% contribution represents the fact that employees, state employees, hired after a certain date are no longer eligible for the state's health insurance once they retire. So, it's a little ‑‑ you know, for SILC that extra 3% for Tracy and I will represent probably $200 or $300 annually. It's not a whole lot. But it's using that 4% contribution. Right now, I believe SILC does 3%. So, that statement you're being asked to approve would allow the council to really use those state benchmarks on an annual basis to find out what they are doing in order to develop their budget.

>> MELINDA KULASA: And I think the key is "may" in the statement that we just approved. Because, certainly, the council has discretion to exceed what is being done in the state if the council deems it to be appropriate and negotiates accordingly with our funding partners.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Sure. And today we're not even talking about anything specific. We're just adding language to allow us to enter into the negotiations. Glen, you had been called on and started to say something.

>> GLEN ASHLOCK: I almost wonder ‑‑ I appreciate that you're giving us flexibility and not locking into anything going forward, but I was wondering if we may base it on this and we have discretion, it feels like almost saying we base it on this, and then we have a discretion to go above and beyond. But it feels like when I read that, gosh, doesn't really say anything. I appreciate flexibility, but also appreciate it if you want to use it as negotiating, maybe it needs to be a little stronger.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: What do folks think?

>> ALLEN BEAUCHAMP: Yeah, this is Allen. I think we should change "may" to "shall."

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: May to shall, okay. If that's something I'm hearing a bit of consensus around, we need to change our motion, so that we change that sentence from may to shall. So, I'm looking for someone who would like to make that motion.

>> Motion.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Okay, Allen Beau champ is making the motion to use the whole sentence replacing the word may with shall. Is there a second?

>> Second, this is Glen.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Glen Ashlock is seconding. Any further discussion before we call the vote on that one?

>> That's going to be the standard of which we're starting.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Yes. That is correct, Aaron. Yep. So, we want to read the sentence really quickly with the new word. Annual employee benefit levels shall be benchmarked against the current state employee benefit levels and adjusted accordingly at the council's discretion. Reading it out loud, it does feel like it needs to have the word shall in there, actually.

>> STEVEN LOCKE: I actually had "will" at first.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Well, we're going to lock ourselves into it perhaps. Having heard the sentence, and we have a motion and a second on the floor, I see Mindy you have your hand up again.

>> I think that's Tracy's mouse.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: You don't have your hand up. It's all good. Put the mouse on top of there. All right. Is there one last call for comment or question before I call the vote?

>> JAMIA DAVIS: This is Jamia Davis, I was going to say put shall in the language.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you, that is from our attorney that's on the council. I'm going to go ahead and ask Tracy to please call a vote.

>> Aaron.

>> Yes.

>> Frank Animikwam.

>> Yes.

>> Glen Ashlock.

>> Yes.

>> Allen Beauchamp.

>> Yes.

>> Erica Coulston.

>> Yes.

>> Jamia Davis.

>> Yes.

>> Stephanie Deible.

>> Yes.

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Yes.

>> Jan Lampman.

>> Yes.

>> Mark Pierce.

>> Yes.

>> Motion carries.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you all for helping get some clear language in our policy. At this point in the meeting, it looks like we would be able to take a short break. Let's see, it's 1:19. Shall we come back at 1:30, is that enough time for everyone? Okay. We're going to come back; we're going to break and come back for our Ex Officio reports at 1:30.

(Break)

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Okay, well, it is now 1:30. So, I'm going to have to call our meeting back to order at 1:30. And we will start with Ex Officio reports. And I see ‑‑ I saw earlier that Bill Addison was on the call, and I see your name, sir. Would you like to start with your Ex Officio report, please? Bill, are you with us? Let's do this. I also see Lisa is here from the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons. Perhaps we can start with you, and we'll come back to Bill. Is that possible, Lisa?

>> LISA KISIEL: Sure.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you so much.

>> LISA KISIEL: Yep, and then I'll send this out to you all, as well. Just wanted to let you know that I kind of restructured our report this time. Have to do a quarterly report for the Michigan Council of Rehab Services and we also do some work with Encompass and some others. I thought, you know what, why are we, you know, recreating the wheel every time we do this. So, I'm going to start with some statistics for BSBP, reflective, I want to be clear about the previous quarter, which was that January 31 ‑‑ basically, I'm sorry, it's the quarter two program year '23 and quarter three of fiscal year ‑‑ it's the other way around. Anyway, the dates are from 1‑1 to 3‑31. When next we meet, I'll give you the numbers reflective of the last quarter of the program year and the third quarter of the fiscal year.

So, just some real, real just some stuff...

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Lisa? Did we lose Lisa? Hmm... Lisa and Bill, if you can hear me, we can't hear you. So maybe if you logged out and logged back in, we would be able to pick you back up.

Let's give them a moment to do that and see if we can get them back. I feel like that's on their end. They are in Lansing; I wonder if something's happened down their Internet‑wise with the air quality or something.

>> LISA KISIEL: I'm back.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Oh, good, we lost you.

>> LISA KISIEL: What's happening? I'm not sure what's happening, but I can tell that you lost me.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: We did. We don't know why. If you want to go ahead and pick up where you left off.

>> LISA KISIEL: Wanted to do some comparative data for you and show you a little bit of you know, some basic information. Sorry. It's the wrong one. It threw me out of my document, too.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: I see. So that was something that happened on your end?

>> LISA KISIEL: Apparently. I don't know. I had a hard time coming in earlier, as well.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Yeah, we noticed that.

>> LISA KISIEL: But I saw some traffic here on the bureau side saying, hey, I just got kicked out of blah, blah, blah. So, I don't know if it's a network issue over here today. But we'll get started.

What I was going to say to you all, starting to say, is we are working hard to provide some comparative data for you all. So that we can kind of show you a compare and contrast with what we did last year versus what we did this year.

So, last year from January to March replaced 22 ‑‑ sorry, 17 people. And this year we placed 21, which was a 23.5% increase. The average hourly wage from this year between January and March was $20 an hour. And then last year it was $20.53, which was a little bit lower, but a lot of that is very subject to what kinds of jobs individuals get and how much they are earning. So, that was a negative 2.58% change.

Average VR customers, last year we served 849 in our vocational rehabilitation program. And this year we served 941. So, almost ‑‑ it was a 10.9% increase. Eligibility: last year during that quarter we made 60 people eligible. This year during that quarter, it was 64 people with a 6.7 ‑‑ 6.6% increase.

And last year we helped 27 people get benefits planning, and this year it was 10. So, that was a drop. So, we want to keep our eye on that, because we really believe benefits planning and the benefit to customers to receive that to help them make decisions about employment.

So, it's really, really important that we do that. And, so, that's something that we talked about. So, program year to date, which would be that 7/1/22 to 3/31/23, BSBP has assisted 59 individuals in obtaining competitive integrative employment. And last program year for that same date range was only 44. So, we are moving in the right direction in helping people to obtain employment and to be able to reach their goals.

For the pre‑employment transition programs that are important to serving students, January to March, students received both vended and internally provided pre‑emp services. In Detroit, there were 102 services provided between those two categories. And in the west region it was 115. And the total was 325. Sorry, that's actually the number of students. So, in Detroit we're serving 102 students. In the west region, Kalamazoo, and Grand Rapids, 115. Anyway, just giving a little information about that. There are other things in here that I won't go over as specifically. I will send this report to you all so you can review it.

Our training center for the fiscal year '23 year to date through March 31st for VR customers, we served 58 people. For independent living customers older blind, we served 56. For students we served 59. And at our mini adjustment programs we had 57. So, across the state, our central region, which is consistent of Lansing, Flint, Gaylord, and up where you are in the UP, that's where central region is served out of, we served 30% of the individuals that attended the training center from the central region. 20% were from Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, and 51% were from Detroit, being our highest area providing customer assistance. If you have not had an opportunity to visit the training center, I strongly recommend that. In fact, I would certainly welcome ‑‑ our director there would be more than glad to entertain a SILC meeting there, so we could provide you with a tour and show you the facility.

So, additional highlights, continue VR, IL, and financial literacy training, which we know is really important. They conducted statewide TC training center family engagement meet and greets to help families understand what the training center is all about. Hopefully, channel some referrals. And continued monthly TC open chats with staff, so that we can talk about different questions and concerns. We did a culinary weekend in March with the pre‑employment transition students, which was great. The mini adjustment program in Detroit also happened. And we also assist with promoting our profession by working with students from Western Michigan University to conduct their ‑‑ to complete their internships in practicum experiences. So, just kind of giving you a little heads‑up there.

Still working with customized employment pilots, BSBP has placed four individuals and a fifth is on the way. Hoping that will happen soon, as well. Our staff have participated in a supportive employment technical assistance training to help them to understand the needs of individuals with multiple disabilities and significant disabilities, and how best to serve them. Also, how best to partner with organizations such as community mental health and others to provide that extended follow‑up services. Quality and assurance focus on individualized plans for employment. Benefits planning, counseling, financial literacy, and comprehensive statewide needs assessment, which will be finished this summer.

Field services and priorities for the year are credential attainment. Making sure we're documenting any individuals that get a credential or measurable skill such as a report card or a certificate. That helps them ‑‑ that leads to their completion of a training program. Development and implementation of statewide programs. I just got home from Great Wolf Lodge this past weekend, where we had 35 families and students learning about the hospitality industry. And we also did some ‑‑ a ton of family engagement, and we had put families under blindfold, and the parents, and the ‑‑ had them doing things like, you know, chopping, slicing, spreading, making sandwiches, folding sheets, making beds. I will have to tell you that I did look at one dad, because I was helping with the bed making experience, and I just looked at him, what is that? I said did you ever make a bed? He said, no. Apparently, the independent living skills training needs to serve our parents, as well. But it was a ton of fun. And got a lot of really great comments from our parents. Really glad to share the kids with us. And support that program. And the kids had a great time, too.

And, you know, that's really important to us, because we really know that these kids need additional experiences and, you know, there's only one way to get that, right, to participate in these experiences.

BSBP's independent living services for individuals who are 55 and older via the older blind program and those that are not appropriate for VR or independent living part B program, the ultimate objection ‑‑ sorry, objective of these programs is to limit restricted environments for living. So, if a person is looking toward being in a nursing home or another institution, because of their blindness, these programs are designed to address that. So, that's really important to us.

And BSBP employs 11 vision rehabilitation therapists or rehab teachers to provide blindness specific training in the field for more than 500 individuals in Michigan needing those services for older and independent living part B. BSBP's VRTs also provide teaching assessments to our VR customers. And students. To assist the wholistic approach of serving the whole person by addressing independent living skills needs in addition to vocational related needs that our customers have. VRTs meet monthly with their managers and themselves, and we work out, you know, that we have speakers that come in that are subject matter experts to update the assessment materials, such as the eye reports and other tools that they use to do their work. The teaching team learns about aids and appliances and low‑vision devices that can assist customers in optimizing their skills. So, you know, we do a lot. I did want to mention our Braille and talking book library, because I think that's an important service. It serves about ‑‑ so, we send out per year for free to any individual who has a ‑‑ asked for the service, and they are not able to utilize printing material. They've served through March 173,985 audiobooks have been sent. 121 Braille books were sent, and 379 new patrons were added during that time.

So, we also provide e‑readers. We provide currency readers. And, so, we provided 470 Braille e‑readers were sent out for individuals. And that allows the patron who is a Braille reader to download their materials, their electronic Braille books, and to be able to read them. So, it's really a pretty awesome service in our Braille and talking book library does have a Facebook page. They also offer on that Facebook page you'll see some advertisements for some ‑‑ they have book clubs, they have tech clubs, different things going on. And we're serving 149,816 people. That would be through March year to date. And they've had 1,345 link flips and 1,508 engagements. So, just a lot going on there. All the library services are managed by the regional libraries around the state, as well as the Lansing location, the bureau's central office. So, a few more statistics, 93 reactions to their posts, 58 shares, and more coming.

Those are some of their outreach efforts. So, as I said, they have the lion's club did some outreach with them, virtual presentations, to Huntington Woods Public Library, so tons of stuff going on at the library, which is a great service, and I highly recommend it to anyone who's not able to access printed materials.

I also just want to mention that I've been working with the team on skill writing, which I very much appreciate, and I want to remind everyone that the services that BSBP provides that we are a partner agency with Michigan Rehab Services, and we represent vocational rehabilitation for individuals who are blind in the state of Michigan. So, I got a question or a misunderstanding actually on one of the SPIL calls that they were sort of wondering where we fit in all of this. I said, you know what, apparently, I have failed miserably, because I try to talk about that most every time, I speak to you all, and apparently, I haven't made that clear, as I need to. My apologies for that. But we are a Voc Rehab agency. We do have blind and specific programs such as the Braille and talking book library, our independent living older blind living program, and we are absolutely a VR program. So, I just appreciate the time with you guys always, and if you have additional comments, please feel free to ask me any questions.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you, Lisa. This is Jan. Is there anyone who has any questions or comments for Lisa or BSBP? I see none, so thank you for that report, Lisa, and we will move on to the ‑‑ actually, let's go back to Bill Addison, because I saw that he was able to get on the call. Bill, do you want to go ahead with your report, please? Okay, now you're muted. If you're talking, we don't hear you. So, here's my suggestion. Could you try to call in using one of the numbers and we'll move on to another report while you're navigating that.

>> STEVEN LOCKE: Also, for those that are using Zoom, they frequently update the Zoom client. There was a new update that came out a couple days ago. If you're not constantly downloading the latest version, you may experience issues like this.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Bill, if you would go ahead, please log off and try to use the call‑in feature so we can get your report. While you're working on that, I would love if we could get the Department of Education's Ex Officio report from Shawan Dortch.

>> SHAWAN DORTCH: Hi, good afternoon. I have a very brief report. I think the last time we were on the call, we were having the state performance plan, which was in review for two weeks, but now it's actually open and available on the MySchool's data website. And that report is a state educational target and performance, as well as a district performance on targets that lets us know how we're doing in education. Specifically, special education.

And if you have any questions, there's a link with terms, definitions, in the MySchool Data report as specific to public reporting. You can get some questions answered. If you have more specific questions about Part B age 3 to 21 from Julie and our office of Special Education at 517‑241‑0497. Or at MD‑SP‑Public‑report@Michigan.gov.

Still, we are actively working on updating special education's guidance in regard to discipline, transition, and providing the least restrictive environment to the field, as well as to increase our capacity to provide technical assistance to support districts with improving educational outcomes for students and results for students with disabilities. And, so, we've been pretty busy. We're down a few people in our Office of Special Education and working hard to monitor and get things done during this time. So, with schools getting out for the summer, and some other things, it's been quite challenging, but we're doing our best to get some guidance out to the field and supporting more our district with technical assistance instead of just monitoring and corrective actions.

And that is all for the report from the Office of Special Education. Are there any questions?

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: I'm looking, and this is Jan. I'm looking and I do not see any. So, at this time, we will thank you for your report. And has Mr. Addison been able to get back on? It does not look like he is as yet. So, the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council and Vendella is not here, nor is the Department of Civil Rights, Annie. So, Mark Pierce, could you please give us the Independent Living Network update?

>> MARK PIERCE: I sure will. To the best of my knowledge. Good to see you all, Jan, Steve. So, consumers on Wednesday of last quarter. May 10th, the state ‑‑ thus far we had about 80 participants this year. Met with legislators and discussed ‑‑

>> Sorry, this is Bethany the interpreter. I'm having a hard time hearing you, Mark, my apologies.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Maybe if you ‑‑

>> MARK PIERCE: Is this better?

>> Thank you, yes, much better. Thank you.

>> MARK PIERCE: Okay. We had a legislative day and about 80 participants were there. Met with legislators and discussed state funding that we received. Including our request for additional funding for this year's budget. With so many new legislators serving, we spent a lot of time educating them about who we are and the services that we provide. The way we help make our districts better for our constituents. So, we did a lot of that. We went to the governor's office of appointments, where we learned about the process of getting appointments to the boards, task forces and commissions, and the council. This was a good reminder to us all the importance of representation and how we can be proactive and make sure we sit at the table.

We recognize senators John McCann and representative Kurt van der Waal with the 2022 Independent Living Championship Award for their work on behalf of the CILs and people with disabilities throughout the state. So, that was really exciting. We rented a really beautiful room, the Michigan Room. It was really nice. Thanks to ‑‑ we really appreciated that.

DM and CILs will continue to advocate for the personal assistant service reimbursement program. Most recently, agree to the funding of the program and the current contract amount of $360,305. Through the fiscal year 2024. Special thanks to Jan and Steve for facilitating that.

This means that the legislature will decide whether the program, the funding for the program, will come from beyond 2024. This is an important goal that helps break down some of the barriers. We appreciate ‑‑ as we speak to our legislators about the need to continue funding the program and ‑‑ several years been doing that.

We spoke to the legislators about the budget. We're happy to share that the powers improved the increase for CILs funding the 2024 fiscal year, and while the Senate did not approve the increase in their recommendation, we are hopeful that the conference committee will retain our increase.

With an increase of $3 million more, the government's recommendation still put us at about $10 million away of being a fully funded network. Being a fully funded network, many years ago, we put together it was like ‑‑ (inaudible) ‑‑ today is higher than that. Good to see some funding going to the CILs.

On another note, this coming July, end of July, ADA celebration for the ADA with the CILs are encouraged that you all will go to the disciplinary network Michigan website and click on that CIL in the area, and the CIL does it a different time, like my CIL really supported the ADA celebration artist, and in the past we supported Thursday, last week of July. I would encourage you to look at the website and see what your CIL is doing. Despite all the CILs for Americans with Disabilities Act, I do remember last year Steve did try to visit all of the CILs and support them in their celebration. It is a big thing for us. Among the CILs of the last quarter, management agency in dealing with a lot of post‑pandemic isolation issues for people with disabilities. That's been the big push. And there's some great things from CIL and CILs doing. So happy about her bringing her staff in to talk about what the CILs have done in the network. Overjoyed to hear her in the UP. So, thank you.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you. Thank you. Any questions for Mark about the network? Thank you for all of that information. And we'll make sure also that the SILC's social media that we are highlighting those ADA celebrations throughout the state with the Centers for Independent Living. Of course, our own celebration by way of art in Madison Heights, so we'll make sure that gets out there to the world, so we can all share in the joy that fully implemented the ADA. I'll say it that way.

Just have to ‑‑ Bill Addison, we see that you're on the phone. Let's give this a shot and see if we can get your report, please.

>> BILL ADDISON: Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Yes, we can. Thank you, hooray! Thank you for being so patient about trying to figure it out, Bill.

>> BILL ADDISON: You know, I'm not a very good IT guy to start with, but I think I've been knocked out at least two times of this thing. I'm not in my office in Lansing, I'm in Traverse City right now. I was really hoping to make the trip with everybody to Marquette, because I have Marquette ties, too. I graduated from Northern Michigan and lived in Marquette for two years. If you look outside SAIL's window in the front, I, literally, lived right across the street from the agency. Close ties there.

So, I wanted to give you kind of an update on what's been going on since the last quarter here. We have several items to talk about. One is ‑‑ and this happened about three weeks, four weeks ago, is all of the division directors, many of MRS's managers, attended what's called CSAVR, and that stands for the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation. A lot of new things are going on with RSA. The training sessions that we went through included such things as new finances, new types of contracts and contract requirements, future planning, budgeting, draw downs, and then a couple of sessions on kind of the projections of the finances of what we expect to get in several years. So, almost all of the directors went. We've come back with plans to implement new processes and new internal controls for the items we learned while we were there. Give you an update on MRS structure. As you know, Tina retired a few months back. Adams is the acting director of the bureau. Since last quarter I talked to you, we filled one director position. Maureen Webster is now the director of innovation. And if you recall, that was Bill Columbo's position. Bill Columbo was director of innovation. He then became the deputy director, and shortly after that he retired.

Next thing I want to do is I usually give you quarterly statistics of MRS. Today, I'm going to give you the annual report, the 2022 annual report on customer services. Definitely moving in the right direction. So, the total cases, the total open cases that we have during the year were 37,483, which I believe is up 3,000 since I have started at MRS. So, pretty impressive.

The other item I want to talk about for a few minutes is total exit employ, which is after our services, that a person ended up employed in the position that our counselors worked for to put them there. The number there is 5,626 folks.

We also do this, as we do satisfaction surveys at two points in our process. The first point is when we develop a plan. And the second point is that exit. So, our satisfaction survey tells us that 94% of our customers were satisfied with our plans. At the time of exit, 90% of the folks that we served were satisfied with our services.

We also did really well in what's called credential attainment and measurement skill gains. And what those are the skills that those folks obtained during our process here. So, we had 38% for credential obtainment, and then 56% for measurable skill gains. As Lisa was bragging about her training center, I'd like to brag about MRS's training center and give you some statistics there. So, this last year our training center offered 13 different programs for education. They had a graduation rate of 52%. I think the most impressive item about this is that they had a placement percentage of 87%, which means 87% of the individuals graduating ended up in the field of their study, which is pretty impressive. I also suggested, as Lisa did, if you can, take a tour of MCTI. I think you'll be really impressed. When I first joined MRS, our director said the first thing I want you to do is go take a tour of this school. I really didn't want to do it, because I was the foster care auditor for years, and I'd been to all the state schools for foster care, but MCTI is completely different. I mean, you will be impressed with their education centers, you'll be impressed with their facilities. And their dorm rooms, in fact. So, that's our bragging part for our facility also.

If there's any other questions, that's what I have today.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: This is Jan, thank you, Bill. Council members, any questions, or comments for Bill? Seeing none, let us move on to the SPIL monitoring reports. And the first one is, I think, Steve, you might be stepping in. Do you have anything to add about the advocacy and leadership goal with the youth leadership? I know you talked about it earlier.

>> STEVEN LOCKE: Yep. Just to recap that. The youth leadership forum is going to be a hybrid event this year. Jon Hart from disability connections in Jackson is leading that effort. I believe that is going to be in the middle of August. SILC does have $15,000 toward that effort. Jon did email me, and they come up with an estimated cost of $8,000 for food. We worked out an invoicing process with supporting receipts to submit to SILC before we release the funds. Based on the amounts that they send in. He estimates it's going to be about $16,000 to pull off the hybrid event. Again, we have partnered with the DD Council and MDRC and the SILC Network to pull off a 2024 youth leadership forum, or it's going to be an in‑person, but may be based off the curriculum that MDRC has developed. So, we don't have to follow that national standard to an absolute tee and hold it to a university. We have found ways to make it more affordable. We're trying to work out a trip for the participants to go to the state capital. And Jon is going to reach out to Mark. I don't know if he did that or not to see if we can get Lansing Public Transportation to donate free rides to the capital possibly for that event.

>> MARK PIERCE: In discussion.

>> STEVEN LOCKE: In discussion. That's what I have. Then, again, when we get later on the agenda, you’re going to be asked to approve the 2024 SPIL, where you as a council are going to make a $45,000 contribution to the 2024 effort.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you. Diversity and inclusion are Mark and Luke Zelley. Mark, I see you're here. Do you want to update us about the work group?

>> MARK PIERCE: I don't have much on that. Apologize to the council.

>> STEVEN LOCKE: They've been working with Georgetown University for the past six years developing a program for cultural and linguistic competency, working with the DD population. It has culminated in the DD Council creating a community alliance summit. The first two sections happened earlier last month. And the last session, session three, is going to be on June 22nd. So, that objective is coming to fruition.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: That's awesome. Thank you. Thanks. So, next up is the personal care attendants SPIL objective, which I guess that's me.

And, so, just to update everyone. You know, a lot of the work that we have been doing is involved in really solidifying that workforce. Right, we know we're in the middle of a nationwide shortage of people willing to do the work of a direct support professional. So, lots of folks are finding themselves without the support that they need. People having to lie in bed for 12 hours because the staff quit, didn't show up, there was no one to place them. We know we're in the middle of a crisis. In fact in the UP, just in the past 12‑month period, there's a young man I've been doing a little bit of work with who spent 101 days at the Marquette Hospital, not because he had a medical need or psychiatric need, but because he needed support and there was no staff to send him home to. The hospital couldn't even consciously, you know, he needed support with every activity of daily living, so he sat in the hospital for 101 days, because we don't have enough direct support professionals coming to the field.

So, there's been a lot of effort put towards two facets of that work of building that workforce, one of which being to sort of provide training and a career path and, you know, elevate the position to where it needs to be. It's like one of the most important jobs you can do, right. And yet it's got the lowest pay, lowest amount of benefits, lowest amount of training and support to do the job. So, we've been working on elevating that. And then the other sort of work that's been being done is also trying to increase the wages. Most of the folks that receive direct support professional assistance are eligible for that through their Medicaid insurance, right. So, Medicaid provides a certain amount of money. The legislature gets to decide how to allocate that money. The legislature gets to decide how much match they are going to put up to pull down the federal Medicaid dollars. So, we've been really trying to educate about the position, and the fact that the current allocations of dollars allows for the average wage across the state of Michigan to be $14 an hour, which places those direct support professionals in a position where they can't meet their basic needs. So, many people who do this very important work themselves are eligible for bridge coverage and Medicaid, right, or have to work three jobs in order to make ends meet. Or leave a job they love supporting someone to have a good life, because they are only making $14 an hour here, but they can go to almost any place else and make $18 or $20 an hour. And they have to feed their kids, right.

So, right now as the budget negotiations are happening with our legislators between the executive branch and the representatives, we've been really trying to make sure that folks that are making those budget decisions understand the importance for allocating dollars directly for this workforce.

The House proposal includes a $1.50 permanent base rate increase of staff wages with a $1 an hour that would be just this budget year, which would mean like a net of $2.50 for direct support professionals, you know, starting in October of 2023. The direct support professional coalition, wage coalition, is definitely supporting that proposal, the House proposal, over the Senate or governor's proposal, which are slightly less.

Again, we have a forum here. So, a call to action would be to continue educating our legislators, continue educating citizens who might be able to have a voice and talk to their legislators, about the importance of allocating dollars for this workforce. It is at a ‑‑ we have people sitting in state hospitals who have been ready for discharge for over two years, but they can't be discharged, because where would they go? They might be able to get home, but they don't have anybody to help them live in their home. This is a critical ‑‑ we are at a tipping point I think in the state of Michigan with regard to this workforce and the ability for Michigan citizens to have good lives and to be able to make their own contributions when they need the support to do it, right.

So, that's my report. Sounded more like a sermon, I'm sorry. Yes, Mark?

>> MARK PIERCE: Talking points you just spoke of, can you send them, that way I can get them to the network and kind of the strategies so we can talk to the legislators we have? Kind of a methodology.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Yes, I can do that. I will email that to Steve, actually, who can get it to everyone, and we can also put it on our, you know, web page. Okay, thank you. That's my report. Any other questions or comments about that?

>> ALLEN BEAUCHAMP: Jan, yeah, this is Allen. $2.50 as far as increase?

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Right, $1.50 permanent and $1 would be just in this budget year, but the advocates will probably make it permanent, right.

>> ALLEN BEAUCHAMP: I think it needs to be even more.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: It does need to be more. Yeah. When the wage coalition did a little study, if we asked ‑‑ we got $4 more per hour, the average in the state of Michigan wage is $14 an hour for direct support professionals. If we got it up to an average of $18 an hour, we would barely get those direct support professionals out of the Alice population, out of poverty. They'd be able to meet their basic needs. $18 should be the floor right now this year, today. With inflation, the floor is going to go up, right. We're not even to the floor yet.

>> ALLEN BEAUCHAMP: So much demand over there. My friend next to me. He's had some struggles.

>> AARON ANDRES: I could go on and on.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Well, you know, you know, Aaron, exactly what I'm talking about. There are lots of citizens in Michigan. There are 80‑year‑old mothers that are limping to their son or daughter's home trying to provide the support they need. I could tell you a million stories, but I won't.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: This is Jamia Davis. I just had a comment. I think this would be a great workshop in the youth leadership forum where we could advertise and make the youth aware this is available to you, like the training and just, you know, building at the next workforce.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: That's awesome, thank you, Jamia. All right. Seeing no other comments at this time on that topic, let's move to emergency response. And we've got Frank on the line.

>> FRANK ANIMIKWAM: Hello, everyone. It's been wonderful to hear everyone's updates and reports. Can everyone hear me?

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Yes.

>> FRANK ANIMIKWAM: Okay, great. So, I'm going to report just a little bit on kind of, again, the big picture and update on the grant partnership opportunity with MPHI. Then I'll need some time, too, to share with Mark and report more on what the CILs are providing in this partnership. We're continuing working with MPHI on that grant working on doing focus groups. And the focus groups will work with specific groups within our communities who are providing care or direct recipients if they are an elder or a family member of those who are an elder receiving service in the state of Michigan, and kind of what their experiences have been with regards to strengths. But then also challenges and areas of growth where we can improve our services. Especially in the setting of emergencies.

So, we did meet almost a month ago now. So, we have another meeting coming up. One of the things that came up during last meeting was potentially this partnership with MPHI and more of doing this study needs assessment approach, if you will, is this potentially duplicating work that the CILs are doing with regards to quality improvement of services? And through our discussion we're able to see it's more complementing to each other's work. So, we kind of crisis averted, right, if we could say that. We're not duplicating work, and this is really an opportunity to collaborate and have some synergy here.

So, that's kind of the big update I have. I know we have had continued attempts at being inclusive with FEMA and the Red Cross. I think with some other things taking focus on those partners' plates, as well as some kind of changing hands and work on the Red Cross part, we haven't had recent representation from those groups. But we're continuing to be inclusive, sending out those meeting invites to more states, as well as federal‑wide emergency response teams. So, I'll leave it at that. I'll be brief, and then I'll turn it over to Mark. Thank you, everyone.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you. Mark?

>> MARK PIERCE: (Inaudible) ‑‑ the person that represented the network are quickly together with the emergency preparedness kits and working with the consumers. Travis Poland, you know, who works in my agency. So, I do know that Terry Robbins,she does the training with all the CIOs. I believe it was April 25th, I can't remember what the actual protocol would be with the profiles and things like that, trying to line up exactly what each CIL would do. So, I got to catch up on all that information and relocate with another person. This has kind of just been hard because this is our second person. So, if you know someone that has a really strong interest in emergency preparedness, please send them my way. Because this is a unique type of role. We talk about it, talk about it for years, but creating a uniform way of getting information, getting the needs assessments together, and providing people with the tools during an emergency crisis, which nobody wants to talk about. It's a hard thing to do. But I really want to commend the works of Travis and those that have put this together, because we've never put that piece together. And we do have a few partnerships out there with the Red Cross and with NOAA, I believe, that can be very helpful.

This is something ‑‑ (inaudible) ‑‑ we have to learn from what happened in the pandemic, and we have to figure out ways to make sure people with disabilities have some type of tools to be connected. So, I don't have much else to add, but by the next meeting we have, hopefully, I'll have a person.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Awesome. Thank you. Any other folks with questions or comments about that objective, the emergency response objective? Seeing none. Steve, did you have anything additional you wanted to talk about with regard to the outreach and awareness campaign beyond what you put in your executive director report?

>> STEVEN LOCKE: I think we pretty much covered it.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Perfect. We don't have any unfinished business; however, we have one item of new business, which is the fiscal year 2024 SPIL submission. You should have all received ‑‑ everyone received that prior to today, didn't they, in an email? Okay. I thought everybody did. Didn't look at who all was on the email.

>> STEVEN LOCKE: So, first one up on the screen, we changed fiscal years to be inclusive of 2024 and Tracy if you could scroll down. The next change was we blanked out the 229,500 PASREP that was under the column "other SPIL activities", and in hindsight it should have gone under the second column under IL services. If you look down further in the SPIL, personal assistant services are listed as an IL service, so we shifted it to the IL services column and put it in at the full 360,305 dollars, which is the amount that MRS agreed to fund for 2024. The last change is all the way down at the bottom under the SILC resource plan, which is way, way down there. Almost at the very end of the SPIL. Under SILC resources, up to $45,000 to support the 2024 Michigan Youth Leadership Summit. That's the bulk of the changes.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: To make sure everybody is on the same page, because of the pandemic, we were told that we could ‑‑ that we would be extending our current SPIL out for one additional year and that we could make amendments, either substantial or technical. Just made some technical amendments meaning amounts of dollars, those kinds of things, that the council could just vote on it and get it submitted. If we were making substantial changes, if we decided we wanted to change one of our SPIL goals, right, remove something, add something, then we would have gone through the entire process of public comment. We are not changing anything in our SPIL goals. Just changing some dollar amounts and some dates. So, that is why this is considered a technical amendment. So, this body, this council, has the authority to approve this and then we can get it submitted, you know, on time. Our due date is coming up. Steve, when is our due date?

>> STEVEN LOCKE: June 30th, but rather have it soon.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Sure, he would. If you're late, five minutes early. So, at this point, I would like to I guess get a motion on the floor and then we can have questions and discussion.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: This is Jamia Davis submitting a motion for the fiscal year 2024 submission.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you.

>> AARON ANDRES: Aaron Andres, I support that.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Motion moved and seconded. Any questions, comments, concerns, discussion? Yes, Mindy, I see your hand is raised.

>> MELINDA KULASA: I don't know what my problem is today with my audio. I'm so sorry, all of you, for these pregnant pauses here.

Just a matter of semantics, perhaps for consistency sake, we could just change the language a little bit to be consistent with what's up above and put SPIL costs of up to $45,000 to support a 2024 Michigan Youth Leadership Summit. That way it will be parallel construction and Peter and I will like that.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: I'm sure he will. So, thank you, Mindy, with the two people who made the motion and seconded like to ‑‑ support that change?

>> Yes.

>> Yeah.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: So, the current motion on the floor is for the SPIL to be as‑is except for the sentence that will now say "SPIL costs of up to $45,000 to support a 2024 Michigan Youth Leadership Summit." So, that's the motion on the floor. Does anyone else have any questions, or concerns, or comments you'd like to make before we call the vote? Yes, Mark?

>> MARK PIERCE: So, looking at this document, it's 43 pages. Do we have ‑‑ highlight just the areas we amended? So, I don't have to go look through all that?

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: When we submit it to ACL, we will highlight the technical changes that we have made to the document, yes, that is correct, yes. Any other questions or concerns? Seeing none, Tracy, can we call the vote?

>> Aaron Andres.

>> Yes.

>> Frank Animikwam.

>> Yes.

>> Glen Ashlock.

>> Yes.

>> Allen Beau champ.

>> Yes.

>> Erica Coulston had to leave.

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Yes.

>> (Indiscernible).

>> Yes.

>> Thank you all very much and thank you Steve for the work you did to get this ironed out. It was a lot of conversations and meetings, let me tell you, but we were able to get this done and get that funding for the Centers for Independent Living to continue the personal assistant program for folks who are employed, so that was a good piece of work. Yes, Steve?

>> STEVEN LOCKE: This is Steve. I'd like to thank Jan and Teri and MRS leadership and Dave and Mark and the folks that came together at the table in good faith to really work through the PASREP issue. I know there's a lot of hurt feelings from the past, and I think that the folks around the table came together in good faith and found a way to move up and work forward instead of backwards, because this is such an important program, and I just want to say thank you for being willing to participate in that process.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you for saying that Steve. I think it was a great team of people that came together for sure. So, thank you to the whole CIL network and to Teri for being at the table with us together.

At this time, it is the part of our meeting where we have information sharing and announcements by council members. If anything, you'd like to share or announcements you have at this time, we can entertain those.

>> AARON ANDRES: I’m in the direct care workforce, I'm talking with a person at Michigan State, Claire Luz, who has provided great information on ETLs as far as providing information for legislators. So, I will pass that along.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you, Aaron. Claire's group is the work that's really working on that part of the work that we need to do to elevate that position. So, she's working on training and a career path, you know, one of the things that would be really great is if this workforce had its own code as a career job. All jobs have a federal number, right? Direct support professionals don't. Those are the sort of things Claire is working on. So, thank you very much for that.

Any other announcements or comments that council members would like to make? Oh, Mindy, I see your hand is up.

>> MELINDA KULASA: Yes, it's me again, but this is some totally cool, hot off the press this morning info that I wanted to share.

And it has to do with an initiative by Delta Airlines to modify plane seats to accommodate power wheelchair users. And the gentleman behind all of this is named Cory Lee, and he's a travel blogger who travels the world over and is a power wheelchair user. And he has been championing this cause, and he found a partner with Delta Airlines.

So, if it's of interest, I'd be happy to share it with Tracy, to share it with the council. This did come up frequently as a topic of conversation at our SILC Congress, and there was a quote ‑‑ (frozen).

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Oh, dear, we lost you, Mindy. She's got a connection thing. So, I saw the article, as well. There's a news article. So, I think if we could get that to Tracy, we can also get it to our social media ‑‑ there you are, you're back. You were gone for a while, Tracy ‑‑ or Mindy, sorry.

>> MELINDA KULASA: Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: It's okay.

>> MELINDA KULASA: I don't know what's up on my end. Anyway, just real briefly, I just had to share this quote, because it's in true Ed Roberts style. And this is the quote from Cory Lee, the gentleman I just mentioned. "Until air travel is inclusive for everyone, including wheelchair users, it isn't inclusive at all."

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: That's wonderful. Thank you. So, Mindy, I think you're probably looking at it like a news article. If you could get that to Tracy, we'll get it to our social media folks, too, and get it on our Facebook and our Instagram and try to get that good news spread around.

>> MELINDA KULASA: Yeah, and they are looking at having it in planes in 18 months. Not 12 years.

(Indiscernible).

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: So, thank you for bringing that information. Anyone else on the council have something that you would like to share at this point? Oh, I see Dr. Frank, your hand is up.

>> FRANK ANIMIKWAM: Yes. I wanted to share a brief update. Beginning of May, the first week, American Academy of Family Physicians held a national ‑‑ their annual national leadership conference, and it was my first time attending. I was selected as a representative for the Michigan chapter of Academy of Family Physicians for the minority constituency. The other constituencies consisted of women, new physicians, LGBTQ+, as well as foreign medicine graduates. And, so, this was, again, my first time attending. I kind of asked myself what did I get myself into, but it was really interesting. A lot of it was focused on policy writing. So, the policies are all geared toward how can AEFP as a national organization that represents family physicians be more diverse, be more equitable, be more inclusive. So, really nice opportunity to speak on the behalf ‑‑ or advocate, I should say, for SILCs and CILs. So, many physicians aren't aware of SILCs, as well as CILs, within their own state. So, there was a resolution that I was a primary author on, and we had it passed during this conference. And the resolution was asking for AEFP at the chapter level for each state to seek out in partnership with SILCs and CILs in order for us to learn best from the disability community. Sorry for the background noise. So, we can provide the most appropriate care and services as those from the disability community are accessing health care. So, it's a big first step. Then from here it will go on to the board for AEFP for review. And if it passes there, it will go on to ‑‑ they have a constituency leadership conference every year, too. It will go on to that. Once it passes from there, it can take on some form of congressional advocacy in Washington, D.C. So, it was a really big positive for us. I'll share with Steve a little bit of a write‑up and kind of where you can find that resolution if you want to see the exact wording.

The other one we had passed was a resolution where AEFP as an organization will be more intentional with seeking partnerships with tribes, as well as organizations servicing Native Americans in regard to health care. With those partnerships, there will be an improvement of care as a result while they practice medicine, western medicine, primary care medicine.

So, big positives. Two of the other parts of the resolutions also talked about tool kits. That's one of the things in our emergency preparedness committee for this group, for this SILC, we're working on developing a tool kit with this partnership. Formation of tool kits so they can be accessed online by physicians whenever they have a patient identifying Native American or person with a disability, one way they can access with different support and resources to provide better care. Thank you.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

Okay, one last final call for council members who have anything they'd like to announce or share.

Seeing no hands, let's move to our public comment. This is an opportunity for folks who are not on the council to make public comment. Is there anyone who would like to make a public comment at this time?

Oh, I'm sorry, Teri. You're hidden. Teri Langley.

>> Thank you so much. Thank you, Jan, and Steve, for the opportunity, and SILC members. I appreciate the time. And I will try to make it brief. Many of you know that I was named the executive director of Disability Network Michigan in March, and from that time, I have continued to work with the Centers for Independent Living executive directors and their staff, and the legislature to raise awareness about what independent living is and what it means and what the centers do for people with disabilities.

One of the things that I stress upon the legislature specifically is the importance of what independent living choices are and that they should be featured in every conversation of every aspect of our life. And the legislature has been very receptive, and we continue to have good conversations, because we all know at some point we're going to be faced with those decisions and independent living is certainly a right that we should all be able to have in front of us.

Some of the things that I've been working on, as you know, I've been working on the Go Logo symbol, and I did express disappointment earlier with the Civil Rights Department, so I won't prolong that conversation.

The other issue that we've been working on is PASREP, which is the personal assistance reemployment program. And I do want to take the time to thank Jan and Steve, Bill Addison, Rodney, and Mark and Dave. For their help in trying to navigate such a challenging issue. The challenges arrived when we discovered that through a series of transfers of the MRS agency, the line item that referred to PASREP disappeared. This is not a state independent living program. This is a state program that was funded with state dollars. It was created through the guidance and assistance with the Centers for Independent Living. Specifically, Dave sat down with legislators who agreed to appropriate the money. So, over the years that line item has disappeared and there has been a disagreement whether or not the funding exists. We continue to speak with the legislature to help answer questions, to help stress the importance of this program, but I do want to remind everyone this is a state appropriated program, it's not a Center for Independent Living program. The Centers for Independent Living actually have been on the contract to service the program, so that's where we became even more involved. So, it was crucial that we advocated for the program to continue. So, I do appreciate MRS's agreement to fund the program through fiscal year '24 out of their program funds, and then after that, we're hopeful the legislature will give us clearer direction on where that money is to be placed.

And, so, what I would ask all of you, as members of the council, in your conversations, please stress the importance of a program like this to help attain and maintain employment for people with disabilities. I know that Jan and Steve did, you know, pledge their assistance moving forward with the legislature to advocate for this program, and were asking that the members do so, as well. If you need any talking points, please let me know through Mark Pierce. I would be happy to provide those for you. It is a program we are hoping not only to increase the funding, but also increase the number of people unable to use it. And that will be one of the focuses for Disability Network Michigan moving forward.

And, lastly, I do want to just talk a little bit about an event that was hosted by the Delta Dental Foundation at the state capitol a few months ago called Positive Exposure, and it was a photography exhibit that the Delta Dental Foundation worked with a famous New York photographer whose previous work included modeling, you know, photographing models. He came to the state of Michigan and took pictures with people with disabilities, children, adults, in an effort for Delta Dental to include those photos in local and regional dental offices. Delta Dental is working very hard to make sure that the dental industry is trained, and awareness is raised with them on how to treat people with disabilities when they come in for dental services. And, so, Polly Seaberry is the executive director of the foundation and she'll be addressing the directors of Centers for Independent Living at their June meeting next week and letting them know a little bit more about the efforts of Delta Dental Foundation and Delta Dental in helping to increase inclusion. And I'm very proud of that relationship that we've made with Delta Dental, and it is very exciting to learn that there are more corporations that perhaps we're aware of that are taking inclusion seriously and including people with disabilities and not just talking about having inclusion go on in their facilities. They are actually training dentists and dental hygienists on effectively treating people with disabilities.

So, that really is some of the things that we're working on at Disability Network Michigan. I am looking forward to a new relationship with MRS and the leadership of Sigrid Adams. She's thus far been very, very proactive, and reactive in making sure that our partnership maintains for people with disabilities. And I don't have any reason to doubt her leadership right now, and I'm looking forward to the future. It's time to turn the page, as Steve said, and I will do everything that I can do in my efforts to make sure that we maintain a positive relationship with that agency, because it's important and it goes beyond our organization. It goes beyond SILC. It goes beyond Centers for Independent Living. It truly remains with people with disabilities, and that's what we all need to keep our mind on when we're working together.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you, Teri, very much for those comments. I see we have Joy Cooper has her hand raised. Would you like to make a public comment?

>> Joy: Sure. I put this meeting on my calendar, wasn't sure what to expect. I said I can just show up and sit in the back and listen.

Currently living with my son, who has schizophrenia. And I hear ‑‑ so far, I've heard a lot of talk about MRS and employability, but it's like ‑‑ housing. First, he has to have a place to live because we're just kind of parked here. I keep hearing about SIL, CIL, I've tapped into three different counties, and I can't seem to move forward with getting him stabilized. I also started looking into creating community living of my own. Through tiny houses. Just buy some land, say, hey, people in my situation who just want a safe place for our kids to live on their own independently, it's like the funding, the grants, even what was it I researched, Section 811, but you can't have more than 40% be disabled. Has to be mixed environment. I guess my question or comment, I don't know if it's a question or comment, is to say why is this so hard?

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Joy, can I just ask a question, what county do you live in, what part of the state are you in?

>> Right now, I'm in Kent County. We lived in Ottawa County, had trouble getting services there, so with private insurance, went to Muskegon County, that's where his case is now ‑‑ yeah, his medical is in Muskegon. DHS is in Kent County, because I relocated here for a job, and like I said, we're sharing a small apartment, because he got turned down for the one bed that they had at Gracious Grounds in Grand Haven, because they had 11 applications and they said he wasn't far enough along in his services. As far as counseling or, you know... things like that. I'm like, I just lost it.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Joy, it shouldn't be. I agree with you. It should not be that hard. And your story is one of, I don't know, hundreds that I've heard in the last 12 months about how hard it is to find both housing and also the support you need to live in that housing, right.

And, so, if you could do a private message in the chat to Tracy Brown, she's our moderator for the Zoom. If you could just put your contact information in there, we can connect you to the Center for Independent Living that's closest to you and all the resources ‑‑ and maybe some other advocacy to help you navigate this and make it a little bit easier for you. By the way, we heard what you said, because housing is a huge issue. It's coming up as we're reaching out to people with disabilities across Michigan, getting ready to write our next Statewide Independent Living Plan, we're hearing the theme of housing coming up over and over again. So, we hear you, but give us your contact info in the private chat, if you wouldn't mind, so we can help you further.

>> Joy: All right, I'll do that.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you for your comment.

>> STEPHANIE DEIBLE: This is Stephanie, can I make a comment... I don't know if anybody else has any other public comment. I think this is a good reminder for council members and individuals who are working in the field of independent living to remember. I know we have a lot of acronyms that just roll off the tongue, but when we're speaking, it is important to stop and clarify some of the things that we might all take for granted, and that we might all use on a daily basis. Especially as we're interacting with people in the community.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: That was an excellent reminder, Stephanie, thank you for reminding everyone of that.

When Joy's question popped up in the chat, oh, my goodness. I didn't stop people from using acronyms today. Usually, as you know, stop people from doing that. Is there any other public comment? Yes.

>> I don't want to prolong this, I know this has been a long meeting, but I want to thank you all again for coming here. Mindy, you'll be very interested in this. He fought a lot of barriers on his way, and Sarah met with him, our dear Sarah. We made the tribute page in this book to Sarah. Cory was really the one that made us see this was necessary here. Mindy, I think that you'll love the UP for that again. We saw him, we heard him, we listened to him. And we did something about it. And this year are doing 71 more sites, so we'll keep rolling on that.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you. Thank you. Okay. Is there any other ‑‑ oh, there's a cute baby. Is that baby going to make a public comment? Dr. Frank. Is there any other additional public comment? Teri, your hand is still up. Okay.

>> Teri: No, no. I wanted to apologize. I forgot to actually say thank you to all of you who traveled to the UP to see what a fantastic resource Julie's Center for Independent Living is. And just giving a shout‑out to Julie for helping ‑‑ or for hosting all of them. And Julie, my heart's with you, even though I'm not there, but you and Mark are representing the organization very well. And thank you. It means so much that you guys would travel all that way to be a part of that Center for Independent Living. I promise I'm done now.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Thank you, Teri, thank you, Teri. Okay. Seeing no other public comment, it is time to see if we can get a motion to adjourn this meeting.

>> AARON ANDRES: Motion to adjourn.

>> CHAIR LAMPMAN: Aaron and Allen, okay. I'm going to call out a shout‑out vote. All in favor say aye.

(Chorus of ayes).

All opposed? Okay. This meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

Joy, thank you for sending your contact information, thank you very much. Thank you, everyone.

(End of meeting)