September 19, 2023, FY2025-2027 SPIL SILC Goals Meeting Notes

Team Members Present: Aaron Andres, Jamia Davis, Stephanie Deible, Theresa Metzmaker, Mindy Kulasa, Jan Lampman, Erica Coulston.

Drafting Michigan’s 2025-2027 SILC SPIL Goals

* Aaron shared that we need small goals so that we are able to measure them and to be able to project on how we are doing on those goals on a regular basis. In the past it has been harder to see what we have accomplished or made progress towards, and it feels like we’re spinning our wheels.
* Jamia reviewed the notes from May and initially we had mental health, direct care workers advocacy, housing and transportation identified those areas of need based on our community needs assessment.
* Jamia focused on housing and was able to identify some organizations that were helping with homelessness and rental properties assistance and helping people stay in their homes. There are many councils at the state level, boards and commissions that help with homelessness. We may be able to partner with some of those organizations to tackle the housing goal.
* Jan mentioned that 6 months ago there were some Section 8 subsidies that were supposed to be coming down the pike for people with disabilities but haven’t heard anything since. Jamia will look into this to see if it’s true and if we can find partners to work with on this.
* Jan spoke about the direct support professional workforce being in crisis and not having enough workers to serve everyone and putting people at risk. There are a couple of different statewide efforts being made around the area of direct support professionals, one of them is Direct Care Wage Coalition and the other one is a large group of stakeholders looking at training and credentialing and a career path for direct support professionals. MDHHS has a workgroup working on direct support staff shortage issue. Another initiative is reducing the amount of paperwork that direct care support professionals have to do. Measurable goals could be when do we want to get to $20 hour rate or where do we want to see in terms of numbers. Have we impacted that wage? Has that helped to increase the number of direct support professionals we have in the workforce?
* Mindy has given a lot of thought to measurable and reasonable goals regarding mental health. Start with the basics and things that we can have some influence over. We need to focus on awareness building and the new 988 crisis hotline. The other area is helping people with mental health related challenges access other resources they may need. There are lots of groups and national associations like National Alliance for Mental Health (NAMI), they have a very active Michigan Chapter. Mindy will be reaching out to the local NAMI chapter to see what could be done differently and better in the Kalamazoo CIL in regard to mental health. Mindy would like to see a state level representative for Mental Health on the SILC Council as an Ex-Officio member. Erica would like to work on mental health with Melinda.
* Stephanie gave an update on transportation. MDOT has section 5310 funding that is specifically to enhance mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities. It would help us to reach out and connect with MDOT and see what other initiatives they have currently to help with transportation for people with disabilities. The Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) is starting a transportation committee to talk about transportation barriers specifically in rural areas. Stephanie would love it for us to have a seat at the table to be in the know about some of the things they are talking about. It would be phenomenal to have a MDOT representative as an Ex-Officio member on the SILC Council. It starts with awareness and having conversations with our local transit authorities. A possible goal could be to engage with our CILs in the programs and services they may have that highlight transportation and really getting the word out about those that exist.
* Erica noted that the Metro Detroit area transcends a few different counties, and she knows the individual in Oakland County that’s responsible for overseeing all the additional funding that the Smart Bus System was given in the last millage. She would be happy to make some connections with either Stephanie or Aaron.
* The Youth Leadership 2-day event did not happen. It was cancelled due to low attendee numbers.

2025 – 2027 SPIL Timeline Review

* Jamia reviewed the timeline.

Now - May 1, 2024: Continue Gathering Public Input

May 1, 2024: Draft SPIL Complete for Public Comment

May 1, 2024 – May 30, 2024: Public Comment Period on Draft SPIL

June 30, 2024: SPIL Due to ACL

Public Input Review

* Comments from the Community Needs Assessment survey included transportation, housing, isolation, and various needs that individuals have, not being able to live their independent lives due to barriers.
* We will have town hall’s to gather additional public input. Steve will be reaching out to the CIL directors to get those scheduled.

CIL Network Goals

* The CIL directors are working on goals that they would like to see in the next SPIL.

State Level Partnership Goals for CIL Network and SILC

* We do not have anything to report at this time.

Approach to and Assignment of SPIL Sections

* Jamia suggested working outside of the group to identify organizations that we can work with and create goal descriptions for housing, transportation, direct support professional workforce and mental health.

Public Comment

* No public comment was given.

Future Meeting Dates

* October 17th, November 21st, and December 19th @ 3:30pm