

**DN Network Report June 9, 2023**  
**Mark A. Pierce**

- DNM hosted the CILs and consumers on Wednesday, May 10, at the State Capitol for a Legislative Day. We had nearly 80 participants this year. We met with our legislators and discussed the importance of the state funding we receive, including our request for additional funding in this year's budget. With so many new legislators serving, we are spending a lot of time educating them on who we are, the services we provide, and the ways we help make their districts better for their constituents.

We heard from the Governor's Office of Appointments where we learned about the process of getting appointed to the many boards, task forces, commissions, and councils. This was a good reminder to us all of the importance of representation and how we need to be PROACTIVE in making sure we have seats at these tables.

We recognized Senator Sean McCann and Representative Curt VanderWal with our 2022 Independent Living Champion Awards for their work on behalf of CILs and people with disabilities throughout the state.

- DNM and the CILs have continued to advocate for the Personal Assistance Services Reimbursement Employment Program (PASREP). Most recently, MRS agreed to fund the program at the current contract amount, \$360,305, through Fiscal Year 2024. This means that the Legislature will decide where funding for the program comes from beyond September 20, 2024. This is an important program that helps break down barriers to employment and it is a priority for DNM. We would appreciate the SILC's support as we speak with the Legislature about the need to continue funding the program as they have for the last several years.
- Speaking of the Legislature and the budget, we are happy to share that the House recommended an increase in the CILs' funding for Fiscal Year 2024 and, while the Senate did not include the increase in their recommendation, we are hopeful that the conference committee will retain our increase.

- The increase is \$3 million more than the Governor's recommendation and still about \$10 million away from being a fully funded Network.

CIL's have been extremely busy managing their agencies and dealing with post pandemic needs of PWD's.

ADA Celebrations for CILs. Please check with your local CIL for scheduled events. All the CIL sites are located on the Disability Network Michigan website: [dnmichigan.org](http://dnmichigan.org)