

SILC Executive Director Report
June 17, 2022

2024 – 2026 SPIL Writing Team

We would like to get the next SPIL writing team assembled this month. I asked the CILs last month to select three CIL directors to be on the team with three SILC members with the Executive Director facilitating all aspects of the process. We need three Council members who can dedicate time to this process to volunteer to be on the writing team. We will begin holding public hearings starting in late summer and through the winter. We will get the team together regularly starting in the fall to begin reviewing public comments and begin the writing process. Writing team meetings will be open to the public.

CIL Director Meetings

I have been meeting monthly with the CIL directors where we have been collaborative sharing updates. We are still deciding if these meetings will continue on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Based on the letter SILC sent to MRS several months ago on behalf of the CILs regarding vendor rates, the SILC Chair and I have facilitated individual meetings between MRS and CIL directors to regrow and strengthen our IL relationships. The balance of the meetings will be complete this month.

Financial Audit RFQ

On March 1, 2022, SILC staff issued an RFQ for Financial Auditing Services for FY 2021-2022 with an optional 2-year extension. Proposals were evaluated by Stephanie Deible, Jan Lampman, and Mindy Kulasa and the highest ranked proposal was from The ALG Group. You are being presented with a request for approval of a three-year financial auditing and form 990 preparation/submission contract between SILC and the ALG Group.

New Financial Institution

On April 29, 2022, Stephanie, Tracy, and I met at Chase Bank in Middleville, MI to open our new account at Chase Bank. We have begun the fund transfer process from Adventure Credit Union and have elected to hold both accounts open through July to facilitate fulfillment of payables that are still in process from the old account.

Line-Item Transfer

SILC staff will be recommending a budget line-item transfer from “Statewide Database Reporting” to “SPIL Support” in July to cover the contract extension with Idea39 for outreach services from July – September 2022. An RFP for outreach services for October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023 will be issued in July and awarded during the September 2022 Council meeting. We do not expect the overall budget to be affected negatively with the transfer.

New Staff Insurance

SILC staff continue exploring other options for health, life and disability insurance benefits for staff that are similar to state employee benefits. Better group insurance rates are available through SBAM with MiSILC having joined the Barry County Chamber of Commerce. Once we have hard costs, I will make a recommendation to the full Council to move to new insurance policies effective October 1, 2022 which are in line with a negotiated FY 2022-2023 budget.

Appointments

Four Council members’ terms expired on December 31, 2021 and one vacancy occurred when

Yvonne Fleener resigned in September 2021 leaving five voting seat vacancies. The four members were reappointed on April 29, 2022. Yvonne's seat is currently accepting applications and the Ex Officio seat for the Department of Education is in the process of being replaced with the retirement of Janice Timms.

SILC Strategic Planning and Statewide Outreach

SILC wrapped up the strategic planning process in August 2021 which resulted in updated vision and mission statements. SMART goals have been created for strategic plan goals that align with our current SPIL. The balance of strategic plan goals will be aligned with SILC goals created in the next SPIL.

On September 10, 2021 SILC staff issued an RFP for comprehensive statewide outreach to unserved and underserved disability populations in Michigan. Proposals are due by September 24, 2021. In December, the Council awarded a contract for \$45,000 to Idea 39. On January 18, 2022, a three hour kick off workshop was held with Idea 29 and the steering work group. The steering team is made up of Council members, BSBP and CIL directors. Team members include Yvonne Fleener, Diane Fleser, Alex Gossage, Lisa Kisiel, Frank Animikwam, Jamia Davis, Jan Lampman, Will Harrison, and Steve Locke.

The SILC Chair and Executive Director having been meeting weekly with the principle of Idea39 and we have made great progress. We are currently working on the following:

- Redesign and relaunching of SILC's social media sites (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter)
- Created a calendar for promoting CILs across all SILC social media channels
- In preparation for the launch of a brand new newsletter/blog, we still need email lists from CILs or the opportunity for the CILs to share far and wide!
- Creation of a monthly SILC newsletters and editorials sent to local newspapers
- Creating and boosting paid ads on Facebook from June through September. We have already started promoting CILs through our social media platforms, so we have asked CILs to keep those assets and stories coming
- Getting printing estimates for events for rack cards to hand out at our community events.
- Connecting with CIL consumers who've been directly impacted by their CIL so that we may interview them for impact stories/op-eds/native content for print media around the state. We've identified well over 150 publications throughout the state for community education pieces. The initial publications we're focusing on, funding allowing, for outreach are:
 1. Ann Arbor News (second: Michigan Daily)
 2. Jackson Citizen Patriot (second: Jackson Blazer News)
 3. Lansing State Journal
 4. Grand Rapids Press (second: Grand Rapids Business Journal, Grand Rapids Times)
 5. Holland Sentinel
 6. Kalamazoo Gazette
 7. Midland Daily News
 8. Muskegon Chronicle
 9. Troy Times (second: Oakland County Times)
 10. Traverse City Record-Eagle (second: Northern Express)
 11. Marquette Mining Journal
 12. Flint Journal (second: Tri-County Times)
 13. Detroit Free Press (second: Detroit News)

- We'll have a splash page for our new website and print materials soon. For the splash page we'll be adding links to specific resources.
- We're also collecting metrics for social media for measuring and evaluation purposes. Potentially budgeting up to \$75,000 for next year to keep the outreach effort going.

SILC Potential Outreach Event Calendar (some events have already closed vendor registration):

July Events:

Bay City Fireworks Festival 6/30-7/4
 Frankfort 4th of July Carnival 6/30-7/4
 Traverse City Cherry Festival 7/2-7/9/22
 Ottawa County Fair (Holland) 7/25/22

August Events:

Ingham County Fair (Mason) 8/1/22
 Grand Rapids Hispanic Festival 8/5-8/7/22
 South Haven National Blueberry Festival 8/11-8/14/22
 Jackson County Fair (Jackson) 8/7/22
 Calhoun County Fair (Marshall) 8/14/22
 Woodward Dream Cruise (Royal Oak) 8/19/22

September Events:

Royal Oak Arts Beats & Eats 9/2/2022
 Flat Rock Riverfest 9/16-9/17/22
 Hillsdale County Fair 9/25/22

Flexible:

Allegan Antiques Market, Allegan – last Sunday of the month
 Ann Arbor Summer Festival — various dates
 Detroit River Days – still TBD for 2022, but fundraiser being held on 6/23

Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services (MCRS)

I continue to represent SILC on the MCRS. MCRS's mission is to improve public Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services delivered by the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) and Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS).

2022 SILC Congress in San Diego

The 2022 SILC Congress "*Pandemic to Possibilities: SILC Solutions*" was held at the Holiday Inn Bayside, San Diego, California on May 16-18, 2022. Michigan SILC had its largest delegation in attendance and included two CIL directors! The Congress was a great venue for connecting with other SILCs, ACL, and staff from across the country in addition to education sessions.

Michigan Vaccine Partners

I continue representing SILC at the Michigan Vaccine Partners meetings where we discuss strategy and long-term advocacy around vaccine access for people with disabilities.