

SILC Executive Director Report  
September 8, 2023

**2024 Gap Year SPIL**

Michigan's 2024 gap year SPIL was submitted to ACL on June 29, 2023, and was approved in July 2023.

**2024 SILC Budget**

SILC's budget was negotiated with MRS/BSBP at the end of August with Stephanie and me representing SILC. You are being presented with a budget that is almost \$700 less than our current fiscal year's budget. Unfortunately, the DSE was not able to fund our request to contribute \$45,000 toward the 2024 Youth Leadership Forum. SILC staff will work on alternate funding sources with our partners.

**Contract/Letter of Engagement Approvals**

You are being presented for approval contracts/agreements for:

- 2022/2023 Audit Services
- Statewide Outreach Services

**2023 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meetings/Trainings**

So far in the first three quarters of the year, I have participated in the following trainings and meetings:

- Peer to Peer Interactive Workshop for CILs and SILCs
- Two SILC Speak Peer Discussions facilitated by ILRU
- Region V Quarterly Peer meeting
- Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services Quarterly meeting
- Two meetings with Dr. Fayana Richards regarding the MPHI Grant
- APRIL Disaster & Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee
- APRIL Rural Conversation Series
- MDCR and Stakeholder meeting regarding Dynamic Character Legislation
- ILRU IL-NET National T&TA Center Designated State Entity (DSE) Peer Discussion
- Conducted SILC's first Facebook Live event interview with musician Gaelynn Lea
- Disability Inclusion Series Conference Call
- Innovations in Inclusive Emergency Management FEMA/NACDD Webinar
- Michigan House DHHS Subcommittee Hearing
- DD Council Program Committee - MYLF Discussion
- OILP Quarterly Connection, April 2023
- NASILC Advocacy Meeting
- Understanding Autism: A Personal Experience
- Detroit Disability Power: Statewide Disability Landscape and Power Analysis
- DD Council Community Alliance Summit
- SILC & General Motors Introduction Conference Call
- Disability Rights Michigan Voting Advocacy Conference Call
- Region V SILC Directors Peer meeting
- NASILC Board Meeting
- Presented on SILC during DNMM's Annual Board Meeting in Midland

- SILC presentation to Medicare Waiver Group

### **2024 – 2026 SPIL Writing Team**

The SPIL writing team began public meetings again at the end of August to work on the 2024 SPIL and reviewed responses to SILC’s community needs assessment survey which gathers public input into the next SPIL. We will be holding virtual town halls via Zoom during the fall and the team will begin meeting more frequently. We have assigned sections of the SPIL to team members. So far, we have received 107 community needs assessment survey responses. The survey is being promoted through SILC’s social media channels and by other partners including the CILs.

### **CIL Director Meetings**

Quarterly meetings with the CIL directors have been scheduled where we share collaborative updates. I will meet with them again in September 2023. The “Lunch and Learn” meeting series with each CIL director at their CIL have been completed with relationships strengthened. These meetings were designed to learn more about each unique CIL and how SILC can better partner with them. I will also be meeting with Teri Langley, DNM’s new ED, on either a bi-weekly or monthly basis.

### **Statewide Outreach Services**

We are making great progress with statewide outreach as we promote Independent Living and the CILs across the state through our monthly newsletter, online blog, and weekly social media posts.

We held the inclusive community arts event in Madison Heights in partnership with the City of Madison Heights and Disability Network Eastern Michigan with great success. We held a Facebook live event to promote the arts event. We are also working on a rural outreach campaign with DNSWM during the month of September. SILC Chair Jan Lampman and I were guests on Joyce Bender’s international podcast to talk about the important role of SILCs, CILs, and Independent Living.

### **Appointments**

We have new staff in the Office of Appointments, and I have introduced myself to begin relationship building. We have January 1, 2024 reappointments coming up for Jamia Davis, Aaron Andres, and Mindy Kulasa. The CIL directors have selected Yvonne Fleener, Executive Director of DNSWM, to be their representative on SILC beginning January 1, 2024. Yvonne is replacing Mark Pierce and we extend our deepest gratitude to Mark for his service!

### **SILC Strategic Planning**

After the Council held our annual retreat at the end of August 2022, it was decided that the balance of strategic plan goals will be aligned with SILC goals created in the next SPIL through advocacy related objectives. A SILC goal writing team has met several times to develop SPIL goals specific to Council activity. The life areas that have been selected based on community needs assessment survey responses are mental health, direct care workers, housing, transportation, and the aging blind population. The CILs are developing advocacy teams and SILC will try to coordinate with them in our efforts.

### **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).

