**SILC COUNCIL/CORPORATION SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING FINAL MINUTES**

**March 10, 2023**

**Disability Network Mid-Michigan & Zoom Meeting**

**SILC Voting Members Present**: Aaron Andres, Dr. Frank Animikwam, Glen Ashlock, Allen Beauchamp, Erica Coulston, Jamia Davis, Stephanie Deible, Melinda Kulasa, Jan Lampman, Theresa Metzmaker, Mark Pierce.

**SILC Voting Members Absent**:

**SILC Ex-Officio Members Present**: Gwen McNeal (BSBP), Shawan Dortch (MDE), Bill Addison (MRS), Vendella Collins (DD Council), Annie Urasky (DDDHH).

**SILC Staff:** Steve Locke, Tracy Brown.

**Guests Present**: Teri Langley, Yvonne Fleener.

**SILC BUSINESS MEETING**

J. Lampman called the meeting to order, 12:00 pm. J. Lampman welcomed Council members, introductions were made. A quorum was present.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The March 10, 2023, Quarterly Business Consent Agenda was reviewed.

***Motion by M. Pierce, seconded by A. Andres to approve the items of the Consent Agenda as presented.*** Motion passed unanimously.

**SILC AUDIT**

* 2021 Form 990 approval and submission to the IRS.

***Motion by A. Andres, seconded by M. Kulasa to approve and authorize the 2021 Form 990 for submission.*** Motion passed unanimously.

**COUNCIL EDUCATION ~ Dave Wickstrom, DCW LLC Geographic Information Science Mapping Software Presentation**

* Dave Wickstrom and Eugene Brusilovsky provided a presentation on their Geographic Information Science Mapping Software.

**STAFF/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Director Report ~ Steve Locke

* The Executive Director’s written report can be accessed at [www.misilc.org](http://www.misilc.org) under Council Meetings and Materials.

Strategic Planning Committee ~ Steve Locke

* We moved from strategic planning into goal setting for the next SPIL. Particularly goals that focus on the Council.
* Our next meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2023.

Financial Report ~ Stephanie Deible

* General overview - things are going well with finances.
* For the most part things within our budget are right on par.
* One thing on the Budget vs Actual towards the bottom under miscellaneous, it says that we are at 200%. That is because our different memberships that we have all came out at the same time. So, it's nothing to be concerned about.
* On the February Statement of Financial Position, there is just one thing that I want to call your attention to under Accounts Payable. It says negative $1190.46. That is from bill.com. Bill.com is pulling the money all at once. It's a timing thing.
* Otherwise, things are looking good as far as finances.

Financial Policies Workgroup ~ Steve Locke

* Nothing to report.

Policies and Bylaws Committee ~ Steve Locke

* Nothing to report.

**EX OFFICIO REPORTS**

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) ~ Bill Addison

* Every month we do statistical reports for all the managers within MRS.
* The first one is the Prior-to-application (PTA) Referrals for Services and that is services before they become a regular VR customer. In February 2023, we had 271 prior to application referrals. In 2022 it was 329 and in 2021 it was 332.
* Second, New VR Applications and those are folks who have not yet been approved but have submitted an application to become one of our customers. This February 1184 folks submitted applications. That is about five above last year's number in February. And that is 184 above the number of applications in year 2021.
* The next item we have is Eligibility. The question is how many of those people who have applied for services actually become eligible in February? And, again, that number is also up. In 2019 it was 1163. For February 2023 we are at 987. Next one is just a services IP. For their personal plans. And, again, this number is up slightly. The low point was in 2021. When we provided services for only 645. This February it's up to 867. So, again, another real positive one.
* MRS staff attended the 2023 SILC Congress and plan on attending next year and will throw our hat in the ring to do another two CFR200 presentation.
* Tina Fullerton, MRS Bureau Director will be retiring at the end of March. Sigrid Adams who was just hired as our Deputy Director is now in the role of Acting Director.
* The Council of State Administrative Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Conference that MRS managers attend will be in April. This year's theme is focused on finances and accounting.

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) ~ Gwen McNeal

* Our total number of customers for the month of February totaled 934. Our students with disabilities 310. Adults 624. Average caseloads of our Counselors are running at this point 58. And out of the 58, 39 are adults.
* Our Independent Living Part B for February is a total of 91. Our Independent Living older blind is 425. Currently BSBP is working in tandem with MRS and will be hosting an acre training with an emphasis on customized employment that is presented by Griffith and associates. Currently we have approximately nine providers and BR staff participating in the training. Each provider will be matched with a jobseeker to begin the process of customized employment that will lead to independent competitive integrated employment.
* Another item is BSBP will be hosting an open house in Flint in March to celebrate the recently relocated office space as of August 22. BSBP will also be facilitating a Culinary Arts Program at the training center in Kalamazoo in April of 23 and a hospitality program at Great Wolf Lodge in May for students who are eligible for preemployment transition services. BSBP is also partnering with MDLIO or low incidents outreach via the Michigan Department of Education. And we are focusing on financial literacy called it's all about the money and career conversation with exploration. Please visit our website. We have a lot of programs available to our Pre ETS students and that is LEO transition/pre-employment transition services Michigan.gov.
* Of course, we continue to partner with SILC as a SPIL writing partner and appreciate the opportunity to work with CIL partners and thank you so much for the opportunity to present today.

Michigan Department of Civil Rights (DDDHH) ~ Annie Urasky

* Our office posted a position last month for a Student Assistant position. Working in my office. We are interviewing candidates now and we are hoping that person will start maybe at the end of the month or the beginning of next month.
* Our Advisory Council, we are still waiting on the next replacement appointments. Our next meeting will be Friday, May 19th.
* This month we posted on social media about Assistive Technology Day. AT&T is partnering with people with disabilities and including the community of the deaf, deaf blind and hard of hearing community returns of assistive technology, communication tools, anything that can really aid and assist a person's everyday experience. You can look at our social media pages to see those posts.
* Next month is deaf and hard of hearing history month. We will be posting things in relationship to that. So if you have anyone in your organization or your workplace or community members who would like to promote that in regards to that history we have that and you can share that on your plat forms as well.
* I also wanted to post in the chat, and I mentioned it last time in our meeting, we are a community inclusion division. So, they have what is called my response to hate campaign. The community engagement division. And we are hosting different events. And they will be through Zoom, and we have various topics. This Thursday, March 23, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm the focus will be on how we can reduce hate crimes in schools. So, in the chat I sent the registration link for that. For that specific event. And also, the flyer.

I will also send it to you, Tracy as well. And if you can send it out to your members, anyone in your community.

* Our office has been focusing on hosting different workshops in regard to cultural competency. We have been getting more requests for those services by providers. For example, law enforcement. Court in terms of relationship to Judge trainings and community organizations. And also, schools. Teaching students about self-advocacy skills. And how to transition from school to work. And how to request an accommodation when you go to the doctor's office. And really giving those students that self-empowerment. Maybe someone in your organization or anyone you might know feel free to contact us. And we can provide those trainings.
* March is National Reading Month. We schedule several events for the deaf and hard of hearing programs throughout the state. Just highlighting reading month. And getting an opportunity to connect with children in the school and the elementary schools and that. And encouraging learning to read. So that is definitely one of my favorite things to do right now, to be able to connect with the kids in the community.

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) ~ Shawan Dortch

* Our Federal regulations that implement the IDEA individuals with disabilities acts required annual public reporting for local agencies on the targets established by the state performance plan for two weeks period. The member districts and the public-school academy will be able to look at their data and preview their data. That will start May 10th, 2023. And as of June 1st, 2023, the data will be available publicly on the Michigan school of data portal, which is www.mischooldata.org.
* Also, in our efforts to provide continuous technical assistance for school districts, MDEO has released training on IEPs, individuals plans and IEPs and transition aged students, IEP for transition aged students. This training is on the Michigan virtual professional learning portal. It's free for everyone and provides opportunity to receive sketches for teachers and administrators for certification renewal.
* We are also continuing to minimize language barriers throughout information line to support districts and their families.

Developmental Disabilities Council ~ Vendella Collins

* On March 6 at the Lansing Center, we had a statewide self-advocacy evening where we had self-advocates from across the state coming in to prepare basically for the next day where we had individuals meeting with their legislatures. But on the evening of March 6 advocates came to listen to how they could start or engage with other individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities in their community and form a community group that is linked with our self-advocates of Michigan. We had about 50 individuals at that evening meeting. And really engage and invite other partners and allies who may be interested in helping self-advocates find their voice in their own community.
* On March 7th we had the Disability Day at the Capitol where we had about 75 to 80 individuals from across the state meeting with their representatives from the Senate and from the house.
* One of our projects that is called Beyond Tokenism is really taking off. Where we have a former grantee working with a variety of community boards and councils. Helping them to understand how to engage with people with disabilities to be on their boards. One of the things that we really strive for is having individuals with disabilities be part of typical boards and communities that people with disabilities don't always have to be on board of organizations that are spearheaded by folks with disabilities.
* March is Developmental Disability (DD) Awareness Month. The Governor did do a proclamation for DD awareness. And that we at the Council have opportunities for individuals with DD to tell their stories and some of those stories are on our website. And they are on YouTube and Facebook and all the other social media avenues where people can get a sense of how individuals with IDD are involved and engaged in typical community activities.

IL Network Update ~ Mark Pierce

* Dave Bulkowski was recently appointed by the Governor to the newly created Michigan State Housing Development Authority Statewide Housing Partnership. Dave will represent the disability community as strategies are discussed to provide for more affordable housing in our state.
* The Network continues to work with the Department of Civil Rights and the Civil

Rights Commission on implementation of the Dynamic Character Law. This law

changes the symbol that is included on reserved parking signs for people with

disabilities. The Department and Commission raised concerns that have caused a

delay in implementing the law.

* DNM’s Legislative Day is May 10, 2023. The CILs will be in Lansing to talk with

legislators about our priorities, including affordable housing and the direct care worker crisis.

* We lost a great advocate with Judy Heumann. She passed just less than a week ago. Look her up. She was a great advocate, and it really did affect our network and what we do. So we want to take out a little bit of time to honor her and her great life and what she has done.

**SPIL MONITORING**

Advocacy and Leadership ~ Steve Locke & Theresa Metzmaker

* The CIL Network will go forward with a hybrid YLF this year and the SILC is providing seed money for that. It's going to be a blend of in person and virtual. And Jon Hart from the Jackson CIL is spearheading that along with the curriculum they are going to use.
* Our next meeting will be on March 14th.
* Our initial meeting is going to be talking about when and where. But the big question is funding.
* Theresa: I did meet with Jon, and they decided on the curriculum. Which they are using a lot of the YELL curriculum from Michigan Disability Rights Coalition. I know that Laura from Michigan Disability Rights Coalition and Jon met yesterday to kind of get some of those details out for the hybrid version this summer.

Diversity and Inclusion ~ Mark Pierce

* Nothing new to report.

Personal Care Attendants ~ Jan Lampman

* The Department of Health and Human Services did issue a memo to the HIP in the Community Mental Health Organizations confirming the $2.35 an hour increase that had been built into last year's budget and this year's budget as well is considered permanent. It's now part of the base rate. Which means that it's not going to go away.

The direct care wage coalition, however, recognizes as does the Department of Health and Human Services that the crisis is not going to end in terms of our shortage of direct care workers until we are at a minimum base wage starting wage of $18 an hour. Right now the average starting wage across Michigan is $14 an hour. So, the coalition is asking the legislature to provide enough funding for a $4 an hour increase for direct support professionals. That also includes direct supervisors who often do a lot of direct support any way when they are working with folks in those provider agencies. The Governor's budget proposed somewhere in the neighborhood of $1.50 increase and so we are just saying thank you, Governor. That's wonderful but we know it's not enough to really stabilize this workforce.

* There will be some e mails going out to CIL Directors in the next couple of days asking you to help us by supporting the requests we are making with the Senate appropriations committee.

Emergency Response ~ Frank Animikwam, Mark Pierce, and Steve Locke

* We met over a month ago. We are in the process of scheduling our next meeting. But our last meeting was kind of exploring more of our partnership with NPHI with regards to the grant focus. And so we have not had any new updates since our last meeting and it's just kind of getting more of that information back from the grant and looking at what the need is with regards to our service population who are elderly or, you know, and they have disabilities. And seeing how we can best serve them.
* And there was also a reference to ACL at the end of last year they gave an update on their new planning and focus. So, we kind of made an effort to make sure our collective efforts were also in alignment at the national level too and what they are doing for emergency preparedness.
* Mark: The CILs were going to meet on March 3rd, a winter storm kept us from meeting.

The meeting is rescheduled for April 14th.

* Steve: I have met with Dr. Richards a couple of times via Zoom trying to prepare a flyer to put out to schedule listening sessions. These listening sessions are going to be geared towards service providers, caregivers, people with living with disabilities and families who provide support to those folks. The purpose of this interactive series participants will share experiences related to navigating existing emergency preparedness offerings and resources. Discuss strengths, weaknesses and opportunities with current emergency prepared services and discuss what ideal emergency preparedness resources and information would look like in Michigan.
* And then also provide insights on how to improve emergency preparedness services to the aging populations with disabilities. So those listening sessions are going to help NPHI form a base line as we move through the work jointly with the CIL network and all the great work that CILs have already done to build upon each other and kind of bring those achievements together to ultimately come up with a tool kit that can be used statewide for all those populations.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Personnel Handbook Tax Deferred Annuity (403B) Update ~ Steve Locke

* When we go into budget negotiations with the DSE, frequently where the benchmark that is used is what state employees get. So, if we ask for something that is above and beyond what state employees get, we do get some push back sometimes. So, what I am proposing to do, and this is for informational purposes. We are not asking for action at this meeting. But at the June meeting. I would like to go through the personnel handbook for SILC employees and those sections including the 403B update those sections so that they are they reference state employee levels for things. Right now, for the retirement system in the employee handbook SILC contributes 3% of an employee's base salary. State employees right now for those that were hired after 1997 who do not get state health insurance upon retirement anymore because they changed that, what the state is doing now is giving 4% across the board of a base wage. And then a 3% dollar for dollar match of the employee's contribution. So, what that would mean for us is we would go from 3% to 4% of the base wage and then there would be an additional 3% dollar for dollar of the employee's contribution. That 3% dollar for dollar would be a minimum amount. In my case it would be another $450 a year. It's a minimum amount but I just wanted to bring this to your attention that that's something I was going to work on. And I will run it by the executive committee also before it comes to the full Council and will highlight those sections that may change. I want to be able to word it in a way where it can live into perpetuity without forming particular numbers saying what the state gives at any given time. We will bring the language back for review, approval or send it back to the drawing board.

**INFORMATION SHARING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Jan ~ Five Council members went to the annual SILC Congress in Little Rock, Arkansas this week. And one of the presentations was related to some Federal legislative advocacy that needs to be done in the very near future. The Five for Five Campaign is asking the Congress to provide 500 million in addition to what's already in the budget for Centers for Independent Living to provide the five core services. More information to follow.
* Jamia ~ One of the breakout sessions that I attended at the conference was Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Coalition. I did sign up to become a part of that group. And once I have more information, I will be sharing it with you all.
* Steve ~ Amicus Brief: I received an e mail from the Detroit office of the ACLU a few months ago. And they were reaching out to state level disability organizations seeking support or signing on to this amicus brief regarding Michigan's no fault insurance. What they were filing, there is a case that's going to the Michigan Supreme Court. And what it really hinges on is folks that had valid claims from the catastrophic claim fund, prior to this new law going into effect, what insurers, the insurance industry is wanting to do is people that have valid claims prior to I want to say it's 2019, they want to apply the law retroactively to those folks and start capping their benefits. The ACL U's position is no. It should only effect folks that go into the fund after the law took effect. So, they asked SILC, MDRC, and a couple of other state level entities if we would be willing to sign on to that. We did our due diligence regarding lobbying. We did a lot of research. And found that when we are dealing with the judicial branch it is not considered lobbying to put your support behind an amicus brief. I ran it past the executive committee before we went forward with it. Because it was in between Council meetings. And they agreed that that was something that we could support. Those are the documents that you see on the website today.

Public Comment ~ Teri Langley, Yvonne Fleener and Aaron Andres

* Public comment can be accessed at [www.misilc.org](http://www.misilc.org) under Council Meetings and Materials, CART transcript, page 37.

***Motion by A. Andres, seconded by A. Beauchamp to adjourn the meeting.***

**ADJOURNMENT**

*SILC Business Meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.*