

SILC Executive Director Report

January 12, 2024

2023/2024 1st Quarter Collaborations/Meetings/Trainings

During the first quarter of the year, I engaged in the following activities:

- Represented SILC in multiple Zoom meetings with Disability Rights Michigan and other community partners to collaborate on increasing voter turnout and voting access for people with disabilities in Michigan.
- Exploring a potential partnership between SILC and the CILs for increasing community awareness about Independent Living during the Canadian Hockey League's 2024 Memorial Cup tournament presented by Dow. The tournament will take place in Saginaw at the Dow Event Center in the spring. We have onboarded SILC's outreach contractor, Idea39, and the marketing contractor for some of the CILs, to assist with this potential opportunity.
- Representing SILC on the MCRS.
- Continued representing SILC on the DD Council's Communities of Practice initiative.
- Represented Michigan at the National Association of SILC's Board of Directors meeting.
- Held a meeting with the Governor's Communications Office to help them learn more about what SILC does and our collaborative partnerships with the CIL network and MRS.
- Continued working with the Michigan Public Health Institute to implement their Emergency Preparedness grant. SILC was awarded \$20,000 in the grant to cover grant related staff time and associated costs. These funds are being shared with the CILs to offset their grant-related costs. The grant was extended through May 2024. Lastly, and at MPHI's request, I was honored to draft the introduction for MPHI's Emergency Preparedness Guide.
- Represented SILC during the Michigan Department of Civil Rights ADA Compliance Division's ADA panel discussion to explore increasing inclusion of people with disabilities in employment opportunities. The panel focuses on intersectionality in the workplace and areas within employment that need to be strengthened to achieve full access by people with disabilities.
- Attended three ILRU technical assistance training webinars on increasing the power of our SPIL.
- A few Council members and I met with United Health Care, at their request, to discuss Home and Community Based Services in Michigan and Dual Eligible Special Needs care.
- Represented Michigan during the quarterly Region V SILC Executive Director Peer to Peer meeting.
- Facilitated a private foundation grant opportunity that was soliciting letters of intent to provide innovative approaches to aging in the community. I also attended their Call for Letters of Intent Zoom meeting and shared the information with the CIL network.
- Represented SILC during BSBP's Excellence Awards and attended their new office open house in Lansing.
- Continued representing SILC on the Disability Justice Alliance led by Detroit Disability Power.
- A few Council members and I attended a meeting called by Tammy Lemer, DHHS State Assistant Administrator, to provide stakeholder input into the Michigan DHHS's Independent Options Counseling initiative.
- I held meetings with SPIL objectives champions to solicit input into the SPIL evaluation report.
- A few Council members and I participated in an Auto No Fault Advocacy Update meeting for community partners.

2024 – 2026 SPIL Writing Team

The SPIL writing team is comprised of Council members, CIL directors, DSE staff, and BSBP

staff. All SPIL writing team meetings are open to the public with agendas and meeting notes posted to SILC's website for public participation and review. Meetings occurred in August 2023, September 2023, and January 2024. The CIL directors continue to work on CIL goals and objectives based on responses received through SILC's community needs assessment survey which gathers public input for the next SPIL. So far, we have received 122 community needs assessment survey responses. The survey is promoted through SILC's social media channels and by other partners including the CILs. In addition, all sections of the SPIL have been assigned to the appropriate team members for review and proposed revisions.

SILC formed a writing subcommittee to craft SILC led advocacy goals based on public input. The subcommittee submits its work to the SPIL writing team. These meetings are also open to the public with agendas and meeting notes posted to SILC's website for public participation and review. SILC's advocacy goals and objectives will be inclusive and supportive of, but not limited to, CIL led SPIL goals/objectives. The subcommittee is approaching SILC led goals and objectives from a statewide, community education perspective.

Two SILC led virtual public input meetings will be held via Zoom on Monday, January 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 20, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. We are exploring holding in person public input meetings closer to spring and will continue hosting virtual meetings monthly.

The 2024-2027 SPIL timeline is as follows:

- 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

CIL Director Meetings

With the CIL network's hiring of Teri Langley as their Executive Director (congratulations Teri!), Teri and I have started meeting bi-weekly as of late last year. Thus far, meetings have been by Zoom, but we envision in person meetings as the spring and summer approach. The meetings continue to afford us the opportunity to stay abreast of CIL and SILC activities, initiatives, and beneficial opportunities by being each other's points of contact for our respective organizations. We also learn from each other! I will continue reaching out to directors as needed to fulfill my duties to the Council, and I plan to continue building upon the success of last year's one-on-one meetings with the CIL directors, which have helped to strengthen our relationships.

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. Idea39 has already hit the ground running in the first quarter of our new fiscal year with fresh approaches to statewide outreach. During our January 12, 2024, meeting, Adrienne Pickett, Founder and Creative Director of Idea39, will present the Council with a summary of our past year's activities, accomplishments, evaluation of our efforts, and visions for the new year!

Appointments

With newer staff in the Office of Appointments, I have re-introduced myself to current staff who have been very helpful (thank you Emily!). The Governor is set to make an announcement on January 11, 2024, regarding the re-appointments of Jamia Davis, Aaron Andres, Melinda

(Mindy) Kulasa, and the appointment of Yvonn Fleener, Executive Director of Disability Network Southwest Michigan, to the CIL Director seat on the Council. Yvonne will be replacing Mark Pierce, Executive Director of Disability Network Capital Area. We extend our deepest gratitude to Mark for his years of service. Thank you, Mark!

In addition, Yasmina Bouraoui, Executive Director of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC), has applied for appointment to the Ex Officio seat reserved for the MDDC in SILC's Executive Order. We are extremely excited to welcome Yasmina to the Council once the Governor makes the announcement.

SILC Strategic Planning

After the Council held our annual retreat at the end of August 2022, the Council decided that the balance of strategic plan goals should align with SILC advocacy goals and objectives in the 2025-2027 SPIL. The SILC SPIL subcommittee writing team continues to meet monthly and shares their work with the SPIL writing team as noted earlier. Life areas selected for SILC advocacy are chosen based on the community needs assessment survey responses. These goals and objectives will be dovetailed as much as possible with the CIL networks' efforts during the SPIL period.

SILC Operational RFP

It has been four years since SILC solicited proposals for accounting services, and I will be issuing an RFP for those services this month. An evaluation team of Council members will review and rank the proposals based on criteria set forth in the RFP. Our intention is to present you with a contract to be awarded during the March 2024 quarterly Council business meeting.

Upcoming Events and Trainings

The following are events and opportunities for SILC member engagement and increasing knowledge about your role as a SILC member:

- January 15, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - Zoom Public Input Meeting for the 2025-2027 SPIL
<https://www.misilc.org/events/2024/1/15/fy2025-2027-state-plan-for-independent-living-public-input-meeting>
- January 20, 2024, 1:30 p.m. – Zoom Public Input Meeting for the 2025 – 2027 SPIL.
<https://www.misilc.org/events/2024/1/20/fy2025-2027-state-plan-for-independent-living-public-input-meeting>
- January 23, 2024 – Ed Roberts Day. Ed is known as the “Father of Independent Living” and SILC will celebrate his life and legacy with social media posts commemorating his pioneering contributions to Independent Living.
- March 8, 2024, 12:00 p.m. – SILC Quarterly Business Meeting – Location TBD
<https://www.misilc.org/events/2024/3/8/silc-council-quarterly-business-meeting>
- March 11 – March 13, 2024 - SILC Congress, Little Rock, Arkansas - Join the 2024 SILC Congress: Support. Information. Leveraging Connections at the DoubleTree Hotel, 424 W. Markham St., Little Rock, Arkansas, March 11-13, 2024.
 - Check out the Congress flyer at https://www.april-rural.org/conference/images/2023_Conference/SILC_congress_save_the_date.pdf.
 - Regular registration ends on January 15, 2024. Late registration ends March 1,

2024. Visit the SILC Congress website to register today at <https://form.jotform.com/232506406195050>.

- For more complete information email SILCCongressinfo@gmail.com
- If you would like to attend, please contact Tracy as soon as possible at tracy@misilc.org

- ILRU SILC Related Trainings for the Next 6 Months:

Please note, dates and titles may change as presenters are confirmed. Check back often for the latest information here <https://www.ilru.org/yearly-training-calendar>

2024

February

- February 1, 2024 - State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Training and Technical Assistance Series
- TBD - ACL/Disaster Management, Emergency Preparedness, and the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Webinar

March

- March 7, 2024 - State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Training and Technical Assistance Series
- TBD - Systems Advocacy Webinar

April

- April 4, 2024 - State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Training and Technical Assistance Series
- TBD - Culturally Appropriate Outreach

May

- May 2, 2024 - State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Training and Technical Assistance Series
- May 15, 2024 - New CIL and SILC Staff Members Monthly Technical Assistance and Training
- TBD - Digital Outreach Webinar

June

- June 6, 2024 - State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Training and Technical Assistance Series
- June 12, 2024 - New CIL and SILC Staff Members Monthly Technical Assistance and Training
- TBD - Director, Staff, and Board Roles Webinar

July

- July 3, 2024 - State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Training and Technical Assistance Series
- July 10, 2024 - New CIL and SILC Staff Members Monthly Technical Assistance and Training

