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**FY2025-2027 SPIL Public Input Session February 22, 2024**

2/22/24 6:45 p.m. Meeting

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>> It is 7:00.

We will go ahead and get started.

I'd like to thank all of you for joining the Michigan statewide independent living council's virtual public hearing on the 2024 to 2027 state plan for independent living.

My name is Steven Lock and I'm the executive director and staff to the council.

This meeting is being recorded and closed captioning as well as ASL interpretation is being provided.

The Michigan SILC is a governor appointed consumer-controlled council that jointly develops a three‑year state plan for independent living also known as the SPIL or the state plan.

We jointly developed this with the centers for independent living in the State of Michigan after receiving public input from individuals with disabilities, stakeholders, and the public.

The SPIL establishes a blueprint for present and future independent living programs and services in Michigan and reflects our commitment to comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements during the three years covered by the plan.

The Michigan SILC is conducting a survey to gather information about programs and services that provide support and opportunities for people who have disabilities to live independently in the community.

The information collected will help to assess how those programs and services are meeting the needs of people who have disabilities living in Michigan.

Results of the survey will provide the statewide independent living council with the information necessary to work with advocates and policymakers to create new initiatives and to enhance existing services for Michiganders who have disabilities.

Your participation is vital.

The statewide independent living council needs to hear from people who have disabilities, their family members, friends, caregivers, and other stakeholders.

In 2024 to 2027 SPIL timeline is as follows.

Between now and May 1 of 2024 the council will continue gathering public input for consideration as we write the state plan.

From May 1st to May 30th we will have a draft of the state plan ready for public review and public comment.

The state plan is due to the administration on community living which is our federal oversight entity no later than June 30th of 2024.

Along with participating in today's meeting, you may also submit your comments by completing SILC's community needs assessment online survey.

A link to the survey may be found on SILC's website.

The address is www.misilc.org.

That's WWW.MichaelScottinfinityLarrycat.org.

You may also submit your comments via email at Tracy at misilc.org.

That's TRACY ‑‑ or by mailing them to PO box 71 Middleville, Michigan, 49333.

Middleville is spelled m‑i‑d‑d‑l‑e‑v‑i‑l‑l‑e.

Or by calling toll free 833‑808‑7452.

If you need any accommodations to participate in this survey, please contact Tracy Brown, SILC director of operations, at 833‑808‑7452 or at the email address that I just gave.

In order to encourage orderly administration of this meeting and to minimize the possibility of any disruptions, this meeting will be conducted in accordance with the following two protocols.

Number one, the sole purpose of tonight's meeting is to receive public input into the development of the 2024 to 2027 SPIL.

Number two, members of the public who desire to give their input will be given a single five‑minute time period for each question to make their public comment.

Members of the public or groups or organizations wishing to submit written or recorded comments may do so by providing their written or recorded comments to Tracy Brown, SILC operations director again at the PO box address that I mentioned earlier or by calling our toll-free number.

All of this information is easily accessible on SILC's website.

When you go to our website, the first screen that will pop up is a link to our online community needs assessment which we're going to go over tonight and they will be the same questions we're going to ask tonight that are on the online survey.

So we'll go ahead and get to the questions now.

The first question is what barriers have you experienced or are experiencing now that impact your ability to live independently in your community?

If you would like to be recognized to give public input, you can use the raise hand feature on Zoom at the bottom of your screen in the middle there is a button that says reactions.

If you click it, there is a raise hand function.

You can also use the chat feature of Zoom and enter your question or your comments in there or you can simply just speak up and ask to be recognized by name.

Would anyone like to give public comment on question number 1?

I'll read the question one more time.

What barriers have you experienced or are experiencing now that impact your ability to live independently in your community?

Would any members of the public like to give public comment on question number 1?

The floor is now open.

I see we have a few more folks joining us.

I will go ahead and read question number 1 again.

We are taking public comment on all of these questions, so the first question again is what barriers have you experienced or are experiencing now that impact your ability to live independently in your community?

Would anybody like to give public comment on question number 1?

Again, you can use the raise hand feature at the bottom of your screen.

Put your comments in the chat function at the bottom of your screen or simply ask to be recognized.

One more chance for question number 1.

Would anyone like to give public comment on the first question?

Okay.

We will go ahead and move on to question number 2.

What would you like to see change in your community?

Would anybody on the call like to give input into what they would like to see change in their community?

>> It was mentioned last time, but just overall transportation and housing in the community and better access to those would be wonderful.

>> Great.

Thank you very much, Aaron.

Would anybody else like to give input into question number 2?

What would you like to see change in your community?

I do see in the chat we have a comment living resources for people living with PWS.

Thank you for that comment, Sandy.

For any members of the public on the call, if you go to the bottom of your screen over to the left, you'll see a button that says chat.

If you click on that the chat will come up on the right‑hand side of your screen and you'll be able to see what people are typing in there.

Would anyone else like to give public comment on question number 2 before we move on?

What would you like to see change in your community?

Okay.

We will move on to question number 3.

Yes, Nicole, I see you have your hand up.

Go ahead.

>> Yes.

So for change within the community, I think it would be important to have housing that matches the funding that people have access to in a safe community.

I work with a nonprofit that we have significant trouble trying to get housing for our community members.

>> Great.

Thank you very much, Nicole.

Would anyone else like to give public input into question number 2?

What would you like to see change in your community?

Over in the comments we have mental health resources for teens living with developmental disabilities.

Thank you, Sandy.

And just so you all know, the comments that we receive tonight in the public input is going to be forwarded to our state plan writing team and will be included in our master document about public input that we've received from everybody.

Okay.

We will move on to question number 3.

What independent living services do you currently receive?

We have listed out about six services here.

The first one is advocacy, then information and referral, school to work transition, peer support, independent living skills support, and transition to community‑based living, and then there's other.

Now, these services represent the core services that centers for independent living provide, but there are a lot of other types of independent living services out there in the community and we're curious as to what independent living services folks are currently receiving.

Does anyone want to give public input on the question number 3?

I'll read question number 3 one more time.

What independent living services do you currently receive?

The Center for Independent Living services that are listed are advocacy, information and referral, school to work transition, peer support, independent living skills support, and transition to community‑based living.

And there are a lot more different types of independent living services out there, so if you'd like to give public comment, please let us know what independent living services that you're currently receiving.

Thank you, Nicole.

In the chat Nicole has put information and referral.

Okay.

We will move on to question number 4.

What services would you like your center for independent living to provide?

These could be services they currently provide or services that aren't currently available there that you would find helpful for you.

What services would you like your Center for Independent Living to provide?

The floor is open for anyone that would like to give public comment on question number 4.

Okay.

Sandy in the chat has put my grandson with PWS is a teen and we have begun researching safe living situations.

None available in Michigan.

Food safety required.

Question number 3.

Food safety required.

Thank you for that, sandy.

And one last time ‑‑ and then Sandy also put funding a real concern as well.

Yeah.

Thank you for that.

One last time, what services would you like your Center for Independent Living to provide?

Okay.

That brings us to our last question, number 5.

Hold on just a moment.

Nicole in the chat put access to a listing of housing options and funding sources.

Thank you for that, Nicole.

Our last question for the evening, what have we not asked about your experience with independent living that you feel is important?

What should the council know about your experience with independent living that will help us as we write the next state plan for independent living?

This really gets at what goals and objectives do you feel are important to be included in a 3‑year state plan for independent living?

Would anyone like to give public comment on that question?

Again, feel free to use the chat function, raise your hand, or just ask to be recognized.

The floor is open.

In the chat Nicole has written the options that are available to our community members are limited and not always in the safest communities.

Thank you for that, Nicole.

We've heard that quite a bit.

Appreciate you putting that in there.

>> When an individual gets a job interview for whatever job they've going for, and the job interview is such that they can't take the job because the employer is unwilling to provide the assistance to be able to get to work or have the assurance that you're being able to go to work because you're disabled and need assistance, getting up or getting dressed, or whatever it may be, that situation in itself needs to be addressed.

However that works between the employer or between other supports in the community to provide the funding so that the person can work and still maintain their quality of life would be wonderful.

>> Thank you very much, Aaron.

Over in the chat from Nicole we have also need to be in locations with access to public paratransit services and paratransit needs to be more reliable and also to cover routine services for employment.

Thank you for that, Nicole.

And I'll read the question one more time.

What have we not asked about your experience with independent living that you feel is important for us to know as we move forward with writing the next state plan?

And we will read it one last time.

What have we not asked about your experience with independent living that you feel is important for the council to know as we write the next state plan for independent living?

All right.

Over in the chat from Sandy we have the realization that the least restrictive environment for one individual might not protect the needs of an individual.

Need different provisions for different people.

Rare diseases make very rare needs.

Thank you for that, Sandy.

Would anyone else like to give input into our last question?

I do want to just remind you that we are taking public comment all the way up until May 1st.

If there are things that you think of between now and then, you can always go to our website and click on the link for the survey and that will give you an opportunity to give us more detailed input.

We will continue to have these live Zoom meetings through April.

We plan to Schedule III meetings per month.

This will be the last meeting ‑‑ Zoom meeting for this month of February, but please watch our website and our social media channels for the announcement of the March and April dates.

Again, you can always submit your comments in writing to us, to our PO box by emailing Tracy or by calling our toll free number and leaving a recording for us and we will make sure that those public comments get into our master document.

All of the public comments that we're receiving are being posted online in one master document for public review.

The comments are anonymous.

They are not identified by person whatsoever.

But that will give you a feel for the kinds of things and the feedback that we're getting from people that's going to help shape what our goals and objectives look like for the next three years.

I want to thank all of you for spending part of your evening with us and giving us public input.

This is very valuable information for the council and the centers for independent living as we move forward with writing the next state plan.

Thank you again for joining us this evening and have a great evening.

Thank you, everybody.