# SILC Council Quarterly Business Meeting June 16, 2021, 5:30 p.m. EST

>> We have a lot to cover so I'm going to move a little quickly tonight to make sure everybody gets the time allotted to them.

Tracy let's give the roll call vote and then ask accommodations to give time for people to join us who haven't yet. Frank Animikwam.

>> Here:

>> Glenn Ashlock.

>> Here.

>> Allen Beauchamp.

>> Here.

>> We are missing Jamia Davis. Stephanie Deible.

>> I thought I saw her on the list. Calling back in. Will Harrison.

>> Present.

>> Mindy Kulasa.

>> Present.

>> Jan Lampman.

>> Present.

>> Theresa Metzmaker.

>> Present.

>> Yvonne Fleener.

>> Here.

>> I think she just -- I just admitted her in. Here she is.

>> Jamia: Hi, how is everyone doing in

>> Good. Thank you.

>> Tracy: Yvonne you have a quorum.

>> Looks like Stephanie is not back yet but I know she was on so hopefully she'll join us again. Okay. Is there anyone on the meeting/call who has accommodation request in order to fully participate in this meeting? One reminder, try the say your name one reminder, try to remember saying your name before you talk. It helps for people who aren't seeing or can't see the screen. Like I said we have a lot to cover so I would like to do warm and fuzzy introductions, but we are not going to because I want to make sure everybody has the time they need to do their part. So, we'll start with the consent agenda. proposed agenda. There's minutes two sets of executive committee minutes financial reports and executive Director reports. So, we're going to approve those in a consent agenda, however, Steve and Mindy will be highlighting the things from the report so you will have a chance to ask questions at that point. So, this consent agenda approval is to approve the report as submitted. If I can get a motion for that.

>> This is Mindy Kulasa, I move we approve the consent agenda. Meeting agenda as presented tonight.

>>Yvonne: You are also approving the minutes submitted?

>> Mindy: Correct. Yes, in my motion.

>> And a second?

>> This is Jan Lampman, second the motion.

>> Any questions or discussions? On any of those items? Tracy gave us a lot to review. Okay. Hearing none, let's do a roll call vote. Actually, no we won't do a roll call vote. Motion to approve you can say aye and raise your hand. Where am I here? Yeah. If you to approve just say aye and raise your hand.

>> Aye.

>> Aye.

>> Aye.

>> Aye.

>> Aye.

>> Anyone opposed? All right. That means we approved our report, gotten some of that regular business out of the way and can move on to Steve Locke's report. Steve, do you want to highlight some things for us you submitted? I know you have been busy.

>> So, the majority of my written report is a SPIL monitoring report and updates on the CIL objectives which you have a copy of and a lot of that will be covered later in the meeting so I'm not going to go over that verbatim. The SILC strategic planning we will update from Stephanie this evening so won't go over that but what I want to draw your attention to is the Michigan independent citizens redistricting commission. If you recall back in 2018, the citizens -- the voting citizens of Michigan voted to change the Michigan Constitution so that every ten years when the census is done, instead of political parties in power at the time redrawing districts for the State of Michigan, this independent citizens redistricting commission was established. They have four people from the Republican party, four people from the democratic party and five people who are independents that are on this commission. Right now, they are in the middle of doing public hearings around the state to gather public input on how to redraw Michigan's congressional legislative districts. They have an incredible website in public portal they have set up on Michigan.gov/MICRC. They also have a very sophisticated mapping tool where individuals are afforded the opportunity to draw their own districts an submit those to the commission for consideration. What was nice about this is about a month and a half ago Edward Woods III reached out to me, and they reached out to about 30 different entities across the state to serve on their communications outreach team and SILC was one of those entities they reached out to in order to reach the disability population here in Michigan to amplify their voice in this redistricting process. Every two weeks I have been on a call from 10:30 with Edward and these other 30 representatives including people not politicians that started this entire drive to get this initiative passed here in Michigan. We have been advertising these public hearings on our social media site and pushing this information out to the CILs to go out to their consumers so that when these public hearings come to their area, they have an opportunity to give their input into this process. So, I'm very excited about this opportunity for SILC and we were selected to kind of be the representative for the disability community and push this information out to the disability community. So, I encourage all council members to push this information out to your networks, to make sure that the disability community is heard in this redistricting process because as they lay out in the redistricting process, how they rank the way they are doing the redistricting, communities of interest is one of those things that is defined in the constitution of our state and can be defined many ways. People with disabilities is a community of interest. So, in order to make sure that the disability voice is heard in this redistricting process, I encourage all of you to continue pushing this information out through your networks so that we can make sure that the disability voice is heard in this process. If there is anything you want me to share with the communications outreach team let me know through a text, email, or pick up the phone and call me. I will be sure to share that with the group.

>> Steve, Mark asked if you could put that link in the chat for the MICRC.

>> Yep. Absolutely.

>> Do you think because I know redistricting has so much to do with who gets elected who the majority is and where did this -- is this a legislative approved process? Or might they just do what they want anyway?

>> This is -- this is a process where this commission now holds the power to draw congressional lines it lies with this commission 100%, it is no longer with the party that's in power at the time is census is done, it's these four representatives from both parties and then five who are independents, they are going to draw the legislative districts.

>> Good.

>> From the public.

>> Good. Cool. Glad that SILC is part of that. Any other questions about anything in Steve's report? Or this in particular? I know from talking to you probably more than other council members you have had a lot on your plate since the last meeting, I appreciate what you do, so thank you.

>> happy to do it thank you so much.

>> Mindy, we are going to move to you.

>> Anything popped on the screen or anything or will you let Tracy know?

>> Yes. I certainly will. Good evening, everyone. This is Mindy Kulasa your friendly neighborhood Treasurer. Reporting in on our financials. If you can bring up the statement of financial position. We'll start there as usual.

>> Can you all see that right now?

>> I'm still seeing the agenda, Steve.

>> Let me grab that real quick.

>> There we go. As you all may recall from our previous discussions, our statement of financial position is also known as our balance sheet. It is a snapshot of our assets and our liabilities as of the given point in time and the given point in time here is as of May 31, 2021. It is hard to believe in some ways that we are looking at may financials. Our financial position has stabilized in terms of our assets and Steve would you scroll so that our total assets can be seen? So, we have total assets at this point of 70,265-dollars, and some change. That has stabilized over the course of the last couple of months because we no longer have the deferred revenue line item BSBP. So, we are no longer drawing down on cash. In order to fund that deferred revenue source. So, this is good news and as you continue to move down the balance sheet, please Steve you will see at the very bottom your assets must always equal your total liabilities amounts that you owe to others and your total equity, your ownership in this case our ownership. And we are obviously in balance. That is good news. Now you might think about all this as being on a ship. Yvonne is the captain of the ship whether she knew it or not she is now the captain of the ship. As Chairman of the SILC. All of the SILC members are kind of like the owners of the shipping corporation which Yvonne is the captain. Yvonne dispatches me and so does all of you to do a deep dive and get down in the weeds and look at all these numbers. Steve and Tracy working the weeds every day. I don't know if they have thought of it that way. But that's essentially what they do. This all brings me to my point which is that of internal controls. I am very pleased and remain very pleased with the internal controls that have been put in place by management in conjunction with our consultant supporting strategies. So, you may recall we had our audit submitted the last time we met. Please understand audit is not audit of our internal controls, it is an audit of how fairly our financial statements represent our true financial position. So, you have to engage a CPA firm to do an internal controls review which certainly is not necessary given the amount of our assets and given management's internal control structure. So, with that said, Steve, if you could move briefly to the budget.

Okay. Scroll so that we can see the bottom line please.

So, with all that being said as you can see, we in essence as usual are in a break-even position with our budgeted income and our budgeted expenses for the month of May and all the prior months since we last met. So that is good news, that is how the SILC is designed to function at this time. And of course, we get our funding through Michigan Rehabilitation Services and the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons. So, I don't -- this is what I call getting into the weeds. This is my job to get into the weeds I review the bank statement, I review reconciliations of the bank statements, I make sure that the internal controls are in place and that these financials that you are looking at are a fair representation of our financial position. This concludes my Treasurer's report, I would be -- and I know Steve would be happy to respond to any particular questions.

>> Mindy, one thing I would like to highlight is these financials were updated this morning with Brad and I and ordinarily where you see net revenue down here it should be approaching zero, but it is showing a negative 7,665. The reason for that is that we received two invoices from the non-profit network, one of them came through the mail back in March and because Tracy and I have not been do going to the office we missed that one so I have been communicating with non-profit network and we got those invoices two of them in the past yesterday and today and Brad updated financials accordingly, we had already submitted our reimbursement request to BSBP prior to getting invoices in so this negative balance is reflecting the non-profit networks to invoices that came in. When we request that money in June that will zero this variance out. So, know that is the anomaly you are seeing here.

>> Speaking of variants just briefly, it is very important for everyone on the council to know and understand because this is part of your fiduciary duty is the financial oversight of the SILC and its operations. We are under budget, way under budget. And that is clearly due to COVID because we have not incurred expenses to travel to regular council meetings, to go on any trips, to handle council business, so forth. So, if you were to look at some of our individual line items you would say how come we are under budget, is that kind of weird to be under budget? And in these times of COVID it is not weird at all, unfortunately it is a sign of the times. Any other questions for Steve or me? okay. Thank you very much Yvonne.

>> Thank you, Mindy, I appreciate learning from you, and were you ever a teacher? You were a substitute teacher, aren't you?

>> Yes, I am.

>> I'm sorry, I can see that.

>> For middle schoolers now. Little different age group.

>> Okay. I asked Stephanie and Steve to just review where we are at in the process with strategic planning, so Stephanie do you want to open that discussion up for us?

>> Sure. So, the planning committee has been meeting regularly and we accomplished a good deal in the time that we have met. Regina Pinney who has been assisting us with planning maybe, put us through an activity to help us talk through our mission and vision and we came up with a mission with to advocate for inclusive equitable and accessible inclusion for all. Our vision statement was People with disabilities are valued and choice is inalienable in all aspects of life. So, what we basically did was put us through activity to talk about in a perfect world what do we want to see the council accomplish. That is kind of what we came up with. We also took time meet with directors of CIL from around the state and they provided input to us. And they were happy and excited with the mission and vision we came up with. One of the other things that we have been working on is a survey was sent out, Steve sent out a survey to some partners to get some feedback on our values and different things that people in the community some of our partner thinks us as a council should be focusing on in terms of value. So, we just got that survey back or got feedback from that survey this week. So, I believe Yvonne and Steve and Regina are going to work together to put something together so we can share it with the full council so you guys can see the results from the survey. But our next step will kind of be to meet and talk about our values as a council moving forward. Steve, do you have anything you want to add?

>> That was a really great summary, Stephanie. On the stakeholder survey, the survey went out to 85 stakeholders, and we received 50 surveys back which is an incredible response rate. We are really happy be that. A meeting went out to council members for the second strategic planning retreat, scheduled for Saturday July 10th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and I hope that all the council members will be able to join us for that because that is where Stephanie said based on the survey results the asked about values from our partners and our community stakeholders the council will engage in defining what our values are, the number of values that we want to have and then how we are going to operationalize those and set those into motion. So, I'm really excited about this strategic planning process. I am very thrilled at the council member engagement in this process and the engagement in the activities of the council itself. In my time on the council as council person for six years, I have not had this -- I have not experienced this kind of engagement before and I am so appreciative of all of you and your commitment to what we are doing here.

>> Stephanie, this is Mindy Kulasa. I wanted to comment on two things. First of all, that return rate of 59% of the surveys is unheard of. Typical return rates on surveys of this nature are between 12 and 15%. for us to have a 59% return rate means number one, people were comfortable because I believe it was anonymous, therefore they were more likely to respond and respond honestly. Secondly it is my understanding it was relatively short which also made it attractive to people to respond to. So, I was blown away when I heard it was a 59% return, you know, that's like almost two out of three people who got it responded to it. That is cool feedback. That we have to work with. It is a lot of feedback. I'm sorry?

>> I said definitely, I agree I was impressed with how many people filled it out. I didn't mean to interrupt you. Go ahead.

>> That is okay. The other thing I was wondering, and I know that you guys have noodled this mission and vision and noodled it and thought about it and so have I. My only question about the mission is that it doesn't have disability or disabilities in our mission statement. I am certain that was for a particular purpose, but I think it is important for us to also remember as the statewide independent living council people don't understand by and large independent living is in reference to persons with disabilities. So, our very name does not convey the disability aspect of what we do. And this mission since it lacks the word disability or disabilities when it stands alone like audit reports and on letter head and all the places that our mission statement is going to appear, I wanted to put that on the record. As something occurred to me as I thought of actively using this mission statement.

>> Before I'm going to ask Steve or someone else on the committee to respond but typically at this point, we should have a motion on the floor. We won't do that because I think dialogue is important and will help frame that motion so we will bypass that Robert's rule and have a dialogue for now and will call a motion if and when seems appropriate to do so. Steve, Jane, Stephanie and do you have a comment? That is a valid point, and we did have that discussion. Anybody want to comment?

>> I would love to. Mindy you are right on point. What you are speaking to was the back and forth we had during this almost two-hour exercise as we went through how we concisely word this in ten words or less and we have disabilities in there at one point and then we took it out put it back out, took it back out and put it back in and took it back out. As we evolved through our guided process, what we thought about was not carving out the disability community but instead seeing the disability community as part of the larger community and having a broader umbrella. It came back to equality. And being equal to everybody else within your community because we envision it in inclusive equitable accessible community for everybody, so we wanted to go larger with this opposed to honing it in and we brought it back in with the vision itself. So, your point is very well taken and there was a lot of back and forth on that and your point absolutely is well taken, and I just want you to know that that was front and center in our process as we talk through this as a group.

>> This is Jan landman, I would like to add for clarification the time frame Steve is talking about, or the activity Steve is talking about where we carved out the words we were going to put into the mission, was at that first board retreat that we had in not quite sure when. So I want to make sure we have also on the record that was that -- it was with the council, not with the subcommittee that's just working on guiding the strategic planning process and the other thing to add since we are doing discussion piece is very often in the non-profit world where I used to live for many years you see a mission and the vision both on letter head and in places where you would typically put such little catch phrases. I think the idea the mission and vision are kind of tied together and will be seen together was also helpful for people in deciding it was okay to have that mission be more of like that inclusive -- so I wanted to make that.

>> The mission and vision belong to all of us and the disability community. So, this is the time to discuss it because it can be edited, this is not a final product. So, what do others think? Because do others feel like you want to see the words people disabilities in the mission?

>> I had a quick question I don't want to ask the question -- this is Frank by the way. I don't want to have people lose sight of your question though.

>> Go ahead.

>> Frank: I wanted to -- because Mindy you made a mention to an audit and I know given your background and experience and your lens that you bring to our group, what was -- what would be your concern from an audit perspective with not having people with disabilities included in the mission.

>> Mindy: Sure, it is just the point that that audit and our related 990 filing up here on the Internet and you can search for charitable organizations based on key words. So, we would not -- if someone were searching for disability and looking for our IRS form 990 filing for example, it would not come up. We would not come up if someone were doing a search of that nature. Because disability or disabilities is not in our mission statement, and we do have to put our mission statement on our IRS form 990 filing. We certainly at that time could include our vision statement as well and therefore it would come up in this search, but we are specifically required to state our mission. So that is the relationship Frank, that is a great question.

>> Frank: Thank you, Mindy. I think just to rephrase -- or repeat the question that Yvonne had was what are others thoughts about the mission statement and then kind of having the people with disabilities admitted or having it placed back in some fashion. Sorry to interject on your question there Yvonne. Thank you.

>> That's okay, thanks.

>> Yvonne: Theresa, Mark, Glenn, Allen? Who else? Not that everybody can't talk but what do you guys think? I haven't heard from you on this.

>> This is Mark. And the way I viewed it was our mission is what we do, and our vision is what we see. So, what we do is we want to have accessible communities. For all. Note without having discrimination on whether you have a disability or not. If I remember correctly, example was given about accessible opening doors in a grocery store where the doors opened for everybody whether you have a disability or not. So that accessibility in and out of that store was not with respect to a person. When I see it, the mission is what we do. The vision is what we see. What we see is this being an alienable aspect of life for everybody. That's how I see it.

>> Wondering if we should switch and say accessible communities for people with disabilities and where people with disabilities, we say all people are valued.

>> That is certainly a valid way of looking at it.

And I know the consultant said keep it around ten words, but you'll find other consultants who say 13 words. I like they are short.

>> It is nice if we can remember them. And your vision is I always think of your vision is something you want to wear on back of a T-shirt that kind of stuff. We are a little behind schedule, so I think what we're going to do, we have time to live with this for a while, no reason it has to be voted on today. But I want to hear from anyone else who hasn't had a chance to chime in if you have additional thoughts as we kind of go back and reconstruct this a little bit. You don't have to talk. Theresa.

>> This is Theresa. I really like the explanation of the disability part community is part of all communities advocating for all communities. CILs we are supposed to be led by people with disabilities over 50% and there's something to naming we are for people with disabilities and on a totally separate note that inalienable I don't think is an accessible word. I don't think that that is accessible to people within the disability community. Inalienable I hope we would look at that word for access.

>> We use it because it is a constitutional word, and we talk constitutional rights, but I agree when I hear somebody read the vision there is a stumble over the word because it is a hard word.

>> To even go to that point, we are saying we are equitable which is different than constitutional rights. And so, I think that there's something about that word that isn't actually equitable to everyone. So that word does have ties to rights and when I hear equitable, we are thinking beyond rights that are already there, Constitutional rights and we are talking about justice so that word doesn't sit right with me either from that aspect as well.

>> The word --

>> (overlapping speakers)

>> You -- this is Jan, the word inalienable.

>> The word I can barely say.

>> I barely got it out.

>> If you have suggestions pass them along but that is great feedback. And at our July retreat appropriate time for us to continue this discussion and we will come up with alternatives and give people a chance to look at that then. Is that okay? Everyone feel like -- Allen did you want to add anything that hasn't been added?

>> Hi, Yvonne, it is Allen. When I was thinking about this, and just throwing some ideas around, I think that -- I feel we need to be as aggressive as possible when we are trying to get our point across. I don't think it's a bad idea to include disability in some of these other words just to show that hey, we are including everybody.

>> Okay.

>> That's my two cents.

>> Thank you. Will? Did you want to add anything else?

>> (indiscernible) I never heard so it is really hard to (inaudible) words. As far as the mission statement I looked at the word disability, I think that it’s kind of someone is trying to find organization support and not (inaudible) words in there. It is there because it says inalienable in the vision statement and not any word, so I think clarification is needed but I think that needs to be part of this.

>> Okay. Thank you for that. All right. I'm going to close this out. Great discussion to turn it to Sarah. When I became the chair the executive committee and Steve we met with all directors, and two of them were Sarah Peurakoski from the UP and Jon Hart from Jackson. We were impressed with all the CIL Directors but the work they were doing, we had a great discussion with Sarah about culture diversity in the UP and that looks different than what we normally think of it. So, we asked her to come and share a little bit about her CIL and the great work they do and also to dive into some culture and diversity topics that are unique to the upper peninsula. Sarah, without further ado, thank you for your patience. I'll turn it over to you.

>> Fantastic. Thank you so much. And thank you to the SILC for the invitation to come and talk about CIL in upper peninsula. Not sure what everybody knows about the UP just alone of it, but CIL was started in 1998 by actually our current board President has come back and so Judy rose and her sister started the agency up here. We cover the 17,000 square miles of beautiful land and trees. Allen, on your council here is on our board so I'm awesome to see him. We have 50 counties in the UP. We have 24 staff and 11 board members.

We have a couple of offices one in the Sault Saint Marie and one in the Hancock area and we have an office in Menominee on the Wisconsin border and then we also have a staff in Ontonagon, so we are trying to cover the UP though we don't have staff many the east and west right now. In those offices but we have the ability to go there and be really engaged in those communities. As you can imagine the upper peninsula is about 300,000 people total. So, when you look at one in five people that live with a disability across the UP, that number is pretty small in comparison to the rest of the state. Largest county is market so 30,000 people. Our biggest challenge in our rural environment is getting across the UP and getting the word out to people and being able to connect to them in understanding what their needs are separately. So, I think that is one of our uniqueness and things we really work together on. My dog has a couple of barks in the background. Basically, we have one CIL up here above the bridge, we have one health plan peninsula health plan, we have one Triple A we have one PIHP network which is the pre-paid in-patient health plan, your community mental health agencies, though there are five boards of those community mental health across the UP and we have one MRS district that also had many -- 12 counselors across the UP. So, when you think about all the collaborations, we are very unique I think almost in a way that because we have to work with each other, so we really are important, it is important for us to understand different parts of the UP. I guess that gives a little bit of an idea of the types of outreach we need to make in the sense of trying to find people with disabilities and support them through independent living. So, if you have any questions, I would be welcome to open that up. I have a little bit of a report I can tell you about our Native American services.

>> Go ahead.

>> Start with that. It will give people more time to think of questions.

>> Yeah. Perfect. So, three years ago we wrote a grant for ACL to do Native American services at the time they were doing grants just for CILs and it was they had already done a couple of phases so each phase of this grant cycle of a three-year grant cycle there was a couple of CILs, one in Wisconsin, one in Alaska. And one was in California I believe. New Jersey maybe. So, we received the grant, and we were able to for three years able to hire people with that were Native American and that we would be able to work across the upper peninsula with the five Federally recognized tribal communities. So that first year we got about $173,000 to research 42 Native American individuals where the year before we were around 15, 17. We were able to increase our cultural competency with staff and board talking about how to communicate and connect and engage with native communities around the UP. So that first year we serve ten out of our 15 counties, serve all the five tribes. Able to host some budgeting workshops that really supported the tribal community members, the self-help and self-advocacy but the biggest thing in that first year was understanding and learning about Native American population and how to communicate and gain trust. It was -- we were able to hire three individuals that were native. They actually were not from the UP they were from tribal communities below the bridge. So, I think that was maybe an advantage for us at the time. In the sense that there wasn't a lot of the same families they were working with. We were able to get through about 200 contacts by going to forums in the different communities, talking circle, tribal councils, we started working with doing some workshops with their healing to wellness court which is I think kind of like their tribal court. The next year we were able to serve 53 consumers with 11 counties mainly services for peer counseling support, we did some of course that is COVID so that really interrupted our outreach with the communities. One of the big things that we felt were extremely important is we were at a lot of their events so their pow wows or if they had any type of in person event or -- that we were there and present and trying to be there and show them what the services are. So, I think that was a little bit difficult at furs and super difficult once COVID hit to have that stop. The tribal communities really backed off, they weren't allowing in person, and we struggled because lack of Wi-Fi on reservation, ability to understand or trust technology to meet with people in person was not -- it was a little bit difficult, so this year has been a tad bit easier but still slow to open up and we are still working with different tribes. Primarily Hannahville so Hannahville tribe they have their only vocational rehab program in the UP, so it was really cool to work with them and there's a former SILC member actually Carol Bergquist is our great contact. With Hannahville and they have the vision vocational rehab program, so we have been working directly with them. They have allowed us to get into their community a little bit more. That was a different really exciting last couple of years expanding our services into a different type of population we hadn't worked with in the past. So, I wanted to give you a little perspective on that. We are going to continue all three of the people that we hired for that program, with us, and still going to be with us for a long time so we are super excited to have three individuals on our staff that are Native American to continue with that rapport building trust and things like that. To help keep our focus.

>> What would you say -- what advice when we think about outreach strategies, to the Native American community what surprised you what were the biggest take away or mistake?

>> I think for the most part we learned that there isn't really a word for disability in that community. From what I -- that was surprising because when I first looked at the grant to white it, I was looking for disability services. To kind of get connected to and go in that direction. There wasn't anything that named that but behavioral services or behavioral health, with what we learned hugely too is really educating our staff and board about intergenerational trauma and the traumas that have been going on with the Native American communities and understanding why there is such a hard trust with people from the outside in to try to help serve. To when we found out like disability wasn't really a word because that community takes in people and kind of, they -- they feel like there's an advantage to having a disability and it kind of puts you on a pedestal and it is cool whereas in our world there was stigma in that sense. So that was the perspective. It was nice to hear that so that we can be on a better, so we are not running in and saying you have a disability come see us. So, it’s kind of like people didn't really want to draw into that. So, I think it helped that we had our staff, peers and that there was the visual connection on top of being able to hear what kind of services were out there. We had really good success in sense of good stories that people learned like in the budgeting workshop. We learned that people get a certain amount of money at a certain age aren't necessarily always taught how to utilize the money or save it, so it's spent, and nothing is left so the budgeting workshop helped a couple of individuals that participated especially the youth with having to manage money budget money, save it not just blow it. So that was a good experience just like skills experience. We also have a lot of homelessness that we try to help with housing as well.

>> I'm curious, Frank on our board, is Native American and is -- moving to PETOSKY (phonetic) where he has a new job. I see your nodding your head. What are your thoughts what Sarah is swaying working with tribal communities?

>> I want to say thank you for the work that you all are doing up there. In many community it is not the case you don't have the partnerships even within the community itself there seems to be challenges and barriers the community internally faces. So, it is nice to hear positive success with networking not just intratribal but intertribally an outside of tribes too. So, I think that is the key here, coming and being humble, listening, listening for understanding and respecting that way. And then the communities are biggest teachers so we're going to learn from them. I shared with the -- it wasn't the full group; it was a smaller group of us I think initially, and they were waiting for the meeting to start. This is when I first joined SILC last fall, and I was asked kind of what is the perspective of Native American communities with regards to people with disabilities and speaking of Sarah's experience, it is very similar in that people with disabilities are viewed as having gifts. And they are not negatively looked upon. They are always included in gathering, ceremonies, pow wows, if it is more public social gathering so it is never of exclusion. You always feel that sense of community family and inclusion. I will be working there starting soon as one of the family physicians.

>> You will be working for the health department, right?

>> Right.

>> Right. We have our -- we have good medicine launch, that's the name of the health clinic.

>> That was really -- thanks for bringing that up because one of the big partnerships that we reached out to was DHHS Indian outreach workers or IOWs, we actually -- the mother of one of our advocates is an IOW so it was nice to have that connection and then the health department had a couple of individuals that were Native American that helped us get into the medical connection with different tribal communities as well. The third connection that it was kind of we are still working on because of COVID it is shut down but going through the tribal court as well. People trying to get back and teaching them IL skills, hoping to do some workshops in that area as well. But having COVID in the middle of a three-year grant derailed us like crazy in the sense of not being able to follow-up with tribal on-site tribal workshops. It has been really fun, probably been one of my most -- like fun things to watch lately.

>> It sounds like you did something that I hear a lot in messaging now from marginalized groups, just like shut up and listen, right? Just shut up and listen to us. And I think that's really important, that's what you did. And are doing. Annie is from the Michigan department of civil rights, one of our ex-officio members and put in the chat that she would like to connect with you. And I'll pop that up so I can -- there she is.

>> Great.

>> She is civil rights tribal liaison Native American specialist.

>> Cool.

>> That is a good connection there too. As you probably know part of our SAIL goals is to can do outreach and on behalf of CIL, so all this information is valuable to helping us, we decided not to just jam out a plan. We're going to shut up and listen. And figure it out before we do that. One of the other things we talked about on the call with you is just how -- how you reach out to people with disabilities in the UP, that is somewhat is a little different. Do you want the talk just a little bit about that too?

>> People here, it is a lot of word of mouth, they are extremely independent and extremely finished, that Scandinavian, we are all kind of don't need the help, we don't need to ask for help, very independent, trying to find connections to areas that people are getting those services, that is so important. You kind of have to play in the sand box with everybody else because it is not that big. Reaching out also especially be COVID that was interesting because we used to want to be in person all the time. We have to be in person, need to see our faces, need to see our booth and kind of get to know us because we cover such a large area, like not a lot of people necessarily would know about SAIL if they live in Holton because they live in Holton and the people that live there stay there. Then they come to market for target or Wal-Mart or something like that, but there is Wal-Mart -- so it's very almost segregated in a way like these communities really have their own feel. In order to come in you have to be present and in environments that bring together those human services field. So COVID it was extremely important for us to stay on the phone. Wi-Fi is not available everywhere. And there are some places that don't even have cell service so being on phones with land lines is kind of still important in our environment. Reaching out that way, connecting with friends in the meddle fields, upper great lakes family health centers, connecting with them, relying on like MRS and BSBP counselors to -- that youth, that younger population getting engaged in employment. So, you really have to have good partnerships and ability to just play in the sand box guess best way to say it.

>> There is nowhere else to go. (Overlapping speakers)

>> At approximate event one time she showed up and said I like sled hockey; would you like to do that? Like yeah. That was cool.

>> We talked about that too on the call, just nature and the outdoors and how important that is up there whether it is hunting fishing sports, using that to your advantage to draw in the disability community. That was neat that you are doing some really cool stuff.

>> Like 13 adaptive bikes like doing bike expose around the UP to get people to realize there's bikes out there that they can try.

>> Any questions or comments for Sarah about what they are doing up there? Allen, do you want to add anything from your perspective from living there?

>> You cut out for a second.

>> I said Allen, do you want to add anything from your perspective since you are on the board and live there?

>> I got involved with using sail services back about 11, 10, 11 years ago to try to find funding for a track chair I was looking to purchase. Several years later after I learned the sport of sled hockey down in grand rapids I came back and contacted Sarah who was the current director and say hey, do you want to get together and talk about sled hockey? We ended up partnering with sail and yeah, it is a full-blown program now in the upper peninsula.

>> Very cool.

>> Get to meet different people. Sarah and staff do an amazing job, it is great to work with them.

>> That is cool, now you have the bring the program here, it's cold we have ice. Any other questions, I apologize I do not mean to leave out ex-officio members. If I can't see your face, I forget you are here. Including anyone on the call do you have a question or comment?

>> This is Lisa. Sarah, glad to hear your mention BSBP I got a little worried there, you mentioned MRS, and I didn't hear you mention us. We worked with you guys for years. So, if you don't know who Tim is or you don't know who pat dike is or our UP team is please let me know that so we can remedy it.

>> We definitely work with them frequently. I think there's just not as many counselors so I (overlapping speakers)

>> Because there's not as maybe not as many individuals that go through, but I definitely have good -- we have good relationships with them as well. So sorry about that. For sure.

>> Came up at the end. You got it in there.

>> Thank you for sharing and I'm sure we will continue this conversation with you as we develop together outreach plan. We want it to be a plan that makes sense. Part of that in Michigan is geography.

>> Always inviting anybody from there to be at Marquette. I know pierce has been trying to get directors up for a long time.

>> Couple of things which going to be a nice segue to John's part, but we would love to host one our council meetings up there. So, our whole council could go there, and we hope to host council meetings all over the place if we can get through with this pandemic. Which leads me to segue, we talked about doing some youth leadership forum also in the UP and so with that thank you, very much, Sarah, for being here and all your doing.

>> Thank you, Sarah, excellent.

>> Appreciate you.

>> Thanks again for having me, appreciate it.

>> That is a nice lead into Jon Hart. Between Jon and Theresa, I get all pumped up about youth leadership. Jon, hand it to you and let you talk about your CIL and the good work you are doing there.

>> Thank you. I'm Jon Hart and I'm Executive Director for disABILITY Connections in Jackson hills Dale and I serve with people I have met, I know Glenn because we work with that agency, one of our brother sister agencies out of Brooklyn and we work with them with the ADRC grant, part of cares act grant that we have. So, hi to everybody. I'm also from saint (inaudible) I'm a YUPER and a troll all in one, it is amazing. I fight with myself like every day. Gets amusing. We are the -- our agency is lead for advocacy piece for this CIL so we are doing the two pieces which are advocacy at the legislative level and trying to increase that by 30% by third year and developing the -- we have a youth leadership advocacy program in our community in Jackson particularly because it was a pilot and now we have entered the second and third year in COVID but love to spread it to down in hills Dale and that involves disability history, disability pride and then advocacy systems advocacy and self-advocacy. Then we do program, we do basically goal programming then students select a program to pursue throughout the year to do changes in their community. Sew a couple have been doing anti-bullying work inclusive of people with disabilities not just limited to that. And also, to ask for disability history in curriculum of their schools. Those are still works in progress but that's how I got interested. I come from a youth assessment programming, a model we did on campus at our SILC, so my thing is I love to work with you because they are our future. Really, they are. So, if we can invest in our future, everything will be better for them and for us. We will learn a lot and be able to accomplish more. So, my passion is right there. We have been doing emergency preparedness work with Mark doing the smart 911 in our three areas. We realize that we need to up our footprint in some of our runway in hills Dale for outreach. So we have been taken to doing old school outreach during the pandemic with increasing presence on radio, increasing presence in newspapers, going back to a paper newsletter that we'll release again next year because we were discovering throughout these -- the isolation in some of our cares act granting that people were doubtful of who you were the you were call them and people that you were interacting with regularly were people that knew you and you already helped them and they are like we are great. Thanks for your help so we are taking that as a challenge to increase our ability to reach out to people. Across the three counties so what I prepared is basically Steve told me what kind of makes us unique or different, so I have a couple of different things for you. I'm going to share my screen first. The first thing I wanted to talk about and show you then you can look is we have a program called access for all. And we have an app on a phone which you can search different categories and see if places have been rated accessible. So, we use volunteers to go to all these places and rate them as if they are moving towards accessibility. So, it is a campaign to note these places, but it is also to encourage people to move towards accessibility not all these places are fully accessible, but they meet some criteria. So, is that all right to share my screen, Tracy?

>> Go ahead.

>> Let me do. That can everyone see that. Thumbs up? So basically, you can search it by different areas. You can choose a county and you can choose like oh like right down here shopping. Then get a list of places and you can look at them an rate them. Somebody went there and by these criteria listed below said are these places accessible in these areas so it is aimed at people traveling or going to businesses so they can do some research so when they get to an area they know where they can stop and be welcomed so what then if a place passes we put a sticker in their window that says access for all, it is our logo basically, it's purple, it is an active person in a wheelchair so not passively being pushed but like active so it shows parking accessibility and just some simple questions. Some entrance accessibilities and notes a place where it -- there may be some concerns. Then it asks if they are succeeding in accessibility and the other important one is restaurant accessibility so there's -- restroom accessibility. So, there's lots of things here you can look it up on your computer, but you can also utilize as an application on your phone. And we did some of this in conjunction with University of Michigan and help get the bones putting it in in and then worked with volunteers from veterans, injured veterans that were interested in getting back into the work force and doing some of that work. Some youth that did that. To finish up we hired some part time help to finish that process. It is date ad little bit like about a year. But we usually when we get out of COVID we'll go back and update and add sites. So, we have been into Hillsdale, the city of Hillsdale, Adrienne and all-around Jackson because that's been our traditional home base. So, I would just say I'm going to stop sharing this, so you don't get whiplash. But (inaudible) access for all or you can search it on you are website which is disabilityconnect.org and it is one of the services and you click, and it will click you through or go to your phone and search on one the app store and it is for both apple and the other product. So, you can get to both --

>> Really cool.

>> And then I know there have been talk in network thinking about doing it across the network and then there's also something that we are aware of that Google is developing some of these location things through their applications but that will probably be a while. So that might be something we would develop and that was just a really cool project the previous Director developed and then pursued with these students at U of M and U of M does this project as cohort every year. Different parts. Right now, there is a projects out right now due the 21st. We might do that to kind of recapture our history and recording process. For our organization so we don't lose our previous history. And our -- there we go. Going to tell Steve I could hear him; it is not bad to hear him. But that we might use that process again to make sure that we preserve our past history of people with disabilities in our community and how our organization has grown, we have been around formally and informally since about 1925 so different iterations. So, the other thing that I wanted to show you is it is just a nice overview of our services, and we have a local group called good things going. That they approached us and wanted to make a video. And it goes through our history and overview of our services that you can see. And I have some information from our board members and also from participants in some of our programs particularly our NFT program. So, I would share that with you and then I will end up after that and I will talk about other innovative programs paused by COVID that we will be pursuing again. I will try to use the closed captioning on here but if I mess it up, I greatly apologize which I probably will do. So, I will try my best. Okay.

Okay. Then share sound. Optimize video. Is that right. Yes, that one. Okay. Now I can't see you so I'm going to start playing it then put the closed captioning on, if somebody can say yes, we can hear it that will be great.

>> In the early part of the 20th century

Particularly for young people there were just no doctors that specialized in youth with disabilities. So, the rotary club of Jackson still in existence is over 100 years old. They started supporting clinics in the area and those clinics kind of got into larger things, nurses, and doctors, doing visits with children with disabilities and it grew from there into adults with disabilities.

>> There is a lot of individuals, lot of people with different kinds of problems that come along that don't have a way to make sure that everybody is paying attention and addressing the needs that they have. Disability connections serves as a vehicle for those messages to be sent to the people that need to hear them, it can -- by their votes or by their financial ability to contribute can make a difference and somebody needs to reach them, Disability Connections does that.

>> I was excited. I thought yeah, I just need someone to talk to because disability Carmen and such has helped me with walkers, wheelchairs, the ramp on my house. I praise God deeply that this is happening. I talked to God constantly and I just feel surely, he heard me, he knows about my disability and all of a sudden, I have a wheelchair.

>> We are one of those places that has so many different things going for it, so some things happen over long period of time and some things happen right away. We have an incontinence closet, a loan closet with wheelchairs and power chairs to stay as -- we have a fix it shop for medical durable equipment and then longer-term things people working on strategies on ways to approach life they can be more included. And those things take a lot longer, but those things are continuously appreciated, and we get a lot of feedback from that. One main philosophy is treat people with compassion and help build belief in themselves, so we always get something from that. We have a nursing facility transition program, so we help them go home from nursing facilities and we get appreciation for that because people come from nursing home where they have nothing no furniture, no nothing, no groceries, nothing, and back to their own place of living. So, all those areas where we get a lot of positive feedback.

>> I have a grandson who is -- who has down syndrome. He came along after I was already well on the board. You see the capabilities as well as the needs that are will for handling the problems that arise as well as the difficulties they go through, at the same time have the gifts they have that are really tremendous.

>> If you grow up as a person with disability or around people with disabilities usually people's voice are heard, it is very difficult for people that are having cognitive issues and processing issues or may look very different to be included. So, for us our whole thing is to make that a normal thing. So, when we see those things happen, that is an emotional issue, and it is so great to see someone coming into themselves. That's what I call it. You are coming into yourself; you are recognizing that you are -- the value of yourself and your experience.

>> All individuals want to feel like they are contributing part of the community. And this gives them an outlet for that. But just as importantly for the organizations and other people that may not have the same disabilities, maybe no disabilities at all, getting input from people that have disabilities, to understand number one what barriers exist for them, but also there is a lot of brilliant people out there that may have disability and getting their contribution to solving problems is an important voice as well.

>> It is a big process. So, I'm mainly now -- they have given me the prosthetic, I'm going to learn to walk again. I'm here and that's what I got, and I got to make do. And I talk to God constantly and somehow through his grace I have always gotten by, I always had everything I needed. I got my walker, I got strength I can do it. Just look at it as I'm okay.

>> I think what I would see for people is in Jackson is when you see a person with a disability you see a person first. So, we always think of that person first philosophy which means the whole experience of being a person is still being a person. And all those things’ people want and need that don't have a disability are an obvious difference are what everyone wants so we should really think about that when coming up to somebody, it doesn't need to be pity, it doesn't always need to be that so sad or any of those things. It should be about how that person is. And then if the disability comes up, that's just part of living. So, I just think that what I would love to see everybody at Jackson is understand the person first and then understand the disability as being part of that person not the disability and the person being part of the disability. That is what we love, and I will give people a shot, recognize the willingness and ability of the person and address that and then let's address the disability as part of the person.

>> Very nice, well done.

>> Thank you. That was a community relationship, they approached us, they wanted to talk about those different things. What is unique about our organization is like almost a hundred years we have been coupled with rotary and rotary for long time ran -- governed our organization and it wasn't until the '70s people from outside rotary were even able to be board members. I'm a member of rotary, and actually how I got my initial job when I did youth programming and then I'm a member of the brother sister club of rotary, currently. So, one of the things you saw Mary that is unique to us too, several other organizations have it, but we do a volunteer ramp program where we share costs and rotary provides the volunteers, we just did one this week. When it was 90 degrees out, and we were like what are we doing. We drank a lot of water, but we made a 50-foot ramp and what we did is we replaced the ramp that went like that literally there was shingles on it to prevent the person from sliding down. So, we were so happy to be able to make a very much more stable setting for that person. As soon as it was done, he came right out and said that's a lot better than what we had done before. Then the person that receives the ramp they put in some dollars if they can afford it on a sliding scale, and the rest is provided by rotary and our organization and sometimes some partners ships with region 2. So those are the kind of things that make us unique, we have been doing this for over a hundred years, but we have only been a center for independent living for ten years, so we have gone through the stages of non-profit status, and we have been combined with cerebral palsy organizations and other organizations and forged our own identity and became disability connections and then became a center for independent living. So, we are trying to spread that philosophy further in hills Dale. Funny Sarah described the UP being independent, very like I don't need that. We face some of that in some of our outlying communities too, so that is why we started rethinking our tack how to relate to people, how we do our outreach to folks. Whoa is it that we are outreaching to and what do they have. So, we have recognized that not everybody has the ability to get on the Internet, they don't have the ability to go on Facebook. They need kind of what I call the old school way of communicating, which is a valid way, it lasted this long so we got in our mind we want to be all inclusive to all the styles and all the needs of folks and try to really reach out in the broadest ways we could. Whatever questions you have I would be happy to answer.

>> Questions for Jon? Why don't I ask one while they are thinking. So, youth leadership, tell me, I don't know a story or outcome, tell me something that sticks in your mind as like this was so cool and it was a result of youth leadership.

>> Well, there is several and they are in different parts, but we used to run, we don't have it anymore because we don't have our partnership with the ISD, some of their cash match grants kind of dissolve. So, but we used to get folks coming on buses from all over the county and people would come and do work progress and then I would lace that be leadership things. I had several students that once you said Hey, we need this work done and will teach you how to do this work, that then you say go ahead and decide what order you can do it and how you will complete that. And how you will take leadership and do that. So, I remember a lot of students look at me like what? Like nobody said to me make your own decisions, kid, and go out and complete these things. And I -- as they grew during the year you can see the confidence and leadership of having control over their own decision making and most things led to them taking other students under their wing that may not have been as quickly making growth. Who were less confident, who had cognitive processes that needed some -- took a little bit longer. And that they would actually help each other and make a cohort more than just like this kid is doing this job, they kind of come recruit each other to help one another. So that's something leadership that people may not think about, but it is so important that people can become their own self-advocate and have confidence in that process. So, I probably had about 70, 80 students over the lifetime of that program come through and saw lots of growth, several students went to the training center in Plainwell and got jobs out of school and then entered other programming and have become adults and have a job and are employed and have grope out of some of the issues -- grown out of some of the issues. One of the ones I like to give people I had a young woman, and she came in and she used to talk a lot about she processed her emotions through cartoons and stuff like that. One day she was working and at the end of the day she was walking out and didn't know the person coming up was a staff member, so she got out of work and she's like thank God I'm out of work so the woman coming up she goes what are you making them do in there? I don't know what's going on. She said this young lady was out there and she just like so happy. She would get really distracted by things. But now she's gone through a couple of our other programs because she close to come back to independent living in conjunction with MRS and she is holding a job and goal setting and doing things that I thought for this person that was basically running out of work that I thought that would never go so I was so encouraged because she started figuring out through the spectrum of services, these partnerships what it was like to be an adult and be able to have discretion over some of your own money and your own decision making. That is what we really like to do, institute that decision making, letting people know even though you are going through this process in school and through MRS in this process and all that you have a voice in what you are doing, it doesn't have to go by what adults say and doesn't have to go against what you want. So that is one of the powerful examples I have just because I sometimes people are works in progress and you kind of see them and you are like wow, I hope they get something out of it, and you are not sure then they do, and they do that, and you are like this blows my mind. So, it is great to see somebody when they like I said before coming into themselves and really grab ahold of life and really do what they want to do.

>> I like that you talk about it really at two levels so there is that really individualized simple things that many of us take for granted is making decisions for yourself. And if you have a disability and you are adult, young adult, or youth, so many decisions are made for you including IUPs and all of that stuff. That is overwhelming so making simple decisions empower somebody to go wait a second, I can do that. But you also talked about continuing the disability movement and talking the history. I always feel so fortunate that I learned from people who I consider just some of the experts in the disability movement and I hope that doesn't get lost because I think the history is so important. I know one of the meetings we had Eleanor presented about the disability history Eleanor cancer and it was helpful and really good for people to be reminded of where we were and where we are now people can lose sight of that so I'm glad that's part of your leadership. It's both, individual and big picture.

>> That is the thing that we our staff is always concerned because as they age, they were like where are our youth? So, when we started some of these programs, we were like that's where the youth will come from. We use life worth living and it is a great film, and it has just -- it has a lot of modern -- from late '60s until like about 2005 and it is from PBS, an independent lens film and it won a bunch of awards, good stuff, but it is so powerful because it compacts this down really well. And it has very much from several people's perspectives, that who are long time members of the independent living movement. And we developed our own timeline, it's available on the website if up you want to see it if anything you love to offer, we are missing something. We would love to hear from you. But then we include local things because we want people to see it is not a dead movement, it is continuous and growing and even local, so we had a student I think from the time she was 7th grade or 7 years old, was challenging under the American with Disabilities Act the right to have a service animal at the community school which I taught at for five years. But the process like the ADA is a living process. It is meant to be tested and it is meant to be challenged and it is meant to be broadened. So that went on until she was 18 years old and is still going on in the courts the try to get service animals. And then we also use the example of University of Michigan football stadium how they didn't build enough accessible seating for people, they got challenged in court and they had to go do it so this -- these movements, those are two small examples but it is important to let people know that history is an example and it is over but it is to apply to the future so that is what we try to do in that program with youth is saying you can be part of this movement and understand these other things occur because people did it. Disabilities challenged what was happening and were constructive about what they did, and they made changes. It is just way to demonstrate to folks that if you commit yourself and you kind of take confidence in yourself great things can happen. And that it may be nothing you ever thought you were going to do but you can be it and there's supportive places that will help you build yourself so you can do this. That is why we came up with it because a lot of our staff members are like where will our youth come from; how will our movement continue.

>> That is important. Good point. We will not always have lands mark legislation but doesn't mean there is not progress to be able to show that progress is important. Are there any other questions for Jon? Thank you so much for your time. Really appreciate the work you are doing and sharing it with us. And I know you and Theresa and Steve have had some discussion. we are going to talk about that after the break if you want to.

Come back you are welcome to, if not they can share that as well. Other -- go ahead Theresa.

>> I'm sorry. I sent you a private message, but I had some medical problems today and I'm not going to make it through the whole meeting. I was wondering if I could do the update is so short if I can do it because I don't think I'm going to make it the whole time.

>> I apologize I didn't see that. Go ahead. Let's do it now.

>> My only update is basically Steve typed up what happened at the meeting for this with Jon and Steve and so I don't have any other updates besides what is in Steve's executive director report.

>> So, he can share when we get to that part more about what you guys worked on. I know Theresa, I don't remember where it was, but you were sharing about all the leadership stuff you guys do too and it is so exciting and I'm glad that we are actually going to be able to do some stuff. Thank you to both of you and Jon for your work in that area. We'll learn more next time.

>> Sure. All right. Take care.

>> I can comment really quick I have another meeting that I have to go to. I'm sorry. Just my life. But yeah, basically where we are at and then Steve alluded to a little bit more, we met with several CILs, working out relationship with MDRC to talk about YELL, a program they already tested and piloted and which loved to learn from them, we don't need to recreate the wheel and it is to really get five places to adopt a common program, I think it will be more than that. There are different articulations like KALAMAZOO has an articulated sophisticated program that not everybody will have resources to do. So, we are going to try to focus a lot on youth and fellowship and cohort building through the information we talked about and also YELL with MDRC, so we are in that process of identifying. We already have like really great meeting, and we will have another one really soon. And we have a Google drive, if anybody wants the -- is interested from SILC guys welcome to view the materials we are starting to work on and being happy to share that with you and get your perspectives on things we may be -- we might be missing. Like I said we always like to try to be as inclusive as possible and we always know we are missing something or could do better. Thanks a lot for everybody, great to see everyone and meet Al the new folks and look forward to working with you guys more and strengthen that relationship. See you later.

>> Thank you so much, Jon.

>> All right. See you. Thank you.

>> Bye-bye. For everybody else let's come back at 7:20 since we already got some of the update, we should be okay so 7:20 we'll come back. Please come back.

>> All right, 7:20, I want to apologize one more time, I was not trying to exclude ex-officio members from the mission vision discussion, I couldn't see your faces, but we will have opportunity to talk about that more. So, if you can come July 10 that is great otherwise give feedback the Steve or talk at other meetings. Let's -- glad advocacy and leadership is first Steve you can launch into that and tell us about the focus, what you are working on, and next steps are.

>> Just unmuting myself. Theresa touched on what we have been doing with this objective. We hold a meeting on May 17th with Jon Hart who is lead CIL and Theresa Metzger who is council member lead. We learned that legislative day would be conducted by each SILC throughout remainder of the year due to COVID. They are not going to have a legislative day where they are at the capitol. (inaudible) start ad work group with leadership and advocacy that we will be joining, and Jon will be collaborating with MDRC on the YELL program, youth engaged in learning and leading. As potential model for the CILs here in Michigan. We are looking at aspects of the content of the youth leadership forum and that will inform the design and content of the youth summit. We will also have research potential costs and funding sources with goal of holding the summit in 2023. So that's where we are at right now and Theresa and I are excited to join John's group in progress and provide updates to council as those come through.

>> Mindy: I just wanted to mention that CILs whose board serve on Disability Network of Southwest Michigan set up zoom calls with all of our legislators both at the -- house level for the eight-county area we cover, and I was able to participate in several calls. One of the items that Joel Cooper the President and CEO of Southwest Michigan had on his agenda to tell legislators was about the SILC. And he invited me to participate with the calls with our representatives and senators on the appropriation committee knowing I could not engage in the lobbying but that I could engage in advocacy. So that was pretty cool and a great experience.

>> How was feedback from the legislators? Were they engaged, interested in knowledgeable?

>> Mindy: It was excellent. Very engaged and interested at least on the calls I was on.

>> That is awesome because when we were designing this objective for the SPIL that we are in now we talked about doing that having the CILs act as a hub for their consumers and do quarterly calls with their local legislators to engage them in advocacy and educational opportunities and the objective morphed a bit but sounds like what you are doing at your shop is exactly what we talked about as the CIL writing team a year and a half ago. So, kudos to you.

>> Funny because the CILs didn't want to take the challenge as a CIL but now that the pandemic has happened and used to being online, I bet a different response. It was a different time then so

>> The legislators seemed to appreciate Steve the reach out. And the proactive desire to get persons with disabilities front and center in their decision making on the legislative level.

>> They had an impact we can't wait is about the auto no fault reform and the impact of that, but this group of grassroots advocates are having impact. They are now legislation introduced to change some of the things that were going to be most devastating about the auto no fault reform, so it works for sure. Glad to see it because it was like oh is this going to matter but it really does. Are there other CILs in your committee or just Jon right now? Just Jon now. He has other staff part of this group, so it is an interCIL group.

>> InterCIL, I like that word. Any other questions about leadership and advocacy before we move to the next one? If something comes to mind go backwards if you think of something. So, we have two more to cover and one is emergency response which I know Frank and Mark with Steve worked at and then -- I'm sorry I skipped personal care attendance. Jan, I have done a little work on it but not much, but Jan and Steve tell us what is going on with that objective.

>> Do you want me to start?

>> Sure.

>> Jan: He put some of the information in his executive Director report, there is a group out of Michigan State the alliance which Yvonne is involved with, and Steve and I were invited to the table for a convening earlier in the spring. That group is really -- it is a huge -- there is just people from Aging from CILs, Developmental Disabilities, lots, and lots of direct support professionals. Some provider agencies that agencies that provide direct support professional staff, so a big broad group and they have representation from anyone who needs direct support professional too really in the mix. Which is great but when you think about that giant of a ship and how fast it can move or turn or do anything, they are playing the long game, focusing on a number of things not just -- they are focusing on all the things. Wages and training and credentialing potentially recruiting and retention, every issue related to what it takes to have a good pool of competent well trained direct support professionals so that group is just getting started with some stuff, they are in the planning phases more. There are another group direct care wage coalition working for a couple of years which I sat on for the whole entire time that it's existed.

And that group is laser focused on increasing support for direct support professionals. In previous years we had little success, that little 25-cent raise we had the one year and 50-cent raise. The pandemic has been our friend. In advocacy because we now got that 2.25 cents raise. There's advocacy that needs to be done around that so I'm hoping that we can get the word out to all the CILs, and they can get word out to press on state legislators because they are working on -- we have got the wage increase to the end of the budget year but to make that permanent, so it doesn't go away on October 1 has to be put in next year's budget. So, the Senate our state Senate is all in. They are proposing that $2.25 an hour become permanent the governor will sign if she gets to her desk, we need to work on -- desk. We need to work on state representatives the lower chamber is not -- they are not as excited about it as senator Jim from the appropriations committee is. So, we just need to really be doing a lot of that kind of legislative advocacy. So, hoping to get the word out on that. We are in a -- with the crisis just gets worse, working on getting statistics but I mean I don't know if you have seen the press there was a provider agency in southern part of the state on coalition, they have discontinued services to anyone who doesn't get 24 hour care in licensed group homes that means most people we represent, homes meeting staff to come into homes so they don't lose that right, that I are not serving anybody in that situation any more. That agency is -- there's two different sort of group home corporations or facilities like 40 people and under they call them still group homes I call them something else.

>> Many institutions.

>> Small institutions. They are closing because they can't get enough staff so where are those people going? So, we are in a crisis, this is important and big so there's a lot of room for us to get the CILs really involved in this advocacy movement.

>> It compounded with Michigan is the fastest growing aging state in the nation. On top of people with disabilities, the competition for good caregiver you can add the aging community on top of disabilities, it is a lot.

>> I was going to say there's hope though. So, there is advocacy to be done because we have the budget coming up and we need to get folks to tell their legislators to vote for it. There is also though stuff that's happening on the Federal level with some legislation and some of the proposals that Biden is putting out there he is hoping to have in his infrastructure bill hoping to have money for this very thing. Direct support. I'm going to tell you that is where we will be doing public policy advocacy as well. When Biden first proposed first laid out his whole proposal for infrastructure and that part about people wages for basically direct support professionals was in there my Congressman, I'm so ashamed my congressman went on his social media page and said what has that got to do with infrastructure? What do you mean? Making sure that there is a network of people to support folks with disabilities in our aging population, that is infrastructure. Right? So, lots of opportunity but we need to press and advocate.

>> And you can provide talking points things like that, right? Go ahead.

>> Mark: I wanted to chime in, thank you so much Jan for sharing that piece. The person -- Laura Hill Sanders, she is our CIL in Detroit, and she is on the legislative team for the CILs. So, the things you target about why Lori is strategically sitting there we definitely need to get that information to her. I did send an email to you to connect to link that to January so that she can hear this right now the CIL is at a real good position to get us a way of connecting to our legislators quickly through a system where we write letters or one of the big guys in our CIL is Dave, he's really big on that. These initiatives and voices you want to get to our legislators; we have assistants to do that, so we got to get more reconnected. I will reach out again, she's the lead on that personal care attendance is huge so we need to know when to be laser focus and timely. In what we do. I am so glad to hear this, now I can get this information to Lori, she is over at Detroit area. They got so many representatives it is pathetic. They got so many people. We don't have that many representatives. I got some. -- seven.

>> Seven is enough.

>> So, I want to say that. That piece there.

>> Mark so you know too, I replied I hope I hit reply all but perhaps didn’t, but I did reply and thank you for that introduction and I added Jan to the email. So that we can make those connections. So hopefully we will touch base with her soon and you can have those talks before next meeting. Thank you for that. I appreciate that introduction. I met her via phone call, but it is nice to have that too. Did you have something else?

>> I will make sure too that stuff is coming to us. We need to be speaking out too as much as we can or sending to our own networks. I think my son -- I make my son write a letter every time there is something going on. He is a computer dude and I make him write letters. Guy that works for one two three writing about this subject.

>> Have you found -- so I -- because part of what we do is home care. Where I work, I was surprised because I was putting out information supporting this a while ago and there was a push to talk to your legislators and I was surprised that the home care agencies many said we don't want this. That surprised me the reason it did is it is a no brainer it is pastor money they said we already pay our workers $15 an hour now you expect us to pay them $17? I'm like yes but it is pass through money. I don't understand. The problem. You even get a little not a lot but little administrative costs to add to that income, but have you gotten that --

>> So yeah, because I think providers are worried about things like overtime costs. As a side bar on this topic there is lawsuit right now that is not in our state but Federal court about the department of labor rule that says that home care workers are entitled to overtime pay. And there are a group of providers, network of providers that are filing suit against that to try to get that reverse sod that then you wouldn't have to pay direct support professionals over time working more than 40 hours a week. How does that attract more workers to this field?

>> They are human beings doing an important job. With all that being said, you are right, but it is an educational piece, a lot of businesses are mom and pop, and they don't really understand all the labor laws and how it plays out, so education is huge.

>> Or worried it will become a mandate and then the funding will drop. We had direct care workers for my mother-in-law, and they work different places they don't always work at that one house so that becomes a concern of the company. But we have do take some time and show --

>> You are right. We do.

>> And I don't understand why you can't value a person that values and takes care of another person. I just don't get it.

>> Someday you will need someone to take care of you too, so you ought to invest in it now. Because right now we are competing with people flipping burgers at McDonalds versus the care of your loved one and Jan I so much appreciated your comment on infrastructure because many of our elected leaders believe it is bricks and mortar. There is a social infrastructure going on here that I'm so appreciative as parts of this conversation.

>> Thank you for all you are doing. Appreciate it very much. Last but not least we have emergency response. And Frank and Mark along with Steve, I know you guys have done some work on this so give us an update.

>> Frank I just want to say I heard you are moving up to -- going north. so, I want to make sure we maintain our connection while you are up north, Frank. So, we have -- the CIL directors sat down and looked at that time four goals and objectives like Steve said earlier. And our particular one here for emergency preparedness I laid out I have a person assigned to do that. And we start to fill out our template to get to the SILC. Where it is every quarter, you get this template that would explain what the numbers are. The numbers I have right now show our efforts as CIL. But soon jobs numbers will be in Jackson CIL and other CILs that come on board, and we will add that in. So really excited about this, it's going to be a little challenging, this first year I think we had a 25% goal, but with the pandemic and things, it is not right there. We have to expand a little bit on those smart 911 piece because smart 911 is not every single county so we'll come up with a definition of having emergency preparedness plan whatever that may be. Then identifying that consumer. And then one of the big thanks that came up that it is a choice, it is not something mandated that we do. Our particular CIL did use some dollars that came in through no wrong door to finance one FTE along with core dollars. CILs will be receiving we are looking coming up in budget that we are going to receive a significant amount of money and so hopefully we will be able to add this particular piece of CILs local level. So that's my report thus far and I want to make sure Frank gets his piece in.

>> Yeah. Frank, do you want to add anything to that?

>> Frank: I was trying to find the mute button, minimize the screen up towards the top. I know Steve's summary captures everything. We had some really great conversations and identifying the system as we were talking about the other reports looking at systems and structure and where things are lacking in terms of structure. So smart 911 was a big conversation and the other point of conversation that I was speaking to was the transitions of care people with disabilities come in contact with the medical -- the health system so EMS, going to the hospital, being admitted to the hospital and going to sub-acute rehab, ultimately with the goal of going home, so we were trying to think of creative ways to making sure we have a sound system in place. So, Steve, what is role of SILC in this? That is something we didn't discuss so we look at SILC helping in coordination and oversight and the CILs being direct points of contact for many of our people with disabilities patients if you want to use different names and together, we work with partnering with hospitals CMH MRS Michigan autism associates, just for examples, bring them to the table. That was our homework, identifying people we can contact organizations to contact to come help assist with this. SILC and CILs we can do quite a bit together, but we can do so much more when we bring more partnerships and networks in place. That is where we left off big picture. Detail wise I did reach out to my tribe health Director and with all the things going on right now in my transition up there we haven't had a good fruitful conversation what our community is doing with regards to our tribe and services patients with disabilities. The other point of contact was -- they have patient services diversity inclusion division department; we also have all the social workers work within a department and there is lead social workers that oversee the whole social department for the hospital. Looking at some of the items and resources on spare row's website, seems like they don't detail too much there. and I just know from experience with working with them we do our best to try to make sure that patient care is not disrupted, and specific needs are met. When a patient comes in or go home. I would like to see once I get feedback, I did call them a couple of times, once I get contact with them nice to maybe have spare row representative from their department maybe join us for one of our emergency preparedness meetings to bring (inaudible) to the hospital health system perspective.

>> That would be great. Good job guys.

>> That is my piece.

>> Yvonne: Does the Area Agency on Aging have any sort of emergency response form or -- that they do with people?

>> Glen: Yeah, we were just worked on ours today. So, we have a whole package that we give that has all the hospitals, the numbers our policies who to contact, all those kinds of things. And it is not like something that I deal with directly, but I know -- I believe it is something that like we have to do, obviously we want to but that is required so I could try to find out more about how that works if you would like.

>> Yvonne: I think connecting our community to the aging community will only make us stronger. Any opportunities we have to open those doors is -- are good ones. Thanks a lot guys you are working hard on the SPIL. Will before I forget you had a comment about personal care attendance, and I missed it. I apologize. Go ahead.

>> Will: Thanks. I was on the call today with a provider in Oakland County where I work. I deal with this every single day. I do 20 something cases and kind of what we do is we do a COS care and right now there are absolutely no -- when I say no, none, there's absolutely none. I was talking to (inaudible) in essence I had no (inaudible) work in 70, 80 hours a week and one of the things discussed today is what we need to do is we all know there is a crisis, but we need some form of communication where we can tell individuals hey, call your legislators here is how you do that, this is (inaudible) calling and -- this is not okay. And it is just an absolute dire crisis, and it is sad that there is little staff, heart breaking, and we need help. So, I guess my -- I want to get someone to open -- say hey you know what, we need legislation to change.

>> I almost wonder if we should start if people can't get staffing. I talked to someone who said there are days where he literally can't get out of bed because he doesn't have enough staff and he can't physically do it he can't get out of bed. He's stuck in bed because he doesn't have staffing and I think calling the constituent services of a legislators office and saying hi constituent I'm a constituent and I need help, they are not going to really -- they have information referral system they use but mostly they are going to hear it then and be like wow, we keep getting calls on this issue and they have to listen to the story about I can't get out of bed and I wonder if they need to hear more stories, Jan go ahead.

>> They do need to hear more. And I have an action alert that got sent out last week that it is not too late to respond to. I will get it out to everybody. So that you can spread around to your networks and for will, you can get it to your families or try to get it to the SILCs, maybe Steve can do that and that gets us started. The other thing that I would add is one of the things that I heard and we have to figure how to address this, there are stories like you just told and I say hey we need to let's call right now, let's call right now, whore whoever it is and sometimes people are a little afraid to do that because they are afraid that if they tell someone from the government that they can't get out of bed, that they are going to swoop in.

>> Adult protective services at their door or something. Yeah. Good point.

>> So, but that said, you can still tell the story without --

>> Identifying the person. Yeah.

>> Right. So, I will get that out. Thanks for that, will.

>> Thanks to all of you: We are making progress. We will be able to present progress. I love it so good job everybody. Appreciate it very much. Okay. We are -- go ahead.

>> I'm sorry this is Jan I had one question for Mark and Frank, and it is about you said enhanced 911 is in every county. I'm curious like is it coming to some of those counties or is there something that needs to be done to get it to some of those county?

I don't know. You know what I mean? Do we need to do advocacy there?

>> So, this is Mark. If I remember right Maria told me, it was like 63 counties that it was in and then it is like 20 that it is not in. I don't know what the real reason for that, but the good thing is that Maria, the lady we have working on this, came from FEMA so she's very familiar with the emergency preparedness plan in the state so what she was able to do is say okay not a smart 911 in your particular county this is what equivalent to that or this is what looks like an emergency preparedness plan. So, I'm really excited about having her here and being able to speak with some of the people at the state level and their plan and use the buzz words that are needed that need to be heard across the table. So hopefully next meeting she will present, and I think you will be impressed how she presents and her perspective on getting emergency preparedness plans together. It is sad, I was thinking about in my own house, we have been here since the pandemic, but I don't have a fire evacuation plan yet. For people on the second level. Everybody says jump out the window. I'm too old to jump out a window. That type of thinking we have to get people in that type of thinking. You need to think about when an emergency happens. So yeah. Now not the smart 911 is probably across 75% of the state, however we have other ways to track emergency plans too.

>> The last points I will make is what Mark said looking at those kinds that don't have smart 911 but even those who do doesn't talk to the hospital system EMR so (inaudible) smoother transition with healthcare.

>> So important.

>> So that is worth discussing too. Should we partner with group of data capability IT capability maybe MSU or something.

>> Thanks.

>> IT departments too.

>> Very cool.

>> Any other questions or comments about any of the spill goals before we move to our ex-officio members?

>> Yvonne: Let's jump in and hear what is going on in other worlds. Bill you are on the agenda first. There you are.

>> Bill: Thank you. Not a lot --

>> Yvonne: Thanks for your patience.

>> Bill: Can you hear me?

>> Yes.

>> Bill: That is okay. Not too much changed since the last time we talked here. Give you little update on people coming in the door and people going out of our door and of course people are coming in the door are people we call -- file for the application. Last time we met that number went up considerably from the pandemic, it stayed about the same since the last quarter that we all met here and number of people that are exiting has about stayed the same since last quarter which is all good news because a year ago all of those numbers were way down. Yes, seeing real progress here. Our big project for these next couple of months will be -- will determine office. I don't know if you heard the governor's overall plan, there's two basic dates in that plan, one is July 12. The next date is September 7, July 12 is what is called a soft start for return to the office. That is, you are not going to see everybody going back to the office. What we have to have before at least an MRS we have to have before the 12th is kind of a plan of how these people are going to return to the office. It is a very strategic and difficult plan as you know we have 13 district offices around the state. We have numerous smaller offices around the state. All of these have their unique challenges to bring customers back face to face to our counselors here. A lot of management, have been busy trying to prepare situations where we can bring the folks back and we still have very safe facility and the other data I was going to say is September 7th, that is kind of a date where we should have all those plans about done here is that again we could have different divisions bringing back people from different rates depending honesties, depending on how they will be needed in the office. One of the things that I am really interesting that during the pandemic is that we all stayed at home all virtual and we still kept up our Matrix and how we measure how we are doing, and those Matrix were very good. What it proved in a lot of areas is that a lot of people probably could stay home and be just as efficient and just as effective as they are when they are in the office. So that's all I have. We have no big projects we have started since the last time we talked. We are still hiring more people as we know we were down quite a bit for a while here. I have nothing to report on the budget, it is still the beginning deal process now so hopefully more information budget the next time we meet here. That's all I have today.

>> Yvonne: Thank you, Bill. Just to help you remember, July 12 is my birthday.

>> We know that is on the calendar.

>> Thank Tina for doing that.

>> Mindy: I have a question.

>> Yvonne: Go ahead Mindy.

>> This is Mindy Kulasa. Hello Bill.

>> Bill: Hello.

>> Mindy: Is MRS still planning on offering training to the SILCs on two CFR 200?

>> Bill: Absolutely.

>> Or is that postponed -- we will invite you if you would like to come.

>> Mindy: I absolutely want to come. Is that something that's been scheduled?

>> You froze up.

>> I'm sorry, go ahead.

>> I said it, has that been scheduled?

>> Give everybody else a little background, there was a write 2 CFR 200, not a major rewrite, it was a touch up some of the ends that needed to be addressed here. Most of 2CFR 200 stayed intact. There are interesting differences. 2 CFR is the document that gives us guidance when we expend Federal dollars, so it applies to all the CILs applies to the CIL, applies to us, how behave to administer Federal dollars. Some of the interesting changes in how we have to handle some of our reports we are still planning on doing that. The date we are still uncertain for. We prefer and we have done this before, is more face to face, personally like that better when talking automated issues but we still plan on going forward with it.

>> Good. Thank you. I -- it is always helpful to review those audit and reporting requirements. Supposedly they are streamlining changes streamlining we will see about that. Right?

>> Have you ever heard of them being successful on streamlining idea?

>> Absolutely not.

>> Question answered, question asked. Thank you, Bill.

>> I like when the accountants talk to each other. That's fun. Any other questions for Bill? All right. Lisa. You are next and also thank you for hanging in there.

>> Lisa: All right. I don't know if you can see me. I can't see myself.

>> Yvonne: We can see you.

>> Lisa: Great. If I'm off center I'm sorry for whatever reason I'm using my iPad and I can't see myself.

>> Yvonne: You are in the middle, and we can see you neck up so perfect.

>> Lisa: Perfect. Yeah, to echo Bill we at BSBP are also managing our reintegration plan or our re-engagement plan. I heard someone say the other day I hate calling it a return-to-work plan because we never stopped working as Bill said. In fact, a lot of us have worked a whole lot more just trying to manage all of the twists and turns and pivots and that we have had to manage over the last 15 months but as Bill also says we are proud of our team and our staff and our customers for being resilient and working through all of this. So, we actually are training center in Kalamazoo we engaged half capacity in March. They are now at almost full capacity. And so, they sort of -- they broke ground on the re-engagement plans. Field services division, my division and all of our really the rest of our program staff, our teachers have permission to go out to the field now. And reengage as soon as next week but we need to obviously write and have approved their re-engagement plan as well. So, they will be serving our independent living older blind, they will be serving the independent living part B recipients and they will be serving VR customers who are in jeopardy of losing employment or if they are unable to obtain employment. So, we are very excited about that. A lot of is to dot, Ts to cross, it is extremely daunting detailed process. To write these return to work plans or return to in person service. So, we are very much involved with that. A couple of partnership things we are doing. We just finished a presentation that will be providing to our encompass partners or rehabilitation partners, community rehab organizations that will be happening in July at their July leadership conference. Which usually is in Traverse City but virtual this year. We just signed with MRS, our memorandum of understanding with the Hannahville tribe so BSBP, MRS and the Hannahville tribe the 121 project, we just started that, we are in a joint agreement between behavioral health and health services BSBP and MRS so that has been signed and we are engaging in helping staff get trained as to how that can help us with collaboration and hopefully identifying additional individuals that could be served by both agencies or all respectively. We are also deeply invested in the customized employment project which is also a joint experience with MSS BSPB and providers across the state. So those are just a few of the things we are working on continuously constantly always looking for opportunities to excel at serving customers because customer focus is one of the biggest core values BSBP has. All decisions we make should revolve around that. So, we have been busy. Our budget is sound at this point. We are underspent as Cindy said earlier, Mindy. I'm sorry if I got your name wrong. We are also underspent as a result of COVID, so we are definitely concerned about that especially with our pre-employment transition services projects. Because we are to that 15% reserve obviously not going to meet that this year. So sad because which trying to serve the kids. The truth of at this a lot of what we have had to do as virtual and bluntly they are sick of it. They are sick of staring at screens. I get that, I'm sick of staring at screens and I'm an adult. So, but we got a lot of good summer stuff planned great programs that we are doing in our training center. And also, virtually and the training are center we will do in person. So, we are exciting about that. That is just a brief update.

>> Yvonne: You guys are busy.

>> Lisa: Very busy. We in VR don't let any grass grow under our feet. We have been very challenged to keep things moving.

>> Yvonne: The pandemic didn't slow you down.

>> Lisa: No. We too are contemplating how to reengage slowly and some folks like hybrids where some will be working at home and couple of days in the office and then et cetera, so we are working through that as well.

>> Yvonne: Good. Thank you so much. Any questions for Lisa?

>> Lisa: I have a question for you guys. I saw my name on the agenda in another spot and I wasn't exactly sure what that was.

>> Yvonne: So, one of the SPIL goals BSBP objective but you always cover it when you talk about the work that you guys are doing. So, it is just there to kind of remind people that that will get talked about elsewhere.

>>Lisa: All right I was like do I need -- I may have forgotten.

>> Yvonne: Sorry about that. I should have warned you.

>> Lisa: Just really quick on the perspective of that objective. I just want to mention too that because we do have some additional funds we are -- we did this last year and we will do it again this year. We and Mark can speak the that, I don't know that it's gotten a lot of use yet but hope it will in the future. We are looking to enhance the accessibility of our CILs and Michigan one stop locations by providing closer TV or video magnifiers for individuals with low vision or no vision to be able to use to read things to read their mail, to read anything that they want, if they can -- when the centers are open and people are able to come in just a piece of technology that allows some access. You don't have to be attached to BSBP; you don't have to be attached to anybody. As long as work with the CIL and the organizations we purchased them for you can come in and use them.

>> Yvonne: very cool.

>> Mark: So, Lisa, did you want -- I have -- we have a directors meeting Friday. Do you want me to mention this to them?

>> Lisa: You can mention to them that if they have not been contacted by BSBP they may. A lot of them already have. Because we purchased quite a few last year. Through for that. -- through for that. A good reminder, for instance if we did contact them and they didn't respond or whatever, put a plug in there because we have -- we have the ability to provide the da Vinci pros for them like we did for you guys.

>> Mark: Okay.

>> Lisa: Then we are working on the survey project with you as well. And that is moving along, it's been slower than what we would have hoped.

>> Mark: Yeah. Yeah.

>> Lisa: Been tough with -- they have done their best in terms of trying to connect with people the virtual thing is tough.

>> Yvonne: Thank you so much. Annie you are still here. Thank you for waiting so long. Appreciate it. (Overlapping speakers)

>> I'm sorry what did you say?

>> I was just saying thank you to Annie and I got to be on YouTube, so we are YouTube stars. We did a little ADA plug for technology. It is my friend and my YouTube companion. Is

>> This is Annie signing. I want to expand more on that. -- expand more on that. Updates. Since the last time we met. MDCR is now we have a new Director an interim Director, his name is John Johnson. Our former Director left. And he took an interim position as the chief of police for the Detroit -- city of Detroit police department. So right now, our department is really focusing on assessing our permanent work plans. Just like Bill mentioned, as well as Lisa, about following the governors’ mandates for the July 12 return to the office plan. We are assessing that as will. Right now, just some brief information regards to our office, we are excited we are starting next week Monday, we will be having an intern starting. We are bringing in an intern to work for us for summer semester and it is an interesting topic to cover, it is really relevant to what the work that we do, we are bringing in an intern and it will be data collection and working with group homes and assisted living centers, and independent living centers and adults home adult services, and care centers. Because we know from -- that there are many deaf and deaf blind and hard of hearing citizens who require services or maybe have other disabilities and they need a place that understands their communication needs as well as maybe direct care workers or staff who can communicate with them in ASL. Understanding that person maybe deaf blind or hard of hearing but may need additional equipment to communicate. So we are seeing increase need, in families, friends, and deaf people themselves asking us and contacting our office wanting to know where they can find group homes or long term care centers for family members who have hearing loss or maybe are getting older and need to go into a place but they don't want them to be isolated in a place if they are all alone by themselves and there is no other residents who use sign language or direct care workers or staff who work with them who can sign and understand how to communicate with them. So, before we really can assess if that is a gap in our state we have to have -- if that is true accessibility problem, we have to do that data collection first, see what is out there, and see what the status is for our state and in relation to the deaf community. One big project we are looking at, really having the intern come in and start that data collection. So, we are definitely, I'm going to be connecting with some of the CILs because I want to be able to get information from them for the entire state, so we are really excited about that. I do also want to share specifically related to the vaccine efforts; I know some of you know that the protect Michigan commission that dissent work group that I have been on we have been focusing on working on access for people with disabilities to get access to the vaccine. And again, same as I mention before, please inform me, contact me if you have heard of issues or barriers for anyone or if you have an idea or maybe you have noticed that there is a gap in a certain region that we need to provide more accessibility, people with disabilities to get their vaccine or direct care workers, people servicing people with disabilities and they can't get the vaccine. If there are any issues if you have any ideas pant access or anything please communicate with me, let me know. The last thing I wanted to mention is our office is we are shifting focus and starting to ramp up trainings. We are starting to get a lot more training requests and I understand we are still offering these in virtual format so most training is cultural competency skills trainings, how do we serve or work with people who are deaf, deaf blind or hard of hearing? How do you -- do people work with interpreters how do people get captioning service?

So, we are starting to see a real increase in that's specially now because we are noticing that the virtual experience whether for work or public meetings, or even one on one meetings, is not going away, it is going to become a permanent fixture. So, I have been getting a lot of training requests how do you zoom, how to find interpreters how to make sure the person making the request can get appropriate accommodation. Also, we are getting a lot of retraining across focusing on what we call perception -- perception shifting so business, policy, decision makers, about how what to and how to invest in increasing awareness about the needs for people within our community. And how do we have those tough conversations. How do we start to really get in and navigate and change people's mind sets and attitudes about how we are seeing and viewed as a person with a disability. So -- coming from a more equity based conversation, in regards to that, so if you know of any businesses, or organizations or agencies or individuals who might be interested in that training we are offering have them contact us Lisa, it was -- Lisa was nice enough to mention, it was cool, the state, they had what they do they do them monthly, they do employee newsletter, they send out monthly reports, highlighting some different things that are do -- employees doing every month. recently they asked me to participate in a discussion about accessibility. As a person with a disability what is accessibility mean to me. And what with do we want the state departments to do and how the make that accommodation accessibility a smooth process. Different things to think about. I was able to pull in Lisa and she was able to participate in the interview and it was awesome, fantastic. We just want to start framing things in a way that people are thinking ahead of a person with a disability. And not making that accommodation when needed but making sure you do the right thing and give everyone opportunities and accessibility to participate and we are investing in the people, we are investing in the people here who use our services and are part of this state and it is important that we do that. But I think that is all I have for you today. Thank you.

>> Yvonne: Thank you, Annie. That is so important that we just do what is right and not as an exception for person with a disability. Because it helps all of us and the simple example that came up earlier with curb cuts, we all benefit from curb cuts so let's just do the right thing to begin with and not when it is needed because somebody with a disability is there. Mark put in the chat Annie that the CILs have a -- received funding from ACL to assist with getting people with disabilities vaccinated. Do you want the talk about that, Mark?

>> Yes. This is Mark. So, the CILs just a very informal thing they sent out a nice little request from ACL, I think it is really Caris act dollars to assist us with getting vaccinations to people with disabilities. So, if there is any type of barriers that are out there, I know here in Lansing the speck Tran will center vans somewhere pick that person uptake them to the actual pharmacist, whatever, get that shot and take them back home. There are funds out there and any type of collaboration partnerships, that -- they are open to it. We are getting ready to go out to stock bridge, speck Tran or -- has a mobile van that actually a bus they converted to a center where they can do shots. So, a lot of agencies trying to collaborate for getting people the shots they need. Just a matter of mentioning it and you don't have to pay. The people have a lot of money to spend.

>> Annie: I want to add another comment. If you know of any pop-up clinics that are targeting people with disabilities or any local regional events that you want the state to promote let me know and I will forward it to our PMC, and they will share information on any social media sites. So, we can network and target the community that we are trying to target and work with them. Also do you think I'm curious, do you think there is a need for regional clinic or what we call a regional health fare targeting people with disabilities do you feel there is a need? That would help recruit people from the disability community or their family members or their caregivers? Do you think there is a certain region helpful to host an event or benefit from an event? Maybe a health fair or maybe not sure maybe a blood pressure check, talk about maybe have state level representative. Applying for assistance you could have somebody there doing that. And they can provide vaccines there, is that something anyone would consider doing? Just trying to ask and get a pulse of what the feeling is out there in the community if it is something needed. If it is let many know and we can partner with local health department. And find organizations that are willing to provide location if you see a need let me know and we ooh he will coordinate something.

>> Yes, this is Mark I believe there is a need. For stock bridge area, and ONADEGA (phonetic) and other areas out there that can use services put in there and provide it and other people know some areas too. I'm on board as a partner. Bring that up with your CIL Director meeting too. And see if there's others. Thank you so much. You guys are always so busy.

>> You are fine. I just wanted to mention too I put in the chat that (inaudible) who is a Director of Disability Rights Michigan she also mentioned at a joint meeting that I was part of at the Michigan -- at the council meeting she mentioned that they have a grant also to assist individuals if they have any COVID related vaccine stuff if they need help with that, I think there's transportation there. Sound like there is really good resources out there where folks should be able to hopefully get the services, they need in order to get vax makes or transport to that. Whatever is needed. Or help sign up for it. I will speak to that as a low vision person in the whole thing of navigating through that is it is not made for us be clear, those sites are not made with accessibility in mind for the most part.

>> So true.

>> This is Frank. I think the pop-up clinics are a really neat idea. I would suggest there be some level of intake to have continuity of care because oftentimes we see patients in general even patients with disabilities if they go to a pop-up clinic, they are seen that one time. And not getting regular checkups they may need, regular follow-ups, connecting them to the healthcare system. Maybe part of intake into say a clinic, having them connect with the case managers social worker to connect to social services too they may need. Pop up clinics are nice but a lot of times one-time deals. Better to have continuity of care.

>> Makes sense.

>> Annie, sound like something to follow-up on with you. And work on, sounds like you are getting the pulse there is a need.

>> Yes. This is Annie signing. I want to make sure -- whoops hold on one minute. Steve started sharing the screen and I lost Annie. This is the interpreter speaking. I want to make sure we are not overlooking any possible partnerships or any incentives, so I want to recruit as many people as possible and make the connections that we need. Because I know that many people with disabilities have not been able to go and see their primary care doctor or there, you know, so we thought maybe it would be nice to do something regionally based so feel free to contact me. And one last comment, about the ACL, announcing setting up nationwide hotline, for in relation to COVID for people with disabilities so I'm sure you probably already saw the announcement that went out, but it is important to mention they do have the nation bide hotline now available for any COVID related questions for people with disabilities. All right that is it. Thank you.

>> There are a couple things in the chat if you want to look and catch up. If you haven't before there are three dots on the chat you can right click, click save chat so you can save the entire chat to look at later because there are links in emails there too. Janet Timbs, I don't see you on the list, but you may be on number I don't recognize.

>> Hi. This is Janis Weckstein, I replaced Janet Timbs.

>> Sorry about that.

>> Janis: That is okay. I apologize, everybody, I had shared earlier I didn't have my video on because I have been on medical leave and am on bedrest and I just didn't think I would look great on camera right now.

>> Yvonne: We appreciate you still attending.

>> Janis: Yeah. Absolutely. Well, I'm just so thrilled to be part of the group. This is my second meeting so I look forward to becoming better prepared more informed on things to present for but real quick what I can share with you is that the office of special education with other offices within the Michigan Department of Education have been collaborating together with other office on continued COVID guidance in working with school districts especially as more districts are preparing to open districts across the state that were completely remote the whole year, some hybrid, some were completely face to face and of course there are lot of issues that came about in areas of special education and other as well, career tech education, health nutrition services state assessment so offices collaborating together on guidance working with districts. There are other offices committees within the different offices at the department that are engaged in discussions about the American recovery plan funds how districts are supported. I would just add to what everybody else has been saying also about state of Michigan employees, many of us about 50% of us I think it is have been teleworking the last 15 months the Michigan Department of Education as well as other agencies are engaged in every state agency is reviewing now somebody already mentioned this is exactly how we are referring it to, not return to work because we have been working all along but what return to office is going to look like. And that is going to look different for every single state agency. So, the Department of Education is looking, there is a lot of Directors we are all engaged in discussions with senior leadership. Hope to have the plan announced soon. That is going to look -- may even look different for different offices within the MDE but there is nothing set in stone to be announced but we know July 12 is coming quickly. I think somebody mentioned soft opening that is what we anticipate, that doesn't necessarily mean that every single person is going to be back in the office on July 12th there will be transition planning and we don't know what that will look like yet, but I suspect a possibility but can't say for sure there may be a hybrid. It will just look different across every state agency. So, stay tuned I would hope by next time we get together I will be able to share exactly what the Michigan Department of Education plan is for return to the office. Thank you.

>> Yvonne: Thank you, I apologize I knew it was Janis not Janet. Thank you for participating while you are recovering. Appreciate it. And our chat is -- there's lots of fun things going on in the chat and so links and such. So, follow-up with that. And I know that that's not accessible for you, Lisa. So let me know if it helps if I save it and email it to you. I can do that. Okay. VENDELLA, are you on the line? Okay. So, Mark you are up.

>> Yvonne this is Lisa. I'm good with the chat today. I have got my accessibility going so I'm good. Thank you for that offer. Appreciate it and also just real quick question for you before Mark gets started. I just want because you do sit on the MCRS I mentioned that, made me think, I wondered are you planning to maybe bring some of that content to this conversation? Because I think there could be some opportunities for some overlap.

>> Definitely. And I talked with Steve about that. I always -- the two I attended I learned so much. We just couldn't fit it into this agenda, but I definitely think that if I'm the SILC rep I should communicate back to this group what was discussed. I'm glad to have you as a backup because a lot of information so yeah, you should plan to see -- that should be on the next agenda. We couldn't fit it in today.

>> No worries. Reach out if you want to put something together whatever happy to help.

>> Cool. Thank you appreciate that.

>> Yep.

>> Back to you Mark.

>> Mark: Just a few quick updates. The CIL network hired a new Director to replace (inaudible) but she is not a CEO. Her name is Terry Langley, and the title is Director of community relations. She plans on being on board July 6. So, I would definitely try to get her to the SILC, once she settled in so she can speak with you on behalf of legislative agendas, that the network has.

>> That the primary role is legislative advocacy?

>> Yes.

>> Okay.

>>Mark: That is primary role. I'm -- I won't steal her thunder because I can't but as soon as we can get her here by first of fiscal year, we have her speak with you. With the council. The CILs -- yes.

>> Mark. This is Mindy Kulasa. Is Sandy the lobbyist still working on behalf of the CIL network as well?

>> Mark: Yes, she is

>> Mindy: The two of them will be working closely together I would assume.

>> Mark: Yes, very closely together.

>> Mindy: Okay. Excellent. Thank you.

>> Thank you for bringing that up. That is part of her resume, so we are looking forward to having her out there. August 1 is the reopening for the CILs trying to have them open statewide. Most of us counter there, that may not mean everybody is threw but the CILs will be open and doing meetings. The director is interested in hosting a meeting for the SILC so please if you want to get up to the UP and have fun with Sarah, she's probably happy to host the meeting in the UP. I would love to ride over the bridge, I have never been over the bridge. Can you imagine that.

>>Yvonne: I want to drive then because I love taking people over the bridge who have never been.

>> Mark: Supposedly a horror ride or what?

>> It is exciting. Everybody handles it differently.

>> Mark: I don't know if I want to ride with you Yvonne. And last but not least, the CILs are switching to another database, called CIL first and the goal is for that to be up and running by October 1 of 2021, it is a major undertaking, so I'll try to keep you posted as we go along. that's all I have.

>> Mark, it's Mindy Kulasa again, I guess this is really a question for you and Steve. Is this replacement for net CIL going to be something we can mine to support the spill as we were able to mine data in net CIL?

>> Yes, I don't have the ins and outs, but I know Steve will be approached on what type of query per se they want to poll for the SILC.

>> Wonderful thank you.

>> Mindy, my -- thank you Mark for that. My understanding is that this new software program can have aggregated reports created for MRS purposes and SILC purposes. Our last bill was very heavy on individual CIL data at an aggravated level. We intentionally wrote this spill to be more of a state level view where we are not so dependent on CIL PPRs or aggravated CPRs (inaudible)

In this spill so what is coming for our reports for objectives in the current spill are not reliant on the CIL network database so much. So, I think in forward looking way we are in good shape with this transition that the CIL network is engaging. So, I think we are good to go.

>> Great question. That was mine as well. How do we get the information we need. All right. Thank you, Mark. And we do not have any unfinished business, we do not have any new business added to our agenda so I'm going to go along, is there any additional information sharing or announcements by council members ex-officio members, Mindy.

>> This is Mindy Kulasa, I wanted to make everyone aware, and Steve will push out information on this to everyone tomorrow. But we are in the process of seeking a replacement for Joel Cooper. Our 20-year, tenured President and CEO also known in other circles as executive Director. So just to clarify that point. But Mark or excuse me, Steve will be pushing out the position posting for that. I'm just trying to get the word out to everyone and if you could forward on to your contacts, I know Jan in particular you have extensive network of contacts if your work with the arc I believe, it would be wonderful to get a Michigander in this position although we are doing a regional search for it. Just to throw out this enticement, the starting salary is $95,000.

Just an FYI that is in print in the position posting, thank you, very much.

>> Thank you, Mindy.

>> Anything else, any other announcements? Okay. I don't believe so but I'm going to ask if there is anyone on this call meeting that would like to give public comment. I'll wait a second to make sure if there are they are able to get off mute. One more time anyone who wants to give public comment? I appreciate all of you. I know our agendas are so packed. So, packed. Remember though we try to condense five-hour six-hour meeting into a three-hour meeting. So, I mentioned at the beginning that maybe next one can be in person. The zoom is always available when we were in person people also joined by zoom so it is no pressure if you are not comfortable or just can't be there in person. But maybe if things keep going the right direction, we can actually spend some time together and break bread and enjoy each other's company. Will suggested that we consider doing an overnight the first time we get together because we never as this council as this body have been able to spend time together so we can do an overnight and have dinner and just really spend time getting to know each other instead of just through the computer like we are now. So, appreciate all of you. Have a good evening. Sure, we will be in touch here and there for spill goals and objectives and strategic planning. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

>> Steve: Yvonne if I can just interject here. I would like to suggest the next time we are able to meet in person I would like to suggest Marquette in the UP that offers us a chance to travel, we would have to do an overnight. We have to break bread together and see the beautiful Marquette area and Sarah's beautiful center for independent living there. And say thank you so much to John and Sarah for spending time with us and sharing their very rich stories with us from their perspective as relates to the objectives in the SPIL so kudos, kudos, kudos all the way around.

>> Yvonne: You be sending thank you notes on our behalf?

>> Steve: I absolutely will.

>> Yvonne: I love the idea of Marquette let's do planning and we have it in the budget because we haven't done any traveling so will be okay.

>> We are so underspent on travel budget. We have to have an argument for Bill’s shop when we come to his table for budget negotiations.

>> Right. Yeah, Bill.

>> Bill: Approved. It's approved.

>> All right.

>> Lisa: You have more than one bill that you have to negotiate with, just don't forget that.

>> Steve: Thank you for that, Lisa. Yes, absolutely you are correct. And I stand corrected.

>> Lisa: I'm just saying.

>> Yvonne: All right. Well good night everybody. Thanks so much for hanging there. We will see you soon.

>> Bye-bye.

>> Have a great night everyone.

>> Have a great week everybody.