SILC Executive Director Report March 8, 2024

# 2023/2024 Collaborations/Meetings/Trainings

From October 1, 2023, through March 7, 2024, I engaged in the following activities on behalf of SILC:

* Represented SILC in multiple Zoom meetings with Disability Rights Michigan and other community partners to collaborate on increasing voter turnout and voting access for people with disabilities in Michigan.
* Exploring a potential partnership between SILC and the CILs for increasing community awareness about Independent Living during the Canadian Hockey League’s 2024 Memorial Cup tournament presented by Dow. The tournament will take place in Saginaw at the Dow Event Center in the spring. We have onboarded SILC’s outreach contractor, Idea39, and the marketing contractor for some of the CILs, to assist with this potential opportunity.
* Representing SILC on the MCRS.
* Continued representing SILC on the DD Council’s Communities of Practice initiative.
* Represented Michigan at the National Association of SILC’s Board of Directors meeting.
* Held a meeting with the Governor’s Communications Office to help them learn more about what SILC does and our collaborative partnerships with the CIL network and MRS.
* Continued working with the Michigan Public Health Institute to implement their Emergency Preparedness grant. SILC was awarded $20,000 in the grant to cover grant related staff time and associated costs. These funds are being shared with the CILs to offset their grant-related costs. The grant was extended through May 2024. Lastly, and at MPHI’s request, I was honored to draft the introduction for MPHI’s Emergency Preparedness Guide.
* Represented SILC during the Michigan Department of Civil Rights ADA Compliance Division’s ADA panel discussion to explore increasing inclusion of people with disabilities in employment opportunities. The panel focused on intersectionality in the workplace and areas within employment that need to be strengthened to achieve full access by people with disabilities.
* Attended three ILRU technical assistance training webinars on increasing the power of our SPIL.
* A few Council members and I met with United Health Care, at their request, to discuss Home and Community Based Services in Michigan and Duel Eligible Special Needs care.
* Represented Michigan during the quarterly Region V SILC Executive Director Peer to Peer meeting.
* Facilitated a private foundation grant opportunity that was soliciting letters of intent to provide innovative approaches to aging in the community. I also attended their Call for Letters of Intent Zoom meeting and shared the information with the CIL network.
* Represented SILC during BSBP’s Excellence Awards and attended their new office open house in Lansing.
* Continued representing SILC on the Disability Justice Alliance led by Detroit Disability Power.
* A few Council members and I attended a meeting called by Tammy Lemer, DHHS State Assistant Administrator, to provide stakeholder input into the Michigan DHHS’s Independent Options Counseling initiative.
* I held meetings with SPIL objectives champions to solicit input into the SPIL evaluation report.
* A few Council members and I participated in an Auto No Fault Advocacy Update meeting for community partners.
* SILC ‘s Outreach team has partnered with Disability Network Mid-Michigan on a mini-campaign to be rolled out during the Canadian Hockey League’s Memorial Cup Tournament in Saginaw to promote IL and the CILs through a billboard campaign.
* Held six (6) SPIL public input hearings via Zoom
* Attended the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and Compliance Division’s meet and greet
* Attended a Disability Health and Intersectionality webinar
* Facilitated MOUs with the CILs for $20,000 for work they are doing on the MPHI Emergency Preparedness grant
* Attended three (3) ILRU webinars on SPIL Training and Technical Assistance
* Attended the quarterly Region V peer meeting with SILC directors from surrounding states
* Attended the quarterly MCRS meeting
* Attended the Michigan Department of Civil Rights Black History Month presentation
* Issued an RFP for SILC accounting services, facilitated review/rankings of proposals. A recommendation for award of contract is part of the March 2024 SILC meeting packet
* Attended a NCIL listening session on housing
* Facilitated multiple SPIL Writing Team and SILC SPIL Writing Team public meetings
* SILC tabled at BSBP’s Transition Services Association Conference
* Attended MRS’s Rate Development and Policy Information session
* Attended the Waskul Settlement meeting facilitated by Kyle Williams of Disability Rights Michigan
* Attended two Disability Justice coalition meetings
* Attended the Office of Independent Living Program’s quarterly connection meeting

# 2024 – 2026 SPIL Writing Team

The SPIL writing team is comprised of Council members, CIL directors, DSE staff, and BSBP staff. All SPIL writing team meetings are open to the public with agendas and meeting notes posted to SILC’s website for public participation and review. The team continues to meet on a monthly basis. The CIL directors continue to work on CIL goals and objectives based on responses received through SILC’s community needs assessment survey which gathers public input for the next SPIL. So far, we have received 154 community needs assessment survey responses. The survey is promoted through SILC’s social media channels and by other partners including the CILs. In addition, all sections of the SPIL have been assigned to the appropriate team members for review and proposed revisions.

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

Six (6) SILC led virtual public input meetings were held via Zoom during January and February 2024. Three more meetings are scheduled for Sunday, March 24th, Wednesday, March 27th and Thursday, March 28th. We are exploring holding in person public input meetings closer to spring and will continue hosting virtual meetings monthly.

The 2025-2027 SPIL timeline is as follows:

* Now - May 1, 2024: Continue Gathering Public Input
* May 1, 2024: Draft SPIL Complete for Public Comment
* May 1, 2024 – May 30, 2024: Public Comment Period on Draft SPIL
* June 30, 2024: SPIL Due to ACL

# CIL Director Meetings

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

# Statewide Outreach Services

We are making great progress with statewide outreach as we promote Independent Living and the CILs across the state through our monthly newsletter, online blog, and weekly social media posts. SILC has partnered with Disability Network of Mid-Michigan on a mini-campaign to promote independent living throughout mid-Michigan during the Canadian Hockey League’s Memorial Cup Tournament to be held in Saginaw in May/June 2024. DNMM is working with the Dow Event Center to promote IL inside the arena during the tournament. SILC will be promoting IL through two billboards placed in high traffic areas along I-75 and I-675 in Saginaw.

# Appointments

I am pleased to announce that Yasmina Bouraoui, Executive Director of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC), was appointed to the Ex Officio seat reserved for the MDDC in SILC’s Executive Order. We are extremely excited to welcome Yasmina to the Council! With this appointment, SILC is now a fully seated Council. I continue to work with the Office of Appointments to identify potential future applicants.

# SILC Strategic Planning

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

**SILC Accounting RFP**

At the end of January 2024, I issued an RFP for SILC accounting services . We received two proposals that were reviewed and ranked by three members of the Executive Committee. Juniper Accounting Services, SILC’s current accounting firm, was the highest ranked proposal. The Council is being asked to vote on the award of a five-year contract to Juniper Accounting Services, with a five-year optional extension, during the March 8, 2024, quarterly business meeting.

**Upcoming Events and Trainings**

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

* March 11 – March 13, 2024 - SILC Congress, Little Rock, Arkansas - Join the 2024 SILC Congress: Support. Information. Leveraging Connections at the DoubleTree Hotel, 424 W. Markham St., Little Rock, Arkansas, March 11-13, 2024.
  + Check out the Congress flyer at   
    <https://www.april-rural.org/conference/images/2023_Conference/SILC_congress_save_the_date.pdf>.
  + Regular registration ends on January 15, 2024. Late registration ends March 1, 2024. Visit the SILC Congress website to register  today at [https://form.jotform.com/232506406195050](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com_-3Furl-3Dhttps-253A-252F-252Fform.jotform.com-252F232506406195050-26data-3D05-257C01-257CJennifer.Martin-2540acl.hhs.gov-257Cbb9de1e85bc64e7d721408dbdee35cd6-257Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df-257C0-257C0-257C638348840333620211-257CUnknown-257CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0-253D-257C3000-257C-257C-257C-26sdata-3DCpoBGfPhNEsb1odmZY-252Bl8wNyh38F6udGA78lNy-252B9-252FHg-253D-26reserved-3D0&d=DwMFaQ&c=ZQs-KZ8oxEw0p81sqgiaRA&r=gF91hRypEUdkBdCQGLYRZA&m=Grj2QjuI72QQ0vF46OHiJkZpVV_xpd6YqEU-GJQznVxwa7gEd1BCJSbsJOoLNYiC&s=fwwMpduYCuI6lJlvim6OFdw07ZRJue4kPdydb8bcbXk&e=).
  + For more complete information email [SILCCongressinfo@gmail.com](mailto:SILCCongressinfo@gmail.com)
  + If you would like to attend, please contact Tracy as soon as possible at [tracy@misilc.org](mailto:tracy@misilc.org)

Below are the dates and times for our SPIL public input meetings for March 2024:

* Sunday, March 24, 2024, at 12:00 p.m  
  Join Zoom Meeting  
  <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83059744456>  
    
  Meeting ID: 830 5974 4456  
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  One tap mobile  
  +13092053325,,83059744456# US  
  +13126266799,,83059744456# US (Chicago)
* Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.
* Join Zoom Meeting  
  <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83029584858>  
    
  Meeting ID: 830 2958 4858  
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  One tap mobile  
  +13017158592,,83029584858# US (Washington DC)  
  +13052241968,,83029584858# US
* Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.
* Join Zoom Meeting  
  <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83409732464>  
    
  Meeting ID: 834 0973 2464  
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  One tap mobile  
  +16465588656,,83409732464# US (New York)  
  +16469313860,,83409732464# US
* ILRU SILC Related Trainings for the Next 6 Months:

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

**2024**

**April**

* April 4, 2024 - State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Training and Technical Assistance Series
* April 10, 2024 - New CIL and SILC Staff Members Monthly Technical Assistance and Training
* April 16, 2024 - Modern Community Outreach Webinar
* TBD - Systems Advocacy Webinar

**May**

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

**June**

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

**July**

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

**August**

* August 1, 2024 - State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Training and Technical Assistance Series
* August 14, 2024 - New CIL and SILC Staff Members Monthly Technical Assistance and Training
* TBD - Individual Advocacy Webinar
* TBD - Rural Transition Webinar

**September**

* September 5, 2024 - State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Training and Technical Assistance Series
* September 11, 2024 - New CIL and SILC Staff Members Monthly Technical Assistance and Training
* TBD - Transitioning Unhoused or Economically Disadvantaged Populations Webinar