

SILC Executive Director Report
March 16, 2022

ACL Leadership Changes

Over the past year, Corinna Stiles, Sean Barret and Regina Blye have left ACL's Office of Independent Living Programs (OILP) for other opportunities. Current leadership at OILP involving Michigan are:

Erica McFadden – Director, Office of Independent Living Programs
(Vacant) – Team Lead

Peter Nye – CIL, DSE and SILC Program Officer for Region II, V (Michigan), and X

Financial Audit RFQ

On March 1, 2022, SILC staff issued an RFQ for Financial Auditing Services for FY 2021-2022 with an optional 2-year extension. Proposals are due no later than March 30, 2022. Once proposals are evaluated, the evaluation team will make a recommendation for award during the June 2022 SILC business meeting.

New Financial Institution

SILC is currently a member of Adventure Credit Union. After system upgrades in October 2021, the credit union no longer allows our QuickBooks system to interface with our account. Staff have researched other financial institutions and are recommending switching MiSILC's financial institution to Chase Bank in Grand Rapids, MI.

Line-Item Transfer

SILC staff is recommending a budget line-item transfer of \$2,300 from Statewide Database Reporting to Supplies to cover the unexpected cost of replacing two staff laptops. We do not anticipate the Statewide Database Reporting line item to be negatively impacted by the transfer.

New Staff Insurance

SILC staff are exploring other options for life and disability insurance benefits for staff that are similar to state employee benefits. Better group insurance rates are available through SBAM by MiSILC joining the Barry County Chamber of Commerce. Once we have explored these options, I will make a recommendation to the full Council to move to new insurance policies effective October 1, 2022 which are in line with a negotiated FY 2022-2023 budget.

Appointments

Four Council members' terms expired on December 31, 2021 and one vacancy occurred when Yvonne Fleener resigned in September 2021 leaving five voting seat vacancies. The four members requested reappointments prior to their terms expiring. The Appointments Office is behind on appointments due to a staff member retiring last quarter. Any reappointments will not be retroactive to January 1, 2022, so we are operating with six voting members until the five seats are filled. I will continue working with Appointments to expedite the process.

SILC Strategic Planning and Statewide Outreach

SILC wrapped up the strategic planning process in August 2021 which resulted in updated vision and mission statements. SMART goals have been created for strategic plan goals that align with our current SPIL. The balance of strategic plan goals will be aligned with SILC goals created in the next SPIL.

On September 10, 2021 SILC staff issued an RFP for comprehensive statewide outreach to unserved and underserved disability populations in Michigan. Proposals are due by September 24, 2021. In December, the Council awarded a contract for \$45,000 to Idea 39. On January 18, 2022, a three hour kick off workshop was held with Idea 29 and the steering work group. The steering team is made up of Council members, BSBP and CIL directors. Team members include Yvonne Fleener, Diane Fleser, Alex Gossage, Lisa Kisiel, Frank Animikwam, Jamia Davis, Jan Lampman, Will Harrison, and Steve Locke.

The Outreach steering team has met several times with our contractor over the first few months of 2022. The overarching Outreach theme will be “Shining a Light” on the work we do, the principles of Independent Living, the work of our partners, and the contributions that people with disabilities make. We are currently working on the following:

- Defining our audience
- Fleshing out our concepts
- Conducting a media audit
- Creating a phases overview
- Drafting tactics
- Discussing media outlets
- Defining a timeline
- Reviewing next steps

Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services (MCRS)

Last quarter, I was appointed to the MCRS by the Governor to represent SILC at our Chairs request. The MCRS’s mission is to improve public Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services delivered by the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) and Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS).

2022 SILC Congress in San Diego

The 2022 SILC Congress “*Pandemic to Possibilities: SILC Solutions*” will be held at the Holiday Inn Bayside, San Diego, California on May 16-18, 2022. The Congress is a great venue for connecting with other SILCs and staff from across the country, meet with ACL leadership, and attend educational workshops and breakout sessions. If you would like to attend, please let Tracy know.

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

SILC was invited to join the Commission’s Communications Outreach Advisory team along with 30 other state level agencies to help increase public comment on the redistricting process. SILC

was chosen to increase participation from the disability community. Public hearings have concluded and final maps were presented to the public in December 2021.