

SILC Executive Director Report

May 2025

October 2024 – April 2025, Collaborations/Meetings/Trainings

From October 1, 2024, through April 2025, the SILC Executive Director engaged in the following activities on behalf of SILC:

- Continued meeting monthly with the Executive Director of Disability Network Michigan to continue growing SILC's relationship with all Michigan CILs.
- 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.
- Represented SILC during the MCRS quarterly business meeting.
- Continued representing SILC on the DD Council's new Disability and Aging Communities of Practice State Alliance.
- Represented Michigan at the National Association of SILC's Executive Committee meeting.
- Represented SILC during the Michigan Department of Civil Rights External Partner Meet and Greet
- Attended OILP quarterly connection call.
- Represented Michigan during the quarterly Region V SILC Executive Director Peer to Peer meeting.
- Continued representing SILC on the Disability Justice Alliance led by Detroit Disability Power.
- Continued to represent SILC on the Voters with Disabilities Advocacy Coalition spearheaded by Disability Rights Michigan.
- Represented SILC at the MRS Champion Awards
- Represented SILC at the BSBP Excellence Awards
- Assisted with facilitating monthly SILC Facebook Roundtable discussions
- Assist with facilitating biweekly SILC statewide outreach meetings with contractor and partners
- Facilitated DHHS access to the Emergency Preparedness Guide Created through the partnership between MPH, SILC, and the Michigan CILs
- Represented SILC at three financial audit meetings
- Held a meet-and-greet with new staff in the Governor's Office of Appointments and continued relationship building
- Facilitated the reappointment of three SILC members and the CIL directors' representative
- Conducted a SILC 101 orientation for Julie Shaw, the new CIL directors' representative on the SILC, four CIL directors, and Teri Langley.
- Issued an RFP for statewide advocacy and community education services, facilitated the evaluation of proposals, and presented the results for Council action in December.
- Worked with Treasurer on a new RFQ for financial auditing services

Executive Committee/Special SILC Meeting Actions

As a result of not receiving a grant from Borealis, we will engage our fallback plan and use the onetime funding of \$60,000 from MRS to support SILC's advocacy and community education efforts this fiscal year. In December, the SILC held a special meeting to award a one-year \$60,000 contract to Idea39 for the provision of advocacy and community education services as we implement the SPIL.

I want to thank Sigrid Adams again for her continued and unwavering support of SILC. She has

truly been SILC's champion and a champion of all people with disabilities!

The SILC Executive Committee gave the Council's support for a system reform position statement created statewide advocates, and led by Disability Rights Michigan, regarding Michigan's mental health system. It is included in your Council packet.

2024 – 2026 SPIL Monitoring

A new SPIL monitoring dashboard is being presented to you this month for your review and feedback. It has been designed in partnership with the CILs and will allow the Council to more easily monitor progress on the SPIL goals and objective. Updated dashboards will be presented to you at each quarterly meeting and posted to our website after each quarterly SILC business meeting.

The SPIL Objectives Team has met three times. The team is made up of both SILC members, CIL representatives, and representatives from MDHHS, Disability Rights Michigan, the Michigan Senior Caucus, and Idea39. We are conducting outreach to add more members to the team. Meetings are held via Zoom every other Friday from 11:00 a.m. – noon and are open to the public as they involve SPIL monitoring activities. Minutes from the first two meetings are included in your Council packet.

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. We have also been hosting monthly Facebook Live events. We are gearing up for another year of CIL mini campaigns which have become quite popular with the CILs!

In collaboration with the CILs and libraries across the state, SILC, with the assistance of Idea39, is planning a July ADA celebration that involves custom built ADA pop-up displays that will include historical disability movement artifacts, a history of disability rights, how the ADA has changed everyday life, and spotlighting CILs as our go-to community resources.

MiSILC and MiSILC Corporation Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Update

We are recommending a review of all MiSILC and MiSILC Corporation bylaws, policies, and procedures by a workgroup made of volunteer Council members. It has been five years since the last review and approved revisions. Currently, there are six (6) separate guiding documents that have been approved by the Council. The work group would be tasked with reviewing and updating the language of each section for full Council approval. We will use ILRU for best practices research.

Appointments

I have been in regular contact with the Office of Appointments and have been informed that The Department of Civil Rights seat vacated by Annie Urasky was filled with the appointment of Kenya Lowe. We are hoping that Glen Ashlock's seat will be filled soon. We are also working on finding applicants for two voting seats that will become vacant on December 31, 2025.

Financial Audit

Our audit has been completed and Form 990 filed with the IRS. I am working with Mindy Kulasa, SILC Treasurer, on updating and issuing a new RFQ for financial auditing services.