

SILC Executive Director Report

to MCRS

February 13, 2025

October 1, 2024 – January 23, 2025, Collaborations/Meetings/Trainings

From October 1, 2024, through January 23, 2025, I 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 MPHI, 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.

Executive Committee/Special SILC Meeting Actions

The Executive Committee authorized me to write and submit a grant application to Borealis Philanthropy's Disability Inclusion Fund (DIF) to potentially support SILC's upcoming advocacy objectives in the next SPIL. Unfortunately, SILC was not selected for funding this time around. I am, however, excited to share that our partner, Detroit Disability Power, was selected for a grant during this round. Congratulations to them on their continued success and creating a stronger statewide disability presence!

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!

2024 – 2026 SPIL Monitoring

A SPIL monitoring dashboard is being developed in partnership with the CILs. This will allow the Council to more easily monitor progress on the SPIL goals and objective. Once complete, updated dashboards will be posted to our website after each quarterly SILC business meeting.

Beginning on January 31, 2025, the SPIL Objectives Team, made up of both SILC members and CIL representatives, will begin meeting every other Friday from 11:00 a.m. – noon. These meetings will be open to the public as they involve SPIL monitoring activities.

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!

During our January 24, 2025, SILC business meeting, Adrienne Pickett from Idea39 will be giving an in-depth presentation on where we have been and where are going with statewide outreach over the next year.

Appointments

I have been in regular contact with the Office of Appointments and held a meet-and-greet with our new contact in December.

We have successfully reappointed three members, added a new CIL director representative, and held a SILC orientation for five CIL directors and the Executive Director of Disability Network Michigan. I am still working with Appointments on filling one voting seat vacancy created by the departure of Glen Ashlock.

I am very excited to welcome Julie Shaw, Executive Director of the Superior Alliance for Independent Living in the U.P., to the SILC as the CIL directors' representative! She fills the voting seat vacated by Yvonne Fleener.

I was recently notified by Annie Urasky, long-time SILC ex officio member representing the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, that she has resigned from the SILC. New director Kenya Lowe will be the new SILC ex officio member representing the MDCR once she gets through the appointment process. We are very excited to welcome Kenya to the SILC and thank Annie for her years of service!

Financial Audit

You are being presented with SILC's annual financial audit, and I am happy to report that we have another clean audit this year! I will be preparing an RFP for auditing services as this is the last year of a three-year auditing services contract with the ALG Group.

