Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council

Minutes

January 9, 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council (MNSILC) met on January 9, 2025, in a hybrid meeting. The in-person meeting was held at Services for the Blind, 2200 University Ave West, Suite 2400, Conference Room C, St Paul MN. The virtual meeting was held by Zoom.

**Members Present:** Robyn Block, Joe Dailey, KiloMarie Granda, Linda Lingen, Deborah Gleason, Monique Doward, Bethany Schwerr, Kelly Lemke, Frances Lane, Stephen Larson, Morris Thompson

**Members Absent**: none **Members Excused**: Jacob Schuller, Jennifer Clemens, Jacob Knaffla

**Ex Officio Members Present**: Amy McClellan, Anne Paulson,  **Ex Officio Members Absent:** Michele Severson

**Guests**: Lauire Carlson, Dennis Junker and Paula Anderson

**Staff:** Jo Erbes

**Call to order:** Chairman Robyn Block called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. with a quorum present. She reviewed meeting expectations and welcomed new council members.

**Approve Agenda** – A motion was made by KiloMarie Granda to approve the meeting agenda. Joe Dailey seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Approve Minutes November 14, 2024 –** There were several corrections to the minutes: Correct the spelling of Michele Severson and she was present at the meeting. Correct the spelling of Tom Reed’s name and add the word “Force” for Legislative Task Force. Deborah Gleason approved the minutes as amended. Joe Dailey seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

**Presentations:** Laurie Carlson, Can Do Canines, provided a presentation on assistance dogs. Robyn Block talked about the assistance her dog provides.

Dennis Junker and Paula Anderson provided information about Patriot Assistance Dogs. KiloMarie Granda talked about how her assist dog helps her.

During discussion a council member noted her dog ran away. It was suggested she contact The Retrievers an organization that can locate a lost dog. <https://www.theretrievers.org/>

KiloMarie Granda talked about promoting payment by the government for service dogs and other technology that people need to be independent.

**Public Comment:** Robyn Block expressed appreciation for the presentations. Email addresses of the presenters were shared with the council. Schedule an orientation for new members.

**Advocacy Committee responsibilities:** Deborah Gleason presented the revised Advocacy Committee responsibilities reviewed and approved by the Advocacy Committee. Linda Lingen made a motion to approve the Advocacy Committee Responsibilities as presented. Joe Dailey seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Advocacy Committee: Response Plan for Misinformation** - Deborah Gleason presented the Response Plan for Misinformation that defines hate speech and derogatory speech. The council was encouraged to review the document and be prepared to discuss it at the March meeting.

**Outreach Committee responsibilities** - Joe Dailey presented the Outreach Committee responsibilities as reviewed and approved by the Outreach Committee. There only needs to be one sentence that refers to doing the tasks in the SPIL. KiloMarie Granda made a motion to approve the Outreach Committee responsibilities as amended. Monique Doward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**DEED/VRS Update** -Anne Paulson presented an update on funding for DEED/VRS. She noted an increase in funding is not expected over the next two years. The Community Partnerships will keep the RFP closed, will not accept new providers. As of January 1st, youth and transition services are reviewed monthly. All counselors will need to get approval for any new programs. There is a hiring freeze, so they are unable to replace retiring individuals.

**SSB Update** - Amy McClellan reported that SSB got a DIF (Disabilities Innovative Fund) grant to help people with disabilities find employment.

**MCD Update** - No report

**SRC G Update** - Deborah Gleason said the SRC – G met in December. Released the annual report. New officers.

**SRC B Update** - Kelly Lemke hasn’t received information about SRC B. No Report

**MN STAR Update –** No Report **–** No representative from MNSILC

**Committee Reports** –

**Advocacy** – Deborah Gleason stated the Advocacy Committee has been working with projects regarding service animals, special education, subminimum wage, and dental access in MN. Reviewing the MNSILC position papers, general advocacy concerns, and the response to misinformation paper. Deborah noted that MNSILC cannot lobby – but can educate. Morris Thompson asked to serve on the Advocacy Committee.

**Executive** – Robyn Block gave an update on what the Executive Committee worked on: the meeting agenda, the due date for the Program Performance Review (PPR), each committee reviewed their requirements, and the inaccessible background check form from the Governor’s office.

Anne Paulson provided an update on the Hierophant project noting that DEED fiscal is reviewing the contract.

**Finance** – Stephen Larson talked about the Finance Committee reviewing the committee responsibilities and acknowledged the tasks in the SPIL.

**Outreach** – Joe Dailey noted that Outreach Committee had been interviewing potential new members and reviewing the responsibilities of the Outreach Committee which were approved earlier today. Looking at a task force to look at the civil rights study.

**Reports** - Linda Lingen stated the Reports Committee created a brochure to recruit new members. The 2024 annual report is in process. At next meeting will be looking at the committee responsibilities and tasks in the SPIL.

**PPR Update –** The Program Performance Review (PPR) is due March 30th. The Council will review and approve at the March meeting. The PPR is a record of the work of the council in completing the 3rd year of the SPIL.

**SILC Congress** – SILC Congress is a national conference for SILC staff, council members and staff of the Designated State Entity (DSE) from March 10 to the 13 in Orlando, FL. Registration has been paid for 3 members of MNSILC to attend. Council members were encouraged to let the Coordinator know if they are interested in attending.

**NCIL** – The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) conference is scheduled for the week of July 21st in Washington DC. MNSILC will send 3 people to the NCIL conference. Council members were encouraged to let the Coordinator know if they are interested in attending.

**SPIL** – Development and implementation of the State Plan For Independent Living (SPIL) is the purpose of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). Committees will begin the implementation of the first year of the SPIL.

**Other** – Add new council members to all committees.

**Next Meeting:** Suggested changing the next meeting date for March 20th. The Executive Committee meeting date will be changed to March 27th.

**Review CIL visits:** The council will meet at these centers for independent living: Access North,in May, Freedom Resources in July, and SMILES in September.

**Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made by Stephen Larson at 1:50 p.m.. The motion was seconded by Kelly Lemke. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lingen, Secretary

The meeting was recorded by Jo Erbes