# Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council

# Minutes

**November 14, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

The Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council met on November 14, 2024. Those attending in person were at State Services for the Blind, 2200 University Ave West, Suite 240, St Paul MN. Others met by Zoom. Vice-Chair KiloMarie Granda called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

**Members Present:** Deborah Gleason, Joe Dailey, John Rheinberger, Judy Sanders, Karen Larson, Linda Lingen, KiloMarie Granda, Amy McClellan, Stephen Larson, Tom Reed, Rosalie Eisenreich, Jennifer Clement

**Members Excused:** Dr. Mohamed Mourssi-Alfash, Robyn Block,

**Members Absent:** Jacob Schuller, Monique Doward, Paul de Castro

**Ex Officio Members Present:** Ed Lecher, Anne Paulson, Michele Severson

**Guests Present:** Larry Lura, Jesse Bethke Gomez

**Staff Present:** Jo Erbes

**Meeting Expectations, Introductions, Welcome new members –** KiloMarie Granda reviewed the meeting expectations. Members introduced themselves.

**MCIL Response to questions from the September meeting** – Jesse Bethke Gomez, MCIL Executive Director, responded to questions raised by MNSILC members regarding MCIL services. It was suggested that MNSILC invite DHS to make a presentation about Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) and open the presentation to consumers. Jesse talked about engaging college students into the PCA college service core. Recruited 50 students – working with 26 colleges in MN.

**Approve the Agenda** - Stephen Larson made the motion to approve the agenda. A report from the Advocacy Committee was added to the agenda. Stephen Larson accepted the revision. Karen Larson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Approve the Minutes – September 12, 2024** – John Rheinberger made a motion to approve the September 12, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Deborah Gleason seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**DEED/VRS Update** – Anne Paulson gave a report about funding for DEED/VRS. She noted that the provision of services is almost at pre-pandemic levels. Anne is working on finalizing the contract for the MNSILC study.

**SSB Update** – Ed Letcher noted that SSB is hiring additional staff including staff to teach how to use a white cane. A group of Vocational Rehab staff are officing in SSB. They are back to pre-pandemic levels of providing services.

**Minnesota Council on Disability (MCD) Updat**e – Michele Severson noted MCD is working on their legislative policy agenda. The Legislative Forum will be on January 27, 2025. They will be working on policies around inclusive accessible playgrounds with the hope of providing funding through bonding for renovations and new funding.

**SRC - G Update –** Deborah Gleason noted the annual report will be released soon.

**SRC – B Update** – Judy Sanders recommended people not describe themselves. It is intrusive and very patronizing. Judy Sanders made a motion that MNSILC does not encourage people to describe themselves. Stephen Larson seconded the motion. Motion passed with one abstention. Individuals may choose to describe themselves.

**MN STAR Program Update** – Tom Reed noted that STAR added St Cloud State University as a new partner for device demonstration and loan. The MN STAR Program will be hosting an informational webinar led by Apple to demonstrate some of their latest accessibility features early next year.

**Election of Secretary** – Linda Lingen volunteered to serve as secretary. John Rheinberger made a motion to close nominations and elect Linda Lingen as secretary. Judy Sanders seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**APRIL Conference Review** – Jen Clement, Rosalie Eisenreich and Jo Erbes shared information about attending the APRIL Conference. There has been a change to eliminate the conflict of interest with people serving on both APRIL and NASILC councils. Individuals can only serve on one council.

**SILC Congress** - SILC Congress is March 10 – 13, 2025. Early bird registration ends in December. John Rheinberger made the motion to register 3 people to attend SILC Congress. Karen Larson seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote. Attendees’ names will be sent in February.

**Public Comment –** Rosalie Eisenreich reported that the legislative task on guardianship will start in February, as opposed to January as originally expected.

**Review Policy and Procedure Statement** - **Deborah** Gleasonreviewed the Policy and Procedure Statement section by section. The question was raised about the definition of disruptive behavior. Disruptive behavior means behavior that actually disrupts, disturbs, impedes or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the

meeting. It can include non-compliance with established rules of decorum such as exceeding speaker time

limits or speaking out of turn which we're not super strict on that, providing the behavior actually disrupts the meeting. And it would be related to the expected behaviors as well if you're falling outside of the lines of expected behaviors. John Rheinberger made a motion to approve the bylaws as they were presented. Changes that were suggested would be presented to the council with two weeks to object. If there are no objections the bylaws would be approved. Deborah Gleason offered a friendly amendment – these are the Policy and Procedures, not the Bylaws. John Rheinberger accepted the amendment. Stephen Larson seconded the motion with the amendment. There was no further discussion. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Tour State Service for the Blind new teaching area** – Ed Letcher provided a tour of the new facility that teaches adjustment to blindness.

**Approve 2025 Meeting Calendar** – Joe Dailey made a motion to approve the 2025 meeting calendar. Deborah Gleason seconded the motion. Linda Lingen noted there was not a discussion, and the March meeting conflicts with the SILC Congress dates. Stephen Larson suggested we approve the calendar and deal with the conflict of dates when it arises. Linda Lingen seconded the motion. There was no more discussion. The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Advocacy Concerns** – Stephen Larson expressed his concerns about potential policies that will have a negative effect on the lives of people with disabilities. Council members became engaged in a conversation about what MNSILC can and cannot do when it comes to “lobbying” and advocacy. Council members were encouraged to read this article in the Star Tribune:

<https://www.startribune.com/what-could-trumps-return-mean-for-minnesotans-on-medicaid-and-safety-net-programs/601179420>

**Committee Reports**

**Advocacy Committee –** Deborah Gleason noted these topics may become position papers or training opportunities: dental care, services dogs, and youth transition.

**Executive Committee** – The Executive Committee approved the RFP for the study. This is the last meeting for Ed Lecher, Judy Sanders, Tom Reed, Dr. Mohamed Mourssi-Alfash, John Rheinberger, and Rosalie Eisenreich. Council members wished them well. Stephen Larson and Deborah Gleason reapplied to serve on the council. Paulo deCastro and Karen Larson have not decided to reapply.

**Finance Committee** – The Finance Committee reviewed the fiscal year end expenditure report. Previous carry- over amounts were discussed. The current carry-over amount includes unspent SPIL expenditures, travel expenses and professional fees for not hiring someone to assist with the SPIL. It is estimated that the total carry over amount should be sufficient to cover the costs of the RFP with Hierophant. Stephen Larson made the motion to select Hierophant to conduct the study identified in the RFP. Joe Dailey seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote with one abstention.

**Outreach Committee** – Deborah Gleason created a new brochure to recruit members that has been printed and will be distributed to the centers and other disability related organization. Heather Everson worked on a position description for an intern. Jo and Rocky Hart are working on the possibility of a pod cast. There may be 10 vacancies on the council. Everyone is encouraged to share the flier or the Word documents to recruit applicants.

**Next Meeting** – January 9, 2025, in person at State Services for the Blind and virtually by Zoom. The contact person will be Isaac. Joe Dailey made a motion at 2:00 p.m. to adjourn. Judy Sanders seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lingen, Secretary

Recorded by Jo Erbes

mnsilc/meetings/agenda/2025