# Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council

**Minutes -** March 10, 2022

## Call to Order

The Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council (MNSILC) met on March 10, 2022. Chairperson Robyn Block called the meeting to order at 9:00 with a quorum present.

## Members Present

Brian Baker, Robyn Block, Joseph Dailey, Bonnie Danberry, Rosalie Eisenreich, Deborah Gleason, Lisa Harvey, Karen Larson, Stephen Larson, Linda Lingen, Larry Lura, Tom Reed, Judy Sanders, Julia Washenberger

## Members Excuse Absence

Gloria LaFriniere, Haley Kimmet

## Ex Officio Members Present

Brad Westerlund, Ed Lecher

## Ex Officio Member Absent

David Fenley

## Guests

Anita Olson, Mohamed Mourssi- Alfash

## Approve Agenda

Linda Lingen moved to amend the agenda for Sue Abderholden’ s presentation. Brian Baker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: The motion carried.

## Approve Minutes

January 13, 2022 – Stephen Larson made the motion to approve the minutes from January 12, 2022. Deborah Gleason seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: The motion carried.

## DEED/VRS Update

DEED/VRS employees are not physically at work, waiting for new office to be ready. Mask mandates have been removed. All state offices are expected to be open by April 22, may still require vaccination requirements. Part B fund contracts are now being processed, COVID funds are processed and should in ready for CIL’s to invoice; health care employment grants were adjusted from ACL and should be awarded soon.

## SSB Update

Staff have resumed working in the office, not sure the resumption of in person meetings.

## MCD Update

No report

## Nomination and Elections of Secretary

Brian Bakervolunteered to serve as Secretary. Judy Sanders moved that nominations cease, and Brian be elected Secretary. Motion seconded by Stephen Larson. Hearing no objections Brian Baker was declared secretary.

## Nomination and Election of Member at Large to serve on the Executive Committee

The duties of the member-at-large were reviewed. Judy Sanders nominated Deborah Gleason. Hearing not additional nominations, Judy Sanders moved nominations cease and the Deborah be elected Member-at-Large by acclimation. Tom Reed seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objections.

## Public Comments

Robyn Block talked about her meeting with Blue Earth County commissioners to talk about fair employment and encourage businesses to give people a chance. County committed to look at hiring more people with disabilities.

Julia Washenberger talked about being part of a virtual event for people with Spina Bifida to talk to congressional delegation about health care benefits and working without worry affecting how people with disabilities can retain more income.

Brian Baker asked if the CILs received funding from DHS through the Home and Community Services Access Grant. There was discussion about next steps in getting the funds released.

Julia Washenberger talked about the National Alliance on Mental Health documentary [called Earnie and Joe Crisis Cops](https://ernieandjoethefilm.com/) seeking to support with mental health challenges.

Larry Lura talked about the number of group homes being closed due to lack of funding and staff. Rosalie Eisenreich sharing information about group homes in Rochester that recently closed.

## Presentation by Sue Abderholden, NAMI

Sue Abderholden shared a Power Point about mental health during COVID -19 pandemic and the services provided by NAMI. NAMI is working to reduce the stigma of disability and mental health. It’s ok to say I need time for me to deal with my mental health; tell someone.

## Committee Reports

### Reports

Linda Lingen notedannual reports have been distributed to county commissioners, state legislators, the Governor and LT. Governor, council members, and the CILs.

The Program Performance Review (PPR) was submitted. There are challenges in entering the data related to the CILs which Brad is working out.

### Advocacy

Deborah Gleason reviewed legislation being promoted by MNCCD.

### Executive

Created the meeting agenda for March and talked about the request for art submission by youth around the topic of independent living.

### Conference Planning

Brian Baker noted that DEED/VRS did several site visits for hosting the conference. The Double Tree by Hilton in Bloomington was selected as meeting our needs for accessibility. Dates for the conference will be September 28 -30, 2022.

### Finance

Bonnie Danberrynoted that right now MNSILC isreally underbudget due to CILs part B contracts not being completed. As Brad Westerlund reported they should be caught up soon

### Outreach

Linda Lingen reported a participation flier to engage youth in independent living movement has been created and distributed. MNSILC is asking youth to create artwork that demonstrates how can we create a better world for people with disabilities. Submissions will be displayed at the conference.

## Presentation Options

The council discussed potential speakers for future council meetings**.**

## Introduction and update about SRC – G

Linda Lingen, MNSILC designee to SRC – G, provided an update on their activities.

## Introduction and update about SRC-B

Judy Sanders, MNSILC designee to the SRC – B, provided an update about their bimonthly meeting activities**.**

## Adjourn

At 1:30 p.m., after completing the agenda**,** Judy Sanders made a motion to adjourn, Rosalie Eisenreich seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Brian Baker, Secretary

Recorded by Jo Erbes