# Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council Minutes

**March 14, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

The Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council met virtually using Zoom on March 14, 2024. Chairman Deborah Gleason call the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with a quorum present. The chairman reviewed the meeting expectations and council members introduced themselves.

**Members Present:** Deborah Gleason, Joe Dailey, Judy Sanders, Karen Larson, Dr. Mohamed Mourssi Alfash, Monique Doward, Rosalie Eisenreich, Tom Reed KiloMarie Grande

**Members Excused:** Crystal Hellekson, Jacob Shuller, Paulo Matheus Carvalho Chaves de Castro, Stephen Larson

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Clement

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

**Guests:** Brad Westerlund, Larry Lura, Michele Severson, Jesse Bethke Gomez, Melissa Doherty

**Staff Present:** Jo Erbes

**Approve Agenda**: Monique Doward made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Joe Dailey seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

**Finance Training:**  Brad Westerlund presented information about the features of the SILC resource plan for the SPIL, the development of the council budget and the process to approve the budget.

**Approve Minutes – January 11, 2024** – Joe Dailey made a motion to approve the January 11, 2024, council minutes as presented. Rosalie Eisenreich seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously on voice vote.

**DEED/VRS Update –** Anne Paulson provided an update on wrapping up state fiscal year contracts. She noted that 80% of Deed funds are federal funds.

**SSB Update –** Ed Lecher reported the conference room has been remodeled. Other rooms are being repurposed when staff work remotely. SSB is in the process of hiring additional staff.

**MCD Update** – Michele Severson talked about legislative issues promoted by the Minnesota Council on Disability. The Uber and Lyft decisions have created problems for ridership, MCD will be at the Pride event and the State Fair. MCD is recruiting council members.

**Recommendation of Carry Forward Funds** – In the absence of the Treasurer, Jo Erbes reported on the recommendation from the Finance Committee to equally distribute carry forward funds to the centers for independent living. Funds must be spent by September 30, 2024. Judy Sanders moved to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Tom Reed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Public Comment** – Larry Lura said he has been making people aware of MNSILC.

**Review the SPIL** – The council reviewed the goals, objectives, and indications for the 2024 – 2027 State Plan for Independent Living and made suggestions and edits. Michele Severson shared the link to the MN Council on Disability website for emergency preparedness: [https://www.disability.state.mn.us/technical-assistance/emergency-preparedness](https://www.disability.state.mn.us/technical-assistance/emergency-preparedness/)/

**Presentation MN STAR Program** – Amy Perron, Program Manager, MN STAR Program made a presentation about the core services of the STAR Program. She shared information about the various demonstration and equipment loan programs available for all Minnesotans with disabilities. She shared weblinks to the on-line lending library [https//Mnat4all](https://mn.at4all.com/)

and the STAR website <https://mn.gov/admin/star/>. Various lending libraries such as SEMCIL, PACER, Morehead University and more have their equipment listed on the website.

**Recommitment to Independent Living –** The topic was tabled until a future meeting or do an electronic survey about MNSILC signing on to the recommitment statement.

Table further discussion about the SPIL for a future special meeting.

Table discussion about visiting a center for future meetings.

Concern was expressed about the length of time spent at council meetings. It was suggested that meetings not exceed 3 hours. People with disabilities should not have to lose income to participate in MNSILC meetings. It was suggested a financial incentive be provided for people with disabilities who lose income while attending a council meeting. Deborah Gleason, chair, will take the concern to the Executive Committee and bring to the council as an agenda topic for discussion.

**Next meeting** – May 9, 2024, from 9:00 to 2:30, location will be announced.

**Motion to adjourn:** At 1:15 p.m. Tom Reed made a motion to adjourn. Judy Sanders seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Submitted by Crystal Hellekson, Secretary

Recorded by Jo Erbes, Coordinator

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|  | Committee Reports Advocacy ExecutiveFinance OutreachReports | Deborah GleasonDeborah Gleason Jo ErbesJudy SandersTom Reed |  | Goal 3 Objective 3 |
| 2:30p.m. | Adjourn/Next Meeting May 9, 2024 | Deborah Gleason | Adjourn – Tom Judy at 1:31 May 9th.  |  |

mnsilc/meetings/agenda/2024