# Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council

# Minutes

**May 9, 2024**

The Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council (MNSILC) held a hybrid meeting. Four members of MNSILC met at State Services for the Blind at 2200 University Ave West, Suit 240, St Paul, MN. And nine members participated using Zoom.

**Members Present**: Deborah Gleason, Jacob Schuller, Jennifer Clement, Joe Dailey, Judy Sanders, Karen Larson, KiloMarie Grande, Dr. Mohamed Mourssi Alfash, Monique Doward, Paulo Matheus Carvalho Chaves de Castro, Roselie Eisenreich, Stephen Larson, Tom Reed

**Members Absent:** Crystal Hellekson

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

**Guests**: Brad Westerlund, Robyn Block, Michele Severson, Bonnie Danberry, Brenton Rice, Larry Lura

**Staff Present:** Jo Erbes

**Call to Order** - Chairman Deborah Gleason called the meeting to order at 9: 15 a.m. with a quorum present. Chairman Gleason reviewed the meeting expectations.

**Approve Agenda –** Stephen Larson made the motion to approve the meeting agenda for May 9th.Rosalie Eisenreich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Approve Minutes – March 14, 2024** - Joe Dailey made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2024, council meeting as presented. Judy Sanders seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**DEED/VRS Update –** Brad Westerlund stated there are about 180 grants being finalized. Six of the eight center grants have been completed.

**SSB Update** – Ed Lecher noted SSB is nearing the end of the State fiscal year. They are working out the bugs of hybrid meetings.

**MCD Update** – Michele Severson stated MCD spoke in support of the MetroMobility legislation, supported the wheelchair accessible legislation, the legislation clarifying service animal legislation. They participated in the 2026 building accessibility code update planning committee. MCD is updating the emergency planning manual. They will have a table at Twin Cities Pride and a booth at the state fair. Deborah Gleason volunteered to participate in the emergency preparedness committee.

Roselie Eisenreich will represent SEMCIL on the Emergency preparedness committee.

**SRC G Update** – Deborah Gleason talked at the presentation at the SRC – G meeting about assistive technology.

**SRC B Update –** Judy Sanders noted that she is the chair of the SRC B. There are 10 new members. The 8 committees are very active. The committees can include members of the public. An event will be held at SSB on May 15th.

**MN STAR Update** – Tom Reed noted that David Shaw, MCIL, is the CIL representative on the STAR Advisory Council.

**SILC Congress Report –** Deborah Gleason, Rosalie Eisenreich and Jo Erbes talked about their experiences at SILC Congress. There was a discussion about emergency preparedness. Michele Severson talked about having a “Go bag” for evacuating and a “stay” bag for sheltering in place. Monique Doward noted that she is a duty officer with the American Red Cross and would be willing to help with further discussions about emergency preparedness. Rosalie Eisenreich talked about working with NCIL on Private Equity. SILC Congress was a great way to network with NCIL and ILRU and work on building the national disability community.

**Recommitment to IL – What are next steps -** There was discussion about the Recommitment to IL statement and MNSILC taking a lead in including people with disabilities in leadership roles. Everyone is stretched in terms of human capital and financial resources. There were brief discussions about guardianship, allowing people with disabilities the freedom to choos with disabilities, and lack of accountability to each other. It was suggest e where they live, holding systems accountable for their egregious behavior, advocacy for people ed MNSILC operationalize the recommitment statement, let the Governor know we signed the Recommitment statement, encourage individuals with disabilities to have a personal responsibility to advocate, send a letter to our elected officials, challenge the establishment and get people to understand the reason for change. Rosalie Eisenreich challenged everyone to reread the statement and consider why are you here? what are your expectations? who are you connected to in your community and across the state? what are you doing to hold the network accountable? There are CILs across the country that are not doing their core services. When a few people do the work, it doesn’t feel like community. Further discussion was tabled until the July meeting. A quote for the annual report: Advocacy has to be ferocious.

**Presentation: Partners in Policy Making –** Brenton Rice, Odyssey Group that manages Partners in Policy Making for the Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities. Partners in Policy making has trained over 1200 Minnesotans since 1987. Participants must be an adult with a disability, a parent or a guardian. They meet one weekend per month for 8 months. There are 35 participants per year. Online resource: <https://partnersonlinecourses.com/>. Resources are available in English and Spanish. The history of developmental disabilities that Colleen Wieck and the Council created can be found at <https://mn.gov/mnddc/parallels/>

**Public Comment –** Robyn Block shared that Arnie Lillo’s Creations held a disability day where people could paint something she created. Visit [www.arnielilloscreations.com](http://www.arnielilloscreations.com) for more information.

Stephen Larson said I am blessed to be a person with a disability. He talked about the **Book of Joy** written by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu;noting that inevery adversity in life there is a blessing.

**Review/Approve SPIL 2024 -2027 –** Public comment is open until May 29th. The SPIL is due to ACL by June 29, 2024. There was one public comment that recommends adding LGBTQIA+ to the underserved population. Judy Sanders made a motion to move goal 3 to goal 1 and to add LGBTQIA+ to the underserved population and approve the 2024 – 2027 SPIL. Joe Dailey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. Joe Dailey made the motion that Deborah Gleason, as chair, sign the 2024 to 2027 SPIL. The motion was seconded by Judy Sanders. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**Review/Approve SPIL 2024 -2027 –** There are two goals to be completed in the current SPIL. The first one is a commissioned study for funding the CILs. This is in process. Deborah Gleason agreed to draft an RFP. The second is that MNSILC needs to send questions to the CILs to include in their annual satisfaction surveys.

**Open Discussion –** MNSILC is a member of theseorganizations. These organizations are looking for committee members to become leaders. The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL.org), the National Association of Statewide Independent Living Council (NASILC.com) and the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL.org)

What does it mean to serve on a council? It was discussed that appointments made by the Governor are to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. Everyone should commit to making a difference on MNSILC.

**Committee Reports**

**Advocacy Committee** – The Advocacy Committee will be working on two new position papers – one on dental care and one on service animals.

**Executive Committee –** On behalf of the Executive Committee, Stephen Larson made the motion to send Deborah Gleason to the ADA Symposium in June. Judy Sanders seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Judy Sanders made the motion to send Paulo de Castro, Monique Doward, Deborah Gleason and Jo Erbes to the NCIL conference in July. Joe Dailey seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Visits to centers - The Executive Committee suggested visiting SEMCIL in July, MCIL in September and Access North in November, weather permitting.

The Executive Committee revisited the per diem rate, the frequency of meetings and the duration of meetings. The per diem rate is set by the legislature, meetings are scheduled every other month for 5 hours. If the meeting duration were shortened, MNSILC would need to meet more frequently.

**Finance Committee** – The Finance Committee created the Resource Plan for the SPIL and reviewed the proposed carry forward amount.

**Outreach Committee** – There a several very dynamic CIL representatives on the Outreach Committee.

Rocky Hart, a public member on the Outreach Committee, provided information about involving youth. The Outreach Committee is continuing the goal to get youth leadership on the committee and the council. A subcommittee was formed to rewrite the recruitment letter and the interview questions. Rocky Hart volunteered to write a press release to recruit new members.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be July 11 at SEMCIL, Rochester, MN.

**Adjourn –** The meeting adjourned by consensus at 2:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Crystal Hellekson, Secretary

Recorded by Jo Erbes