# Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council

# Minutes

# January 13, 2022

## Present

Robyn Block, Bonnie Danberry, Gloria LaFriniere, Linda Lingen, Larry Lura, Julia Washenberger

## Member Absent

Haley Kimmet

## Ex Officio Present

Brad Westerlund

## Ex Officio Absent

David Fenley

## Guests

Karen Larson, Chris Meyer, Mohamed Mourssi Alfash, Judy Sanders**,** Candace Welling, Intern at SMILES**,** Ed Lecher, Brian Baker, Anita Olson, Deborah Gleason, Tom Reed

## Call to Order

Chairwoman Robyn Block called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Due to the reduced size of the council, the meeting will be an Executive Session. Meeting expectations were reviewed. Everyone introduced themselves.

## Approve Agenda

The January 13, meeting agenda was approved by voice vote.

## Approve Minutes

December 9, 2021: The minutes were approved by voice vote.

## DEED/VRS Update

Continuing towork remotely; met with governor staff about appointments and passed along council members’ recommendations; Governor staff conveyed appreciation of the SILC recruitments efforts; PART B amendments for carry forward funds are in process; with one exception all per diems have been paid;

In the process of compiling data for annual report

## SSB Update

Very few people working in the office; hope to be in the office by June.

## MCD Update

No report

## Committee Reports

### Advocacy

Ed Lecher reported the Advocacy Committee made plans to invite representatives from other groups so MNSILC can learn about their issues and how we can combine voices. This month representatives from National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and SEMCIL will make presentations. The committee will invite other council members to attend advocacy committee meetings.

### Executive

Abudget modification to purchase a new computer is in process; membership in NASILC has been paid; meet with Holly Johnson to discuss next steps with the SPIL; council members were encouraged to attend the MCD legislative forum following this meeting.

### Finance

Reviewed spreadsheets for FY 2020-2021 and FY 2021 – 2022. There are invoices that don’t appear paid. Jo will follow-up with DEED/VRS

### Conference Planning

DEED/VRS received4 bids for conference venues; 2 have a no cancellation fee policy. DEED is focusing on the two venues without cancellation fees and will be doing site visits and reporting back to MNSILC.

## Public Comments

There was discussion about the accessibility of home COVID testing. The website information shared by DEED/VRS made applying for various councils very easy. This was a project of several state agencies at the request of the Governor’s Office and will be shared throughout the year.

## Brainstorming Session: Ideas for Survey for Next SPIL

There was discussion regarding surveys, reducing the number of goals, the importance of identifying housing and transportation services in rural and metro areas, training about advocacy, creating information awareness and promoting the benefits of stretching and exercise.

There was discussion about the process of developing the SPIL. The Executive Committee will create a timeline.

## Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 11:00 a.m. Members were encouraged to attend the Minnesota Council on Disability as a continuation of the meeting.

Recorded by Jo Erbes