**Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council**

**Minutes**

**May 10 and 11, 2023**

On Wednesday, May 10, Council memberstoured the Southwestern Center for Independent Living (SWCIL), 109 South 5th St, #700, Marshall, MN 56258. A Zoom connection was provided to those who wanted to participate virtually.

**Call to order:** The hybrid meeting of MNSILC was called to order at 8:35 a.m. on Thursday, May 11th in the AmericInn by Wyndham Marshall, 1406 E Lyon St, Marshall, MN 56258. A quorum was present with members in person and virtually. Robyn Block, Chairwoman, reviewed meeting expectations.

**Members Present:** Brian Baker, Robyn Block, Stephen Larson, Larry Lura, Judy Sanders, Dr Mohamed Mourssi Alfash, Joseph Dailey, Rosalie Eisenreich, Deborah Gleason, Tom Reed, Karen Larson, Paulo Matheus Carvalho Chaves De Castro,

**Members Absent:** None

**Ex Officio Member Present:** Ed Lecher **Ex Officio Member Absent:**  None

**Guests:** SWCIL Staff:Angela Algood, Melissa Doherty, Linda Halbur, Ruth Hubbling, Amy Lilles, Sherry Olson, Ashley Reynaga, Caresse Schmitz, Ted Stamp, Annette Swanson, Michelle Timm, and Steve Thovson. Brad Westerlund, Linda Lingen, KiloMarie Granda

**Staff Present**: Jo Erbes

**Approved Meeting Agenda** – The agenda for the meeting was approved unanimously.

**Approve March 9, 2023** - Meeting minutes – A motion was made by Stephen Larson, seconded by Brian Baker to approve the meeting minutes for March 9, 2023, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Presentation: Southwestern Center for Independent Living (SWCIL) –** Melissa Doherty, Southwestern Center for Independent Living (SWCIL) Executive Director and SWCIL staff presented information about their programs and services. Robyn Block reviewed information about MNSILC and encouraged SWCIL staff to volunteer to serve on MNSILC Committees.

**Public Comment:** Robyn Block noted that this time on the agenda is to provide the public an opportunity to express their concerns about independent living services. There was discussion about what IL means to Veterans Services and centers for independent living.

**DEED/VRS Update** – Brad Westerlund noted he has been processing grants for the next fiscal year. Staff have made the move into the new building; however, most are working remotely.

**SSB Update** – Ed Lecher noted the funding increase is being promoted through the legislative process.

**SRC – B Update** – Judy Sanders the SRC B is promoting senior services to ophthalmologists and optometrists. The office in Rochester changed locations and they are hearing they are overrun with patients at the new location. SRC B is looking for ways to publicize services.

**Committee Reports**

Advocacy Committee – Ed Lecher, Committee chair, talked about various issues advancing in the MN Legislature. The Advocacy Committee will be releasing a survey for council members to rank topics they want the committee to work on. One of the goals in the SPIL is to redo a 2015 survey regarding funding for CILs. Deborah Gleason made a motion to create a task force to design the financial needs survey. Brian Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried. MNSILC discussed concerns about guardianship and signing onto a letter from NCIL to ACL or creating a letter from MNSILC. Judy Sanders made a motion seconded by Brian Baker to meet with Jesse Bethke Gomez, the Area Agency on Aging and the Protection and Advocacy Law Office to talk about writing a joint letter to ACL. After a lengthy discussion Judy Sanders and Brain Baker agreed to amend the motion to create a task force to discuss the MNSILC position on guardianship. The motion passed with two abstentions.

Outreach Committee – Joe Dailey, committee chair, shared a letter that will be sent by email to disability related organizations introducing them to MNSILC. A QR code that will be added to take people to the website and social media,

Finance Committee – Stephen Larson, committee chair, reviewed the finance report ending April 2023.

Adjourn/Next Meeting – The next meeting is June 8th. It will be held at State Services for the Blind and virtually. The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Gleason, Secretary

Recorded by Jo Erbes, MNSILC Coordinator

mnsilc/meetings/agenda/2023