**Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council**

**Minutes**

**October 12, 2023**

The Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council met on Wednesday, October 12, 2023 in a virtual meeting using Zoom.

**Call to Order/Meeting Expectations/Introductions**

Deborah Gleason, Vicechair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with a quorum present. Deborah ,reviewed the meeting expectations and members introduced themselves.

**Council Members Present:** Crystal Hellekson, Deborah Gleason, Jacob Shuller, Jennifer Clement, Joe Dailey, Judy Sanders, Larry Lura, Dr Mohamed Mourssi Alfash, Monique Doward, Paul Matheus Carvalho Chaves de Castro, Robyn Block, Rosalie Eisenreich, Stephen Larson, Tom Reed

**Council Members Excused:** Karen Larson, KiloMarie Grande

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

**Guests and Staff Present:** Linda Lingen, Angie Bosch, Jo Erbes, Staff

**Approve the agenda:** Motion made by Joe Dailey, seconded by Judy Sanders to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion passed by voice vote.

**14C Certificates** – There was discussion about the benefits and challenges to Subminimum wage (14C certificates) Larry Lura provided background about his experiences Deborah Gleason talked about the number of people who are in subminimum wage employment. Rosalie Eisenreich talked about setting a livable wage for people with disabilities and losing camaraderie for people with disabilities of 14C employment is eliminated. Brad Westerlund provided data about the 14C programs that have closed since 2016. In a roll call vote, there was full support from the council to eliminate 14C certificates. The council requested the Advocacy Committee to begin to create a position paper. The Advocacy Committee was encouraged to invite others advocacy organizations, VR services and CILs to discuss the topic.

**Approve Minutes – August 10, 2023 –** A motion was made by Joe Dailey, seconded by Larry Lura to approve the August 10, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed by voice vote.

**VRS Update –** Anne Paulson provided an update on increasing staff after the pandemic and expanding staff specialties. They are increasing awareness about their programs.

**SSB Update** - Ed Lecher said SSB is adding positions for pre-employment services, senior services, and VR services. There are renovations occurring the in the conference room so the council may not be able to meet at SSB through the end of the year.

**SRC-B Update** – Judy Sanders noted the SRC – B will be holding a conference in May 2024.

**SRC – G Update –** Deborah Gleason reported she has not been appointed to the SRC-G yet but has started to attend meetings.

**MN STAR Program** – Tom Reed is a member of the STAR (System of Technology to Achieve Results) council. They hold monthly webinars about technology on [You Tube](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=mn+STAR+Program). Visit the website for more information <https://mn.gov/admin/star/>.

**Public Comment:** Joe Dailey reported on the successful fund raiser for Stand Up Get Up to Cure Paralysis.

SEMCIL has opened the indoor playground, Boundless Playground, a playground for children’ of all ages and abilities. <https://www.semcil.org/indoor-playground/>

Council members were encouraged to like and follow the MNILNET Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MNILNET/>.

**Reauthorization of Section 504 –** Ed Lecher shared concerns from the Advocacy Committee about the reauthorization of Section 504. Tom Reed made a motion to approve the suggestions of the Advocacy Committee, Crystal Hellekson seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote. Ed Letcher volunteers to complete the form and submit Minnesota’s response.

**Revised Bylaws** – Deborah Gleason reviewed the suggested revisions to the bylaws. Joe Dailey made a motion, seconded by Judy Sanders, to approve the revised Bylaws as presented. The motion passed on a roll call vote. The approved Bylaws will be posted on the [website](https://mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/disabilities/councils/silc.jsp).

**Committee Reports**

Advocacy Committee – Ed Lecher reported the Advocacy Committee discussed the Reauthorization of Section 504 and Subminimum Wage (14C Certificate)

Executive Committee – Robyn Block informed the council the Executive Committee accepted Brian Baker’s resignation. The Executive Committee talked about the process of creating the next SPIL. There will be a public forum in March. Brian’s resignation created a vacancy in the chair position. The Executive Committee proposed Robyn Block continue to serve as chair until the end of December. Deborah Gleason will continue to serve as vice chair. There will be an election at the December meeting for the chair and secretary. The Executive Committee talked about ways to get the appointment process moved up.

Finance Committee – Stephen Larson reviewed expenses for FFY 2022- 2023. Tom Reed made a motion to approve the report. Joe Dailey seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Outreach Committee – Joe Daley reported the Outreach Committee has been talking about increasing social media by adding an Instagram page. They are continuing to look at ways to increase outreach to youth and recruit new council members.

**Adjourn/Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be December 14, 2023. Topics on the agenda may include review of the Policies and Procedures, Elections for chair and secretary. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. by consensus.

Submitted by Deborah Gleason, Vice Chair

Recorded by Jo Erbes, MNSILC Coordinator

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