

# **Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council (MSILC)**

## **Full Council Meeting**

**September 24th, 11:00am to 1:30pm**

15800 Crabbs Branch Way, Suite 300

Derwood, MD 20855

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Attendance:**

Present: Joyce Brooks- MSILC Secretary, Karen Anderson-Scott- the SILC's Legal Counsel (on the phone), Rose Carey- MSILC Vice Chair (on the phone), Scott Dennis- Superintendent of DORS (on the phone), Laurie Elinoff- Council Member (on the phone), Tom Laverty- DSE Representative (on the phone), Mike Bullis- CIL Representative (on the phone), Denise Thomas-ED (on the phone), Tony Lawson- MSILC Chair

#### **Welcome Remarks – MSILC Chair, Tony Lawson**

The meeting began at 11am. Tony led the meeting with welcome remarks and introductions.

#### **Executive Committee**

Joyce Brooks, SILC Secretary Roll Call & Attendance: roll call was taken and recorded. Next, the Full Council Meeting Minutes of 6/25/20 were reviewed by members and guests. Rose Carey made a motion to approve the minutes, which Laurie Elinoff seconding. The motion was carried, and the minutes were approved.

#### **Scott Dennis: Diversity Training**

Scott expressed his appreciation for the Council, taking the comments submitted by the DSE and recognizing the importance of diversity training. Mr. Dennis also acknowledged Mike Bullis for sending the language supporting the revised goals for diversity training that include a much more robust goal. Scott stressed the importance that diversity training being a essential part of the training of both the Centers and SILC. Scott had encouraged the SILC to use of left-over VR funds for the training. The DSE did not note a particular training format; it was stated the it would be particularly let up to the SILC.. Laurie suggested reaching out to both ILRU and NCIL for resources for training. Mike explains that there is an urgent need for both racial and cultural diversity training. The DSE did recommend the if we are aiming to have a strong independent living network within the state, that we should aim to have everyone present (SILC and CIL Directors, staff, members, etc. We need to better serve underserved communities.

## **Chair's Report: Tony Lawson, MSILC Chair**

Tony stated that to make our voting process more transparent, then the Council will need to publicly cast our vote regarding a DSE Transition to MDOD. The vote count on the continuation of this transition at this time were 3 voting members who are not in favor of transition; 2 voting members who are in favor of transition. There was further discussion as to why certain members cast their vote in the fashion which they choose. Next the Council confirmed their vote to approve the State Plan publicly; Council voted unanimously, in favor of the State Plan

## **Closed Session Regarding 'Personnel Matter'**

The Chairman of the Council, Mr. Lawson, had made a motion to close a part of the meeting siting personnel exception which is 3-305(b)(1), to have a discussion regarding member conduct and member appointment. Members present and voting to close the meeting were: Laurie Elinoff, Michael Bullis, Rose Carey, Joyce Brooks, and Tony Lawson. The meeting was a unanimous vote to proceed to a close meeting via teleconference at 11:44 am. A member was counseled about their behavior toward MSILC staff and other members; members discussed qualifications and nominations of potential new Council members The vote to re-open the meeting to the public occurred at 11:59am.

## **Motion on the Floor**

Most of the Council members had expressed concern and made a motion on the floor to address it. The motion reads that there is an assumption, of a conflict of interest, to have CIL Directors/ Representatives on the Council to serve as Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Or Secretary. The Council had decided at this time that the motion will be tabled until confirmation of the federal law surrounding this matter is received from Administration of Community Living (ACL).

## **MSILC Election for Chairman and Treasurer**

Due to the motion on the floor, elections for the position of Chair and Treasurer will also be tabled. Tony reiterated the motion to hold off election until clarification from ACL regarding CIL Directors serving as an officer of the Council presents no legal matters. Until then Tony will remain the Interim Chair. The motion was seconded by Mike Bullis.

## **Treasurers Report**

The FY 20 Financial Reviews and FY21 Budget will be reviewed at the next meeting.

## **State Rehabilitation Council**

### **Laurie Elinoff, Liaison**

Laurie noted that the most important part of the meeting regarding independent living was to focus on Pre-Employment Training Services (Pre-ETS) for transitioning students. This program provides an opportunity for various CILs to provide high school students

with skills to prepare them for either college or the work; provides additional income for the Centers.

## **Outcomes Committee**

Status of Corrective Action Plan & SPIL: Laurie Elinoff

Laurie gave an update on the status of the 2021- 23 State Plan of Independent Living. She noted that the IL Network is waiting on approval from ACL. Lori further stated that it was a great group effort made by the IL Network to ensure that the plan was created. Denise had agreed that it was a great group effort made, and the ACL would be notifying the DSE, MSILC Chair and Executive Director by the end of the month on the approval of the SPIL. Also, It was mentioned out of seven Directors only four had signed the SPIL. ACL expressed issue with additional documents of a Corrective Action Checklist and multiple signature pages being submitted.

## **Infrastructure Committee**

Laurie Elinoff, MSILC Committee Chair

Laurie reported on the progress being made on the Operations Manual for MSILC. The committee is in the process for revisiting the language surrounding areas of the code of conduct, COOP, and the conflict of interest.

## **Public Engagement Committee**

Tony Lawson, MSILC Committee Co-Chair

Tony had started off by welcoming Mike Bullis to the Public Engagement Committee. He went further to announce that despite the pandemic, the public engagement committee has/ will always remain involved with the community. First, Denise for added a statement from MSILC on the website stating MSILC's Stand Against Racial Injustice.

A few upcoming outreach events which the Council will attend, include the World of Possibilities Expo. At this event, Tony plans on working tables at both locations and passing out information to attendees. The two locations and corresponding dates are: Carrol county: October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 and PG County: October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Individual Member Outreach included Tony's visit the Lutheran Church of Severna Park, MD; Here, he spoke with their fellowship for people with disabilities and told them about the Council and what services are provided by our Centers.

## **Center for Independent Living Report**

Michael Bullis, CIL Representative

CILs are currently working remotely due to COVID-19 concerns. The majority of CIL'S are trying to reenter into an in-person environment.

## **STAFF REPORT**

MSILC Executive Director, Denise Thomas

This year's conference was virtual, due to the pandemic. There were only two individuals in attendance from MSILC. Laurie turned in a written report from the NCIL Conference; She talked about collaborations with Jeremy Morris; Tony wants to have representatives from every ethnic group come and talk to MSILC. Mike suggests having these presentations via Zoom.

Last year during our review with our DSE, it was mentioned that the Council might want to look into more cost effective office space. The officers of the Council started looking at other locations Effective January 2021, MSILC's new location will be in Derwood, MD 20855; Benefits of moving to this new location includes a lower monthly rent cost, plenty of free parking close to the building; the building is more accessible to people with disabilities.

## **Public Comments**

No comments were made.

**Adjourned** at 12:52 PM

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