# Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council Minutes

# Meeting held at

# SEMCIL, 2200 Second Street SW, Rochester, MN 55902

**July 11, 2024; 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

The Minnesota Statewide Independent Living Council (MNSILC) held a hybrid meeting at the Southeast Center for Independent Living, 2200 Second Street SW, Rochester, MN. Four people attended in person and 15 council members and guests attended virtually.

**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, Rosalie Eisenreich, Stephen Larson, Tom Reed

**Member Excused**: Crystal Hellekson

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

**Guests:** Linda Lingen, Michele Severson, Ted Stamp, Rocky Hart, Rob Weigel (SEMCIL Community Access Manager), and Melissa Cummins (SEMCIL Program & Services Director)

**Call to Order:** Chairman Deborah Gleason called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with a quorum present.

**Approve the Agenda:** Joe Dailey made the motion to approve the agenda. Monique Doward seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

**Approve the May 9, 2024, council minutes:** Judy Sanders made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 204 meeting as presented. Tom Reed seconded the motion. The motion carries on a voice vote.

**Presentation: Dental Services in SW Minnesota:** Ted Stamp, SWCIL staff, shared a Power Point Presentation about research he has done regarding dental care and people with disabilities. He noted the Advocacy Committee will be doing more research and developing a position statement about dental care.

**MNSILC Presentation/SPIL Review:** The Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) was presented to ACL. Deborah Gleason thanked everyone for their participation of the process reminding the council most of the goals in the SPIL increase awareness about independent living services provided by the centers for independent living (CILs) statewide.

**Other Advocacy Concerns:** Deborah Gleasonbrought two topics to the council’s attention. 1.) Tractor Supply Company will no longer serve people with disabilities; and 2.) the Economist magazine has a picture of a walker with the presidential seal saying we don’t want a president with disabilities or one who is old. She raised the concern about whether there was something MNSILC can/should do to speak about these issues. There was discussion about the direction of treatment of people with disabilities. The addition to the agenda without advance notice was discussed. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting. It was requested that Jo Erbes send information about the two topics addresses.

**SEMCIL Overview** – Jacob Schuller, SEMCIL Executive Director, provided background information and history about SEMCIL. Funding to CILs was not increased so they needed to find ways to increase funding. SEMCIL provided PCA service. They started the Boundless program to serve younger people. There are 25 staff working with the Hub, which is a contract with MCIL and the Department of Human Services.

Rob Weigel (SEMCIL Community Access Manager), and Melissa Cummins (SEMCIL Program & Services Director) provided an overview of the programs and services provided by SEMCIL. They highlighted the peer mentoring program; drivers permit training, hosting TOVUTI an on-line permit training program; transition housing services; Assistive Technology lending in conjunction with the STAR program.

The biggest challenge for the CIL is funding. There is not enough money to meet everyone’s needs. Other challenges include Society’s general impression to not let people with disabilities experiment. Adults whose parents passed and now the person is left alone, other family members do not know social security or other services. The expectation of living alone after the parents pass. People need a plan moving forward. Moving out of the parent’s home should be an expectation. Mindset can be a barrier. A huge institutional problem. Retaliation on those living in an institution. The delay in responding to a complaint. Our system isn’t working in protecting individuals with disabilities.

Challenges in the “built world”. Look more through the lens of disabilities. The ADA is a minimum standard that is not met 30 years after its passage. A lot to be said about universal design.

**Public Comment** – Deborah Gleason recently attended the ADA Symposium. Contact her for information about the ADA. Joe Dailey is a member of an MAEPD Committee. They are trying to change the law that people MAEPD do not pay a premium. They are also working to change the asset limit.

**DEED/VRS Update** – Anne Paulson, DEED/VRS Representative, reported that are 180 partners under contract for 3 years. 50% of individuals being served are in transition programs. They are serving everyone, there are no categories closed.

**SSB Update** – Ed Letcher, SSB Representative, reported that SSB received an $ 8.M grant to provide rehabilitation services. The SSB building is mostly empty. SSB is going to use it as a rehabilitation teaching facility. Ed Lecher indicated that he is not going to reapply to serve on the council. SSB has identified a staff person from northern MN who is interested.

**MCD Update** – No report

**SRC -G** – No report

**SRC – B** – Judy Sanders reported that members are being asked to volunteer for committees.

**MN STAR Update** – No Report

**Committee Reports**

**Advocacy Committee –** Deborah Gleason reported the committee is rewriting position papers

**Executive Committee –** Brad Westerlund informed the Executive Committee the centers will each received an additional $100,000 to expand services.

**Finance Committee** – no report

**Outreach Committee** - Joe Dailey reported the committee is researching ways to reach youth, creating material to recruit new council members and distributing a press release to recruit new members.

**Next Meeting** – September 12, 2024 at the Metropolitan Center for Independent Living, St Paul MN

**Motion to Adjourn** –at 1:55 p.m. Rosalie Eisenreich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jacob Schuller.

**Visit Boundless –** The council adjourned to visit the Boundless Program where Dylan Mickey provided a tour of the facility.

Submitted by Crystall Hellekson, Secretary

Recorded by Jo Erbes, MNSILC Coordinator

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