

Sarah Michaud
Council Chair

DRAFT

New Mexico Statewide Independent Living Council

Quarterly Council Meeting

May 14th, 2025, 10am

This meeting will be in person at Independent Living Resource Center, 316 Osuna Rd NE, Suite 401, Albuquerque, NM 87107 and over Zoom

I. Call to Order & Introductions of the Council

Sarah Michaud call meeting to order @ 10:05 AM

Mariah Regan - Present

Paula Seanez - Present

Ken Collins - Not Present(Excused)

Peggy Hayes - Present

Marlencia D. Chee - Not Present (Excused)

Sarah Michaud (Chair) - Present

Rudy Grano - Present Non-Voting

Lisa McNiven - Present Non-Voting

Juan Haro - Present Non-Voting

Kathy Cooper (Executive Director) Present Non-Voting

II. Approval of the Agenda – Action Item

Paula Seanez proposes leaving V and VI as discussion items and amends motion to allow for agenda flexibility to accommodate Mellie Adu's Presentation

Peggy Hayes Seconds

Unanimously Approved

III. Approval of January 2025 Minutes – Action Item

Peggy Hayes Motions to Approve

Paula Seanez Seconds

Discussion was held regarding more detail on and addressing public comments.

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Unanimously Approved

IV. Chair Report

- a. Jason Sedillo passed away and is no longer on the board.
- b. 2 complaints have been submitted to the Governor's Office – The Chair has provided response to both complaints.
- c. SILC training provided by the Training and Technical Assistance grantee of OILP in February 2025
- d. Sarah Michaud (SILC Chair) attended Disability Rights Awareness to share information on Centers for Independent Living Services and the SILC's infographic.
- e. The Chair spoke with the NMDVR Director (Kendra Karp) to clarify SILC Budget and how to move forward with procuring goods and services needed for SILC.
- f. There will be future discussion with NMDVR to address the existing MOU with NMDVR.
- g. 501c3 pros and cons and processes are being explored.

Paula Seanez Comment

Paula hopes to move forward with collaboration and reconciliation between the SILC and CFB.

Further comment from the board and the Center's for Independent Living is made regarding Chair's Report and the reconciliation between the SILC and CFB and what that may look like.

V. Proposed Bylaws Updates – Discussion and Action Item

- a. Proposed sections to be changed: Article 4 Section 1: New Mexico SILC Composition

Discussion was held regarding the residency of appointed members of the board and any existing federal regulations/requirements and implied expectations.

Discussion tabled for 501c3 Presentation by Mellie Adu, AZ SILC (Please see item X. below)

Recess @ 12:00 PM

Called to order @ 12:14 PM

Agenda Item V. tabled for the next meeting.

VI. Proposed Policy and Procedure Updates – Discussion and Action Item

Explanation of the of topic provided by Sarah Michaud (SILC Chair)

Tabled for next meeting

VII. Strategic Plan – Discussion and Action Item

Explanation of the of topic provided by Sarah Michaud (SILC Chair)

Tabled for next meeting

VIII. Executive Director Report

- a. Program Performance Report was submitted but not yet approved by Office of Independent Living Programs (OILP).
- b. Independent Living Center Directors continue to meet with Executive Director and Sarah Michaud (SILC Chair) for IL Network Coordination. Current projects include building capacity for the centers.
- c. SPIL Goals and Objectives were provided to the board to educate on topics such as the Mission of the SPIL, objectives and indicators, Independent Living Center program performance reports, and consumer satisfaction surveys.
- d. The Executive Director is working with NMDVR to obtain a detailed budget summary.
- e. Federal Part C funding for the Independent Living centers will not be changing, neither increasing nor decreasing, Part B funding will be increasing but those funds are projected to be used for programs eliminated at the federal level, more detail to come.
- f. The Administration for Community Living has been dismantled.
- g. There is a current legislative bill that may affect Medicaid. This could decrease the state's Medicaid funding by an estimated 3.4 billion dollars.
- h. The SILC has obtained membership to the National Association of Statewide Independent Living Councils.

IX. IL Network Updates

Sarah Michaud – New Vistas

- a. 446 at risk children or children that have developmental disabilities have been served in the state fiscal year (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2025).
- b. 77 consumers are currently being served in the Independent Living Program.
- c. Two new advocates have been hired.
- d. New Vistas has been attending health fairs.
- e. A presentation was provided to the Farmers Market Association, educating on how to make their markets more accessible.
- f. New Vistas is experiencing challenges with nursing home transition due to the availability of agencies.
- g. Weekly online open space for the youth is held to provide peer support
- h. New Vistas now has a youth volunteer who has been working with youth advocates in assisting with events.
- i. There is ongoing collaboration with a local gym in which the "Punching Out Parkinsons" Program is held.
- j. Currently working the PED in developing a Youth Transition Conference.

Kate Una on behalf of Gil Yildiz—Independent Living Resource Center

- a. 327 consumers have been served in the state fiscal year (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2025).
- b. The Technical Service Program has completed 19 home modifications and is on track to serve 38 consumers.
- c. 600 hours spent on systems advocacy.
- d. Outreach being conducted in underserved counties.
- e. PED grant has been received.
- f. ILRC is facing challenges with accessible affordable housing.
- g. Two full-time employees for the Attendant Services Program have been hired to conduct consumer incident reporting.

Albert Montoya – The Ability Center

Not present – was at the meeting but had to leave due to time constraints

Audra Wilson – Choices

- a. The service area has been affected by recent fires and floods.
- b. CHOICES has found partners that are helping provide rental assistance for consumers.
- c. CHOICES has been operating with minimal staff- 1 full-time employee other than the director (Audra Wilson)
- d. SSI waitlist has been opened

Charlie Phelps – San Juan Center for Independence

Not present – was at the meeting but had to leave due to time constraints

Rudy Grano – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DSE)

- a. DVR is still actively working on recruiting a director – The Governor's office has conducted some interviews.
- b. A \$250,000 request from the House of Appropriations and Finance Committee was denied.
- c. The Gallup Office has officially subleased their location to OSERS (Navajo Nation Office of Special Education).
- d. The Rehabilitation Services Unit is currently working on a succession plan to fill future staff vacancies.
- e. There will be a large initiative in budget management for Fiscal Year 2026 to avoid order of selection.
- f. NMDVR Vacancies: Rehabilitation Services Unit 11%, Disability Determination Services 35%, Administrative Services Unit 12%.

Presentation was given from Mellie Adu regarding information on becoming 501c3 status information found on <https://nonprofitpoint.com/how-to-start-a-nonprofit-us/>. Mellie Adu: mellie@azzilc.org

XI. Public Comment (3-minute limit)

Juan Haro provided update on Commission for the Blind programs

XII. Adjournment

Peggy Hayes motions to adjourn

Paula Seanez seconds

Adjourned 1:22 PM

XIII. Next Meeting – August 13th, 2025 Location TBD