

Sarah Michaud  
Council Chair

## **New Mexico Statewide Independent Living Council**

Quarterly Council Meeting

August 13th, 2025, 10am

This meeting will be in person at 362A S. McCurdy Rd., Espanola, NM 87532 and over Zoom (link at end of agenda)

- I. Call to Order & Introductions of the Council  
Called to Order @ 10:23 AM

Sharah Michaud – Present

Paula Seanez – Present

Mariah Reagan – Present

Kenneth D. Collins – Unexcused Absent

Peggy Hayes – Present

Marlencia Chee – Present

Rachel Minard – Present

Juan Haro, CFB – Present (Non-Voting)

Lisa McNiven, GCD – Present (Non-Voting)

Rudy Grano, NMDVR– Present (Non-Voting)

Kathy Cooper, Executive Director – Present (Non-Voting)

- II. Approval of the Agenda – Action Item

Marlencia Chee Motioned to approve

Rachel Minard Seconded

Unanimously Approved

- III. Approval of May 2025 Minutes – Action Item

Sarah Michaud Motioned to approve

Peggy Hayes Seconded

Discussion: Paula Seanez proposes it is recorded whether absences are excused or unexcused.

Unanimously approved

IV. IL Network Updates

- a. Sarah Michaud – New Vistas
  1. Program is serving 290 active cases for Early Intervention Services
  2. Independent Living Program is serving 68 individuals
  3. 27 individuals are being served through information and referrals
  4. New Vistas has participated in multiple outreach activities
  5. The partnership with the Public Education Department remains productive.
  6. The local outreach continues with Punching out Parkinsons and Tai Chi for Veterans
  7. New Vistas Building has been impacted by recent floods – Most staff have returned to the building; however, availability of staff may be intermittent.
  
- b. Gil Yildiz– Independent Living Resource Center (Not Present)
  
- c. Albert Montoya – The Ability Center (Not Present)
  
- d. Audra Wilson – Choices
  1. Due to SPIL funding increases Choices has been able to move into a suitable building for staff and consumers, add a new full-time employee, provide increase in outreach,
  2. Audra Wilson will provide success stories to be presented to the Administration of Community Living.
  
- e. Leslie Wright on behalf of Charlie Phelps – San Juan Center for Independence
  1. The focus remains of core service, youth advocacy, and outreach.
  2. 745 active consumers are being served.
  3. Due to funding increases an additional transportation position has be filled.
  4. San Juan Center will provide success stories to be presented to the Administration of Community Living.
  
- f. Rudy Grano – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DSE)
  1. PED is still working to recruit an NMDVR director.
  2. NMDVR is currently sitting at 14% vacancy rate.
  3. State Personnel Office has implemented a standardization classification initiative leading to a hiring stall due to minimum qualification requirements within the new classification system.
  4. A standardized provider agreement has been implemented for job coaching providers.
  5. Rudy Grano has been promoted to Rehabilitation Services Unit Deputy Director.

V. Chair Report

- a. Sarah Michaud is monitoring federal updates regarding changes in disability and independent living services related funding.
- b. Meetings were held with NMDVR to address contracts, resource budget, and the Executive Director scope of work.
- c. Sarah Michaud provides an overview of the Executive Directors scope of work.
- d. A performance evaluation will be conducted for Executive Director – It is recommended that 3 voting members participate in the evaluation, Sarah Michaud appoints Marlencia Chee as past Chair to join the Executive Committee for this.
  1. Discussion takes place regarding the contract with Disability Revolution. DVR consulted with Chair on language for renewal, SILC did not take action on the contract
- e. Sarah Michaud has been attending stakeholder meetings which address the impact of federal and state funding cuts.

VI. Executive Director Report

- a. Program Performance Report has been submitted and approved
- b. IL Network Coordination
  1. The IL Network is developing a plan for capacity building to address the 5 underserved counties of New Mexico.
  2. The first step as a network will be to distribute the statewide unmet needs survey to help identify areas that are in need and advocate those needs to legislature.
- c. Partnerships and Collaborations
  1. Collaboration with the Developmental Disability Council with their pilot program is underway.
  2. Collaboration with Big Tent NM, an informal grassroots coalition.
  3. Kathy Cooper has been appointed to the Training and Technical Assistance Advisory Board and is currently working with the board on training and resources that both SILCs and CILs need.
  4. There is continued networking with the NASILC especially in regard to federal funding.
- d. Annual Budget Discussion --Action Item

The budget line items are reviewed

Budget was discussed

Mariah Reagan motioned to approve  
Marlencia Chee Seconds

Motion was debated

Mariah Reagan amended motion to approve with changes: Remove “personnel” terminology and replace with “contractor” and to add statement: Expenses included in the contractors contract are to be excluded from the budget line items.

Marlencia Chee Seconded  
Unanimously approved

VII. 501c3 Presentation Questions and Answers Discussion

Discussion takes place as to why the council should or should not move forward with obtaining 501c3 status.

VIII. Proposed Bylaws Update Discussion -- Action Item

Development of and bylaw updates discussed

Marlencia Chee motioned to approve  
Mariah Reagan Seconded

Paula Seanez proposes:

Page 3 Section 7 – Change existing language in the second sentence to “The NM SILC reserves the right to recommend removal of any member who exhibits inappropriate behavior toward the mission of the NM SILC” and change “including but not limit to” to “including for example”

Marlencia Chee amends motioned to approve with proposed changes  
Mariah Reagan Seconds

Paula Seanez Proposes:

Page 6 remains as is prior to proposed updates

Marlencia Chee amends motioned to approve with all proposed changes  
Mariah Reagan Seconds

Paula Seanez proposes:

Page 3 Letter g. – Removal of The Chair will determine membership of all committees except Executive Committee.

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Due to technical issues, agenda item will be further addressed at next meeting.

IX. Proposed Policy Update Discussion -- Action Item

Due to technical issues, agenda item will be addressed at next meeting.

X. Public Comment (3 minute limit)

Juan Haro provided public comment

Ashley of New Vistas provided public comment

Bernadine Chavez provided public comment

XI. Adjournment

Adjourned @ 2:24 PM

Special Meeting TBA

XII. Next Meeting – November 12th, 2025 Location TBD