

Sarah Michaud  
Council Chair

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

Quarterly Council Meeting

November 12th, 2025, 10am

This meeting will be in person at DVR Oakland Office, 5200 Oakland Ave., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113 and over Zoom (link at end of agenda).

### **Draft Minutes**

#### I. Call to Order & Introductions of the Council

Called to order @ 10:05 am

- Sarah Michaud - Present
- Peggy Hayes – Present
- Paula Seanez - Present
- Mariah Reagan - Present
- Lisa McNiven, GCD – Present (non-voting)
- Juan Haro, CFB -Present (non-voting)
- Dr. Stephon Scott, NMDVR Director – Present (non-voting)
- Kathy Cooper, Executive Director- Present (non-voting)
- Marlencia Chee – Present @ 10:11am
- Kenneth D Collins - Unexcused absent
- Rachel Minard – Unexcused absent

#### II. Approval of the Agenda – Action Item

- Peggy Hayes motion to approve
- Paula made amendment to add dates of minutes (and correct May to August)
- Sarah Michaud Seconded
- Unanimously approved

#### III. Approval of Minutes

- a. August 13, 2025, Minutes – Action Item
    - i. Paula Seanez motion to Approve via addition page 3 (5d) DVR consulted with Chair on language for renewal, SILC did not take action on the contract
    - ii. Peggy Hayes seconded
    - iii. Unanimously approved
  
  - b. September 16, 2025, Minutes – Action Item
    - i. Sarah Michaud motion to approve
    - ii. Peggy Hayes Seconded
    - iii. Unanimously approved
- IV. IL Network Updates
- a. Sarah Michaud – New Vistas
    - i. DEAM activities held group did amazing
    - ii. Oregon “Linda Gonzales” award
    - iii. Youth transition conference was held in September
    - iv. Nursing Home transitions
  
  - b. Gil Yildiz– Independent Living Resource Center
    - i. Received additional funding
      - 1. Hired in Socorro and Alamogordo
    - ii. Challenges
      - 1. Loss of Medicaid eligibility
      - 2. Health insurance for employees
        - a. From 100% down to 70%
    - iii. Working on 704 PPR
    - iv. July 1 services 514 consumers
      - 1. 112 new consumers
    - v. Affordable housing issues
  
  - c. Albert Montoya – The Ability Center
    - i. Not present to report

- d. Audra Wilson – Choices
  - i. Focused on housing
    - 1. Floods have been a big factor
    - 2. Transitions out of Nursing Homes
    - 3. HUD just became available
  
- e. Charlie Phelps – San Juan Center for Independence
  - i. Staying active
  - ii. No issues on external audit
  - iii. Finally, fully staffed
  - iv. Providing firewood to those in need
  - v. Community events stay involved, accessible playground
  - vi. Gallup office at 30% of goal
    - 1. Housing issues
    - 2. Food issues
  
- f. Dr. Stephon Scott– Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DSE)
  - i. CSAVR – working with business
    - 1. Development with budgeting
  - ii. Impacted on lapses due to Shut down
    - 1. As of right now order of selection is last resort.
  - iii. Soon we will have a dedicated DVR admin to assist with any SILC related needs
  - iv. Application on SNAP has an option to choose YES/NO to being a DVR client. DVR attorneys are working on the clarity of this question.

## V. Chair Report

- a. Monitoring Federal Shutdown
  - i. SNAP/Medicaid fundings affected
  - ii. Huge impact on everyone
- b. End of year reports
  - i. 704-PPR to be submitted at the end of year
- c. Preparing for 2026
  - i. Setting quarterly meetings

## VI. Executive Director Report

- a. Unmet Needs Survey
  - i. IL Network collaboration for survey to go out to the State of New Mexico
  - ii. Received 60 surveys back
  - iii. Help from the community getting surveys to the public
  
- b. IL Network Coordination
  - i. IL Network continues to meet on a quarterly basis
  - ii. Working on strategy to build capacity for CILs
  
- c. Partnerships and Collaborations
  - i. SILC involved in Bridging Aging and Disability Networks, Community Collaboration Forums
  - ii. Peer Connection with Texas SILC and CIL Rep
  - iii. Meeting weekly with NASILC (SILCs across the nation)
    - 1. Challenges
    - 2. Ideas
    - 3. Lots of resources
  
- d. Strategic Guidance
  - i. Working on consultant to gauge knowledge of board members and help with strategic plan, waiting on DVR fiscal and the process
  
- e. Fiscal Update
  - i. Budget transaction report as of July through October
    - 1. Travel reimbursement requests -turn in to Executive Director
  
- f. Centers of independent living are doing amazing with helping the community.

## VII. Yearly OMA Resolution – Action Item

- a. Approval to follow OMA

- i. Discussion had on relevance of posting in newspaper and expense.
- ii. Paula-motions to approve with Amendments
  1. Public notice posted to SILC website, sharing with SILC partner agencies for distributions.
  2. Emergency matters- write it out exact wording of OMA
  3. Hybrid meetings also write out exact wording of OMA
- iii. Peggy seconds
- iv. Unanimously approved

VIII. Proposed Policy Updates -- Action Item

- a. No recommendations for changes were received after last meeting
- b. Paula- motions to remove section 1-5 of the current policy updates on Conflict of Interest and replace with the New Mexico Governmental Conduct Act language.
- c. Peggy Seconds motion
- d. Discussion had that the Conflict of Interest update is simple to understand, covers the SILCs responsibility in the Authorities and that the NM Governmental Conduct Code is listed in the current bylaws.
- e. Sara and Marci voted no, Paula and Peggy voted yes, tie vote as Mariah had to leave the meeting before this vote. Motion fails

IX. 2026 SILC Quarterly Meeting Dates

- a. February 12, 2026
- b. May 13, 2026
- c. August 12, 2026
- d. November 18, 2026

X. Public Comment (3 minute limit)

- a. Juan Haro - CFB
  - i. 2 vacancies in the IL Program
  - ii. Brail program was hosted this summer. 8-9 participants
  - iii. Students Transition to Employment Program (STEP) was hosted this summer in Albuquerque with a total of 32 participants.
  - iv. Working on federal reports
- b. Lisa McNiven - GCD
  - i. Emergency preparedness training tomorrow in Gallup

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- ii. Training will be done throughout the State of New Mexico such as Farmington, Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Raton possibly Silver City
- iii. NMTAP just finished ATC
- iv. next commission board meeting will be April 2026

XI. Adjournment

- a. Adjourned at 12:27pm
- b. Paula Seanez motion to approve
- c. Peggy Hayes seconded

XII. Next Meeting – February 12,2026, 10am, Location TBD