

New Mexico Statewide Independent Living Council

Quarterly Council Meeting

April 29th, 2026, 10am

This meeting will be in person at Independent Living Resource Center, 316 Osuna Rd., NE, Suite 401, Albuquerque, NM 87107 and over Zoom (link at end of agenda).

Agenda

- I. Call to Order & Introductions of the Council (10:00am – 10:05am)
Called to order 10:05am
 - Juan Haro, CFB-Present (non-voting)
 - Bernadine Chavez, Present
 - Peggy Hayes, Present
 - Kathy Cooper, Executive Director – Present (non-voting)
 - Sarah Michaud - Present
 - Michael Murphy- Present
 - Mariah Reagan - present
 - Paula Seanez- Present
 - Samantha Rendon – Proxy for Dr. Scott, DSE (non-voting) present
 - Marlencia Chee – Excused Absent
 - Rachel Minnarr – Excused Absent
 - Cody Unser – Excused Absent
 - GCD Representative - Absent
 - 1.
- II. Approval of the Agenda – Action Item (10:05am – 10:10am)
 - Michael Murphy motion to approve
 - Peggy Seanez second
 - Unanimously approved
- III. Approval of Minutes (10:10am – 10:15am)
 - a. November 11, 2025, Minutes – Action Item

Sarah Michaud
Council Chair

- i. Motion to approve Mariah Reagan
- ii. Second by Sarah Michaud
- iii. Unanimously approved

IV. New Mexico Department of Justice Corrective Action Plan (10:15am – 11:00am)

- a. Corrective action plan was submitted by attorney general office in December regarding some OMA violations that were submitted in a complaint made by Mr. Greg Trapp on alleged issues needing to be corrected.
- b. Actions taken by Chair and Executive Director to date to respond to violations
 - i. Reviewed and responded to notice. Some items do require correction, and some were objected to. Responses were developed and submitted with the assistance of an attorney to the attorney general's office. The AG has acknowledged receipt and we have received no further word to date.

NM SILC NMDOJ Corrective Action Plan –Addressing and Correcting Violations

A. Alleged Violation 1: Meeting Minutes: To address the violation discussed in Section II(d), our office requires: minutes of the next meeting that reflect a corrective statement that provides a summary of the OMA violations, along with evidence of a vote on the draft minutes, and if not already done so, SILC should approve, amend, or disapprove its November 15, 2023, and February 21, 2024, meeting minutes.

*Corrective Action Taken

This summary of OMA alleged violations will be noted in the 4/29/26 meeting minutes.

After reviewing the past NM SILC meeting minutes and agendas and speaking with board members it is the case that the meeting minutes of the immediate previous meetings were voted on at the next meeting. The 11/15/2023 and 2/21/2024 agendas and minutes reflect that minutes were voted on, but these agendas and minutes did not have specific dates listed on the minutes to be voted on. The specific dates of minutes have been added to

both the agendas and meeting minutes. These changes will all be voted at the 4/29/2026 meeting.

B. Alleged Violation 2: SILC's August 21, 2024, Agenda Item: To address this violation our office requires minutes that illustrate the corrective statement that provides a summary of the OMA violation and a clear explanation of what the August 21, 2024, agenda item should have been identified as to comply with OMA.

*Corrective Action Taken

The summary of the alleged OMA violation will be noted in the 4/29/2026 meeting minutes: The 8/21/2024 agenda item listed as "Hiring Committee Updates—Action Item" is not reasonably specific to describe to the public that the SILC would be voting on the appointment of an Executive Director. The agenda item should have said: Hiring Committee—Final Executive Director Candidate Recommendation—Action Item—Board Vote on Appointment of Executive Director

- c. Action Item - Vote on updated agenda and minutes for the 2/21/2024 to reflect the minutes being voted on at that meeting were for 11/15/2023
 - 1. Motion to approve Michael Murphy
 - 2. Second Peggy Hayes
 - 3. 4 approvals(Sarah, Mariah, Peggy, Micheal) 2 abstained (Paula, Bernadine)
- d. Action Item – Vote on updated agenda and minutes for the 5/15/2024 meetings to reflect the minutes being voted on at that meeting were for 2/21/2024
 - 1. Motion to approve Michael Murphy
 - 2. Second Mariah Reagan
 - 3. 3 approvals (Sarah, Mariah, Micheal) 3 abstained (Peggy, Paula, Bernadine)

V. Policy Update (11:00am – 11:45am)

- a. New Mexico Department of Justice Attorney General's Opinion on SILC policy on public comment
 - i. Some policies were determined in AG's Opinion to be unconstitutional to being non-neutral in tone.

- ii. These policies were added to protect SILC members from attacks and bullying, but per the AG the language should be neutral and should apply to all parties in attendance.
 - iii. Corrective action was recommended to correct language to a neutral tone.
 - iv. Policy Committee met to review and make recommendations on language changes to meet the recommendations of the opinion.
- b. Action Item – Vote on policy update to meet recommendation in AG Opinion
- i. Question asked re: should change be made to language setting only 3 minutes for all public comments
 1. Discussion was held on perspectives for and against recommendation.
 2. It was recommended that this be added to the end of the first paragraph of the update: Comments will be included in the minutes for review by the Council.
 - c. Proposal made to accept the changes proposed by Policy Committee that to remove language that does not belong per general attorney opinion, and to add the recommended sentence above.
 - d. Approval of all policies
 1. Motion to approve Michael Murphy
 2. Second Peggy Hayes
 3. 5 approved (Sarah, Mariah, Peggy, Micheal, Paula), 1 abstained (Bernadine)

VI. IL Network Updates (11:45am – 12:15pm)

- a. Sarah Michaud – New Vistas
 - Extremely busy
 - Submitted the PPR report to ACL not yet reviewed.
 - Achieved a double nursing home transition
 - Getting staff out into the county
 - Onsite services in Espanola
 - Planning second annual youth transition conference will be help in Las Vegas NM

- Outreach to Raton schools
- Housing outcome success achieved for consumer who was previously unhoused

b. Michael Murphy– Independent Living Resource Center

- Providing services to 273 consumers
- Staff spent 550 hours on community activities
- 335 consumers in attendance program
- CMS does not require EVV check out, but state does
- State increased use of legally responsible individuals (spouse, power of attorney or guardian)

c. Albert Montoya – The Ability Center

- Not in attendance

d. Audra Wilson – Choices (Kathy Cooper on behalf)

- Able to fulfill 2 ramps and bathroom remodels
- 2 new staff members
- Youth transition fair in Carlsbad

e. Charlie Phelps – San Juan Center for Independence

- San Juan is currently fully staffed.
- Continuing to stay bust with 1,029 consumers amazing increase since last year.
- Issues with many requests coming in on behalf of social security. Questions being redirected to San Juan Center, becoming an issue.
- Annual Youth Ambition Fair
 1. 22 vendors, 16-18 staff, over 100 students and 157 people attended

f. Dr. Stephon Scott– Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DSE)

i. Samantha Rendon filled in on behalf of Dr. Scott

- Nothing to report

VII. Chair Report (12:15pm – 12:30pm)

- a. Busy couple of months following up on I&E funding, complaints received, and budgets
- b. Federal budgets and IL funding continued to be monitored.

- i. IL funding is not in the headlines at this time
 - c. In communication with DSE to request I&E funding to meet SPIL funding allocations. Also working with DVR to address SILC budget in light of cuts we were informed about in January to ensure funding is adequate and available for all SILC meeting needs.
 - d. Responding appropriately to complaints that came to light in December 2025 and February 2026
- VIII. Executive Director Report (12:30pm – 12:45pm)
 - a. IL Network Coordination
 - i. Continuing to meet every quarter, unmet needs survey ongoing
 - ii. Discussion on next SPIL development in progress
 - b. Partnerships and Collaborations
 - i. Meeting with New Mexico and Aging and Long-term Services Department
 - 1. How to coordinate and collaborate with IL Services and programs.
 - c. SILC Congress
 - i. Kathy Cooper attended the SILC Conference this year 2026
 - 1. Discussions on Needs assessments
 - 2. IL philosophy, compliance, ACL updates
 - d. Fiscal updates
 - i. Spreadsheet with available expenses from DVR was sent out via email to all SILC members by Kathy Cooper.
- IX. Public Comment (3-minute limit per person) (12:45pm to 1:15pm)
 - a. Greg Trapp
 - i. Attorney Generals office
 - 1. Part B funds 2017
 - a. DVR had surplus of program income
 - b. DVR can spend program income on Vocational Rehabilitation Services, or transfer to service of independent living or commission for the Blind Independent programs.
 - c. 2024 DVR carried over \$12 million, they Transferred \$2 million worth of program income, transferred \$1.8 million to IL services.
 - d. Income benefits every program with disabilities

- e. Believes CFB receipt of Part B funds by using a portion of DVR's admin pool is win, win, win scenario
 - ii. Jim Salas
 1. In order for CFB to use the social security reimbursement funds for independent living programs we have to have federal grant dollars first.
 2. Part B money was the grant money to offer funds.
 3. Proposal to continue receipt of Part B funds was submitted to SILC 1 year and a half ago and was rejected.
 - iii. Juan Haro
 1. Independent living programs work throughout the state to help consumers, down a position. Provides services to make them thrive.
 2. All skills-based training is provided and instructing people with multiple disabilities.
 - iv. Frank Maestas vice chair for the National Federation of the Blind of New Mexico
 1. Do not have a "dog" in the fight when it comes to Funds, but we do have concerns.
 - a. Concerned that if they do not receive any Part B funds services will stop.
 - b. Greatly stressed that young folks are in need for services.
 - c. Asking SILC to give funds \$9,000 to the commission of the blinds so services can continue to younger folks.
- X. Next Meeting – TBD
- a. Requesting afternoon tally will be sent out by Kathy Cooper for 1st – 2nd week of June.
 - b. Location request for ILRC or a DVR office depending on the day.
- XI. Adjournment
- a. Adjourned time 11:55am
 - b. Motion to approve Michael Murphy
 - c. Seconded Bernadine Chavez

Sarah Michaud
Council Chair

Times listed on the agenda are estimates and may be adjusted as needed based on the discretion of the council. Council members and public attendees, please direct your accommodation requests to Kathy Cooper with sufficient lead time to secure necessary services at Kathy@Disability-Revolution.com.

The mission of the NM SILC includes a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access and individual and system advocacy, in order to maximize opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of society.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89485360195?pwd=pxuKETFDbVbykLxA9CmL7HKicayQhz.1>

Meeting ID: 894 8536 0195 Passcode: 947384

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