

Address: 3810 Milwaukee St.  
Madison, WI 53714  
Phone: (608) 575-9293  
Website: [il-wis.net](http://il-wis.net)



## **Independent Living Council of Wisconsin (ILCW) Quarterly Teleconference Meeting**

Monday, February 19, 2024, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

APPROVED MAY 20, 2024

### **Action Items and Motion Items**

#### **A. ILCW Quarterly Action Items**

- 1. Action Item:** ILCW Program Coordinator will update November 13-14, 2023 ILCW Quarterly Meeting Minutes action items to show the date as "2024" rather than "2023."
- 2. Action Item:** Diana Luttmann, RitzHolman CPAs will update the 2023 ILCW Audit to clarify the role of the Department of Health Services (DHS) as the Designated State Entity (DSE) and identify the sources of Innovation and Expansion (I&E) and Part B funding.
- 3. Action Item:** ILCW Program Coordinator will review the updated Draft 2023 ILCW Audit following updates completed by Diana Luttmann, RitzHolman CPAs.
- 4. Action Item:** ILCW Program Coordinator and Marcus Schmitt, Kollath CPA will work together to develop a report that shows the annualized operational cost of the Council.
- 5. Action Item:** ILCW Program Coordinator will contact Jason Beloungy, Executive Director, Access to Independence to request meeting space for the August 19-20, 2024 ILCW Quarterly Meeting.
- 6. Action Item:** ILCW Program Coordinator will send meeting invitations to the full Council and ILCW Partners for the May 20-21, August 19-20, and November 18-19, 2024 ILCW Quarterly meetings.
- 7. Action Item:** ILCW Program Coordinator will make a biography document and ballot which will be sent to all voting members of the Council After nominations have been completed and accepted.

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- 8. Action Item:** ILCW Program Coordinator will ask the ILCW SPIL Committee to develop new benchmarks related to how many counties in the state of Wisconsin have had at least 1% of the persons with disabilities in that county served by an Independent Living Center.
- 9. Action Item:** Designated State Entity (DSE) Representative will send the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the ILCW Program Coordinator to facilitate discussions about updating and reinstating the MOU.

### **B. ILCW Quarterly Motion Items**

- 1. Motion Item:** Kyle Kleist made a motion to approve the February 19-20, 2024 ILCW Quarterly meeting agenda. Eric Riskus seconded the motion. ILCW voted unanimously to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- 2. Motion Item:** Julie Bergan made a motion to approve the November 13-14, 2023 ILCW Quarterly Meeting minutes. Kyle Kleist seconded the motion.
- 3. Motion Item:** Julie Bergan made a motion to approve the October, November, and December 2023 Financial Statements. Kyle Kleist seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 4. Motion Item:** Eric Riskus made a motion that the ILCW Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 Audit be approved following completion of updates for clarification of the Department of Health Services (DHS) role and the Council's funding sources by Diana Luttmann, RitzHolman CPAs. Randi Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5. Motion Item:** Lisa Sobczyk, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR), Designated State Entity (DSE) Representative made a motion to approve the September 26, 2023 Wisconsin Independent Living Network (WILN) Retreat Planning Committee meeting minutes. Jason Glozier, Executive Director, Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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**6. Motion Item:** Kyle Kleist made a motion to adjourn the February 19-20, 2024 ILCW Quarterly meeting for the day and to reconvene February 20, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. Eric Riskus seconded the motion.

**7. Motion Item:** Kyle Kleist made a motion to hold a public hearing at indiGO in Superior, Wisconsin, Midstate Independent Living Choices in Stevens Point Wisconsin, and Society's Assets, Incorporated in Racine Wisconsin. Julie Bergan seconded the motion. ILCW voted unanimously to hold public hearings in the locations listed. Motion carried.

## **C. Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 19, 2024**

### **I. Welcome and Introductions, Jason Endres, ILCW Chair**

**ILCW Members Present:** Julie Bergan; Sarah Eckland, ILCW Independent Living Center (ILC) Representative; Jason Endres, ILCW Chair; Randi Johnson, ILCW Secretary; Kyle Kleist; ILCW Vice Chair; Eric Riskus, ILCW Vice Chair-Elect; and Martha Siravo.

**ILCW Members Absent; Excused (\*):** Ann Belisle; Jackie Gordon\*; LySandra Owens\*, ILCW Secretary; and Tyler Wigington.

**ILCW Ex-Officio Members Present:** Sarah Kuehn Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); Taqwanya Smith, Department of Transportation (DOT); and Lisa Sobczyk, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR), Designated State Entity (DSE) Representative.

**Guest(s):** Jason Glozier, Executive Director, Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC); Ramsey Lee; Diana Luttmann, RitzHolman Certified Public Accountants (CPAs); Marcus Schmitt, Kollath CPA; and Ashley Walker, DHS, BADR.

**ILCW Staff:** Tyler Wilcox, ILCW Program Coordinator.

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## **II. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 A.M. by Jason Endres, ILCW Chair**

- The meeting was available via teleconference by calling (312) 626-6799 with meeting ID: 819 5240 6374. The meeting was also available via [Zoom](#).

## **III. Review and Approve February 19-20, 2024 ILCW Quarterly Meeting Agenda**

- Kyle Kleist made a motion to approve the February 19-20, 2024 ILCW Quarterly meeting agenda. Eric Riskus seconded the motion. ILCW voted unanimously to approve the agenda. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.
  - Taqwanya Smith, DOT, is unavailable for the second day of the February 19-20, 2024 ILCW Quarterly Meeting and ask to present her report following the Treasurer's report.

## **IV. Review and Approve November 13-14, 2023 ILCW Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

- Julie Bergan made a motion to approve the November 13-14, 2023 ILCW Quarterly Meeting minutes. Kyle Kleist seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.
  - ILCW Program Coordinator will update November 13-14, 2023 ILCW Quarterly Meeting Minutes action items to show the date as "2024" rather than "2023." See Action Item 1.

## **V. Public Comment on the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) or Related to Independent Living Centers and Services**

- Link to SPIL (<http://www.livebinders.com/media/get/MjQ3MTE0MDE0>)
- Ramsey Lee provided public comment.

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- The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) recently released a request for proposals for the 2024 Self-Determination Conference. The theme this year will be “So everyone has a voice; Nothing About us Without Us.” Ramsey encourages ILCW to submit a proposal for a presentation about the Wisconsin Independent Living Network’s advocacy efforts and services provided by Independent Living Centers.
- Public comment period closed at 10:34 A.M.

## **VI. Discuss Treasurer’s Report**

- ILCW Program Coordinator presented the October, November, and December, 2023 Financial Statements.
  - The Financial Statements cover the first quarter of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024.
  - ILCW is on-track with its current spending. Most accounts have been expended at about 25% of their budgeted amount, which is to be expected through the first quarter of a fiscal year.
  - The accounts that show significantly more or less than 25% of their budgeted amount expended are one-time or infrequent expenses; there is no concern with regards to these items at this time.
  - Marcus Schmitt, Kollath CPA, reported he believes ILCW is “on-track” with regards to their spending so far in FFY 2024.
  - Julie Bergan made a motion to approve the October, November, and December 2023 Financial Statements. Kyle Kleist seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.
- Diana Luttmann, RitzHolman CPAs, presented the draft report for the FFY 2023 audit.
  - There were no adjustments, causes for concern, or findings for the FFY 2023 ILCW audit.

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- Net assets were down about \$5,000.00. This is expected due to the amortization of the expenses related to developing the il-wis.net website, and net cash losses are expected through the end of the amortization period.
  - There are about \$11,000 remaining in the website amortization.
- The percentage of expenditures on program versus management remained about the same.
- Most major changes in the budget between FFY 2022 and FFY 2023 have to do with straightforward operating difference.
  - There was a change in the way Audits were accounted for in FFY 2022.
  - There was greater conference attendance in FFY 2023.
  - There were fewer network costs in FFY 2023.
- Overall cashflow in FFY 2023 was better due to reimbursements coming in a more timely manner.
- There were several new accounting standards develop in FFY 2023 with regards to auditing, however none of these apply to ILCW. There has been no change in ILCW's balance sheet and liabilities.
- There is a concentration of risk due to the limited funding sources for ILCW.
  - Lisa Sobczyk, DHS, BADR, DSE Representative clarified that Department of Health Services (DHS) allocates and administers funding but does not provide funding.
  - Innovation and Expansion (I&E) funding and Part B funding come from different sources.

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- Diana Luttmann, RitzHolman CPAs will update the 2023 ILCW Audit to clarify the role of the Department of Health Services (DHS) as the Designated State Entity (DSE) and identify the sources of Innovation and Expansion (I&E) and Part B funding. See Action Item 2.
- ILCW Program Coordinator will review the updated Draft 2023 ILCW Audit following updates completed by Diana Luttmann, RitzHolman CPAs. See Action Item 3.
- ILCW has about 2 months of liquidity. This is a reduction from prior years and is due to the Council's increased expenses.
  - Due to development of the 2025-2027 SPIL, which is in progress at this time, it is important to know what the annualized operating cost of the Council is.
  - ILCW Program Coordinator and Marcus Schmitt, Kollath CPA will work together to develop a report that shows the annualized operational cost of the Council. See Action Item 4.
- ILCW has a zero balance at the end of most years. Due to the website. The Council shows a non-cash loss at the end of FFY 2023, however this was expected due to expenses related to the il-wis.net website, and non-cash losses are expected to continue until the amortization period ends in about two years.
- Eric Riskus made a motion that the ILCW Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 Audit be approved following completion of updates for clarification of the Department of Health Services (DHS) role and the Councils funding sources by Diana Luttmann, RitzHolman CPAs. Randi Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 4.

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## **VII. Review and Approval of September 26, 2023 Wisconsin Independent Living Network (WILN) Retreat Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**

- The WILN Retreat Planning Committee is no longer meeting because the Retreat event is over.
- Only those present at the September 26, 2023 WILN Retreat Planning Committee Meeting should vote for approval of the meeting Minutes. The following persons were present at that meeting:
  - Jason Endres, ILCW Chair.
  - Jason Glozier, Executive Director, WCILC.
  - Lisa Sobczyk, DHS, BADR, DSE Representative.
  - Ashley Walker, DHS, BADR.
- Lisa Sobczyk, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR), Designated State Entity (DSE) Representative made a motion to approve the September 26, 2023 Wisconsin Independent Living Network (WILN) Retreat Planning Committee meeting minutes. Jason Glozier, Executive Director, Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC) seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 5.

## **VIII. Discuss ILCW In-Person Quarterly Meeting Dates and Location**

- The May 2024 Quarterly meeting will be held Monday, May 21 – Tuesday, May 22. The meeting will be virtual.
- ILCW will meet in-person August 19-20, 2024 in Madison, Wisconsin.
  - The Council's preference is for the meeting to be held at Access to Independence, the ILC responsible for Dane County. If the conference room at Access to Independence is not available, then an alternate location will be found.



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- ILCW Program Coordinator will contact Jason Beloungy, Executive Director, Access to Independence to request meeting space for the August 19-20, 2024 ILCW Quarterly Meeting. See Action Item 5.
- The November 18-19, 2024 ILCW Quarterly Meeting will be virtual.
- ILCW Program Coordinator will send meeting invitations to the full Council and ILCW Partners for the May 20-21, August 19-20, and November 18-19, 2024 ILCW Quarterly meetings. See Action Item 6.

## **IX. Review and Discuss ILCW Chair Report**

- There are several committees available for ILCW members to join.
  - ILCW has several standing committees which would benefit from more member involvement.
  - WILN has several Advocacy Committees which may interest Council members, provide more opportunities to engage in systems advocacy, and become better acquainted with other people who are a part of WILN.
- ILCW Chair's term will end July 1, 2024. He is at his term limit and may not serve another term. All ILCW members, including those that are newer to the Council, are encouraged to run for any of the officer positions which are voted on in even year. Those positions are ILCW Chair, ILCW Treasurer, or ILCW Vice Chair-Elect.

## **X. Discuss Development of Collaborative Wisconsin Independent Living Network (WILN) Leadership Committee**

- WILN Retreat Planning Committee had some productive discussions about the network while planning the retreat. Some members of the group wished to continue to meet to continue those discussions.
  - The WILN Retreat Planning Committee was an ad hoc committee; it would be inappropriate for the group to continue to meet without having a retreat to plan for.

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- A collaborative committee would provide some opportunity for staff not typically in leadership positions to begin development as leaders in the network. This is also an opportunity for ILC staff, ILCW members, DSE staff, and WCILC board members to collaborate.
  - DSE has three program policy analysts who would be able to provide good information for the group. Other staff at the DSE may also find the group beneficial.
- Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC) seems to be supportive of this committee's development, provided the committee has some measurable effect on success of the network.
- ILCW Program Coordinator will discuss development of a Collaborative WILN Leadership Committee with the ILCW Chair, WCILC Chair, and WCILC Executive Director.

## **XI. Review and Discuss ILCW Officer Elections**

- ILCW will be electing three officers in FFY 2024, per the ILCW Bylaws.
  - ILCW Chair.
  - ILCW Treasurer.
  - ILCW Vice Chair-Elect.
    - ILCW Chair is not eligible for reelection because he has reached his term limit. ILCW Treasurer and ILCW Vice Chair-Elect are both eligible for a second term.
- Nominations are due to ILCW Program Coordinator by February 29, 2024.
  - Council Members may nominate themselves or nominate others.
- ILCW Program Coordinator will make a biography document and ballot which will be sent to all voting members of the Council After nominations have been completed and accepted. See Action Item 7.
  - Ballots will be due before the May 20-21, 2024 Quarterly meeting. The new ILCW officers will be announced during the Quarterly meeting.



## **XII. Review and Discuss ILCW Training Logs**

- ILCW Program Coordinator provided training to the Council on the use of both the Survey Monkey ILCW Training Tracker and word document training tracker.
  - The trackers are used by ILCW Program coordinator when completing the Program Performance Report, and when reporting on progress on SPIL goals related to Council member training.

## **XIII. Review and Discuss the SPIL**

- ILCW Program Coordinator provided an update regarding completion of 2021-2024 SPIL Goals.
  - Many of the goals are in progress; there is only 1 full quarter of data available. However, overall there seems to be some good progress being made toward the current SPIL goals.
    - As of the end of the first quarter, at least 1% of the consumers with disabilities have been served in 14 counties. This is an improvement over the report from the first quarter of FFY 2023.
    - Over 75% of the consumers from 6 of the 8 ILCs have successfully completed their goals.
    - A Quality Indicators for Independent Living Services (QUILS) review is scheduled for Society's Assets, incorporated. This will be the first QUILS review for that center in over 2 decades.
    - The Wisconsin Independent Living Network (WILN) retreat was held in August of 2023. This goal is complete. However, information and discussions that began at the retreat have continued well into the current fiscal year.

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- ILCW has completed 17.25 hours of training in the first quarter. This is less than years in the past, however several new members will have orientations in the second quarter. The first quarter also includes the holiday season, and there are generally fewer training opportunities during those months.
- The proposed indicator 1.1.1 for the 2025-207 is “the number of counties with at least 1% of persons with disabilities served by their local Independent Living Center (ILC) will increase annually over the course of the 3-year SPIL period.”
  - This goal is like, and a continuation of, a goal that is in the 2021-2024 SPIL, which simply states that all counties will be served at the 1% threshold.
  - Increasing the number of counties which must reach the 1% threshold every year will show progress.
    - The current proposed percentage of counties with at least 1% of persons with disabilities served are:
      - Year 1 of the 3-year SPIL cycle (FFY 2025): 70%
      - Year 2 of the 3-year SPIL cycle (FFY 2026): 85%
      - Year 3 of the 3-year SPIL cycle (FFY 2027): 100%
    - Serving 1% of the persons with disabilities in all 72 of Wisconsin’s counties may be untenable.
      - Showing progress will improve advocacy efforts. Especially those related to increasing funding for WILN.
      - Making sure the goals are attainable will be important. Amendments to the SPIL should be avoided if possible.

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- There are several ILC directors working with the SPIL committee who may have a better idea of what more reasonable benchmarks for this goal would be.
- ILCW Program Coordinator will ask the ILCW SPIL Committee to develop new benchmarks related to how many counties in the state of Wisconsin have had at least 1% of the persons with disabilities in that county served by an Independent Living Center. See Action Item 8.
- The SPIL Draft needs some more minor updates before it is ready for publication prior to the Public Hearings. ILCW Executive Committee can approve the draft at the March 7, 2024 meeting when those updates and changes are completed.
  - Per ILCW Bylaws, “The Executive Committee may transact business requiring action between Board meetings.”

#### **XIV. Adjourn**

- Kyle Kleist made a motion to adjourn the February 19-20, 2024 ILCW Quarterly meeting for the day and to reconvene February 20, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. Eric Riskus seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 6.

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:52 P.M. to reconvene February 20, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.**

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**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

**XV. Welcome and Introductions, Jason Endres, ILCW Chair**

**ILCW Members Present:** Julie Bergan; Sara Eckland, ILCW Independent Living Center (ILC) Representative; Jason Endres, ILCW Chair; Jackie Gordon; Kyle Kleist, ILCW Vice Chair; Randi Johnson, ILCW Secretary; LySandra Owens, ILCW Treasurer; Eric Riskus, ILCW Vice Chair-Elect; Martha Siravo; and Tyler Wigington.

**ILCW Members Absent; Excused (\*):** Ann Belisle.

**ILCW Ex-Officio Members Present:** Sarah Kuehn, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); and Lisa Sobczyk, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR), Designated State Entity (DSE) Representative.

**Guest(s):** Jason Glozier, Executive Director, Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC); Ramsey Lee.

**ILCW Staff:** Tyler Wilcox, ILCW Program Coordinator.

**XVI. The meeting was reconvened at 10:02 A.M. by Jason Endres, ILCW Chair**

- The meeting was available via teleconference by calling (312) 626-6799 with meeting ID: 819 5240 6374. The meeting was also available via [Zoom](#).

**XVII. Review and Discuss ILCW Program Coordinator Updates**

- ILCW Program Coordinator provided updates to the full council via email prior to the meeting.
  - Updates were made to the [il-wis.net](http://il-wis.net) website. It is now possible to search for an ILC by inputting a zip code or selecting the name of a county. An error which caused Access to Independence's service area to remain highlighted regardless of which service area was selected was also corrected.

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- ILCW Purchased a non-profit subscription to LiveBinders. This will provide the Council with more storage. It will also allow the Council to make meeting packets and other resources available to the public with a link. ILCW Program Coordinator will no longer send meeting packets via email; this should reduce inbox clutter for Council members. The link can also be posted on the ILCW website, meeting invitations, and other areas.
- The Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 Program Performance Report (PPR) has been completed and signed. ILCW Program Coordinator will update the Council when the PPR is approved or if any changes need to be made.
- Development of the 2025-2027 SPIL is still in progress. It will be necessary to have a draft ready at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the Public Comment Period. Public Comment period is tentatively set to begin on April 1, 2024. The draft should be ready by March 1, 2024.
  - ILCW Program Coordinator requests input from Council members and others prior to publication of the DRAFT 2025-2027 SPIL.
  - Because there are still some questions regarding funding, growth, and expansion, the SPIL Draft will be delayed by one week; the draft must be ready for the March 7, 2024 ILCW Executive Committee Meeting.
- ILCW Program Coordinator was voted to be the representative for Region V of the National Association of Statewide Independent Living Councils (NASILC). Region V includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.
- The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) conference will be held at the Grand Hyatt, Washington D.C. July 22-25, 2024. Registration is not open yet, but ILCW Program Coordinator encourages the Council to begin thinking about if they would like to attend the conference this year.

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## **XVIII. Discuss Updates from ILCW Liaisons and Partner Organizations**

- Taqwanya Smith (DOT) provided an update for DOT on February 19, 2024.
  - DOT has updated their website to be more accessible. The website should be compliant with the standards set in Section 508 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, but there may be room for improvement. Council members that visit the website and have suggestions for improved accessibility should contact Taqwanya Smith.
    - Teletypewriter (TTY) and Wisconsin Relay information has been added to the website.
  - A study showed that Driver's License test videos are not accessible, and the interpretation provided is difficult to understand. As such, people who are deaf or hard of hearing have had a higher failure rate than others.
    - Updates to the videos are in progress, as well as adding a video that provides instructions to deaf/hard of hearing customers on how to request accommodations to obtain their first driver's license. The videos with updates should be ready in early March.
    - DOT is also hoping to have fillable forms updated and made more accessible by the end of march.
  - DOT would appreciate feedback from ILCW Council Members regarding the website, videos, forms, and the other efforts it is making to ensure its materials are accessible.
- Sara Kuehn provided an update for the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.
  - Merideth Dressel is the new division administrator. They are recruiting to place someone in her old position. The announcement for the recruitment effort should be sent out in the next couple of weeks.



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- DVR is in the process of developing a comprehensive needs assessment. There is a request for bids from contractors who might be able to develop the questions, the survey itself, and distribute the assessment. Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council is also collaborating on the development of the questions.
- The current case management and financial management system (called IRIS), needs to be updated. A vendor is being sought to develop a new system.
- Searching the DVR website is difficult for many users, including DVR staff. The Department is investigating how to update the website's search function to make it more useful for more people. The process is expected to take about 2 years to complete. While website access is being assessed, DVR will also be reviewing policies to ensure that everything is current and/or appropriate.
- Jason Glozier provided an update for the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC)
  - WCILC will begin working on improving the Quality Indicators for Independent Living Services (QUILS) using suggestions and recommendations provided following the most recent review at Independent Living Resources (ILR) in La Crosse, Wisconsin.
  - IL Days was very successful this year. The planning committee will be meeting again shortly to begin setting up plans and expectations for the 2025 IL Days event.
  - WCILC held a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Gala the night before IL days.
    - The Maureen Ryan Excellence in Independent Living was awarded for the first time at the gala to Maureen Ryan.
      - This will be an annual award given to people who have shown a lifelong commitment to the core principles and values of Wisconsin's IL network.

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- Senators Patric Testin, Mary Felzkowski, and André Jacque attended the Gala and made a commitment to have a legislative conversation regarding an increase to IL funding.
- Lisa Sobczyk (DHS, BADR, DSE Representative) provided an update for the DSE.
  - DSE Representative and ILCW Program Coordinator are working on the last section of the 205-2027 SPIL. It should be completed relatively soon.
  - Eric Grasso is ready to run simulations which will help in the development of a new statewide funding formula for the Independent Living Center.
    - Heat maps that were developed by the team working on the formula have also been used to reframe the narrative regarding an increase in IL funding.
  - ILCW's current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DSE has expired. The MOU was developed before ILCW had staff. ILCW should review the current MOU, update it, and have it resigned to ensure that it remains in place for the next SPIL Cycle.
    - DSE Representative will send the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the ILCW Program Coordinator to facilitate discussions about updating and reinstating the MOU. See Action Item 9.
  - Division of Public Health (DPH) is working on making communications more accessible. This was made a part of their strategic plan. DSE has been advocating for this change for more than six years. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusions initiatives have also been added at the division level.
    - DPH would like to partner with ILCW and WCILC.

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- Midstate Independent Living Choices (MILC) in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and Independent Living Resources (ILR) in La Crosse, Wisconsin will be receiving some grant funding to provide services to persons who are homeless and have mental health disabilities.
- Lisa Sobczyk (DHS, BADR, DSE Representative) also provided an update for DHS.
  - Senate Bill 957 was recently introduced. If the bill is passed, counties would no longer have to pay into the Childrens' Long-Term Care Services program. This would alleviate \$6 million that counties are currently responsible for, however those funds would not be replaced. Waitlists for services would need to be developed more quickly, and other services might suffer for the reduced funding.
  - There has been a great deal of comment regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 508 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act.
    - Currently the laws do not adequately acknowledge digital technologies, especially smart technologies like smart phones, tables, etc. The updates to the legislation seek to develop accessibility standards to be used with all forms of digital technology.
    - There are several entities seeking public comment. This is a good opportunity for ILCW to engage in some collective advocacy.
  - The Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR) is working on the Aging, Disability, and Independent Living Network (ADILN) conference which will be held April 23-25, 2025 in La Crosse, Wisconsin.
    - ADILN also has forums twice in person, and twice virtually, throughout the year. Council members are invited to join.

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- ADILN Conference will include:
  - A pre-conference meeting to discuss advocacy.
  - A Wistech expo and mini-conference.
  - Vendor tables.
  - Workshops.
  - Keynote Speakers.
- Dan Johnson's book is being released, and there will be a workshop to celebrate the release during the ADILN conference.
- DSE is working on developing an Assistive Technology (AT) certification. This would be a step toward the AT Professional certification offered by the Rehabilitation Engineers Society of North America (RESNA), but is also more affordable and accessible than the RESNA certification. The AT certification is scheduled to launch in fall.
- The state health improvement plan was just completed. There will be 1 year of State Health Assessment, then the Division of Public Health will begin releasing grant funds. Funding is expected to be focused on homelessness and housing.
- Kyle Kleist, ILCW Vice Chair, provided an update for the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council (WRC.)
  - ILCs provided some comments via regarding the State Plan for DVR. Kyle Kleist will be meeting with representatives from DVR to discuss the comments and provide more information.
  - Jason Glozier, Executive Director, WCILC provided WRC with a presentation about what ILCs are, and how they help persons with disabilities.
  - There were few Client Assistance Program (CAP) complaints reported over the last quarter. Only one went before an

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Administrative Law Judge (ALJ.) The other complaints were resolved through mediation.

## **XIX. Discuss Updates Provided by ILCW Committees**

- Jason Endres, ILCW Chair provided an update regarding the ILCW Executive Committee.
  - ILCW Executive Committee has been focusing primarily on SPIL development.
  - There are two more National conferences this year, ILCW Executive Committee encourages all Council members to attend if possible, especially newer members.
    - Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) conference will be in Chicago in October, 2024.
- ILCW Program Coordinator provided an update about the ILCW Membership Committee.
  - ILCW Membership Committee is continuing to recruit. They would like to have several prospective members ready at a time, so that as people leave the Council, there are replacements ready to take the vacancy.
  - ILCW Program Coordinator is also working on making sure that the ILCW roster is accurate, and everyone on the Council is appropriately accounted for.
  - ILCW Membership Committee is exploring a new program for youth in the State of Wisconsin. Updates will be provided as they become available.
  - There are several conferences and other opportunities for outreach. ILCW Membership is investigating these to determine what will be worthwhile for the Council to attend, and what our role should be at these events.
- Kyle Kleist, ILCW Vice Chair, provided an update for the SPIL Committee.

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- ILCW SPIL committee has been wrapping up their work during the past couple sessions. They will be meeting February 20, 2024 at 2:30 P.M. to review recommendations made by the full Council during the February 19-20, 2024 Quarterly Meeting. They will also discuss other updates to the SPIL and issues regarding SPIL Development.

## **XX. Discuss 2025-2027 SPIL Public Hearings Schedule as Recommended by ILCW SPIL Committee**

- Three locations have been recommended for public hearings by the SPIL Committee.
  - Superior, Wisconsin at indiGO
  - Stevens Point, Wisconsin at Midstate Independent Living Choices (MILC)
  - Racine, Wisconsin at Society's Assets, Incorporated.
- Kyle Kleist made a motion to hold a public hearing at indiGO in Superior, Wisconsin, Midstate Independent Living Choices in Stevens Point Wisconsin, and Society's Assets, Incorporated in Racine Wisconsin. Julie Bergan seconded the motion. ILCW voted unanimously to hold public hearings in the locations listed. Motion carried. See Motion Item 7.
  - Details regarding the time and date of the hearings can be determined later.
  - There should be a script to ensure that the hearings are administered uniformly.

## **XXI. Discuss Attendance at Statewide Conferences, Expos, and Similar Events as Recommended by ILCW Membership Committee**

- ILCW Membership Committee is investigating outreach opportunities across the State. This is a work in progress, more information will be provided to the Council as it becomes available.

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## **XXII. Review and Discuss Independent Living (IL) Days**

- WCILC Executive Director discussed IL Days during the update for WCILC.

## **XXIII. Discuss ILCW Membership**

- ILCW Program Coordinator, ILCW Secretary, DSE Representative, and the Governor's Office of Appointments have been working to determine how many members are required to be on the Council.
  - Per Executive Order 65 from Governor Doyle, ILCW must have 18 members including ex-officio members.

## **XXIV. Adjourn**

- Kyle Kleist made a motion to adjourn the February 19-20, 2024 ILCW Quarterly meeting. LySandra Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 8.

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:36 P.M.**