

Address: 3810 Milwaukee St.
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Independent Living Council of Wisconsin (ILCW) Quarterly Teleconference Meeting

April 21, 2025
10:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.

April 22, 2025
10:00 A.M. –12:30 P.M.

APPROVED JULY 14, 2025

Action Items and Motion Items

A. ILCW Full Council Meeting Action Items

- 1. Action Item:** Add Randi Johnson's presentation to the ILCW July quarterly Meeting agenda as: Discuss the Include, Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS) Training as Presented by Randi Johnson.
- 2. Action Item:** The Council wants to discuss various software platforms for working collaboratively on documents as well as related accessibility issues at a future meeting when Tyler Wilcox returns from leave.

B. ILCW Full Council Motion Items

- 1. Motion Item:** Mary Jane Grande made a motion to approve the April ILCW quarterly meeting agenda as amended. Julie Bergan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 2. Motion Item:** Sara Eckland made a motion to approve the March ILCW full Council meeting minutes. Jason Endres seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 3. Motion Item:** Kyle Kleist made a motion to approve the January, February, and March 2025, financial statements as presented. Jason Endres seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 4. Motion Item:** The ILCW Employee Handbook was amended to add a Paternal Leave Policy. The full Council was asked to vote on this change to the ILCW employee handbook. Motion passed

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unanimously.



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5. Motion Item: Tyler Wigington made a motion to adjourn the meeting and reconvene on April 22, 2025. LySandra Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. Motion Item: Kyle Kleist made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sara Eckland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Meeting Minutes - April 21, 2025

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introductions

- Eric Riskus, ILCW Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.
- **ILCW Members Present:** Julie Bergan; Sara Eckland; Jason Endres; Mary Jane Grande; Randi Johnson; Kyle Kleist; Ramsey Lee; LySandra Owens; Eric Riskus; and Tyler Wigington.
- **ILCW Members Absent (Excused *):** Ann Belisle and Jackie Gordon.
- **ILCW Ex-Officio Members Present:** Dana Raue, Department of Health Services (DHS) Liaison and Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Liaison.
- **ILCW Ex-Officio Members Absent (Excused *):** Ashley Baker*, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR), Designated State Entity (DSE) Representative and Taqwanya Smith, Department of Transportation Liaison.
- **Guests:** Jason Glozier, Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers; Angela Brenna, Department of Health Services (DHS); and Lisa Sobczyk, DHS.
- **Captioner:** Margo Lucas.
- The meeting was available via teleconference by calling (312) 626-6799 with meeting ID: 890 9852 6645. The meeting was also available via [Zoom](#).

II. Review ILCW Operational Agreements

- During introductions ILCW members reviewed their operating agreement.

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III. Review and Approval of April ILCW Quarterly Meeting Agenda

- Mary Jane Grande made a motion to approve the April ILCW quarterly meeting agenda. Julie Bergan seconded the motion.
- During discussion, Randi Johnson asked that agenda item 11, Discuss the Include, Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS) Training as Presented by Randi Johnson, ILCW Secretary, on day one be removed from the meeting agenda. Randi Johnson stated she will do this presentation at ILCW's July quarterly meeting. See Action Item 1.
- Mary Jane Grande made a motion to approve the April ILCW quarterly meeting agenda as amended. Julie Bergan seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 1.

IV. Review and Approve March ILCW Full Council Meeting Minutes

- Sara Eckland made a motion to approve the March ILCW full Council meeting minutes. Jason Endres seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 2.
- When reviewing Action Items in the March meeting minutes, the Council discussed barriers to working on documents collaboratively and the need for a better platform such as TEAMS. A brief discussion was had related to accessibility issues in using various platforms. The Council wants to discuss this at a future meeting, once Tyler Wilcox returns from leave. See Action Item 2.

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

- Ramsey Lee shared that the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities holds calls about Medicaid and federal budget updates on Fridays.
- Lisa Sobczyk shared that the SPIL Committee will need to be convened to amend financial tables if funding increases or decreases occur in the

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Federal Fiscal Year 2025 or 2026 budget or if funding increases are passed in the state budget for State Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027.

VI. Review and Discuss ILCW Treasurers Report

- ILCW Treasurer LySandra Owens reported on the January, February, and March 2025 financial statements. LySandra Owens provided an overview operational expenses and spending trends.
 - Kyle Kleist made a motion to approve the January, February, and March 2025, financial statements as presented. Jason Endres seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 3.
- LySandra Owens requested members send her any additional expenses not currently included in ILCW's budget for this year. LySandra Owens will share this information with the Finance Committee.

VII. Discuss Results of 2025 ILCW Officer Elections

- ILCW announced the results of the 2025 officer elections. This terms will begin July 1, 2025.
 - Chair: Mary Jane Grande.
 - Vice-Chair: Kyle Kliest.
 - ILCW Secretary: Julie Burkin.
- Transition meetings are scheduled between outgoing and incoming members for smooth transitions.

VIII. Review and Approve ILCW Employee Handbook, Updated by ILCW Executive Director February 26, 2025

- The ILCW Employee Handbook was amended to add a Paternal Leave Policy, which provides eligible employees 10 weeks of paid leave. This change was approved by the ILCW Policy and Procedure Committee.
- The full Council was asked to vote on this change to the ILCW employee handbook. Motion passed unanimously. See Motion Item 4.



IX. Discuss Updates Regarding Reorganization of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- The Council discussed federal budget proposals which may impact Independent Living Centers and the elimination of the Administration of Community Living (ACL) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- Jason Glozier shared insights on proposed federal funding changes, including a potential \$325 million increase for Part B grants and a \$70 million cut to ombudsman programs. Jason Glozier clarified that the Part B funding increase would not directly fund Independent Living Centers but would be allocated to other programs which are being cut out of the federal budget such as Head Start, DRW ombudsman programs, boards for aging, and consumer assistance programs. Part C funding for Independent Living Centers will remain unchanged.
- Wisconsin Coalition for Independent Living Centers (WCILC) has scheduled a meeting with Senator Baldwin's office involving various organizations to discuss the budget impacts. WCILC is delaying a press release on these potential budget cuts and the impacts until they receive talking points from national organizations.
- National Coalition for Independent Living and APRIL issued a statement opposing eliminating the ACL at HHS and proposed budget cuts.
- Kyle Kleist mentioned an email indicating that critical programs for older adults and people with disabilities will be integrated into other HHS offices including the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), ASPE, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

X. Discuss Conference Attendance

- Council members that will attend NCIL are Tyler Wigington, Sara Eckland, and Mary Jane Grande.
- Council members that will attend APRIL are LySandra Owen, Kyle Kleist, Mary Jane Grande, and Tyler Wigington.

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- Council members that will attend the Self-Determination conference are Eric Riskus, Ramsey Lee, and Randi Johnson. Jason Glozier stated that WCILC will cover the cost of the exhibitor table for ILCW.
- LySandra Owens and Eric Riskus will work with Council members who want to attend NCIL and SPTIL to get hotel and registrations paid for by ILCW.
- Eric Riskus has paid for the hotel rooms for ILCW members attending the Engage for Change Training.
- Ramsey Lee stated he will send Council members information on the Home for Everyone conference.

XI. Review Progress Toward 2025-2027 SPIL Goals

- Independence First has an intern working 10 hours a month and running groups focused on underserved populations such as Deaf/Hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired, and LGBTQ+ and the needs of these communities.
- Discussion was had on whether ex-officio hours of training could count toward goal 4.2.

XII. Adjourn

- Tyler Wigington made a motion to adjourn the meeting and reconvene on April 22, 2025. LySandra Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 5.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

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D. Meeting Minutes - April 22, 2025

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introductions

- The meeting reconvened at 10:06 A.M. and was called to order by the Chair, Eric Riskus.
- **ILCW Members Present:** Julie Bergan; Sara Eckland; Jason Endres; Mary Jane Grande; Randi Johnson; Kyle Kleist; Ramsey Lee; LySandra Owens; Eric Riskus; and Tyler Wigington.
- **ILCW Members Absent (Excused *):** Ann Belisle and Jackie Gordon.
- **ILCW Ex-Officio Members Present:** Dana Raue, Department of Health Services (DHS) Liaison; Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Liaison; and Taqwanya Smith, Department of Transportation Liaison.
- **ILCW Ex-Officio Members Absent (Excused *):** Ashley Baker*, Department of Health Services (DHS), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR), Designated State Entity (DSE) Representative.
- **Guests:** Jason Glozier, Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers and Lisa Sobczyk, DHS.
- **Captioner:** Margo Lucas.
- The meeting was available via teleconference by calling (312) 626-6799 with meeting ID: 890 9852 6645. The meeting was also available via [Zoom](#).

II. Review and Discuss Reports from ILCW Ex-Officio Members and Partner Organizations

- Dana Raue, Department of Health Services (DHS) Liaison shared information about the Medicaid Member Experience Council which will allow members to talk directly with Medicaid director about what is working well and what is not. Dana Raue will send an email to the Council about getting members for the Medicaid Experience Council.

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Dana Raue also shared information on a new report on the Medicaid ARPA projects and the projects' outcomes.

- Taqwanya Smith, Department of Transportation Liaison shared information about the Department's Americans with Disabilities Act communication plan. Taqwanya Smith also stated that the Department of Transportation is developing a website user group to improve website accessibility and user experience.
- Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Liaison shared with the Council the comprehensive statewide needs assessment that the Division has completed. The assessment focused on what the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has the ability to change.
- Jason Glozier with the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers shared that they are working on revisions to the QUILS tool (ILC peer review tool). Jason Glozier stated that 6 out of 8 Independent Living Centers were reaching 1% of the disabled population in their service area.

III. Review and Discuss Council Member Roles and Responsibilities During ILCW Executive Director Leave

- The Council discussed the Officers roles during staff's leave.
- LySandra Owens will be submitting GEARS grant claims to DHS, assisting with travel for Council members, and presenting financial statements.
- Eric Riskus will be facilitating Council meetings, posting meeting materials to Council's website and LiveBinder, and checking Council emails.
- The Designated State Entity, which is DHS, will be submitting meeting minutes and open meeting notices for the Council.

IV. Discuss Updates Provided by ILCW Committees

- Randi Johnson shared that the Membership Committee meetings will be on hold until ILCW's Executive Director returns from leave.
- Kyle Kleist stated that the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

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Committee will not meeting while ILCW's Executive Director is out on leave. Kyle Kleist also mentioned the need to reduce the number of members on the committee so the Council can meet quorum and conduct SPIL Committee meetings.

- The Council discussed whether there is a need to keep the ILCW Policy and Procedure Committee active now that revisions to the employee handbook are complete.
- Eric Riskus shared that the Executive Committee meeting scheduled for May 1, 2025 will need to be rescheduled due to the Engage for Change Training. Eric Riskus also mentioned that the Council as discussing if the Finance Committee meetings should be held in conjunction with the Executive Committee meetings, or if finance should be merged into the Executive Committee meetings and those items be included on that agenda since many of the same Council members are on both committees.

V. Discuss Need and Purpose of ILCW Finance Committee

- The Council decided to include this discussion on a future quarterly meeting agenda once ILCW's Executive Director returns from leave.

VI. Adjourn

- Prior to adjourning the Council discussed whether the quarterly meetings could be held on one day versus two based on the meeting ending early both days.
- Kyle Kleist made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sara Eckland seconded the motion. Motion carried. See Motion Item 6.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 P.M.