

Joint SILC-SRC Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

Minutes

Attendees:

- SILC Members either present or online: Chris Johnsrud, Julie Williams, Scott Williamson, June Hermanson, Jean Schroeder, Gina Lytle, Alice Lewis (VR staff, ex-officio member), Tami Hoar (CIL Director)
- SRC Members present or online: June Hermanson, Lacey Keller, Tommy Roberts, Corinne Moore, Doug McElroy, Desiree Johnson, Kendra Lewis, Eva Balatski, Gabby Broere, Joleen Weatherwax
- DETD Employees: Celina Cline, Allyson Talaska, Darell Hannum, Desiree Dean, Laticia Dean, Rebecca Sirrine, Dana Kjersem, Tammy Hogen, Sarah Seltzer, Nur McRae, Hannah Stokes, Brian Tocher, Lacey Conzelman, Julia Arnold
- Guests either present or online: Wayne Dagel, Amber Wycherly, Bill Lanier, Becky Erickson, Gibby Morsette, Margaret Keener (CIL Director)

Reports/Planning:

- Mission Statements read by a member of each council.
 - Corinne Morre gave the SRC update. She noted that a new Legislative Committee formed, a new SRC Orientation packet was created, there is a full council at this time, and VR is in an Order of Selection. She listed four goals which include expanding employment opportunities, engaging youth, building workforce partnerships, and strengthening the VR team.
 - Chris Johnsrud gave the SILC updates. He noted that several members were going to the April Conference, a presentation by the Rural Institute, discussions regarding Bylaws and Policy and Procedures, and the CIL satisfaction survey. He shared the council had been working on expanding Olmstead, the four resource fairs, Legislative Day, and Rally Day. He shared planning has begun for the next IL Symposium.
- Sarah Seltzer, Deputy Division Administrator, gave a Legislative update. She shared in the 2024 Legislative session DETD was allocated two new counselor positions specific to the SDMI and IPS programs. Additionally, the DETD Vocational Rehabilitation set a goal to increase the utilization of On-the-Job Training and the apprenticeship opportunities by 5%. MT has been in Order of Selection since July 28th for new clients. Categories 2 and 3 for new clients are currently on the waitlist for services.
- Julie Williams gave an update on the Rural Institute's Olmstead Focus Group research and draft Olmstead plan presented to the State in July. The plan should be to the SILC's Olmstead Committee within the next month or so.
- Wayne Dagel shared some insight into Tribal VR and how services look different than general VR services. There was conversation around the 477 Program, empowering families, Tribal VR services, youth services, and additional training opportunities.

- Tami Hoar reported on the NCIL Convention in Washington DC. She emphasized that there was talk about eliminating some disability programs, waste of funding, and overall restructuring of services and the funding sources to support them.
- Roundtable discussion #1: Tribal VR. This included guest speakers and collaborators Joleen Weatherwax from the Blackfeet VR, Wayne Dagel from AVRTAC, and Sarah Parisian from Rocky Boy Reservation.
- Roundtable discussion #2: Local Havre Resources. This session included participants Dave Jersom-Havre VR, Rebekah Sirrine-Pre-ETS, Chris Johnsrud-Community Resource Provider, Bill Lenier-Hill County Commissioner, Samantha Nimmick-Job Service, Christopher Clark-Havre Food Bank, Sharon Kagarise-NICLS, and Margaret Keener-NICLWrap Up and Planning.

The combined SILC and SRC discussed ideas for future their next joint meeting to include Roundtables, Disability Services, and mental health shortages. Meeting dates for the next joint meeting are tentatively set for April 29th through May 1st.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm. A motion was made by Lacey Keller, and a 2nd from Jean Schroeder. and all in favor vote was made by all members present in the State Rehabilitation Council and Montana Statewide Independent Living Council.