

1 INSILC MEETING DECEMBER 10, 2025

2

3 >> Good afternoon.

4 We are right at 2 o'clock.

5 So we will go ahead and get things started.

6 So we have -- excuse me.

7 I'm going to start with a call to order and welcome everybody

8 to the December 10th INSILC public meeting.

9 It is 2 o'clock and I will start with roll call.

10 So, Louis?

11 >> Present.

12 Anna Thompson Jones?

13 >> Present.

14 Jennifer David?

15 >> Present.

16 Amy Browning Varble?

17 >> Present.

18 Ann Barnhart?

19 >> Present.

20 Haley Brown?

21 I do not believe she's present.

22 Okay.

23 Then we have Linda Greeno?

24 All right.

25 This is Kacie.

1 The view just changed to enlarging the interpreter to full
2 screen.

3 Mike, was that intentional?

4 Mike: I was asked previously if I could spotlight the
5 interpreters.

6 >> Okay.

7 Has the interpreter been?

8 Okay, got it.

9 This is Kacie.

10 Just for those in the audience if you would still like too
11 see everybody on the screen, you should go to the upper right
12 corner on the view and change that back to gallery view.

13 If you want to be able to see everybody that's on the panel,
14 the panelists.

15 All right.

16 So I'm going to continue with our list.

17 Linda Greeno is not present.

18 Laura Ketterman?

19 I do not see as present.

20 Gary Olson is not present.

21 Christine?

22 >> Present.

23 Catherine Vest?

24 >> I'm here, present.

25 Okay.

1 And Dave.

2 Mike: Dave told me he is traveling today and he may join
3 late.

4 And also Haley just joined, as well.

5 So Haley is present.

6 >> Present.

7 Thank you.

8 We all have so have our nonvoting which is Amy Luellen?

9 >> Present.

10 And we had -- past chair?

11 Which is not present.

12 And we also have guest attendees, Mike Foddrell, our
13 executive director.

14 Mike: Present.

15 Chris Spinks our committee chair.

16 >> Present.

17 And then joining us a little bit later will be Mr. Peter Nye,
18 who has the information on community living.

19 He will be joining us in just a little while.

20 Mike, can you please give our statement of accessibility?

21 Mike: Happy to do that. We do have ASL interpreting and
22 CART available for today's meeting.

23 It is highlighted on your screen.

24 Kacie gave direction. If you would like to see the gallery
25 view, you can do that. If you have questions or concerns

1 about accessibility, you can email me and my email address is
2 on the website and I'll give it to you now, as well, it's
3 mfoddrill@indianasilc.org.

4 And you can also text me at 317-514-6145.

5 And, in addition, if you have accessibility concerns, you can
6 put those in the Q&A piece of the webinar, and we will work
7 to address those as quick as we can.

8 KACIE: Jennifer, can you give us if we have quorum.

9 >> I completely lost count.

10 Did everybody get counted?

11 Mike: Yes, I've got the count on that. And so we have 9 of
12 our 14 and so we do have a quorum.

13 KACIE: Okay.

14 I had 10.

15 I'm glad you got the right one.

16 So we do have the quorum.

17 All right.

18 Thank you.

19 So first up we have the approval of the minutes from the
20 September 10th public meeting.

21 Do we have any concerns or adjustments that need to be made?

22 >> This is Anna.

23 I'm going to suggest an edit and I don't know how important
24 it is.

25 But just maybe for accuracy.

1 Under New Business, it should say "Catherine Vest seconds the
2 motion instead of approves the motion."

3 KACIE: Okay.

4 Can you make a motion to create that amendment.

5 >> I make a motion to approve that amendment.

6 It is that Catherine Vest seconded the motion?

7 >> Correct.

8 JENNIFER: I second the motion.

9 This is Jennifer David.

10 KACIE: Okay.

11 So we have a motion on the floor to make an amendment to the
12 September 10th meeting minutes under the New Business,
13 Catherine Vest seconded the motion rather than approved the
14 motion.

15 And with that motion, that would be approving the minutes
16 with that amendment, and the rest of the minutes as they are.
17 So I'm going to do a roll call vote on that. Lewis?

18 >> Agree.

19 KACIE: Anna?

20 >> Anna: Yes.

21 KACIE: Jennifer?

22 JENNIFER: Yes.

23 KACIE: Amy?

24 >> Amy: Yes.

25 KACIE: Anna?

1 >> I already said yes.
2 So I'm not sure who I said yes for.
3 This is Anna.
4 KACIE: I'm sorry.
5 I apologize.
6 I said the wrong name.
7 Ann Barnhart.
8 I read the wrong name.
9 >> Ann: Yes.
10 KACIE: Haley Brown?
11 >> Haley: Yes.
12 KACIE: Laura Ketterman?
13 MIKE: Laura is not here.
14 KACIE: Kristin.
15 >> Yes.
16 KACIE: Catherine Vest?
17 >> Yes.
18 KACIE: And Dave is not present yet.
19 And just to confirm, did I miss anybody?
20 I feel like I'm kind of trying to get my list created here.
21 So, okay.
22 All right.
23 So we have a pass of the motion to make the amendment and
24 accept the rest of the minutes as they were.
25 all right.

1 So, Jennifer, can you please give us ongoing communications
2 as far as meetings and so forth?

3 JENNIFER: Yes.

4 This is Jennifer David the Independent Living Council
5 secretary.

6 This is actually our last meeting for 2025.

7 And our meetings for 2026, I will give you in just a second.

8 Just know that those will be on Wednesdays from 2 to 4.

9 Our first one will be March 11th, 2026.

10 The next one will be June 6th, 2026.

11 And then September 9th, 2026.

12 And December 9th, 2026.

13 it looks like we are hoping in the fall to start our hybrid
14 meetings.

15 Mike will be giving an update on that. And then I want to go
16 ahead -- oh, right now.

17 MIKE: Go ahead, Jennifer, I didn't want the cut you off.

18 JENNIFER: You're good.

19 MIKE: This is Mike Foddrell, executive director.

20 We are moving to a hybrid format.

21 We hope to be starting that in March.

22 Our next meeting on March 11, 2026, will be hybrid.

23 We are currently working with a few vendors to help us figure
24 out the technical pieces so we have all of the tech that we
25 need to make that successful, and we're also looking at venues

1 so we can find an accessible venue that will work for our
2 needs.

3 So we hope to have more to announce on that early 2026.

4 But we are working through that and the March 11th meeting
5 will be a hybrid meeting.

6 JENNIFER: Okay.

7 So notice of communication rules for the public meeting.

8 We are going to have a speaker's time limit of, what will
9 that be today, Mike?

10 MIKE: We'll do three minutes.

11 JENNIFER: Three minutes.

12 Okay.

13 The meeting facilitator will state when the time limit has
14 ended and will mute the speaker if the person does not end.

15 If you do have additional comments that you did write, you
16 may send them to the INSILC chair, Kacie Weldy and her email
17 is chair@indianasilc.org.

18 So when it is your time to speak, if you could please
19 identify yourself before speaking and speak in the tone that
20 is best suited for you.

21 Chair @indianasilc. Org.

22 Make sure you speak not as quick as I do so the interpreter
23 can catch it.

24 Any comment?

25 KACIE: This is Kacie.

1 Thank you.

2 We will now open the floor for public comment.

3 MIKE: Kacie, I see Jeremy Warner with his hand up.

4 Jeremy, I'm going to allow you to speak.

5 Okay.

6 And Jeremy, you should be able to talk now.

7 >> Jeremy: Thanks, Mike.

8 I appreciate that. So I wanted to ask a couple questions.

9 And first, I apologize I was a few minutes late hopping on.

10 I caught the tail end of you guys voting I believe to accept
11 the minutes from last time with an amendment, but I didn't
12 catch what that amendment was.

13 Do you mind if I ask what that was real quick?

14 MIKE: Yeah, it was a correction to who had seconded and who
15 had made the motion on the minutes.

16 >> Jeremy: Otherwise you're accepting the minutes as they
17 were posted recently on the website?

18 MIKE: Yes.

19 >> Jeremy: Okay.

20 So I'm curious because if I recall correctly at that meeting,
21 you guys ran long in your meeting portion so did not have the
22 second public comment period, but your minutes show that it
23 was opened for 15 minutes.

24 MIKE: Yes.

25 That is something that we did realize, Jeremy, so we have

1 added extra time.

2 We did run out of time due to the times we had our
3 interpreters booked, and so we booked them for extra time for
4 today's meeting so that way we have some overrun time just in
5 case we hit that same issue again.

6 >> Jeremy: Yeah, but if your last meeting did not include
7 the second public comment period but your minutes say that it
8 was open for 15 minutes, then you guys just voted to accept
9 minutes that are fraudulent.

10 And that's not what I came on here to ask.

11 But if that's what's taking place, you need to know that and
12 you need to tighten up what you guys are doing because that's
13 not okay.

14 but what I wanted to ask was how many people, because we
15 can't see, how many people from the public are attending this
16 meeting today?

17 Can you tell us that?

18 MIKE: Sure.

19 We have 23 attendees at today's meeting.

20 >> Jeremy: That is wonderful.

21 one of the things that I wanted the bring up -- and this was
22 something I intended to comment on at the last meeting was
23 the fact that you guys have been, you know, trying to do the
24 town hauls in different locations.

25 And I've heard you several times talk about how successful

1 those were.

2 as somebody who has attended those, I've seen the same people
3 from Indianapolis and the same people from Pacific -- from
4 northwest Indiana.

5 And then, yes, people at the public portion where their local
6 folks are talking.

7 But then those folks go away and the only people that have
8 been at the round tables or participating in the
9 conversation, trying to participate in the conversation, have
10 been the same people over and over.

11 So those have not necessarily really been effective at
12 getting different voices and opinions from across the state.

13 KACIE: This is Kacie.

14 MIKE: Go ahead Kacie.

15 KACIE: This is Kacie speaking.

16 Thank you, Jeremy for stating that.

17 >> On just a second.

18 I need to highlight the interpreter switch.

19 Sorry.

20 MIKE: That's okay.

21 I will do that right now, Catherine.

22 Thank you for letting me know.

23 >> Catherine: Thank you, thank you.

24 KACIE: This is Kacie.

25 Do we have access?

1 >> I was trying to not get distracted.

2 MIKE: Yes, we should now, Kacie.

3 KACIE: Do we have access?

4 >> I mean, we need to unspotlight Lisa now.

5 Because it's on -- you'll see two interpreters side-by-side.

6 This is better.

7 This is better.

8 Thank you.

9 KACIE: Are we good?

10 >> Yes.

11 Thank you, thank you.

12 KACIE: All right.

13 Thank you.

14 All right.

15 Soap this is Kacie speaking.

16 Jeremy, thank you for bringing those things up.

17 So while -- as far as the forums, I do want to speak to as
18 far as the first two forums had the round tables.

19 The third forum did not.

20 I know the format was changed a little bit because we were
21 seeing that the input was not being -- basically people were
22 not engaging in those round tables.

23 So the one in Evansville had a different format and where the
24 public was able to give input to their local representatives.
25 And that input was gathered there.

1 >> Jeremy: Okay.

2 So then those parts of your corrective action plan that you
3 guys are submitting to the Feds or to the ACL, have not been
4 effective and really have no place in the corrective action
5 plan, need to be re-assessed.

6 And something that is effective needs to be put in place of
7 that.

8 KACIE: Okay.

9 So the corrective action plan is something that the Feds and
10 INSILC is working out the terms of that corrective action
11 plan is what we work with on them.

12 And Peter will be speaking a little bit to that later on.

13 >> Jeremy: Okay.

14 So the ACL, again I apologize, I was a few minutes late
15 getting on.

16 So if the ACL is present, I would encourage them not to
17 accept whatever the current plan is because it's been proven
18 to not be effective yet.

19 KACIE: Thank you for your comment.

20 MIKE: And, Kacie, I would add, I would add two things.

21 One, just so people know our plan was to address questions in
22 the Q&A during the second public comment session towards the
23 end of our meeting.

24 And so I want people to know that, as well.

25 and then we can also amend the minutes would be something

1 that we can do to Jeremy's first question about not having
2 the 15 minutes.

3 That's something that we could do and then we could have
4 those reapproved at our next meeting.

5 KACIE: All right.

6 So this is Kacie.

7 We can then, yes.

8 Okay.

9 Is there any other comments at this time?

10 MIKE: Yes.

11 We have a couple of others.

12 I saw Chris Hollingsworth was next and then Tammy
13 Hollingsworth was after Chris.

14 And so, Chris, you should be able to speak now.

15 >> Chris: Okay.

16 Thank you for taking the time to hear my comment.

17 It's been my experience over the past couple years that
18 INSILC has been really unresponsive to the needs of the
19 community that it serves.

20 Just as an example, I serve as the chairman for the mobility
21 advisory committee with IndyGo that does the public
22 transportation here in Marion County.

23 On July 2026 IndyGo will be implementing a 57 percent fare
24 increase on paratransit.

25 They will implement that on fixed routes on the 1st of

1 January.

2 But we had a town hall meeting, the mobility advisory
3 committee in conjunction with Goodwill, had a town hall
4 meeting this summer to emphasize this fare increase and the
5 effects it would have on the paratransit consumers so that
6 IndyGo would have a better idea of the effects of that I
7 personally reached out several times by phone and email to
8 INSILC, and I got absolutely no response.

9 Nobody from INSILC showed up to the town hall.

10 It's my understanding that none of the consumer groups were
11 reached out to to let them know that there was going to be a
12 town hall having to do with this.

13 so I'm personally finding INSILC is rather unresponsive to
14 the consumer organizations and the consuming public that
15 they're supposed to serve.

16 So my question is that in the action plan you say you will
17 try harder, but we haven't seen you trying very hard yet, so
18 I guess my question is how are you going to be trying harder?
19 And why aren't you reaching out more to your consumer public
20 to get the input on important matters such as policy manuals
21 and to get them information they need?

22 KACIE: All right.

23 This is Kacie.

24 Thank you, Chris, for asking the question.

25 I think I would like to do is I would like to follow up with

1 you after the meeting so that we can discuss what that was
2 because I'm not recalling a communication with you.

3 And I want to make sure that we work that out.

4 Thank you for giving that feedback.

5 We will definitely take note of that and follow up on it.

6 >> Chris: As a followup, when you follow up with me after
7 this meeting, will the information that you and I discuss,
8 will that be made public somehow?

9 Because it should be part of the public record and the public
10 meeting.

11 KACIE: I know that comments are being recorded.

12 And we have been trying to place -- Mike, I'm just
13 confirming.

14 Are we still putting comments on the website?

15 MIKE: Yes.

16 And it's part of the transcript for this meeting, yeah.

17 KACIE: Yes, we can make sure that we do that.

18 MIKE: We have two other comments for this session.

19 And so Tammy Hollingsworth, I see your hand is up.

20 You should be able to make your comment now.

21 >> Tammy: Can you hear me?

22 MIKE: Yes, you're coming through.

23 TAMMY: Thank you so much.

24 I belong to a consumer organization for the blind.

25 And that is the national federation of the blind.

1 And I'm here mostly because I attended -- I did attend a
2 conference in September.

3 And as part of that conference, it was awesome and it gave me
4 a lot of information about a lot of things.

5 But one of the things that I learned about was INSILC itself.

6 And I really did not know at the time that I was -- that
7 INSILC, what it actually did, and that we as consumers who
8 are disabled should have an impact on that or an input in
9 that. But I know now.

10 And I just wanted you to know from this perspective that -- I
11 had been on the board of our organization for many years.

12 To my knowledge, we've never really been approached by
13 INSILC directly to participate in any kind of anything.

14 And certainly not made aware unless you go to the website and
15 find it yourself that there are meetings happening or things
16 going on that impact us.

17 And I did not know that there was an action plan at all until
18 I went to the conference.

19 so what I wanted to point out, I did notice when I went
20 through the website that you are creating policy manuals or
21 have created them to encourage public input.

22 And I'm curious to know how -- who besides the INSILC members
23 were invited to give input on the policies for the public, if
24 that makes sense?

25 Because, you know, we should be able to talk about how that

1 happens for us as it affects us.

2 And if they weren't, no one was consulted yet, will that be a
3 difference in the future?

4 Is that part of the new policies that exist?

5 So that's part of what I wanted to ask about.

6 Should I ask my other question now or not?

7 KACIE: How are we on time, Mike?

8 MIKE: We have Tammy has another 30 seconds on her.

9 We have time for maybe one more comment on this session.

10 TAMMY: Just besides those questions, one real quick one.

11 I did receive input -- response from INSILC when I filled out
12 the survey that was sent to me.

13 They sent me a survey to fill out at the last meeting that I
14 attended, which I did.

15 But I wanted to say that that survey is very, very general.

16 It does a good job of collecting demographics data.

17 But it asked me the question basically do you have any
18 comments?

19 Rather than maybe a more indepth question of what are some
20 changes that you feel need to be addressed in Indiana for
21 People with Disabilities?

22 That would have been a more directed question.

23 So I just noticed that. I will put it on the survey this
24 time.

25 But I noticed that A.

1 And I wanted to bring that up.

2 I just feel like there's still a long way to go with this
3 action plan.

4 Thank you.

5 KACIE: Thank you for your response, for your questions and
6 such.

7 We will be -- there are a lot of ways you can get involved
8 and so forth.

9 And, well, you know, this meeting itself is more a business
10 meeting where you get involved in that is getting involved
11 with the SPIL, the state plan for independent living.

12 And Chris Spinks is our chair for that and she will share a
13 little bit about it.

14 But there are separate SPIL committee meetings that can be
15 viewed.

16 And you can definitely get involved with her, too, which is
17 where they have work groups that create these things and go
18 forward with the things and that's where different people can
19 be involved.

20 TAMMY: And I do appreciate that. But I wonder why INSILC is
21 not approaching organizations and encourage them to have
22 input.

23 Where can I find these policies?

24 I looked on your website and I didn't see anything.

25 Maybe they're not there yet or maybe I missed it.

1 But I definitely didn't see any kind of like draft of a
2 policy manual at all.

3 KACIE: Let me, can we follow up afterwards on this?

4 I can definitely address the questions with you?

5 >> Okay.

6 Thank you.

7 KACIE: All right.

8 Thank you.

9 MIKE: Okay.

10 I think we have time for one more comment.

11 I see Karen Wilson with your hand up.

12 We will have another comment session at the end of the
13 meeting.

14 KACIE: Okay.

15 >> Hi, this is Karen.

16 So I just wanted to follow up on what a couple of other
17 people have said.

18 With regards to public feedback, my opinion is just that the
19 corrective action plan should not be approved at this time.

20 You know, I understand that some steps have been taken.

21 However, I'm just seeing still too many instances where, you
22 know, the committee has not done what it should, not reaching
23 out to these various consumer organizations.

24 And also I, in particular, have deep concerns regarding what

25 I saw at the SPIL committee meeting regarding the

1 guardianship issue. It seems that this state does not want
2 to bring its policies in line with the national consensus
3 that guardianship in nearly all cases is bad and that it is
4 not something that Independent Living Centers should promote.
5 It is not something that they should be involved in in any
6 way, shape, or form, other than trying to protect people from
7 being forced into guardianships.

8 and so I just don't think that, you know, we should be
9 approving a corrective action plan for a state that is not
10 adhering to the independent living philosophy in that aspect,
11 as well as many other aspects that we have been discussing.
12 You know, I just think that the probationary status is to
13 continue until INSILC can prove that they have taken, that
14 they have made more efforts and the efforts they have done so
15 far are actually working because as of now I'm not seeing
16 that.

17 KACIE: Thank you for your comment.

18 all right.

19 Mike, I think --

20 MIKE: We're at time, yeah.

21 KACIE: All right.

22 Okay.

23 INTERPRETER: Can you highlight the interpreter, please?

24 MIKE: Yes.

25 INTERPRETER: Thank you.

1 KACIE: All right, Mike, have you removed the people who are
2 done speaking so we have less boxes on the window?

3 MIKE: Yes, we should be good to go.

4 KACIE: All right.

5 Thank you.

6 So up next is our committee and state updates, reports and
7 comments.

8 Mike, if you could please give your executive director
9 comment or your executive director report, sorry.

10 MIKE: You're fine, yep.

11 Happy to do that.

12 INTERPRETER: Catherine Vest has her hand up.

13 MIKE: Go ahead, Catherine.

14 >> Catherine: I want to make a comment.

15 I would appreciate it if everybody would be patient with
16 accessibility with the interpreters.

17 The interpreters need to be spotlighted.

18 And when we switch, just patience would be appreciated.

19 Thank you.

20 MIKE: That's a good note, Catherine.

21 We will make sure that we do that before we continue with the
22 agenda.

23 and so I'll go ahead and start with my report.

24 So I do have a few items that I wanted to touch on.

25 The first is that in 2026, we're going to begin the process

1 of conceiving a strategic plan.

2 And so in order to do that, we're taking a few steps.

3 We've sent out an RFP for proposals to help us as a
4 facilitator for that. Those went out on November the 19th.

5 That went out to a handful of folks that we would like to be
6 the facilitator.

7 Their letter of intent to be a facilitator for the process is
8 due to the INSILC office on Monday the 15th.

9 And then the full proposal for someone on the project is due
10 on January the 5th.

11 And so once we have the final submissions from the
12 facilitators, we'll reach out to some Council members and
13 we'll set up a few interviews to talk to some folks to select
14 the best facilitator and help us through that process.

15 And then our plan would be then to approve that strategic
16 plan facilitation contract at our meeting in March and then
17 to begin the strategic plan process in April.

18 I think this is going to be really key.

19 It is something that is mentioned in a couple of different
20 ways in the SPIL around some partnerships and things.

21 But as we're really starting to make progress I think as an
22 organization, I think it's going to be a great time for us to
23 have somebody from outside the come in and talk about ways
24 that we can strengthen the organization, some ways that we
25 continue to grow to improve, and some ways that we can

1 continue to make INSILC better.

2 So real excited to get that project underway.

3 And we'll have more, a lot more to say about this in March
4 when we're ready to present the contract and kind of go from
5 there.

6 But I think it's going to be a great next step of us as an
7 organization.

8 So excited to start that.

9 and then I did want to give people an update on the public
10 forums.

11 And so since our last meeting in early September, we have had
12 a couple of those.

13 And so we did an in-person event in Evansville on
14 September 23rd.

15 We actually held two events on the same day.

16 We did a transportation and had that in the morning and that
17 was in conjunction with our friends at the league.

18 We were able to do a transportation symposium.

19 A couple of highlights from that event.

20 We had some great networking opportunities.

21 Attendees were able to connect with individuals from
22 different backgrounds.

23 We had a lot of policymakers who were involved in the
24 transportation arena in the Evansville area.

25 We also had some actionable advocacy there.

1 Attendees worked in kind of small groups to develop projects
2 to improve transportation in the Evansville area and got some
3 opportunity to work on kind of starting that. And then we
4 had a chance to do some interactive discussions where they
5 were able to share their experiences and really kind of learn
6 from each other.

7 And so it was really a kind of great event.

8 This was a piece of the inclusion institute.

9 That's a great program that The League offers.

10 And we were really excited to bring this QR event to
11 Evansville and we had really good success from that. We
12 actually had 75 attendees attend that. So it was really
13 good.

14 It was a successful event.

15 We're excited to how we might be able to continue that
16 process in 2026.

17 and then in the afternoon we had our disability town hall
18 there in Evansville, as well.

19 We had a few featured speakers.

20 We had Mayor Stephanie Terry.

21 State rep Alex Burton and City Councilor Ben Trockman.

22 And we had 85 members of the public attend that event.

23 And so that was our best attended town hall that we've had so
24 far, so that was really great to see.

25 We were able to have two TV stations come and do media

1 coverage.

2 You can see clips of that on our social media.

3 It was great to get that, to have that and get some traction.

4 Katie Myers, our operations manager, did a really good job
5 putting that together and setting up the social media and
6 getting the word out.

7 It was a really good event and it was good to be in the
8 Evansville area.

9 and then just yesterday and the week before, we had our
10 virtual town hall.

11 We did this in two different sessions.

12 This we did differently than we did last year. A couple of
13 the things that I really liked about it is we were able to
14 partner with three other disability organizations.

15 We did this in collaboration with The ARC of Indiana, with
16 down syndrome Indiana and with the autism society of Indiana.

17 And that first event on September 2nd focused on Reese et
18 changes in Medicaid and we were able to give updates on bore
19 that's at and where we think it's going in 2026.

20 The event we had yesterday talked about bills that were going
21 to be in the upcoming legislative session.

22 So I think this was really good for us to have a really, I
23 think, subject matter events that were timely.

24 And I think that are of great concern to People with
25 Disabilities at this current time and was able for us, a

1 chance for us to be responsive on those issues and to, again,
2 have content from some of our partner organizations.
3 one of the themes when you read our current SPIL, there's
4 several goals in there that talk about collaboration and
5 doing events collectively with other organizations.
6 And to be able to pull this off and be able to do this with
7 other organizations was really good.
8 So I was excited to see the attendance and really kind of see
9 where we can take that, as well.
10 But that was another event that I'm really pro you had that
11 we were able to pull together in 2025.
12 and then for our town hall schedule in 2026, we are going to
13 be in New Albany.
14 And that is going to be on March 31st.
15 And that's going to be at IU Southeast.
16 We will post more information about this.
17 We're still putting together the panel and who's going to be
18 there.
19 We'll have more detailed information to share soon.
20 But really excited to get out to that New Albany area.
21 And then we're going to be in Columbus in June of '26.
22 And we'll have a specific day and a venue to announce
23 hopefully shortly.
24 And then we're planning on being in Indianapolis on
25 September, in September of 2026 and doing something in

1 conjunction with independence Indiana conference.

2 And so that will be another chance to really work with other
3 groups to promote that event and doing something in
4 conjunction is also, I think, a really key for us in terms of
5 getting the word out and showing our ability to collaborate.
6 and then in December of next year, we'll plan another virtual
7 town hall.

8 So we like these virtual town hauls because of the weather
9 and we know how kind of the weather can be in December.

10 It's also a great way to do something that's statewide that
11 really attracts people from across the state.

12 So we'll have more information to share about that as we get
13 closer to next year.

14 and then also I wanted to update you guys on our Humana
15 project.

16 Just as a reminder, that we received a grant from Humana to
17 do training for their staff.

18 And so we as a method of getting that done, we contracted out
19 with Independence Indiana to do that training, and they were
20 able to do that one in November and one yesterday, actually.

21 And that was good.

22 We had about 35 people attend those on average between the
23 two.

24 We had really great expertise from the members of ILP who
25 were there from Independence Indiana who were there to put on

1 the training.

2 They have great experience independent living and kind of in
3 diversion and were able to really, I think, present some
4 really compelling information to the attendees.

5 The attendees weren't always as maybe participative as we
6 would have liked, but they had a team from Independence
7 Indiana did a really awesome job, particularly yesterday of
8 working through some activities and some breakout sessions
9 and really as a way to get those folks engaged.

10 That was great to see.

11 And they were a great representative of the network for the
12 team at Humana.

13 And so we're going to take that a few different ways.

14 One, we're going to get some survey data from that group
15 after the training.

16 But we think there's more opportunities to do additional
17 training for the Humana staff.

18 And so part of our followup with them is going to be seeing
19 if we can arrange to do some future trainings for them.

20 And we're also going to reach out with the other two
21 organizations that are doing the Pathways program.

22 And that would be Anthem and united health care.

23 We'll reach out to them and see if we can set up the same
24 arrangement with them to train their staff.

25 It was really, I think, an eye opener when we did the

1 training for the Humana staff how much this is needed and how
2 much they didn't know and how much of a resource the network
3 could be.

4 So it was a really good opportunity.

5 And, again, I really want to thank the team from Independence
6 Indiana because I think they put on a fantastic training.

7 and then my final note would be on the inclusion institute.

8 And so this is stemming from a couple of things.

9 One of the goals in the SPIL is for us to train at a minimum
10 of 100 advocates.

11 And we wanted to do that in conjunction with our friends at
12 the league because, again, they have such an excellent model
13 with the inclusion institute.

14 And we had a really good event in Evansville when we did the
15 transportation piece.

16 And so we're talking to them about some opportunities to do
17 that again at one of our 2026 town halls and to pair that
18 together.

19 And so we're having some ongoing conversations.

20 And we hope to be able to announce something soon.

21 But that was a really, I think a great partnership for us.

22 We were able to, again, in Evansville, train 75 advocates
23 really thoroughly on communication and to bring that
24 community together.

25 And so we would love to have that again in 2026.

1 And so we'll be continuing that negotiation.

2 And hopefully we'll have something official to announce in
3 early next year.

4 and that wraps up the end of my report for today.

5 KACIE: All right.

6 Thank you very much, Mike.

7 Up next we have Anna Thompson for the treasurer report,
8 please.

9 ANNA: Hello.

10 This is Anna, and I am reporting budget versus actuals for
11 October 2025.

12 Our total revenue actual was \$1,692.15.

13 The budgeted amount was \$23,720 for revenue.

14 And the revenue is low due to outstanding invoices.

15 So that number should be coming up.

16 total operating expenses, the actual was \$4,610.62.

17 The budgeted amount was \$4,369.98.

18 Our total personnel expenses actual was \$14,243.94.

19 And the budgeted amount was \$18,782.42.

20 If the Council has any questions, please ask them.

21 And for any future questions, feel free to reach out to Mike
22 or myself.

23 KACIE: All right.

24 This is Kacie.

25 I do want to also add that I see that Mrs. McFadden has also

1 joined us today.

2 We had not received confirmation that she would be.

3 So pleasantly surprised that she is joining us, as well.

4 So, Mike, if you could please add her in since I see you just
5 added Mr. Nye.

6 MIKE: Yes, I willing do that. Erica, I just sent you an
7 invite to be a panelist.

8 All right.

9 I believe she's been added in.

10 Okay.

11 So next up we will have our sole director representative
12 report by Ms. Amy Browning-Varble.

13 AMY BROWNING-VARBLE: Hi, this is Amy Browning-Varble.

14 And presenting we will have a couple of centers to describe
15 the programs and services that they are providing in their
16 respective areas.

17 First we will have Tammy with accessibility in Indianapolis
18 followed by John at the league.

19 So, Tammy?

20 TAMMY: Awesome.

21 Thank you.

22 I'm going to be sharing my screen.

23 Give me just one second.

24 Mike.

25 Can you let me know if you can see the screen?

1 MIKE: Yes.

2 It's coming through right now, Tammy.

3 TAMMY: Awesome, thank you.

4 Thank you very much for inviting us to give you some
5 information about AccessABILITY and the services that we
6 provide.

7 If you have any questions, please let me know.

8 Our first slide is just a picture of people chatting
9 together.

10 Some of them have visible disabilities and it's the title of
11 the slide which is our organization overview.

12 the mission AccessABILITY is to empower our peers with
13 disabilities to lead and control independent lives fully
14 included in community life.

15 And we take that very seriously.

16 on this slide you see a map of Indiana.

17 And the locations of the centers for independent living are
18 included here.

19 We are in number 1 with our offices in Indianapolis.

20 And we serve Central Indiana.

21 So, again, we serve Marion and the seven donut counties as
22 they're called here.

23 this is a picture of the team.

24 They're a wonderful group of people, advocates of all sorts
25 of disabilities.

1 And approximately 83 percent of our staff are people with
2 disabilities.

3 we have 11 staff at the moment, 8 full-time and 3 part-time.
4 I'm so sorry.

5 These are experts on disability and disability issues.

6 We offer a series of peer support groups from neurodiverse
7 peer support, amputee support group, families of visually
8 impaired individuals support group, spinal cord injury
9 support group, financial independence, and a Spanish language
10 Zumba class.

11 like all centers for independent living, we provide the five
12 core services.

13 >> If we could get you to spotlight, please.

14 I'm so sorry to interrupt.

15 MIKE: Yes, I'll do that right now.

16 TAMMY: Mike.

17 Let me know when we have accessibility.

18 MIKE: Okay.

19 Tammy, you should be good now.

20 TAMMY: Thank you.

21 So like all centers for independent living, we provide the
22 five core services of information referral, IL skills
23 training, peer counseling, individual and systems advocacy,
24 and transition/diversion, which as I'm sure you know is both
25 transition from nursing homes, diversion from getting into

1 those institutions and everything transition of youth to post
2 secondary life.

3 in addition to the five core services, we do other things.

4 Most CILs do more than the five core services.

5 We provide orientation of mobile training to individuals with
6 visual disabilities.

7 We have a program called visually impaired blind services,
8 which we call vibe.

9 And that serves people of all A.

10 We are part of the OIB program which serves people 55 years
11 of age and older who are not seeking employment.

12 We also serve a younger group of people.

13 We have a domestic violence and sexual assault support group.

14 This is one of very few CIless, we are one of very few CILs
15 that provide this service.

16 We have been working with other organizations because we're
17 not always the experts in this particular field.

18 And we do a lot of work in making sure that there are warm
19 handoffs.

20 Sadly, the number of People with Disabilities who are
21 impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault is
22 extraordinarily high.

23 and then obviously we do our transition and diversion
24 programs.

25 we have a really robust fee for service led by our outreach

1 coordinator, which allows us to fund additional things beyond
2 the federal and state funding that we receive.

3 We have a robust grants application process and I'm delighted
4 to say that we have a lot of success in receiving those
5 grants.

6 So, much like INSILC goals on into the public to do
7 educational work, we do educational work and we also accept
8 fees for particular trainings.

9 Disability education, reasonable accommodations,
10 accessibility audits, and whatever individual agencies are or
11 companies would like us to work on with them.

12 we have a really robust board of directors.

13 87.5 percent of those board members are People with
14 Disabilities.

15 And they are really committed to making sure that we achieve
16 our strategic themes every year. And our alignment with the
17 SPIL.

18 so, that is AccessABILITY and what we do in a nutshell.

19 Obviously we're always proud of our centers and can go on for
20 some extensive period of time talking about them.

21 But we just wanted to give you an individual the kind of
22 unique things we do here in Central Indiana.

23 So if anybody has any questions, I'd be glad to answer them.

24 >> Thank you so much, Tammy.

25 TAMMY: Thank you for inviting us.

1 >> That's really good.

2 And next we have John at the league.

3 JOHN: Sure.

4 Give me just a moment here to share my screen and make sure I
5 do this correctly.

6 Mike, can you all see my screen?

7 MIKE: Yes.

8 You're up now, John.

9 JOHN: Awesome.

10 Thanks for give me a few moments of the Council's time today.

11 I've got about 10 slides but I'll try to go through them
12 relatively quickly without overwhelming interpreters.

13 If you need me to slow down, let me know.

14 The first slide is the title slide that says The League.

15 On the left-hand side it has our logo on the right hand side
16 gives me name and president/CEO and today's date.

17 the next slide just a few highlights and facts.

18 Actually The League has been around since 1949, well, since
19 1950, but in 1949 Helen Keller actually came to Fort Wayne
20 and raised the first money to start the organization by
21 speaking at one of our local high schools to a group of
22 concerned citizens and she raised that first budget of
23 \$7,000.

24 And I wish -- I only wish that \$7,000 would go as far today
25 as it did back then, I tell you that.

1 in 1981, we became the first part C funded Independent Living
2 Center in the State of Indiana.

3 We currently have 14 programs and service.

4 Besides the five core and I'll talk about that in just a
5 moment.

6 We are clearly led by People with Disabilities.

7 Our board of directors can be between 11 and 15 members.

8 We are currently at 11 members seeking out a few more.

9 But 72 percent of those 11 members are People with
10 Disabilities, of varying disabilities.

11 Mobility issues, chronic disorders, hard-of-hearing, the list
12 goes on.

13 Are People with Disabilities.

14 Chronic, neurodivergent, mental emotional.

15 One individual who is deaf.

16 Et cetera.

17 and then 75 percent of our overall staff are People with
18 Disabilities.

19 Including all those disabilities that I've already mentioned.

20 Plus blind and visually.

21 We really span the gamut of disabilities throughout our
22 organization.

23 Sorry.

24 You skipped a slide.

25 Our service area is the -- for our part C funds is the

1 northeast corner of Indiana.
2 So we are based in Allen County in for the Wayne.
3 Our core services reach those 11 counties.
4 We then have some other services.
5 Our home care services focus only on Allen County and that is
6 simply a staffing issue.
7 With home care, the farther we reach out into our counties
8 the harder it is to get staffing and makes it tough for us to
9 make those commitments when we make them.
10 our older independent blind program also reaches into
11 St. Joe, the South Bend area.
12 We are thrilled to have that partnership with the State of
13 Indiana.
14 Our deaf link services, so deaf link is the largest nonprofit
15 sign language interpreting agency in Northeast Indiana.
16 It is a fee-for-service for us, so it also reaches beyond our
17 11 counties of Northeast Indiana to some other Indiana
18 counties as well as parts of Ohio.
19 And then we have a contract with the State of Indiana for
20 case management as part of their deaf services department.
21 our Braille transcription services reach nationwide.
22 We're pretty close to nationwide.
23 American electric power hires us to transcribe things into
24 Braille and large print I think in 17 states as one example
25 of one of our customers.

1 We're not a big player in that particular fee for service
2 market but we've been a steady player in that market since
3 1995.

4 and then our benefits enrollment center, which I'll talk
5 about in a moment that is funded by the national Council on
6 aging, we're or predominantly by the national Council on
7 aging serves statewide and it's currently serving I believe
8 66 of the 92 counties.

9 So, many of our independent services, everything we offer
10 aligns with the independent living philosophy and within the
11 services that can be provided within the regulations.

12 This was the first.

13 So it still carries the moniker of independent services
14 living.

15 Within this division you find individual advocacy you find
16 information referral, commune living which really focus on
17 transition and diversion.

18 Peer support predominantly in the vision loss area.

19 I believe we currently have -- within 14-county reach.
20 orientation mobility.

21 We actually have 13 -- I'm sorry.

22 Three orientation mobility specialists on staff.

23 That is a fee for service that vocational rehabilitation pays
24 us for as well as local school systems.

25 we have an adaptive equipment program.

1 We've had a youth services program since 1995 that is helping
2 in a variety of ways getting kids with disabilities into
3 typical recreation programs, advocating at case conferences
4 at IEPs and then focusing and youth transition.

5 I mentioned Braille transcription already.

6 I think I already mentioned senior blind services.

7 within our deaf link division as I mentioned sign language
8 interpreting and case coordination are both fee for service
9 activities for us.

10 We also then teach American Sign Language classes in
11 partnership with our Y, our local YMCA programs.

12 We have our bridge program to help build up interpreters that
13 have been out of the field for a little while and want to get
14 back in the field.

15 Breaking down the barriers is a program where we are bringing
16 in community stakeholders that engage -- particularly people
17 who are deaf -- and we're doing it with ASL so that we're
18 effectively getting that information and making those
19 connections.

20 The best example I can give are some of the ones we do
21 between law, those barrier meeting we do between law
22 enforcement and the deaf community.

23 You know, if somebody who is deaf gets pulled over, too often
24 it's not they're being belligerent and ignoring the police
25 officer when that's in the reality.

1 There's simply a communication barrier.

2 Then we have a mental health pile another program for people
3 who are deaf that is expanding mental health and substance
4 abuse programs throughout northeastern Indiana particularly
5 Allen County.

6 we have a home care division that provides personal care
7 services.

8 So that's bathing, dressing, eating, meal assistance.

9 Homemaker services like light housekeeping, meal preparation.

10 And managing some basic household chairs.

11 And then respite care.

12 Most of the time that was done through Medicaid waiver.

13 We have a few private pay fee for service but the rest of it
14 is Medicaid weave waiver.

15 our benefits enrollment center, it is the only one in the
16 state that is focused on seniors and young adults with
17 disabilities that are on Medicare to help them apply for
18 other cost savings programs that they qualify for.

19 So Medicare part D, Medicare savings programs, Medicaid,
20 snap.

21 There's a few other means-tested programs.

22 Since we started that program in 2021, it has saved disabled
23 Hoosiers more than \$3 million.

24 I already did home care.

25 Then the inclusion institute, the inclusion institute is our

1 newest program.

2 We started that in the spring of 2022.

3 It includes a leadership academy.

4 Focuses on systemic advocacy and leads our systemic change
5 efforts.

6 Then we list our major advocacy focuses which are connected
7 communities which is really local infrastructure.

8 Accessibility neighborhoods which is really housing.

9 Economic advancement which is employment and more.

10 So it's employment.

11 It seems like immediate works, a variety of things like that.

12 And effective communication between related to web, media,
13 government meetings.

14 Some examples of the successes of the inclusion institute,
15 the leadership academy is an 8-month long program that People
16 with Disabilities and their allies can sign up for.

17 It teaches them how to tell their story.

18 It teaches them about independent living and it teaches them
19 about disability and the impacts on housing, education,
20 employment, health care, how to serve on boards, Counsel CILs
21 and commissions and committees because we know the best way
22 to advocate often is to be sitting at that table rather than
23 knocking on that door.

24 And the first two years we graduated 34 participants from
25 that leadership academy and we connected 30 of them with

1 boards, Counsel CILs, commissions and committees.

2 At both the local level here in for the Wayne as well as a
3 few statewide Councils.

4 This year, we have 42 participants.

5 So in two years we graduated 34.

6 And this year we have, this year I'm sorry we have 42
7 participants.

8 So we have more participants that year than we've had in the
9 last two years.

10 a couple of the advocacy things that we can highlight.

11 We convinced the city of Fort Wayne to bring back their home
12 modification grant program for People with Disabilities.

13 So I think this year 20 People with Disabilities could apply
14 for up to \$15,000 to do home mods that allow them to stay in
15 their homes.

16 So home mods like ramps, wider doorways, levered door handles
17 as a few examples.

18 for the Wayne is known for having a huge trail system.

19 We've been working with them to make it more accessible.

20 Particularly for those with vision impairments.

21 It is very accessible for people with physical disabilities
22 but it was not so accessible for people with visual
23 impairments.

24 INTERPRETER: Mike, if we could switch the spotlight again,
25 please.

1 MIKE: Yes, I'll do that.

2 PETER: Let me know when that's done, Mike.

3 MIKE: Okay.

4 New interpreter spotted light, John.

5 You should be ready.

6 JOHN: Thank you.

7 And then we worked really hard with city and county

8 government.

9 There was a time that press conferences and government events
10 were not interpreted.

11 They are now having ASL interpreters and convinced the media
12 to put those interpreters on screen most of the time so that
13 we're effectively communicating with our deaf peers.

14 we take that resource development pretty important.

15 So I'm the president and CEO.

16 We have a chief operating office, human resources, volunteer
17 management because we love to have volunteers.

18 Finance and accounting.

19 And then our philanthropy and marketing department.

20 We are about -- this is a rough number.

21 About roughly a third government grants, a third fee for
22 service and a third private grants, events and donations.

23 So we try to maintain that diversity as best we can.

24 and that would be the end of my presentation.

25 I appreciate the opportunity.

1 Sorry if I spoke really fast.

2 I just wanted to cover a lot in a very short time.

3 >> Thank you to both Tammy and John for presenting your
4 centers today to help people understand what centers are
5 doing throughout the state.

6 I find your information very helpful.

7 So I appreciate it.

8 Thank you.

9 KACIE: John, can you stop sharing your screen, please?

10 Thank you.

11 All right.

12 Next up we have Amy Luellen who is our DSE, our Designated
13 State Entity representative.

14 She'll be giving her state report.

15 AMY SEKHAR: Actually the DSE doesn't have anything new to
16 report at this time.

17 KACIE: Okay.

18 Thank you.

19 all right.

20 Next up is our INSILC SPIL committee report with Chris
21 Spinks.

22 Before we start with that report, I do want to share that we
23 have had some -- there was a misunderstanding with the -- we
24 had received a letter from Liberators for Justice regarding
25 the SPIL committee and the SPIL -- some of the misinformation

1 as far as the information there.

2 So I have asked Chris, as our SPIL chair, we will be reaching
3 out to Liberators for Justice to discuss that further as far
4 as because we do value their input as part of the discussion
5 around guardianship.

6 So we will reach out to them and continue with that. Chris,
7 can you please give your report?

8 CHRIS: Thanks, Kacie.

9 We have just wrapped up our first two work groups.

10 And our last public meeting, we announced that we were
11 discontinuing the data analysis group for assessments and
12 that we have disbanded the guardianship/guardianship
13 alternatives work group.

14 We are starting four new work groups the first part of the
15 year. The first one is going to be called alternatives to
16 guardianship and focusing on those alternatives now that
17 people have a better understanding of what guardianship
18 actually is and how it affects individuals.

19 and our focus group planning work group is going to be coming
20 out of the data analysis work group.

21 We will have a new one called emergency preparedness.

22 And this is in as we called for in the SPIL to address
23 emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities.

24 And then a health care work group, which is going to be
25 working on the resource packet that is one of our goals in

1 the SPIL to have that packet pulled together and have it
2 disbursed and given to a thousand health care providers in
3 the State of Indiana during the year of the SPIL.

4 we are also currently working on year one of our SPIL report.
5 And that should be ready for our March meeting.

6 And then, finally, we are developing a timeline right now for
7 writing the upcoming SPIL.

8 We're going to announce more on that early in 2026.

9 We will be starting that process early in 2026 and that give
10 us a lot of time to put more thought into it, reach out to a
11 lot of individuals and have a lot more public comment.

12 We have more of a better timeline option and we will take
13 advantage of that to get more input into the SPIL.

14 And that's all I have today.

15 thank you.

16 KACIE: All right.

17 Thank you, Chris.

18 I appreciate it.

19 All right, Mike, can you give us what the nomination
20 committee report is?

21 MIKE: Yes, I can.

22 I just wanted to let the Council know to remind everybody we
23 sent three nominees to the governor's office for approval in
24 September of 2025.

25 And we still have not heard any movement on those.

1 I continue to follow up with the governor's office every few
2 weeks, and they say they're trying to work through a backlog
3 of nominees to their Councils.

4 So I will keep pushing on those and let everybody know.

5 As a reminder, the last nominees took about a year to get
6 through.

7 So it may -- it may hopefully be quicker this time but we'll
8 keep everybody up to speed.

9 KACIE: All right.

10 Thank you very much, Mike.

11 All right.

12 So now we'll move on to old business.

13 And with old business, we will, the first thing that we do
14 have is discussing the SPIL and the corrective action plan
15 that we have.

16 Mike, I will turn that over to you to start with.

17 MIKE: Sure, yeah.

18 We just wanted to let the Council know that we are continuing
19 to work with our Partners at ACL on the -- on both the CAP
20 approval and working through some items in the SPIL.

21 There are two items left in the cap for us to do.

22 One of those is approving the policy manual and that is
23 actually next on the agenda, so we will be able to hopefully
24 scratch that off the list.

25 And then the next piece we're going to work on is some

1 implementation things, particularly with the SPIL dashboard
2 and the community activities dashboard.

3 And so we will continue to work with them on that and we will
4 obviously keep everybody up-to-date on where we are on that
5 process.

6 KACIE: All right.

7 Awesome.

8 Thank you very much. So I am just opening the floor.

9 Is there any questions or discussions around that from the
10 Council?

11 ANNA: Kacie, this is Anna.

12 I'm not really sure when is the best time to do this, but
13 under old business, could we make a motion, could I make a
14 motion to correct the minutes to reflect that there was not a
15 second public comment period?

16 I did not catch that when I was reviewing the minutes, and I
17 apologize for that.

18 KACIE: All right.

19 This is Kacie.

20 Since it is under I think we can open the floor for that. If
21 someone could -- am I hearing you, Anna, saying to make a
22 motion?

23 ANNA: Yes, I'd like to make a motion to correct the minutes.

24 AMY BROWNING-VARBLE: And I second that.

25 KACIE: All right.

1 Thank you for.

2 So we have, we need to do a vote for that. So this is Kacie.

3 We have a motion on the floor that we had the amended minutes

4 that we will be amending the amended minutes to reflect that

5 there was not a second public comment period in the September

6 meeting.

7 And so I will do a roll call vote for that. So Louis?

8 >> I agree.

9 KACIE: Anna?

10 AMY BROWNING-VARBLE: Yes.

11 KACIE: Jennifer?

12 JENNIFER: Yes.

13 KACIE: Amy?

14 AMY BROWNING-VARBLE: Yes.

15 KACIE: Ann?

16 An.

17 ANNA: Yes.

18 KACIE: Haley?

19 >> Haily: Yes.

20 KACIE: Christina?

21 (silence).

22 MIKE: Christina said that she had to step out actually
23 during this time so I think she's not available right now.

24 KACIE: All right.

25 So we will put that abstain.

1 Catherine?

2 >> Catherine: Yes.

3 KACIE: Okay.

4 David joined us yet?

5 MIKE: No, I have not seen Dave.

6 KACIE: Okay.

7 All right.

8 So we had aye vote, yes, as well.

9 So we have seven yeases, two abstains.

10 All right.

11 So the motion passes.

12 Excuse me.

13 The motion passes to amend the amend minutes to reflect that
14 there was not a second 15-minute time period.

15 Okay.

16 So next up we also have the policy manual, Mike would you
17 please describe what those are and what changes we were
18 initiating?

19 MIKE: Yes, happy to do that. And so everybody should have a
20 copy of the latest version of the policy manual.

21 I know we've been talking about this for the last few
22 meetings and so folks have had a chance to see this.

23 We have really been working hard with our colleagues at
24 ACL to get this nailed down.

25 And if you guys remember, we did approve a version of the

1 policy manual last summer.

2 And so this is a revision to that to really strengthen a few
3 key areas for us.

4 One of those key areas is getting public feedback into the
5 SPIL.

6 And so we have a whole policy and procedure on that. So
7 hopefully you had a chance to review that. There was also a
8 dispute policy in there which is, again, how we would handle
9 a dispute particularly when it comes to putting the SPIL
10 together if one party says that something should be in,
11 somebody else says it shouldn't or vice versa, we have a
12 process for how to figure that out and how to resolve that
13 conflict.

14 and then the last new policy in there is a policy for how to
15 handle our virtual records.

16 And so because we are INSILC office virtual only, so we don't
17 keep paper copies of things, but we do want to have that
18 policy for retention of digital records.

19 And so that's been added.

20 And then there's been a handful of other small edits
21 throughout the policy manual that have been reflected in the
22 different versions that you guys have seen.

23 And so you should have seen all of those changes.

24 Those are the three new policies that are brand new policies
25 in this iteration of the policy manual today.

1 are there any questions or anything that anyone would like to
2 go over before we potentially put that to a vote?

3 and I suppose one thing, Kacie, I'll probably remind the
4 Council on, this is voting on the policy manual as it is
5 today.

6 But it doesn't lock us into this in perpetuity.

7 We can always come back and if there is a new policy that we
8 think we should add six-months from now, we could vote on
9 that particular policy or changes can happen in the future.

10 So that is a possibility, as well going forward.

11 KACIE: Okay.

12 All right.

13 This is Kacie.

14 So we have our new, basically we have the presented policy
15 manual.

16 If there is no -- is there any discussion about the policy
17 manual as far as for the Council?

18 If not, then we would need to make a motion to vote to accept
19 the policy manual.

20 >> Catherine: I went through the policies.

21 I think they seem reasonable.

22 You mentioned working together with ACL.

23 So I don't have any discrepancies with that at all.

24 That's fine.

25 KACIE: Okay.

1 Any other comments about the policies?

2 All right.

3 If not, then I need someone to, if we're going to -- if
4 everybody is in approval of them, we need somebody to make a
5 motion to approve it and then vote.

6 >> Catherine: I make a motion to approve this policy
7 manual.

8 JENNIFER: I second motion.

9 KACIE: All right.

10 Thank you.

11 We have the motion on the floor to accept the policy manual
12 as presented to the Council.

13 And I now will do a roll call vote for approval of that
14 policy manual.

15 So Lewis?

16 >> Agree.

17 KACIE: Anna.

18 ANNA: Yes.

19 KACIE: Jennifer?

20 JENNIFER: Yes.

21 KACIE: Amy?

22 >> Amy: Yes.

23 KACIE: Ann?

24 >> Anne: Approve.

25 KACIE: Haley?

1 >> Yes.

2 KACIE: Christina is I believe, is she on or is she out?
3 I thinks she's out.

4 MIKE: Yeah, I think so.

5 KACIE: Okay.

6 And Catherine?

7 >> Catherine: Yes.

8 KACIE: Okay.

9 And affidavit is not here, either.

10 INTERPRETER: The interpreter needs to switch.

11 MIKE: Yes.

12 KACIE: Okay.

13 All right.

14 So that means the motion passes at this point.

15 So the policy manual will be accepted as presented.

16 next on the agenda is we have the discussion about a consent
17 agenda.

18 Mike?

19 MIKE: Yeah, happy to have this.

20 And so if folks remember at our September meeting, we began
21 the conversation around a consent agenda.

22 And just to remind folks, that consent agenda would be where
23 we would present most of our committee reports in that

24 Section 8 part of the agenda as one voting item.

25 And we would say to approve the consent agenda.

1 And we wouldn't hear from most of the presenters in that
2 section.

3 We would just approve them.

4 We might hear from a different one even month.

5 We thought that might be a way to speed up our business
6 meeting and have opportunities to have other discussions.

7 But really what we heard as part of that conversation in
8 September and in the comments that I received since then is
9 people prefer the format that it is that we use today, which
10 is where each committee gets a chance to speak kind on their
11 own and each committee, each committee or update is given
12 some time to share what's new with them.

13 And so at this time we're going to keep the format as is and
14 not move to a consent agenda.

15 Soap we're not going to put that up to vote.

16 But, again, as with most of these things, it is something
17 that we could revisit in the future.

18 And we are always looking at ways of making these meetings
19 more effective for people.

20 So we welcome other feedback or other ideas to improve the
21 process.

22 KACIE: Okay.

23 Thank you, Mike.

24 MIKE: Uh-huh.

25 KACIE: All right.

1 Just checking with the counselors.

2 Nip other old business that needs to be added before we close
3 old business?

4 (silence)

5 all right.

6 I will assume no, so now we will go on to new business.

7 And the first item is I would like to introduce Mr. Peter Nye
8 and Ms. Erica McFadden from the administration of community
9 living and allow them to speak a little bit.

10 PETER: Thank you very much. Please confirm that you can
11 hear me and see me because I know we've had issues with the
12 links.

13 Okay.

14 And while we're at it, will you please, after this meeting,
15 send me the recording because I see you're recording it.

16 I would like access to that. May I have that, please?

17 MIKE: Yes, we can do that, Peter.

18 PETER: Okay, good.

19 Thank you again for the opportunity to join this meeting and
20 address the SILC and the other attendees.

21 In the last couple weeks, ACL has received much feedback and
22 many concerns about the implementation of the corrective
23 action plan which you mentioned earlier.

24 I don't want to -- I do want to give you credit for what
25 you've done.

1 I think you've come a long way and you've developed a lot of
2 good policies and put a lot of good input into that. And I
3 think that's very valuable.

4 That's very important.

5 And so thanks for sharing about that. Thanks for being so
6 communicative and so cooperative.

7 That said, in the past couple weeks, my ACL colleagues and I,
8 after reviewing carefully this additional information and
9 feedback and concerns that we've received, we had determined
10 that although you have made very much meaningful progress,
11 implementation challenges remain.

12 Therefore, we're going to revise and extend this cap, extend
13 the cap period to ensure that you have enough time and enough
14 direction to meaningfully and lastingly improve the comings
15 and practices and implementation to adequately respond to the
16 concerns and information that we've received.

17 to support these efforts, we have assigned Gloria Garton to
18 provide training and technical assistance throughout the
19 extended cap period.

20 We fully intend to stay open and transparent in our
21 communications with the SILC and all other Partners.

22 Part of what that means is that we welcome your questions and
23 concerns and feedback throughout this process.

24 so, again, I just want to emphasize the extent that I
25 appreciate the time and effort and other resources that

1 you've invested into complying with the cap and to openly
2 communicating with us.

3 We know how important hearing from all the relevant parties
4 is and that's what we've been doing.

5 And I say all the parties including those who have expressed
6 concerns to us and shared with us information they're
7 concerned about.

8 So we're going to move forward collaboratively to thoroughly
9 and adequately address these issues for the SILC to fully
10 comply with federal requirements.

11 so, again, we don't mean for this revising and extending the
12 cap to undermine what you've done.

13 Quite the contrary.

14 What you've done is really valuable.

15 But we're not -- unfortunately, we're not at the edge of
16 being able to approve this cap yet.

17 We will be.

18 But we're not there yet.

19 so thanks again for the opportunity to come speak at this
20 meeting.

21 And if you have questions or comments, you're welcome to ask
22 or share and you're also welcome to reach me any time outside
23 the context of this meeting.

24 and another thing I'd like to share is it's good to meet the
25 new people I haven't met but it's also good to hear from

1 the people I have met either in D.C. at the NICL conference
2 or when I went to Mitchell, Indiana, to site review sickle.
3 the question is will we be informed exactly the concerns that
4 have been ACL, yes, we will.
5 We will share that with you.
6 It's not confidential or private.
7 We're not hidling it from you.
8 And we haven't shared it yet but we will.
9 >> I just want to add, the comments that we add or the
10 comments you got, so you have the same ones, they were all
11 the questions that you got from the prior Council meeting.
12 So these aren't new.
13 We just read your answers to the questions that your
14 participants, you know, gave you all.
15 This was the issues that we heard, as well.
16 So there's nothing new that we heard.
17 I do want to say -- by the way, my name is Erica McFadden.
18 I'm the director of the office of independent living
19 programs.
20 You know, I have like wide glasses on for those who have low
21 vision, black glasses on.
22 I have like blondish hair, wearing a white jacket, around
23 50ish.
24 But I want to tell you guys that as like the SILC, I do
25 really appreciate -- I want to echo what Peter said.

1 You have been very responsive to the questions that we had
2 for you and for the revisions we've asked you to make.
3 And we have also connected you with the TNT center, Gloria
4 garden who is with the North Carolina SILC.

5 So she -- and if not Gloria, there's other SILC reps that can
6 also help be able to get out best practices because we know
7 how hard it is for us to get the right policies in place
8 because there's so much that was under the SILC minimum
9 indicators and so going through all those and now the
10 implementation is the hardest part and we totally understand
11 that. And so we are going to work with you all to make sure
12 that things are fully implemented.

13 We understand some things, some complaints are things that
14 aren't necessarily a regulatory thing.

15 It's just, you know, it's a complaint that we may not be in
16 ACL's purview.

17 But there are some things that we can help you with related
18 to public comment and ensuring that how the SPIL is developed
19 and how it's evaluated.

20 And I think just so you're aware, there are many states that
21 struggle with this, as well.

22 So I just want to point that out that Indiana's not alone.
23 But we will work with you all and hopefully if Gloria, she
24 may be on this call today, because I think we asked her to
25 also attend, she will be there for you, whatever you need.

1 And Anna can also connect with others, too.

2 I said that before.

3 But I just wanted to let you guys know that. You have made
4 improvements.

5 Now it's the implementation part.

6 And starting to post things publicly so that people --
7 because I don't know if they all know about some of the
8 changes you've made.

9 also I wanted to know, Mike and Kacie, are we able to talk
10 about the January thing or no?

11 MIKE: Yeah, we can do that. Erica, Gloria is on the call
12 and she's a panelist.

13 >> Great. Great. Great. So one of the things -- I'm
14 sorry, Kacie.

15 KACIE: Do you want to add Gloria as a panelist?

16 MIKE: I just did, Kacie.

17 ERICA: Great.

18 MIKE: Thanks for sharing that.

19 PETER: I think those are all important things to emphasize
20 especially the fact that you have done much good work and
21 come very far.

22 So we're not rejected what you've done or telling you that
23 you haven't come very far.

24 We are telling you that you have further to go.

25 ERICA: So there is something I wanted to talk about.

1 Gloria, do you want to introduce yourself as part of this
2 part?

3 >> Gloria: Sure, yes.

4 Thank you.

5 My name is Gloria Garton, I'm currently the executive
6 director of the SILC in North Carolina.

7 I am a white woman with blond hair wearing glasses and a Navy
8 and blue striped sweater today.

9 Before I became a SILC executive director, I was a center
10 director in North Carolina for 15 years.

11 So I've been on both sides of the -- well, I've sat in both
12 seats, I'll put it that way.

13 And North Carolina, we've been through our challenges as a
14 SILC as well.

15 And so I just want to compliment the Indiana SILC for how far
16 they have come with their policies and procedures and an
17 engagement plan.

18 It's a lot of work.

19 And I want to say I'm really impressed with the level of
20 detail and quality and the time and effort that they have put
21 into these policies and procedures.

22 As a new person working with the independent living training
23 and technical assistance center, I can tell you that, you
24 know, there's some reoccurring things within statewide
25 independent living Councils that come up, and policies and

1 procedures should always be in review because things change.

2 And I told Mike and Kacie that I think this is one of the
3 strongest policy and procedures manuals I have seen.

4 So I just want to thank you all.

5 And if there's anything that I can do as a consultant with
6 the training and technical assistance center, I'm here to
7 support the Indiana SILC.

8 So I'll turn it back over to Erica.

9 ERICA: Yes.

10 So, okay, this is one. Things that we all have heard, the
11 SILC and ACL, is that it seems like there's not enough space
12 for public comments or feedback.

13 And I think the issue is -- I know the SILC has been really
14 good about they're giving two 15-minute periods of time on
15 their SILC meeting.

16 And that's not -- I just want you to be aware, that's not
17 normal or typical, right, Gloria?

18 You know, typically SILC don't even have -- sometimes there's
19 like five minutes or 10 minutes at the end of a meeting.

20 And people have to respond to whatever's on the agenda.

21 So clearly they're trying to be responsive to the community,
22 but it's not maybe at the level that the community wants
23 where there's a two-way conversation.

24 and like on things that are meaningful that are actually like
25 really good questions and thoughtful things and not just

1 things like you know you did this wrong or you did that
2 wrong, but constructive feedback that can help move the SILC
3 forward, so I thought what would be helpful is to have a
4 separate space.

5 I had recommended to INSILC that instead much trying to fit
6 in all these public comments into the meetings, just to have
7 these like standing like public forums.

8 I think this was in the state plan, anyway, that you would
9 have a couple of public forums throughout the year and invite
10 the public and that can give a space to have, you know,
11 discussion about the state plan, how it's going, you know,
12 how to evaluate it.

13 Anything that the SILC needs help on, it would be a good
14 thing to ask the audience.

15 But that was just an idea we had.

16 We're not telling the SILC to do that. But January was a
17 time for you all to be able to have more time, you know, to
18 share comments.

19 We're going to be there.

20 And Gloria was going to be there, you know.

21 And it's not a SILC meeting.

22 It's just a community meeting, input meeting, which I think
23 that is what -- not to speak for you all, but it seems like
24 that's what you're looking for.

25 Because these pun, these SILC meets are typically

1 agenda-driven, voting on action items.
2 And there's a short public comment.
3 It's not space you're looking for.
4 It was just I think what you're saying, there's not enough
5 space for us to be able to engage throughout the year.
6 so, we're working with the SILC on that. And I think and
7 hoping that will help with some of these things, you know.
8 Addressing accessibility and things like that. But I do like
9 to just give kudos to SILC because they have been.
10 I know there's things that the community doesn't like.
11 I know that people are not, you know -- are frustrated.
12 But there has been progress made on the back end.
13 Now we're going to look at the forward end on the
14 implementation and working with you all and helping them to
15 be able to do that constructively.
16 but we ask you all to please also think constructively, not
17 be -- like not just say things that, you know, you did this
18 wrong or did that wrong, but what can offering actually ideas
19 that can help.
20 Asking good questions.
21 You know, what are some things that can be done differently
22 that would be helpful for them?
23 They are responsive to feedback.
24 They have been from us.
25 I'm hoping they will be for you.

1 And I think they will.

2 But I just wanted to just say that out loud and just know
3 that, you know, we support all of you.

4 All of you are our IL.

5 The SILC is aware, we did have a conversation about
6 guardianship.

7 We're very clear that guardianship as a whole is not in the
8 IL philosophy, so they know that. And that's why they're
9 working on getting out the information on alternatives, which
10 is an IL thing, is to making sure that while people have
11 choice, that they continue to have their voice, that they're
12 able to vote, that they're able to make their own decisions.
13 And so I think the SILC understands that. And that's the way
14 that they were -- I think that's the way you're moving, guys,
15 how to get information alternatives because they are
16 underutilized.

17 PETE: Precisely what they shared with us.

18 Sorry to interrupt, Erica.

19 But they told us they're getting rid of their guardianships
20 committee and replacing it with an alternatives to
21 guardianship committee.

22 and one thing about that I want to emphasize is regardless of
23 the activities of the committee, the name of the committee
24 sends people a powerful message.

25 So calling it an alternatives to guardianship committee is

1 exactly the right step because it sends people the right
2 message.

3 Now, that doesn't mean that it fully achieves what you need
4 to achieve --

5 what I'm saying is when you shared that you were eliminating
6 your guardianship committee and replace it with an
7 alternative to guardianship committee, that's good marketing
8 and public relations because naming a committee "guardianship
9 committee" sends the message that you're providing and/or
10 promoting guardianships even if you're not.

11 Whereas calling the committee "alternatives to guardianship
12 committee" sends the message that you're complying with the
13 IL philosophy by refusing to support or provide or promote
14 guardianships allege and by promoting and facilitating and
15 encouraging -- is very much -- not everything, but very much.
16 And some of what's in a name is the message that you are
17 sending and are supposed to send partly because part of your
18 job is to lead by example.

19 That's part of the IL philosophy is peer mentoring, which is
20 another way of saying in some respects leading by example.

21 ERICA: So all that to say we really think the Indiana SILC
22 for being receptive to feedback, for doing what needs to be
23 done on fixing, addressing some of the compliance concerns.

24 And I also want to thank also the public and the CILs and
25 people who also continue to provide feedback especially when

1 they have good constructive feedback it's helpful because
2 then it helps the CIL as well to know when there's an issue
3 or something.

4 Like, for example, the minutes thing.

5 They didn't know.

6 They didn't read it closely.

7 So they didn't know about the -- that wasn't in there.

8 Just like, you know, supporting each other, like in order for
9 us to move forward it's being collaborative and that means
10 through communication and discussion and trying to support
11 each other as best we can.

12 Don't give up.

13 I think everybody is mainly the same thing.

14 So I think if we can focus on that moving for ward I think it
15 will be better for People with Disabilities in the State of
16 Indiana.

17 Okay?

18 so I tried to move right along but at the same time I really
19 do.

20 We really do want IL to be stronger in Indiana.

21 And we think everybody has the best intentions at heart.

22 So we're going to continue my TA and in the community, if you
23 guys have feedback, please share with it the CIL, as well.

24 Please try to make it constructive feedback and not just

25 "here's what you're doing wrong.

1 This is what you did wrong.

2 " just try.

3 And I think that that's going to help everybody when it comes
4 to moving, how to move forward.

5 Those are just some words of wisdom from prior other states
6 that we've dealt with.

7 and on that note, I'm going to get off my soap box and give
8 it back to, who was it, Kacie that was running the meeting?

9 PETER: Thanks.

10 Erica.

11 Thanks for the opportunity to attend this meeting and the
12 opportunity to address the attendees.

13 And, yes, she's apologizing, sort of, for getting up on her
14 soap box, so to speak.

15 We hope you understand why and how that's necessary.

16 But I also want to take this opportunity to say no amount of
17 preaching the IL philosophy is too much.

18 It's always worth preaching.

19 So, thanks for preaching it.

20 Unless now let's do a better job of practicing it.

21 MIKE: I see Gloria with her hand up.

22 I did want to give Gloria a chance if she had something to
23 add.

24 KACIE: Sure.

25 >> Gloria: Thank you.

1 I just wanted to reiterate what Erica and Peter just shared.
2 And that is having gone through something similar in North
3 Carolina when I was a center director, I realize that
4 listening to one another and having productive conversations
5 make such a difference.

6 And tone in which questions are asked and just being good
7 listeners and hearing, giving people a chance to give their
8 side of their perspective because just like this guardianship
9 issue, yes, that was a pretty hot topic when that letter came
10 out for a lot of the SILC across the country and especially
11 some centers because we do know that there are some centers
12 that are running guardianship programs and technically that
13 is against IL philosophy.

14 but I think the Indiana SILC and when you come to the meeting
15 in January, you're going to really hear more about the
16 policies, procedures, and how an opportunity to ask more
17 questions.

18 And that will be important, as well.

19 I just can't emphasize enough communication is a key to all
20 this.

21 And in terms of a public comment, I just wanted to add on to
22 what Erica was saying, that is most Councils limit their
23 public comment to five minutes or less per person and if you
24 need an accommodation to provide more time, that has, that
25 can be provided.

1 Usually public comment, if you're wanting to come to a
2 meeting to speak, at least a lot of Councils require you to
3 send the chair or the executive director, whoever is in
4 charge, notice that you're planning to come and provide
5 public comment.

6 of course, we want to make our Council meetings as
7 accommodating, as accessible as possible.

8 So that's not always, you know, the case.

9 That if somebody does join our meeting and they want us to
10 make public comment, obviously, yes, we're going to allow
11 them to do so.

12 But we do honor that time commitment because that's only
13 what's fair to the rest of the speakers and presenters and
14 the important business that has to be accomplished that day.
15 And sometimes our public comments are going to be addressed
16 in a specific report.

17 So we don't want to, you know, get off our schedule by
18 addressing public comments when it's going to be talked about
19 in a report later in the meeting.

20 So these are just things to keep in mind as you're having you
21 were meetings.

22 That's all.

23 Thank you.

24 And I appreciate being here, too.

25 I appreciate the opportunity to join the meeting.

1 KACIE: Thank you, Gloria.

2 I want to thank you Erica and Peter both for coming today.

3 It's been a pleasure to have you here.

4 I want to make sure that we are watching our time.

5 So, Mike, I think we have one last piece of new business on
6 the strategic plan.

7 And before we do our second comment session.

8 MIKE: Yes.

9 And Kacie I just wanted to add one piece to that that Erica
10 had talked about a forum in January.

11 So I did want to let people know that we do have a date.

12 We did pick a date and a time for that. And that is going to
13 be on Wednesday, January I'm going to pull it up.

14 Wednesday, January 21s at 2 p.m. eastern.

15 That would be 1 p.m. central.

16 So we will send information out to all the CILs about that.

17 We will post that on our website.

18 We'll put it in our newsletter, and we'll put it on our
19 social media, as well.

20 But that is the date and time for the event that Erica was
21 talking about, the public forum, the discussions.

22 So again that's Wednesday, January 21st at 2 p.m.
23 eastern/1 p.m. central.

24 KACIE: Thank you.

25 MIKE: You're welcome.

1 And then for the strategic plan, this was just again, I just
2 wanted to get this into new business that we will be talking
3 about this more in March, but we do have an RFP, a request
4 for proposals out for facilitators.

5 And then we will be narrowing that down to a few in January.
6 And then we will hopefully be voting on the contract for at
7 that facilitator at our March meeting and that will be ready
8 to start in April of 2026.

9 KACIE: All right.

10 Would that be all, Mike?

11 MIKE: That's it, yep.

12 KACIE: Just confirming, that's all.

13 MIKE: Yep.

14 KACIE: All right.

15 So we will close out new business and we will open the floor
16 for public comments again for another 15 minutes.

17 MIKE: Okay.

18 I see Jeremy.

19 MIKE: Go ahead, Catherine.

20 >> Catherine: What can I do for you?

21 For public comment as far as accessibility.

22 >> I found this on the web for public comment.

23 Check it out.

24 INTERPRETER: I'm having some kind of feedback.

25 Can you guys hear that?

1 MIKE: Yeah, it sounded like an AI voice maybe, Catherine or
2 a screen reader, maybe?

3 INTERPRETER: Try it again.

4 Sock okay.

5 I'm sorry.

6 We'll see if that works.

7 >> Catherine: Okay.

8 Anyway, I just want everybody to be mindful, you know, when
9 we do have interpreters and because, you know, we switch out
10 interpreters, that's when you have to spotlight and
11 everything.

12 And I don't want to be a barrier to anybody by any means but
13 for a deaf or hard-of-hearing person, try to make sure we
14 have the access and not have that lag to make sure that we're
15 spotlighting interpreters when they switch for deaf and
16 hard-of-hearing people that have access to, you know, all the
17 meetings and all the comments.

18 So sometimes we just can't always catch that. So just be
19 mindful of that and taking the time to do that. I appreciate
20 that. Thanks and have a great day.

21 MIKE: Thanks, Catherine.

22 Okay.

23 And actually we're going to go.

24 Nancy had her hand up in the previous session and didn't get
25 a chance to make comment so we'll start with Nancy Gadsden

1 and then Jeremy we'll come to you next.

2 So Nancy, go ahead.

3 >> Nancy: Okay.

4 Can you hear me?

5 MIKE: Yes.

6 >> Nancy: So my name is Nancy.

7 So I was wondering what avenues or what type of -- what
8 efforts you guys are doing to make people aware of the
9 centers are available to them?

10 Because there's still newly disabled people who are not aware
11 that these services are available to them.

12 and also for the existing consumers, what are you guys doing
13 to reach out to them to actually get them to collaborate
14 since you guys are supposed to be representing the consumers.

15 And getting to know what we need, what are our needs?

16 What are you guys actively doing?

17 And if you guys are not doing anything right now, what will
18 it look like in the future?

19 INTERPRETER: I will spotlight the interpreter again.

20 Thank you.

21 MIKE: Yes.

22 I will do that again right now.

23 Thank you.

24 Okay.

25 The new interpreter is spotlighted.

1 KACIE: All right.
2 This is Kacie.
3 Your question is actually multiple parts to it.
4 On these questions I'll try to answer what I can.
5 So first off, we have our SPIL committee, which is working on
6 a lot of different pieces of the SPIL.
7 And it's implementing pieces, there are parts of that is
8 creating interactions out with, so that's where some of that
9 response as far as really should be answered by Chris, who is
10 our SPIL chair.
11 Mike is also doing a lot of work as the executive director,
12 going to different events and different things.
13 's going to conferences and meeting with different people and
14 doing different things as the executive director.
15 So then there is the newsletter that people can sign up for
16 and it can go out.
17 We've also been hosting the town halls.
18 We've had four a year, which are in unserved areas.
19 So we've had one in Evansville, we've had one in Lafayette,
20 we've had one in Mike talked about the ones that will be
21 happening in 2026 where we will go to people and reaching out
22 to putting the information out to basically the local
23 networks.
24 We're trying to reach out to I believe Mike and Katy have
25 been reaching out to different organizations within those

1 areas.

2 MIKE: Yep.

3 KACIE: Sending information out about those.

4 >> Nancy: Regarding people who are newly disabled, what are
5 you doing to make them aware?

6 KACIE: Okay.

7 So I know that as far as newly disabled, one of the pieces of
8 the SPIL is working on getting information out to medical
9 doctors as far as medical offices and so forth.

10 >> Nancy: So I haven't seen any information about centers
11 for independent living in my doctor's offices.

12 When I became disabled, they didn't give me any resources.

13 KACIE: Okay.

14 >> Nancy: Will there be a plan to actively change that?
15 Work with medical providers?

16 KACIE: Would you be interested in joining, I know that there
17 will be I believe there's going to be a work group that would
18 be working on that piece.

19 Would I be able to get you in touch with Chris about possibly
20 being a part of that?

21 >> Nancy: Yes, I would love that. Thank you.

22 KACIE: Okay.

23 Could you send Katy, would you be able to get Nancy's email
24 so that we can connect her?

25 MIKE: Katy is not online but we'll do that, Kacie.

1 >> Nancy: Thank you.

2 Appreciate it.

3 MIKE: And then I see Jeremy with his hand up.

4 And then Christian fuller will be after Jeremy.

5 >> Jeremy: Thanks.

6 Yeah.

7 And I failed to do this last time this is Jeremy warmer.

8 Walking spirit is my organization.

9 I am a bilateral above knee amputee from Indianapolis with
10 also several hidden disabilities.

11 So, one, being productive, I want to thank you guys for
12 actually getting to where you are, posting the public
13 comments and your responses.

14 I would recommend that you add into the minutes that you
15 referenced that those are in a separate document called
16 questions and answers.

17 So that that can actually be found by somebody if they're
18 looking for that information.

19 the thing that I wanted and I raised my hand when the
20 conversation about the guardianships was taking place.

21 And I appreciate what Peter and Erica were saying, the
22 independent living philosophy, what's in a name.

23 I also, though, felt very disoriented because I sat on -- oh,
24 sorry.

25 I'm getting a weird note there.

1 Because I sat in on the SPIL committee meeting in November.
2 And what I witnessed was a vote not only to disband the
3 guardianship committee but a vote to create a new committee
4 and maybe that's what you're talking about as the
5 alternatives to guardianship.

6 But what was discussed is the purpose of that committee was
7 to write a new independent living philosophy for Indiana
8 regarding guardianships because the previous committee
9 determined that NICL's statement on guardianships are not
10 compliant with the independent living philosophy, it's too
11 restrictive.

12 There was a huge conversation at that SPIL meeting.

13 And I feel like that's completely been breezed over here.

14 We have to actually talk, if we're going to put the words in
15 their alternatives to guardianship, which that was not what
16 was discussed, we have to actually have what we're saying and
17 doing actually be representative of what we're putting in the
18 names of things.

19 And when it comes to independent living philosophy, that to
20 me was one of the most disturbing things I have heard in the
21 year that I've been monitoring INSILC, was having a
22 subcommittee within the state plan for independent living
23 committee vote to rewrite independent living philosophy
24 because they don't like the national statement because they
25 feel like it's too restrictive on guardianships.

1 So I'm sincerely hoping that things have changed.

2 Thank you.

3 That's all that I want to say.

4 KACIE: Thank you.

5 Thank you, Jeremy.

6 I appreciate your recommendation.

7 That's a really good recommendation.

8 I'll ask Mike to make sure that we do that as far as adding
9 the questions, as far as the reference to a second document,
10 where to find that.

11 MIKE: Yep.

12 KACIE: We can do that. And thank you for your comment on
13 the guardianship piece.

14 As noted.

15 Is there a next person?

16 MIKE: Yes, our next common would be Christian fuller and
17 then it will be Tim Allison after Christian.

18 Christian you should be able to speak.

19 >> Christian: Can you guys hear me?

20 MIKE: Yes.

21 You're coming through fine.

22 >> Christian: I just wanted to say, well I have a comment
23 and a question so I'll start with the comment first.

24 The comment is that I think that this meeting ran much better
25 than the previous ones that I've attended.

1 A lot less dismissive.

2 A hope that that continues and it's not because we had Peter
3 and Erica on the call and that's why this meeting was
4 different.

5 My question is: Will you guys be taking any effort, I know
6 you said you're reaching out to different agencies to, or
7 different vendors when you're trying to have your hybrid
8 meetings in 2026, are any of those vendors or locations in
9 northwest Indiana?

10 So like we're, our consumers here are kind of left out as far
11 as being able to attend those meetings that are super far
12 from where they live at.

13 KACIE: This is Kacie, Mike, would you want to respond to
14 that?

15 MIKE: Sure.

16 KACIE: Because I think you and Katy have been coordinating
17 those.

18 MIKE: Absolutely.

19 So our plan for 2026 is to be March 31st to be in New Albany,
20 Columbus in June 2026, Indianapolis in September 2026, and we
21 will do another virtual one in December.

22 We were in South Bend in June of last year. And we were in
23 Lafayette in March of 2025.

24 And so one area, you know we will do in this SPIL, we will
25 have another town hall around March of 2027 for before the

1 SPIL ends.

2 We haven't set a location for that, but we are always open to
3 feedback in terms of where and the best place to have that.

4 And so I would be happy to take your input and to anyone in
5 the northwest for our committees to consider.

6 >> Christian: Yes, please.

7 That will be greatly appreciated.

8 Because, again, we have a large number of disabled
9 communities here that have opinions that want to get their
10 voices heard and traveling is not always feasible money-wise
11 or just with their disability.

12 MIKE: Sure.

13 No, that makes sense, Christian.

14 I appreciate that and I will make sure that the committees
15 consider your input.

16 >> Christian: Thank you.

17 MIKE: You're welcome.

18 And then I see Tim Allison had their hand up.

19 So Tim you should be able to make your comment now.

20 And then Jason Glen would be after.

21 >> Can you hear me?

22 MIKE: You're a little faint, time, but we can hear you.

23 >> Tim: Okay.

24 What I wanted to ask about first of all thank you foring the
25 time to take our questions and comments.

1 What I wanted to know is what specific steps you have taken
2 with regards to your response that you had for the ACL's
3 corrective action plan and what exact measurements do you
4 have that have been resulting from those corrective actions
5 that you've already taken?

6 And there was also a discussion earlier in the meeting with
7 regards to the policies and procedures manual.

8 And I wanted to know where it's possible to be able to view
9 that as a public participant or attend he?

10 KACIE: Okay.

11 So this is Kacie.

12 The policies and procedures is actually an internal document.

13 It pertains to how -- as far as procedures document is the
14 internal runnings of INSILC.

15 It is actually a national standard.

16 Most SILCs, I am not aware of any, and I could be corrected
17 if I'm wrong here, but SILCs don't have their policies and
18 procedures posted publicly for the public 'see.

19 That's not something that is normal practice.

20 So we haven't posted that. Were the documents to be a public
21 document, we would have to do something that the Council as a
22 whole would have to vote upon to do.

23 So that's just, know that that is why that information is not
24 public as far as policies and procedures.

25 now, as far as the cap, my understanding, Mike correct me if

1 I'm not correct on this, it should be on our website for the
2 public to review.

3 MIKE: Yes, that's correct, it is.

4 KACIE: And has that been updated with what changes we've
5 made and what updates we've done?

6 MIKE: Yes, it has.

7 We do -- every time that we meet with ACL, we send them an
8 update on where we are with the cap.

9 And that's posted on the website.

10 And that's under the state plan section of the website.

11 That's one of the top headers on the site.

12 KACIE: Could you possibly get that link and drop that into
13 community?

14 I know we're very quickly running out of time.

15 It's almost 4 o'clock.

16 So this is Kacie.

17 I hope that kind of answered your question.

18 I think Katy is getting that link.

19 MIKE: Yes.

20 We'll put that in the written answers, the written responses,
21 too.

22 We'll make sure that it goes up.

23 We'll make sure there's a link in there, as well.

24 KACIE: Okay.

25 MIKE: Kacie, I see two other hands raised.

1 Do you have time for two more comments?

2 KACIE: All right.

3 Who's next?

4 MIKE: Jason Glen is next and then Chris Hollingsworth, we're
5 probably out of time at that point.

6 KACIE: All right.

7 We can do one more and then for Chris, I know we don't have
8 time to meet with you as far as answers questions today.

9 But if you can please email me, I would like to make sure we
10 follow up and that we answer that question and we will
11 include it with our, what we share on the website as far as
12 your comments and policies -- comments and Q&A.

13 Sorry.

14 Jason, go ahead.

15 >> Jason: Hello.

16 Thank you for asking my question.

17 It is actually a comment.

18 I want to commend Mike and the crew for doing the best they
19 can.

20 Also I want to remind you that 60 individuals were trained
21 this summer with Everybody Counts.

22 I know for me, I would love to help you in any way possible.

23 And I know that there's other people, as well.

24 Just wanted to know what do you need?

25 How can I get involved?

1 Again, you know, we're not the enemy.

2 You guys aren't the enemy.

3 I just hope that we can come together as a united front.

4 KACIE: All right.

5 This is Kacie.

6 I would love to work together with you.

7 So please send me an email, too.

8 And let's see how we can do that.

9 >> Thank you very much.

10 INTERPRETER: We will do an interpreter switch, Mike.

11 MIKE: Okay.

12 KACIE: So this is Kacie.

13 We are out of time.

14 Again, if anybody had any other comments or questions that we
15 can try to answer, Katy has been following the Q&A to collect
16 those for us to be able to respond to if we hadn't responded
17 to them in a meeting.

18 But please email me at kweldy@indianasilc.org.

19 So that we can make sure that we communicate and connect.

20 Chris, I told you I would follow up with you.

21 I do not have your direct email.

22 So I would need to have your email to do so.

23 And then I made a note from my notes here I got someone else
24 to follow up.

25 Please reach out so that we can make sure we connect with you

1 because we want to make that happen.

2 Since it is now 4:01, we're going to need to call for a
3 motion to adjourn the meeting.

4 And I look forward to seeing everyone in January as far as
5 with the open session.

6 And, again, thank you to the Council for all being here and
7 Peter and Erica and Gloria for their support.

8 >> Amy: I'll make that motion.

9 KACIE: All right.

10 So we have a motion on the floor to adjourn the meeting.

11 Do we have a second?

12 >> Second.

13 KACIE: All right.

14 We'll do a roll call vote to wrap this up.

15 So Lewis?

16 >> Agree.

17 KACIE: Anna?

18 >> Anna: Yes.

19 KACIE: Jennifer?

20 JENNIFER: Yes.

21 KACIE: Amy?

22 >> Amy: Yes.

23 KACIE: Ann?

24 >> Ann: Yes.

25 KACIE: Haley?

1 >> Haily: Yes.
2 KACIE: Christina?
3 >> Christina: Yes.
4 KACIE: Catherine?
5 >> Catherine: Yes.
6 KACIE: And I vote yes as we will.
7 Thank you very much. The meeting's adjourned.
8 It's 4:03.
9 Thanks everyone have a good holiday.
10 >> Thanks for having us.
11 Have a good holiday.
12 MIKE: Thank you, everybody.
13 >> Goodbye, everyone.
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