



# STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

Executive Committee Meeting

**February 18, 2026**

**2:00 PM – 3:00PM**

**ZOOM**

**PRESENT:** Acting Chair Ryan Witterschein, Second Vice-Chair Deborah Ritcey, Acting Secretary Krystal Chase, DSE Representative Lisa Beck, and SILC Assistant Jennifer Beaulieu.

Chair Ryan Witterschein called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

\*Quorum was reached.

## **Approval of the Minutes (EC 12/17/25 Meeting)**

**\*Deborah Ritcey made the motion to approve the meeting minutes as written for the December meeting.**

**Second:** Ryan Witterschein

**Discussion:** None

**All in Favor:** Yes      **Abstention:** Krystal Chase

**Motion Carried.**

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## **SPIL Review**

Deborah Ritcey mentioned that she would like to go through the open SPIL objectives that were assigned to the Executive Committee. Some of those objectives were assigned to the Executive Committee as a placeholder until they could figure out which committee to assign them to. She mentioned that these objectives could be the focus of a Full SILC meeting, and we could ask people to raise their hands to tackle any of the objectives. Ryan Witterschein mentioned that he thinks it is a good idea. He has been wanting to target the SPIL at the next Full SILC meeting. He will send an email out later that day. He noted that what he remembers is the only objectives that were of concern were the transition objectives. A few of the transition objectives were assigned to Amy Clark but the committee was wondering if it should be removed from her already heavy caseload. Lisa Beck mentioned that Amy Clark has sent her some stories, but she doesn't know where they are going to go or who to send them to. Deborah Ritcey mentioned that it is maybe something that we need to figure out.

The Executive Committee went through the SPIL objectives that were assigned to their committee. Regarding 2.1, Deborah Ritcey mentioned that it would probably be easy to identify the gaps. She mentioned that we only need to identify the gaps, we don't need to solve them. She noted that she sent out a document that GSIL created on what was available in each region when GSIL closed their transportation department. We could use that document to identify the gaps. Jennifer Beaulieu noted the survey that was done by the SCC. Deborah Ritcey mentioned that she works with an individual at Impact Consulting where she can get a download of the data they gathered so far regarding that survey. Ryan Witterschein noted the idea of reaching out to Danielle Murphy to see if she has anything. Deborah Ritcey noted that she is going to change the owner of that objective to EC/Deb R. She noted that 2.2 is closed because they already have representation on the SCC. She and Andrew Harmon attend SCC meetings regularly. Objective 2.3, which is regarding MCOs was assigned to Deborah Ritcey and Krystal Chase. Deborah Ritcey noted that she needs to get on that. Regarding 3.2, Ryan Witterschein noted that it has already been created. Deborah Ritcey asked Jennifer Beaulieu to add a comment that the council proposed a training schedule for council meetings. Discussion ensued about what type of training should be included. Ideas for training included housing from Herbert Carpenter, SRC, 211, DRC, VR, DHHS, and the Part B vendors. There were questions about whether an actual list of trainings was created. Jennifer Beaulieu mentioned that it was talked about, but an actual list was never created. Deborah Ritcey mentioned the idea of creating the list and circulating it out to the council. Letting them know this is what we identified and asking if anything is missing from the list. Regarding 3.5, once we have the list of organizations/people we want to present, we create a calendar of trainings.

Deborah Ritcey moved onto the transition/employment objectives which consisted of 4.1, 4.2, and 4.4. Objectives 4.1 and 4.4 were originally assigned to Amy Clark. Objective 4.1 was about success stories. Deborah Ritcey mentioned that GSIL has sent over some success stories. She isn't sure if other organizations have sent over things regarding this objective. She mentioned that Ryan Witterschein and Krystal Chase should have some success stories. Ryan Witterschein mentioned that he assisted in the creation of an assessment tool for transition-aged individuals to assess work readiness. Deborah Ritcey noted that she thinks we have quite a bit of information, we just need to figure out what to do with all the information. Discussion ensued. She noted that for now Jennifer Beaulieu can collect the information, so they have a repository of all the gathered information. Lisa Beck mentioned that she is forwarding Jennifer Beaulieu what Amy Clark sent her earlier today. Similarly with Objective 4.4, Jennifer Beaulieu will act as a repository of all the gathered information. Once they have all the information in one spot, they can figure out what to do with that information. Deborah Ritcey noted that realistically it will probably be posted on the website. Her concern over having it on the website is that it would need to be updated regularly and maintained. Discussion ensued on what the website was capable of. Deborah Ritcey asked Jennifer Beaulieu to label all the information gathered by media type, who it is from, and what objective it relates to. Regarding 4.2, Deborah Ritcey mentioned that we already do that organically. It's about talking to state officials and other people on the benefits of hiring somebody with a disability. She noted that we might need to look at this objective again because she doesn't know if anything has been done on this objective. Jennifer Beaulieu mentioned that Deborah Ritcey has sent over some information regarding Ryan Donnelly's participation in legislative events and hearings.

Deborah Ritcey lastly went over objective 5.4. She thinks that this one would be a good one to put out to the Full SILC. She noted that she thinks that we all do this through our work. The question is how to

quantify the work. She mentioned that to her this objective may be short-sighted because this is going to require us to report on three years of work because that is how the objective is written. She noted that this objective should have been written to say, "Identify an avenue to promote independent living". Then we could be done with it. We could then put a policy together where we require each member to represent the SILC at four meetings a year. She noted that this is why when we do the next SPIL, we should not be so overzealous and be really focusing on what we are looking for because this now implies that we must record three years' worth of data. Which when we do it's going to be short-sighted because not everyone might keep a calendar and not everyone's going to look back at what they have done. Ryan Witterschein will send an email out to everyone to see what people's thoughts are.

Lisa Beck mentioned what is the purpose of voting members if not to help with the mission and to actually do things. Discussion ensued on members who don't take their role seriously or contribute to the SILC. Deborah Ritcey mentioned the idea of reminding people at March's Full SILC meeting that this is a working committee. Lisa Beck asked if there is a process to remove members who aren't contributing. Deborah Ritcey mentioned that there is something in the bylaws, but they have never removed a member. She thinks that most people come on with good intentions, but life gets in the way of their work as a SILC member.

### **Other Business**

Deborah Ritcey asked if we're going to give out the certificate at March's Full SILC meeting. The certificate in question is an appreciation certificate to be awarded to a member of the public who regularly participates in committee and Full SILC meetings. Ryan Witterschein responded yes. He mentioned how this individual has asked to chair a committee or join a committee as a voting member. This individual has applied multiple times to become a voting member of the council, but the governor's office declined to appoint the individual to the council. He thinks this would be a good way to recognize the individual's contributions to the council.

Ryan Witterschein mentioned a proposal that was brought up at the last SRC meeting. The proposal was to change their bylaws so an individual who was voted in by the council and is waiting for governor appointment, can be a voting member of the council even though the governor hasn't appointed them yet. Discussion ensued. The proposal was brought to the council by Richard Sala. There were concerns over what would happen if an individual was given the ability to vote through this proposal and then the governor denied their appointment. Would their votes be null and void? Discussion ensued. It was decided that Lisa Beck would reach out to Richard Sala and ask about the rationale behind the proposal. They will table the proposal till they hear back from Lisa Beck.

Lisa Beck asked how Randy Pierce was doing. Jennifer Beaulieu mentioned that he is at home right now and recovering. She referenced his social media posts and an email he sent out to the Executive Committee. He had some setbacks in late January or early February. In the email, he mentioned that he would like a few weeks to get caught up when he returns to FIS before he returns to the NH SILC. The email will be forwarded to Krystal Chase and Lisa Beck.

Krystal Chase asked what the expectations of the secretary are beyond the review of the minutes and if there was anything her predecessor was working on that they expect her to take over. Deborah Ritcey asked Jennifer Beaulieu when she sends out the minutes, does she send them to Sarah Sweeney or does she directly send them to Randy Pierce. Jennifer Beaulieu responded that she sends them to both Randy

Pierce and Sarah Sweeney because that is what Randy Pierce requested. Deborah Ritcey noted that technically the bylaws say that the secretary reviews the meeting minutes. She mentioned that she thinks the bylaws need to be updated to show that the secretary and/or the chair reviews the meeting minutes. Deborah Ritcey asked Ryan Witterschein how he would like the minutes to be handled. Ryan Witterschein responded that he would like the minutes to be sent to him as well as Krystal Chase. Deborah Ritcey mentioned that there isn't anything that Sarah Sweeney was working on that she expects Krystal Chase to pick up. Ryan Witterschein mentioned that if she is available, Sarah Sweeney used to sit on the membership committee. With Randy Pierce and Sarah Sweeney on leave, it makes it difficult to make quorum at those meetings. Discussion ensued. Krystal Chase mentioned that she should be able to attend those meetings. Deborah Ritcey noted that Ryan Witterschein would need to officially appoint her to the committee. Jennifer Beaulieu will send the meeting invites to Krystal Chase.

### **Adjournment**

**\*Ryan Witterschein motioned for the meeting to adjourn.**

**Second:** Krystal Chase

**Discussion:** None

**All in Favor:** Yes      **Abstention:** None

**Motion Carried.**

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Meeting adjourned at 3:04pm.

Minutes recorded by Jennifer Beaulieu.