



Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, 1:00pm to 4:00pm
&
Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, 9:00am to 12:00pm

Crowne Plaza, SamCIm-Natchez Room,
4728 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA

Attend via zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88056776367?pwd=dxMm8JwS7eHlhRJCyEn5B4DGGCYu7W.1>

“The mission of Louisiana’s Independent Living program(s) is to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, facilitating integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society. Louisiana’s IL Partners promote a philosophy of Independent Living, including consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy.”

The above referenced meeting will be conducted pursuant to R.S.42:17.1 Public comment may be submitted prior to the meeting by email to silcofla@gmail.com. Email silcofla@gmail.com to request accommodations for the meeting.

Public Comments will be allowed on each agenda item.

Statewide Independent Living Council
Quarterly Meeting (Day 1)
Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 1:00pm to 4:00pm
Crowne Plaza, SamClim-Natchez Room, 4728 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88056776367?pwd=dxMm8JwS7eHlhRJCyEn5B4DGGCYu7W.1>

Call to Order (including reminder of [Meeting Protocols](#))

1:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

[Roll Call](#)

Mission Statement

Approval of the [November 2024 Meeting Minutes](#)

[Louisiana Rehabilitation Services](#) – Melissa Bayham

1:20pm

Indicator #2.1.1: Collaboration with Louisiana Workforce Commission is achieved through the SILC Executive Director holding membership on the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council to report SILC activities and reporting LRC information at quarterly SILC meetings.

Indicator #2.1.3: The SILC advocates to Louisiana legislators in support of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services within the Louisiana Workforce Commission and reports advocacy efforts at least once quarterly at SILC meetings.

- Discussion of Program Performance Report (PPR) which is due March 31, 2025.

[Centers for Independent Living \(CILs\) Reports](#)

1:45pm

Indicator #1.1.1: CILs updates are presented at each SILC quarterly meeting.

Indicator #2.1.2: CILs promote completion of income taxes for consumers who are employed with referrals to free preparation sites or Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites and provide updates of referrals at quarterly SILC meetings.

Indicator #2.2.4: CILs maintain membership and participation in Louisiana's Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition (EMDAC) and report on EMDAC activities at quarterly SILC meetings.

Indicator #2.3.1: The CILs maintain AT/DME programs to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to equipment as needed, with CILs reporting activities and progress in quarterly SILC meetings.

Indicator #2.3.2: The CILs provide telecommunication access equipment, hearing aids, and ASL interpreting to consumers who are Deaf, have hearing loss, or who have speech impairment and report on activities at each quarterly SILC meeting.

Indicator #2.3.3: The CILs provide referrals to DME providers and LA Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN) and report referrals and related activities at quarterly SILC meetings.

Indicator #3.1.2: The CILs explore resource development sources to provide alternative funding and promote maintenance of current alternative funding, reporting updates at each quarterly SILC meeting.

- [Resources on Independent Living](#) (RIL)- Alisha Hammond
- [Southwest Louisiana Independence Center](#) (@SLIC)– Randy Dartez
- [New Horizons Independent Living Center](#) (NHILC) – Patricia Yoruw

SILC Members Reports

2:30pm

Objective #1.1: Individuals with disabilities throughout the state are informed of Independent Living philosophy and services.

Indicator #1.1.2: Quarterly presentation by SILC members any services or programs that will benefit the disability community.

Indicator #1.1.3: SILC members promote and attend disability-related events at least once a quarter to educate and raise awareness of the Independent Living philosophy, programs, initiatives, and CIL services.

Indicator #1.1.5: Updates are provided by SILC members at each quarterly SILC meeting regarding activities/events occurring in each member's local community that might provide opportunities for dissemination of Independent Living services and philosophy.

CILs and SILC Members Report

2:55pm

Objective #3.2: SILC and the CILs utilize best practices of successful SILCs and CILs

Indicator #3.2.1: SILC members and the CILs participate in webinars, conference calls, and other training and report on new and creative ideas learned at each quarterly SILC meeting.

Indicator #3.2.2: SILC members and CILs partner with other SILCs, CILs and other disability-related organizations to foster best practices and report on new and creative ideas learned at each quarterly SILC meeting.

Indicator #2.2.5: SILC members and CILs participate in advocacy and education to decision-makers for accessible, affordable housing for individuals with disabilities and report activities and progress at each quarterly meeting.

Matthew Hammond, Nichols State University, Bridge to Independence

3:15pm

Indicator #1.1.6: Post-secondary youth are invited to participate in the quarterly meetings of the SILC.

Compliance, Reporting, Training

3:30pm

Objective #4.2: The SILC achieves compliance with federal SILC standards and indicators.

Indicator #4.2.1: The SILC Chair will review an evaluation tool quarterly to note progress on fulfillment of SILC standards and indicators and will report findings at quarterly SILC meetings.

Indicator #4.2.2: The SILC Chair, Executive Committee and CIL Executive Directors will formulate an Orientation Training Plan during the first quarter of the SPIL for each SILC member to complete training, with members reporting at each quarterly meeting on their progress.

- Discuss "The Power of Your SPIL" webinar training

Recess

4:00pm

**Statewide Independent Living Council
Quarterly Meeting (Day 2)
Thursday, February 6, 2025, from 9:00am to 12:00pm
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Call to Order (including reminder of [Meeting Protocols](#))

9:00am

[Roll Call](#)

Mission Statement

Discuss plan to engage transportation representatives

9:15am

Indicator #2.2.2: SILC members receive updates at quarterly SILC meetings from a state or local transportation representative regarding transportation issues that affect individuals with disabilities in order to provide advocacy when issues are identified.

Updates on Emergency Preparedness

Indicator #2.2.3: SILC members receive updates at quarterly SILC meetings regarding emergency preparedness at least once per year.

State Government Agency Updates regarding SPIL Section 2: Services 9:30am

[Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs](#) - Welma Jackson

[Office of Behavioral Health](#) - Charlene Gradney

[Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs](#) - Cheri Crain

[Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities](#) - Bernard Brown

Louisiana Housing Corporation- Juon Wilson

Pam Allen, Louisiana Center for the Blind

10:15am

Indicator #1.1.8: At least once a year, other disability-related advocacy groups are invited to present information about their organization.

SILC Quarterly Budget Update

10:30am

- [FY 2025 Financial Report through December 31](#) - Fiscal Agent (NHILC)
- SILC Bank Account Balance: \$2,523.15 – Brandy Bordelon, SILC Treasurer

Resource Development and Policies and Procedures

10:45am

Danielle Credeur, Resource Development Committee Chairperson
Phillip Credeur, Bylaws and Policy & Procedure Committee Chairperson

Objective #4.1: The SILC will continue to pursue full autonomy.

Indicator #4.1.1: The SILC Chair appoints a Resource Development Committee within the first SPIL year to explore ways to support independent SILC operations and receives committee reports at each SILC meeting.

Indicator #4.1.4: The [Policy and Procedure manual](#) and [By-Laws](#) will be reviewed at least once a year and updated as needed to reflect any operational or procedural changes, including virtual meetings to allow for a quorum.

Indicator #4.3.2: SILC will add new fiscal process to By-laws.

Executive Director's Report

Bambi Polotzola

11:30am

Decide when and where SILC Meeting will be held at a CIL

Indicator #1.1.7: One quarterly SILC meeting each year is held at a Center for Independent Living.

Future Meeting Dates

May 7 & 8, 2025
August 6 & 7, 2025
November 5 & 6, 2025
February 4 & 5, 2026

Adjournment