



## CT State Independent Living Council (CT SILC)

### Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

3:00 PM

**Board Members Present:** Gretchen Knauff, Chris Blake, Carmen Correa-Rios, Melissa Cullen-Carter, Corey Lee, Rich Luby, Jaclyn Pinney, Darrell Ruopp, Kim Smith, Melissa Thompson, Joe Shortt

**Board Members Absent:** Farrah Garland, Michelle Johnson, Mark Linabury, George Michna\*, Emily Zambrello

\*Denotes non-voting member.

**Staff:** Molly Cole, SILC Executive Director; Michele DuBois, Data Coordinator/Office Administrator

**Guests:** Sharon Heddle, Executive Director - Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut (DNEC)

ACTION	AGENDA ITEM
Call to Order	The meeting was called to Order at 3:09 pm - Quorum established.
Welcome and Introductions	Gretchen Knauff welcomed Joe Shortt as the new Board member representing Independence Northwest. His appointment is not yet official so he is not eligible to vote but can fully participate in the board meeting.
Good News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rich shared that he had a great trip to North Carolina.</li> <li>Kim purchased a long arm machine for quilting, but it has not yet been assembled.</li> <li>Corey saw a concert and ate at Hell’s Kitchen. He was not impressed with the food, but it was fully accessible.</li> <li>Chris bought a juicer but has not yet tried it.</li> <li>DNEC had a successful fundraiser.</li> <li>Today is Joe and Alyssa’s wedding anniversary!</li> </ul>
Public Comment	There was no public comment.
Minutes from September 17, 2025	<p>Motion to accept the minutes by Rich Luby. Melissa Thompson seconded. Discussion: Gretchen noted the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>REV UP is all caps</li> <li>Spelling: visitability was misspelled</li> <li>Spelling: Martinis was misspelled</li> <li>Good News section should read “They also met Rep. Nick Gauthier who asked for more information and would potentially support SDM legislation.”</li> <li>Change Assisted too Assistive</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Rich withdrew his original motion and moved to accept the minutes with Gretchen’s edits. Melissa seconded. Minutes were approved. Melissa Thompson abstained.</b></p>
Treasurer’s Report: Financial Report	Gretchen Knauff presented the <b>Financial Report Summary</b> for the period ending September 30, 2025.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CT SILC's financial position at the end of September 2025 remains strong.</li> <li>• The fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, closed within a few hundred dollars of the approved budget. This included \$42,359 taken from reserves, as was approved by the Board in the budget</li> <li>• We are where we should be financially.</li> <li>• The budget passed for 2025-26 included \$75,000 for the Aging and Disability consultant. That amount included a 10% indirect cost (\$7,500) to SILC. However, this would have involved a SPIL amendment, which is a lengthy and time-consuming process, and this initiative yielded very little for SILC other than the small indirect and a lot of work. Therefore, SILC declined to pursue this, and Aging and Disability are working on other arrangements.</li> </ul> <p><b>No formal vote required for the Treasurer's Report.</b></p>
<p><b>Executive Director's Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operations:</b> We received all payments from the previous fiscal year. A new invoice will be submitted with the quarterly report this week.</li> <li>• <b>Projects:</b> The CT Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance (CCDLA) meets every other week through December and will resume weekly calls in January. Major issues continue to be health care, supported decision making and Food insecurity. The CCDLA food insecurity group meets weekly on Thursdays at 5 PM. Anyone wishing to work with us to address this issue is welcome to join. Just email Molly.</li> <li>• <b>Emergency Preparedness:</b> We held a training with the American Red Cross and staff from all CILs on September 23. This training included the basics of emergency preparedness and emergency shelter. However, it also highlighted how little the Red Cross knows about emergency preparedness for people with disabilities. We may consider training for the Red Cross staff.</li> <li>• <b>Supported Decision Making (SDM):</b> We are planning our second SDM informational forum at the legislative office building on November 13 from 10-11:30 AM. Although it is a hybrid event we would like as many people as possible to attend in person.</li> <li>• <b>Aging and Disability:</b> Some of us attended the Aging and Disability Summit on October 6. This was a well-attended event with strong representation from the SILC and CILS.</li> <li>• <b>Outreach:</b> We had a table at the Step UP for Down Syndrome event in New Britain on October 4. This was a well-attended event, and we had a lot of interest in our materials. We also had a table for REV UP.</li> <li>• <b>Candidates Forum:</b> We are proceeding with plans for the 2026 Candidates Forum for next October. The DD Council has promised support as has DRCT, if they get their funding. We are continuing to seek large and small contributions to support the Forum. It costs \$60-70,000 to implement the forum.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Federal Funding Update</b></p>	<p>Molly clarified the different funding timelines for CILs and SILC. CILs receive both Part B and Part C funds. Their Part C funds are from September 30, 2025, to September 29, 2026. Those funds were awarded. SILC receives Part B funds, as do the CILs. Those funds are awarded from October 1, 2025, through</p>



	<p>September 30, 2026. Those funds were not awarded prior to the shutdown. ADS has said they will fund us through December 31, 2025, even though there is no Notice of Funding Award at this time. They are using I and E funds (Innovation and Expansion), We have also been warned by NCIL that there may be changes in I and E funding so we are unsure how this will affect us. The NCIL meeting funding update last week opened with a dire warning that ALL CILs and SILCs should have a contingency plan in case funds run out. We do have this, but many states do not. Even if funds are awarded, they could be clawed back by the federal government. In other words, nothing is really guaranteed. We need to be prepared.</p> <p>The group discussed the process if we have to shut down, or we run out of funds. Basically, with no funds there is no staff, office or dollars for any goals, including SPIL goals. There are protocols in place to disperse remaining assets in the event SILC ceases to exist; or SILC can remain as simply a board of directors with no real activities or funding. All that is up to the Board.</p>
<p><b>Committee Reports</b></p>	<p><b>DATA TECH COMMITTEE</b> – Eileen Healey No Report.</p> <p><b>EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS</b> – Kim Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Prep training for CIL staff was held and was well received.</li> </ul> <p><b>SPIL COMMITTEE</b> – Chris Blake</p> <p>The committee is working on the needs assessment and trying to determine if there will be one survey for consumers and one for caregivers. NO decision has been made.</p>
<p><b>Small Group Discussion on SILC initiatives</b></p>	<p>The Board members were each assigned a group to discuss the ways board members can support and assist in implementing each initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Group one - Supported Decision Making:</b> Gretchen, Jaclyn and Sharon.</li> <li>• <b>Group two - Emergency Preparedness:</b> Carmen, Kim, Melissa Cullen Carter</li> <li>• <b>Group three - Candidates Forum:</b> Darrell, Corey, Molly</li> <li>• <b>Group four - Civic Engagement:</b> Chris, Joe, Melissa Thompson, Michele DuBois</li> </ul> <p><b>Reports from groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Group 1:</b> Create an elevator speech in order to create ambassadors from the board. Educate the public about SDM.</li> <li>• <b>Group 2:</b> Promote more training and resources. Make sure all board members share training and resource information in their own networks.</li> <li>• <b>Group 3:</b> Focus on getting people in the venue rather than virtual participation. This means meeting transportation needs so people can attend. All Cils and the board need to promote the forum. Look at the sponsors from the Aging and Disability Summit as potential funders.</li> <li>• <b>Group 4:</b> Offer more training on issues and process. The board members can do more outreach in their communities and their own towns. Send a separate CCDLA mailing to the SILC Board.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>	<p>Motion to adjourn by Kim Smith; second by Corey Lee. Adopted unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM</p>