



Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council (MOSILC)

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Executive Director's End on Year 2018 Report

Can you believe it? But here we are with one year under our belts. One year for me as the voice, the face, the Executive Director of the Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council, and I'm proud to now call Missouri home. It has also been one year that MOSILC has been its own independent entity.

Since arriving in Missouri and taking on the administrative responsibilities of the Missouri SILC as its ED, I have kept my promise to bring the independent living philosophy to the forefront and have tried to be a shining beacon that Centers for Independent Living can stand united with.

This hasn't been an easy task, for most CILs for so long have felt like small isolated islands in a big ocean. In my interview for the position I said one of my main tasks in my first two years was to visit each CIL, one at a time. Remarkably, Missouri has twenty-two (22) Centers for Independent Living, to date I have visited fourteen (14) of those Centers.

With that said, I would like to applaud each CIL for the work that you do. Independent Living as a philosophy is easy to accomplish, but as an every day practice takes a lot of ingenuity. The goals and objectives of IL vary constantly in accordance with the needs of individual consumers. Sometime this reality gets lost somewhere in the paperwork and doesn't get communicated to legislators as they try balancing the state budget. Independent Living isn't always understood, especially by someone who hasn't experienced an interdependent lifestyle to achieve independence.

For the past year in the name of independent living, socio-economic equality, workforce integration, civil rights, inclusive education, and many others I've attended meetings and conferences across the state. I've attended and participated in meetings giving my perspective: Money Follows the Person (MFP) Stakeholders, Missouri CILs (MOCIL), Missouri Rehabilitation Association (MRA) through the Heart of MO group, MO State Rehabilitation Council, the MO Developmental Disabilities Council, the Governor's Council on Disabilities, the MO Business Acumen meetings sponsored by the MO Dept of Mental Health, Access and Functional Needs Evacuation Planning, and many others.

I was invited and had the pleasure of speaking to youth who are preparing to transition from high school to further education and/or adult responsibilities. In June I spoke with

the youth attending the MERIL Pre ETS Youth Conference, I took part in a panel discussion at the 2018 Transition Training Institute-Success Ready Students, and mentored youth attending the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum Mentors' Luncheon. In August, the DCAI: Pre-Employment Transition Fair in Viburnum, and spoke during a breakout session at the 2018 State Emergency Management Conference in Osage Beach. In September, I took on a role to give a voice to the Missouri Employment First Coalition.

Also, in September I orchestrated the adoption of the Missouri SILC's new Bylaws that are now in place. Also, in September I filed the necessary forms with the MO Secretary of State office to update MOSILC's Registered Agent & Registered Office, Registration of Fictitious Name(s): Missouri SILC and MOSILC, and Articles of Amendment(s): Purpose and Dissolution; to reflect MOSILC's current independent standing as a public non-profit organization.

With these changes in place and the passing of specific policies and procedures we were able to establish local business banking with multiple accounts having specific purposes: the Gary Moll Memorial Scholarship Fund; the MO Youth Leadership Forum Scholarship; and hopefully soon, the MO APRIL-Rural Youth Conference Fund, all of these in supporting our youth in becoming future leaders.

October 2018 was a busy month, from attending the Relay MO Advisory Committee meeting to traveling to Denver, Colorado for the 2018 APRIL-Rural Conference which was heavily attended and packed with useful information. Once back in Missouri I was on the road to visit three Centers: The IL Center in Joplin, SCIL in Springfield, then On My Own in Nevada. On my Own sponsored a Youth Transition Day Fair at the Elks Lodge in Nevada that was well attended by are students and agencies across the region. I had the privilege of being their guest speaker. With this brings my visit to fourteen CILs in my first year.

The work is not over, there is still much to do. 2019 is a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) reassessment year and there is lots to do. Also, the chairperson, treasurer, and I must evaluate some policies and procedures to bring to the full Board/Council for approval. Hopefully we'll have them ready for approval by our February 2019 Quarterly Meeting.

ATGBrown
10/29/2018