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**SILC Chairperson SILC Vice-Chairperson**

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**Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council (MOSILC)**

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**Executive Director’s Quarterly Report**

Since arriving in the “Show Me State,” Missouri has shown me and my wife much kindness, acceptance, and respect; both in my position as the Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council’s Executive Director and throughout the community we have been well received.

As most of you are aware I started in my capacity as Executive Director of MOSILC on November 6, 2017. Since that time, I have made the acquaintance of many people, embedded myself and become familiar with many Missouri organizations, agencies, and groups involved in advocacy and service provisions for people with disabilities. I have also visited the capitol and met several of your legislators and plan to come to know many more as time moves on. The important thing is that I have begun to become the face of MOSILC, that represent all living with a disability in the state of Missouri.

Though we do not officially have an office space to call home, the Independent Living Resource Center of Jefferson City has graciously offered us a temporary office ‘til we establish a more permanent, accessible, safe, and user-friendly location of our own. Also, as you can see by our letterhead we have a P.O. Box to receive official mail, an established office phone number here in Jefferson City, a Google Voicemail number, and an official email account making us more accessible to the public, for whom we serve.

I have carefully reviewed our Statewide Plan for Independent Living SPIL and currently reviewing the data that is available. For what I have reviewed most centers are on track with satisfying our SPIL, except in economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities. This means encouraging more employers to hire individuals with disabilities who desire to work and earn a fare wage. This also means educating parents on the proper use of an IEP, for it is not a plan for services but a program to assure your children get an education that can open door to their future. It also means educating individuals on financial literacy.

I was trained in a program called Upward to Financial Stability to be a Master Trainer. The program and its curriculum were created and instituted by the National Disability Institute in Washington, DC through a grant from the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities, where I served on for over twelve years. I want to bring this program to Missouri through our Centers for Independent Living CILs. I plan to modify the program materials and make the curriculum and materials available through weekly webinars offered by MOSILC and your Center will be the class rooms across Missouri.

MOSILC has taken a bold step, an important step, a necessary step to become the Disability Rights Leader and Voice Missouri needs. I thank you for entrusting me with this calling, for I do not take it likely. Soon every Center will begin to receive a personal visit from me, I have already visited ILRCJC (an unofficial given, for which we are grateful) and SIL in Columbia.

Location of future meetings and dates for 2018

Suggested Dates: May 11, or May 25 (24th rooms not available)

 August 3 (meeting room not available @ BW), August 10 (meeting room not available @ BW), or August 17 (meeting room available @ BW up to 3PM)

 November 2, November 9