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**Executive Director’s Quarterly Report**

Since our February 2018 quarterly report, I have continued to make the presence of MOSILC known. I have made several visits to the capitol and met briefly with legislators. Since I am still relatively new to the Missouri political arena, I have chosen to continue to take a back seat to MO CILs more seasoned policy advocates. I invite CIL policy advocates to reach-out to me to join you in your legislative visits and I am available to attend events in your local community to represent MOSILC.

Shortly after our last quarterly meeting I got a break from the cold, traveling to Orlando, Florida for the 2018 Annual SILC National Congress. I networked with other SILC EDs and Chairpersons from across the country. After meeting with the other Region VII cohorts, I somehow got myself appointed as the Region VII Representative. It didn’t seem to matter to them that I was relatively new to all this; they all agreed I’ll do just fine and know they had my back.

The sessions were filled with a lot of good information that I could bring back to Missouri to help me in fulfilling my role as MOSILC’s ED. Which brought me to a very important terminology, Board Training, so get geared-up for it, trainings are coming in 2019. Instead of meeting just one day, we’ll need to expand our meeting to two days. The first day, Thursday, will probably start with a light lunch at 12:00NN followed by Board Training from 1:00 ‘till about 5:00PM. Friday, we’ll start our quarterly meeting at 10:00AM and we should conclude our meeting about 1:00PM.

Though for the most part you will find me to be a quiet laidback individual, but I’m a very strong supporter of education. Economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities can only happen with a good education. In order to encourage employers to hire individuals with disabilities who desire to work and earn a fare wage, education is key. Parents must be educated on the proper use of an IEP, and not continually confusing IEP with ISP.

I thank Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation for signing off on my using my home office for now, it has made me more efficient in getting things done for now. March and April were very busy months for me, besides going to the Capitol and briefly meeting legislators I attended several meetings and a couple of local conferences: MPACT RTN CCYC Transition Fair at Lincoln University, Disability Rights Legislative Day at the Capitol, the Business Acumen Meeting sponsored by the Missouri Dept. of Mental Health, the grand opening of Bloom Café at Paraquad, attended two MO State Rehabilitation Council meetings, attended two Relay MO Advisory Committee meetings, Money Follows the Person (MFP) Stakeholders meetings, and gave two presentations at the 2018 Power Up to the Summit Conference.

Sunday, Clementine and I will be headed to Osage Beach for the Missouri Rehabilitation Association (MRA) Annual Training Conference where we’ll have a booth representing MOSILC and the Independent Living philosophy. Also, in the midst of our busy days we have visited several CILs: Delta Center for Independent Living, Paraquad, Disability Resource Association, and Heartland Independent Living Center. As we make our way around the state we’ll be coming your way soon.