

Minutes from DE SILC Advocacy Committee Meeting of September 12, 2023 Held via Zoom starting at 12:10 PM

Members Present: Daniese McMullin-Powell (Advocacy Committee Chairperson) and Blake Roberts (DE SILC Secretary).

Others Present: Debbie Bain (DE SILC Executive Director).

Meeting Commencement

Today's Advocacy Committee meeting commenced at 12:10 PM.

Discussion

Debbie stated the Advocacy Committee does not have regular attendees, so it is difficult to achieve quorum. She indicated that perhaps due to the small number of people in attendance, it might be helpful to discuss strategies to promote participation. Daniese stated that from her perspective, the Committee needs to have a plan of action (an issue to advocate for). Daniese also stated the importance of legislation focused on home and community-based services. She also stated the need for better healthcare.

Debbie recommended that at the October Advocacy Committee meeting, the focus should be on access. She suggested that three accessibility issues be chosen. Example: voting accessibility. Debbie also stated the importance of having a meeting Agenda and an Advocacy Committee report at bi-monthly SILC meetings. Educating people about disability advocacy issues in a concise manner is crucial. The Chairperson offered no opposition to any of Debbie's recommendations. Debbie will draft outreach wording about the agenda for the next Advocacy Committee meeting. Daniese supported this plan of action and stated the importance of knowledge. Daniese suggested that the overarching topic of access for the October meeting be a slogan such as: "Access is more than a ramp." Blake also supported the discussed plan of action for the October Advocacy Committee meeting.

Daniese reminded attendees that Delaware Congressional Senator Chris Coons agreed to sign on to the Latonya Reeves Freedom Act. Acquiring his support was a long process.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled to occur on October 10, 2023 at noon. Today's meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Blake Roberts, DE SILC Secretary