



Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Date: **February 20, 2026**

Time: **2:34 PM CT (approx.) - Adjournment**

Location: **Virtual via Zoom**

1. Call to Order

In the absence of Chair Cecil, Vice Chair Lee Brown, III, called the meeting to order and facilitated the agenda.

2. Roll Call

Council Members Present: Lee Brown III (Vice Chair), Tiffany Glover (Treasurer), Amelia Roehm, Jennifer Wright, Carrie Carlson, Charles Valdez, Eliza Jones, Edward Mitchell (Executive Director, ex officio), Cindy Miles (DSE Representative).

Council Members Absent: Cecil (Chair), Lee Shelby, **Lauren Percy**

Guests & Presenters: Hannah Tuten (Waymo Public Affairs); Center Directors and staff, including Beth James (JcIL), Kasondra “Cassandra” Farmer (proxy for Empower Tennessee), representatives from Mark Woodfall TRAC, DCMS, Christina Clift, members of the public, including Mario Reed, Keith Smith. (See individual center reports below.)

3. Guest Presentation – Waymo Autonomous Ride-Hailing

Presenter: **Hannah Tuten, Waymo Public Affairs**

Ms. Tuten provided an overview of Waymo’s autonomous ride-hailing service, current operating cities (Phoenix, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Miami, Austin, Atlanta), and testing status in Nashville, with an announced partnership to use both the Lyft and Waymo apps upon public launch. She reviewed technology components (29 cameras, LiDAR, radar; 360° sensing up to three football fields), SAE Level-4 autonomy (rider-only operations in defined service areas), accessibility features (screen-reader compatibility, minimized walking time pickup, audible chime for vehicle location, in-ride audio cues, rider support with real-time human agents, pull-over button), and airport service expansion in some markets. She also addressed safety performance, fleet grounding protocols during major incidents, and community engagement via the Waymo Accessibility Network. Q&A covered first-time rider training/support for CILs, service expansion beyond urban cores, protocol during power outages/emergencies, and handling of onboard medical incidents.



4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: **To approve the previous meeting minutes as read.**

Moved by: Dr. Tiffany Glover. Seconded by: Amelia Roehm. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

5. Treasurer's Report

Presenter: **Dr. Tiffany Glover, Treasurer**

Highlights: Total budget \$200,000; actual expenditures to date \$7,128.84; budget to date \$66,666.67; variance \$20,462.17. Salaries paid \$44,430.35 (budget \$113,803; YTD salaries \$37,934.33). Total expenses paid \$65,303.41 (budget \$202,697.78; budget-to-date \$67,565.93; variance -\$2,262.52). Travel underspent due to no Q1 in-person meeting (~\$12,785.08 available). Professional fees are currently under; timing is affected by federal shutdowns.

Executive Director Mitchell noted increased insurance costs due to changes in tax credits, HSA eligibility issues related to plan changes, timing delays linked to federal shutdowns, and upcoming expenditures for app/web compliance. He also noted travel funds likely to support a SPIL (state plan) retreat and potential national travel by the chair as shutdown constraints ease.

Motion: **To approve the Treasurer's Report with necessary corrections.**

Moved by: Amelia Roehm. Seconded by: Dr. Tiffany Glover. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

6. Executive Director's Report

Edward Mitchell reported the following operational updates: SAM.gov registration active through 1/13/2026; Hartford insurance audit submitted 11/25/2025 and cleared; Tennessee charity/business filings completed (fee increase noted); PPR submitted to ACL on 12/15/2025 (ahead of 1/31/2026 deadline); charity renewal approved; CAGE updates completed; IRS Form 990 completed and reviewed.

Engagements & Events: Scheduled to co-present at NASILC (Mar 16-19) on needs assessment metrics; ACL expected to preview SPIL process/timeline. Presented at Vanderbilt "Then and Now" disability history series; panelist for "Navigating Financial Assistance with ABLE Tennessee" with Disability Pathfinder; involvement with G20/D20 disability initiative toward 2026 U.S. G20 in Miami.

7. Old Business

No items raised for discussion.

8. New Business

a) NCIL Region 4 Grassroots Forum Recap

Mitchell summarized the February 11, 2026, Region 4 forum on coordinated advocacy and ongoing regional calls; Amelia Roehm to provide additional notes at a future meeting.



b) Federal FY 2026 IL Funding Update

Council was informed that the FY26 budget includes \$128M for IL Part B and Part C combined, stabilizing funding for the current fiscal year and Centers for Independent Living operations.

c) SPIL (2027–2029) Timeline & Process Overview

Mitchell presented a proactive SPIL development plan with five phases: (1) Pre-planning and data review (Apr–Jun 2026); (1.5) Rev-up stakeholder input with virtual and in-person sessions (Jul–Sep 2026) including potential retreat aligned to Q3/Q4 meetings; (2) Drafting (Oct 2026–Dec 2027) with roles, resource alignment, and incorporation of feedback; (3) Public comment & revision (target 30-day window by Mar 1, 2027); (4) Approval & submission (Apr–May 2027)—SILC, CIL Directors, and DSE signatures; (5) Implementation. An interactive, plain-language SPIL timeline page and app section will track milestones and engagement.

d) Committee Rosters & Updates

SPIL Committee: SILC officers, DSE liaison, and one director from each CIL (Memphis, Empower, DRC, JSIL, TARP, TRAC). Advocacy Committee: members include Carey Carlson, Charles Valdez, and Jennifer Wright. Social Media/Outreach Committee: membership to be finalized as remaining council members select assignments. SILC member training logs/forms to be distributed via Microsoft Forms and DocuSign for records and PPR documentation.

9. Center Director Reports (Highlights)

TRAC (Chattanooga region):

Reported rising food insecurity among consumers; created a peer “best-price” network, and planning a website page for pricing tips. Addressed support difficulties with ID.me access; monitoring AI-driven support gaps. Youth transition fairs are scheduled to begin in early April across 10 counties.

Disability Connection Mid-South (Memphis):

Hosted holiday event (Dec 5); led Transit Equity Day (Feb 7) with ~90 attendees and local officials; April Fair Housing Month collaboration on renters’ rights and social media storytelling; May 21 GAAD event with STAR Center (“Don’t Leave Us Behind” theme: digital access for seniors, classrooms, and home tech); legislative advocacy including interpreter licensure bill; participation in Disability Day on the Hill.

Empower Tennessee (Nashville region):

Ongoing quarterly emergency-preparedness trainings; Access Music City Blue Path accessibility surveys; six active peer groups (Empowered People, Book Club, Living Your Best Empowered Life, Rainbow Crew, etc.); collaborations with Frist Art Museum and Music City Chorus to model inclusive events and reduce participation barriers.

Disability Resource Center (Knoxville):

Presented Youth for Independence programs (YES peer group, Independent Art Workshop, LOL Academy summer training). Provided DME (walkers, wheelchairs, transfer boards, shower chairs, bedside commodes) via the equipment closet; assisted consumers losing SNAP benefits during shutdown. Launched a Job Club Day for employment services.

TARP (Paris/West TN):

Served 742 consumers; 379 goals set and 271 achieved; built 6 ramps; loaned 55 pieces of equipment; ~50 hours of collaboration; 6.5 hours of emergency prep; 86+ hours of outreach. Implementing emergency disability alert integration with Henry County Sheriff and City Police, expanding to 7 more counties. Conducted library presentations and hosted a mental-health/self-care themed Valentine’s event.

JSIL (Jackson):



STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL OF TENNESSEE
Served 403 consumers in the period (1,000+ services); loaned 43 pieces of medical equipment; built 18 ramps. Invited to speak at a major United Way luncheon (≈1,300 attendees). Partnering with the University of Wyoming's Rural Health Pathways Project—27 participants recruited (exceeding target), providing staff training scholarships and consumer stipends; projected >\$7,000 organizational stipend. Upcoming: ADA & Your Rights session with Jeff Miller (Feb 28); ADA Picnic (Jul 17); Holiday Safety Open House (Nov 17) with emergency management partners.

10. Membership/DSE Report

Cindy Miles (DSE) reported two pending vacancies/renewals: Lee Brown's reappointment (seat previously held by Rhonda Crenshaw). Five terms end November 30, 2026; all eligible for a second term—Executive Director will follow up on next steps. Announcement: Assistant Commissioner Kevin Wright retired in February; Julie Johnson (VR Director of Operations) is serving as the interim; the state posting closes on February 23, 2026.

11. Announcements & Public Comment

- Disability Day on the Hill: Community reception Feb 24; Day on the Hill Feb 25. Disability Advocacy Day statewide: Mar 11 (contact Carey Carlson to list events on the website).
- Nashville selected to host Special Olympics USA Games in 2034; Gina (Empower Tennessee) is coordinating locally; Charles Valdez expressed interest in assisting.
- Research/consumer input opportunities shared: United Spinal/Kessler Foundation study on wheelchair breakdowns (stipends available); Shirley Ryan AbilityLab project on Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) experiences with stipends; intended to inform TennCare/Medicaid policy dialogue.
- Public attendees were invited to comment; Mario Reed requested information on getting involved and will receive a recording and materials.

12. Attendance Notations for the Record

Edward Mitchell requested that the minutes reflect that Charles Valdez and Attorney Jones joined during the session.

13. Adjournment & Next Meeting

With no further business, Vice Chair Lee Brown adjourned the meeting.

Next Regular Meeting: **May 15, 2026 (details to be circulated in the meeting packet)**

Appendix A — Motions & Actions Register

1) Prior Minutes — Approve as read.

Moved: Dr. Tiffany Glover | Seconded: Amelia Roehm | Outcome: Passed (voice vote)

2) Treasurer's Report — Approve with necessary corrections.

Moved: Amelia Roehm | Seconded: Dr. Tiffany Glover | Outcome: Passed (voice vote)

Submitted by: **Edward Mitchell, M.B.A., Executive Director**

Approved by: _____ (Chair) Date: _____