**NC Statewide Independent Living Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**August 16, 2013**

Country Inn and Suites, Burlington, NC

**Welcome/Mission /Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 9:07am by Keith Greenarch, Chair.

**SILC Mission statement:** Kay Miley

**Meeting Accessibility Reminders:** Keith Greenarch

**Introductions** were made around the room.

**Meeting Agenda:** no changes or corrections

**Action:** (Miley/Frye) agenda was approved unanimously.

**Changes and/or corrections to the Minutes** of the April 2013 meeting were called for. No additions or changes were made.

**Action:** (Ogburn/Frye) approval of the minutes was unanimous.

**Slate of Officers:** Chair, Keith Greenarch asked Will Miller to present the slate of officers. The slate is as follows: Keith Greenarch – Chair; Gloria Bellamy – Vice Chair; Treasurer – Sandy McMillan; Ping Miller – Secretary; Member at Large – Kay Miley. There were no nominations from the floor.

**Action:** (Miley/Frye) officers were elected unanimously

**Chair Report:** Keith Greenarch, Chair

Cornell has asked for an extended leave of absence until the October meeting.

Four CILs have been visited. All are different and all have talented staff with a goal of striving to provide the consumers with the best service they can so they can continue to live in their community. Consumer choice was mentioned by all staff.

SPIL – very challenging, I’ve learned a lot in regards to the State Plan

3 members were sent to the SILC Congress with SPIL writing the focus

Rene was chair of the writing task force. She brought knowledge and experience from prior SPIL writing.

Jim Whalen was also relied on for his experience

Mark Steele and Deidre Dockery as DSU were very involved and contributed. Couldn’t have done it without them.

Will Miller came in March and really rolled up his sleeves and took charge

With a heavy heart we wish to say farewell to two members who are ending their terms. Jeff McLoud and Dorothy Frye have contributed greatly and will be truly missed

IL Summit committee has done a great job on bringing this to a reality

Great speakers

Quote from a prior email, “I want to create a future of not throwing stones but gathering together and building a path to the future. I want a future recognizing our limits but not spending hour after hour reminding each other of the limits and who the cause is. I want a future where step one is seeking a problem or challenge and step two is suggesting a solution.” Look at the promise to the SILC that you can make and what you want to do. There is a lot of talent in this room.

Yesterday we had good speakers and presentations. Gloria Bellamy worked on the position papers with those present. The six goals of the previous SPIL were looked over at length, looking for what we did right and where we can do better.

**Executive Directors Report:** Will Miller

Thank you to the hotel for addressing and making changes to address several issues that have been raised by SILC members.

Modifications to a room

Swimming pool lift, please use this

Thank you to the staff of the SILC office, Debbie and Freida

Acknowledge Dorothy Frye and Jeff McLoud for their service. You can reapply after a leave.

I would like to address the following.

Participation - Thursday there were trainings and a wrap up of the current SPIL with only half of the members present. Please remember your responsibility, you each bring certain skills, this council is supposed to be the voice of people with disabilities in the state. The members need to be the driving force. We all have ownership in the activities and in the SPIL. All members are needed.

Disagreement - There are a number of times when folks disagree. Disagreement is important, communicating this is critical. If you do not express this disagreement or bring it to the attention of those decision makers you can’t expect positive changes. If you disagree and bring that forward in a constructive manner, and become an active participant in the process then you can have a positive effect on decisions and the way the council operates. All can bring critical thinking and constructive criticism to the council. We can work together to accomplish what we need to on behalf of people with disabilities in North Carolina.

My calendar of activities has been full since the last SILC meeting. Including but not limited to the

2014 – 2016 SPIL

Office administration - Freida is resigning as of the end of August; this has necessitated the search for a new book keeper. Freida will participate in the transition and training.

The posting will stay open till the end of August

Rene noted that Freida was the first employee of the NCSILC as a non-profit, even before there was a physical office

Freida has been a very critical piece of the NCSILC, the cornerstone of the management of our budget

Budget – Even though we are currently in the 2013 fiscal year, we are spending dollars that became available from the federal government in 2012. There are several reasons for this but primarily, the grant with RSA our funder is with DVR, our designated state unit. We are a contractor with DVR, who reimburses our office as well as the Center in Greenville. Because of the processes the state has in place, in order to access the dollars, we have a delay of one year before the funds become available. The Part C centers have smaller contracts with DVR also. All of which are on a one year delay. Typically you would have two years to spend the money but we are in a position where we have the delay. We are working to resolve this process and would like to make it more efficient so the funds could be accessed in the current year. This is a work that we will collaborate with DSU concerning. Mark, Deidre and Pamela are wonderful to work with and I am confident that we will get to a point where all will be satisfied with the outcome. P&E reports are prepared monthly and sent to DVR

Office activities, service and equipment negotiations and contracts. Email glitches have been experienced; please bear with us as we work this out.

Conference activities – Preparing for the IL Summit. SILC member Monica Foster will be the Key Note Speaker. Discovering our Treasures will be held the last week of August.

I participate in all committee meetings, CIL visits have taken place with more expected in the future. I’ve been real impressed.

Met with the Board and Commission representative for the Governor, Philip Christofferson, who assured us that they will process appointments and re-appointments to the SILC. Those who are at the end of their term, you still need to complete a new application. Please complete and return.

Training - I encourage members to participate in all training opportunities available, teleconference, webinars etc. Those who take these seminars could then meet to discuss the modules of the training. This is a great way to learn more as a group.

Travel – I attended the NCIL conference as well as Jen Overfield and Kay Miley. I attended sessions, one presented by Julia Sain who received an award there. I have power point slides from the sessions I attended and would be willing to share with anyone interested. I also participated in the March to Capitol Hill, thank you to Jen Overfield for being my sighted guide. The reauthorization of the Rehab act is pending approval making its way through the legislative process.

**Conference Reports:**

Jennifer Overfield – NCIL Conference

I learned that systems advocacy does make a difference. I recommend this conference it is great for Networking. All should go, I would go again. Ed Robert clips were my favorite; I bought media as well as speeches. APRIL Youth Program and board is something we can learn from.

Kay Miley – NCIL Conference

There were great sessions, ADRC classes. I learned “No wrong door” policy, more about fundraising which pushed big events. Silent Auctions bring in more money. I also brought back materials to share. They will be in the SILC office.

Keith Greenarch – I also attended the NCIL Conference. I was asked, several years ago, to be the NC Hill coordinator. The NCIL conference planning starts months in advance, talking to our members on the Hill, working with their schedulers and getting appointments making it easy for them. As they get to know me and know what I want it has gotten easier. There are 13 congressional districts; each congressional district had a representative from NCIL in their office. The two senators were also visited; I saw Burr and Rene visited Hagan. This was very crucial with Senate Bill 1356 being considered. Both of the senators were on the health committee. We can’t lobby but we can educate and support the reauthorization. The bill should be up for vote in October.

Julia speaking to the bill: The biggest change being proposed by the Senate bill was dropped by both Tom Harkin and Lamar Alexander, being a bipartisan bill. This had to come out of the HELP, Health Education Labor and Pensions committee, which is the most powerful committee in the Senate. NC is the only state with both senators on this committee. The bill passed out of committee and sent to the Senate floor while we were at NCIL. Senator Burr voted no. When contacted he assured that he is in favor of the bill but voted no in protest of political processes involved in the committee. This is a 900 page piece of legislation. The most important piece of this legislation, since Centers began back in 78 – 79 we have been under the US Department of Education, under Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services and under RSA (Rehabilitation Services Administration). This bill proposes that CILs move out of Department of Education Administration to Department of Health and Human Services creating an Independent Living Administration (ILA). Stay up to date on this legislation. I have been the regional director for 8 states for six years. There is no doubt that Keith is the best state coordinator in the southeast and probably in the country. Others often ask how he does it.

Keith – Thank you Julia for such a comprehensive overview of Senate Bill 1356. Email Senator Burr and let him know your position. In the past he has been a strong advocate for people with disabilities and Independent Living. To Julia, we did miss you as our regional director.

Break – 10:18 – 10:40

**Civil Rights Committee:** Jeff McLoud, Chair - gave us an update on legislation and encouraged all to follow what is happening, especially in regards to Medicaid that will affect those with disabilities. Legislation can drastically affect those with disabilities, be vigilant advocates.

Rene encouraged everyone to check out the voter ID bill, this is a 600 plus page bill, there is much more in the bill that just showing photo ID for voting that will affect those with disabilities.

Will encouraged members to be active in legislation processes individually.

**Special Presentation:**  Keith, Chair - presented certificates to Jeff McLoud and Dorothy Frye for their years of service on the council. They were reminded that after a year of absence they are both eligible to reapply.

**Executive Committee:**  Keith, Chair – many activities of the executive committee were mentioned in the Chair Report. Many thanks to all who participate.

**Finance Committee:** Kimlyn Lambert, Your e-blast included minutes and financial statements. We are under budget due to the vacancy of the Executive Director position for many months. Finance committee met with Will and the staff on August 13 to project expenses and preliminarily reallocate budget to align with projected spending between now and the year end which is Sept. 30. The 2013 /14 budget was developed and approved in conjunction with the 2014 – 2016 SPIL. We have $192,850 compared to the current year budget of $203,000. The details are in the SPIL document that went out in the eblast. The cut will affect discretionary items such as travel and registration fees. It will not affect staffing levels or quarterly meetings. Our reimbursements are being processed timely. Paperwork has been submitted for our advance for next year so that we have operating cash at the beginning of our next fiscal year that begins October 1.

**Membership Committee:** Sierra, Chair – Will, Debbie and I met with the Governor’s representative for Boards and Commissions, it was a very positive meeting. He was very open with sharing what applications he had and very interested in us to take off his plate the interviewing process, which is what we have been asking for a number of years now. The agreement we came away with was that any application he receives would be sent to the SILC office so the membership committee could complete their process. He was educated about our process and the requirements with which the council has to comply.

Two applications, Sandra Hicks and Mitzi Kincaid have been submitted. Three members have reapplied whose terms were ending this year, Sandy Ogburn, Kimlyn Lambert and Zach Commander. The committee has discussed adding and/or changing the application wording to help identify applicants with a disability.

The committee has interviewed Edward Joey Glass and would like to present him to the council for endorsement. This nomination was tabled to the next meeting waiting for further investigation.

Sierra encouraged everyone to seek out new members, especially those with disabilities. The SILC application as well as the Governor’s application is on the SILC website.

**Policy – Long Term Planning:** There is no existing chair. Will Miller about looking at editing of travel and reimbursement policies and the conference attendance policy that would clarify the procedure for staying additional night etc. This change has been tabled until the next meeting.

**Community Based Living:** Kay Miley, Chair – Members are needed on this committee. It’s all about transitions; I would like better communication from the Centers in regards to their transition numbers.

Julia Sain – only Part B funds used for transitions is what needs to be accounted for and reported. The centers had to submit adjusted contracts but only one has received the new contract with only a few weeks left to spend the funds.

Mark Steele – this delay was caused by the perfect storm, it’s over my head and am waiting for a response.

Will Miller – asked for further reports to break out Part B funding activity.

**Expanding Network of Centers:**  There have been no grass roots organizations identified.

**Part B Center Report:**  Helen Pase written report read by Keith Greenarch

DARC continues to serve our consumers in Pitt, Beaufort and Wilson counties with addition of a part-time staff in Wilson County we are reaching the medical facilities, disability groups, schools and vendors with DARC information and getting consumers into our office. July was a slow month with very little traffic. A­ugust so far has brought in consumers that found us through the outreach. DARC thanks the SILC for making additional funds available for our center with the 2014 – 2016 SPIL. This will allow us to build out center even more and offer more programs. The contract has been submitted to DVR for the 2013 – 2014 contract year. Mark Steele has graciously worked to hopefully get us funding by October 1, 2013, but has informed us that we might not have the contract until November 1. We continue to have problems with the state reimbursement in a timely manner. As of August 14, DARC have not received the reimbursement for June, 2013 which was submitted July 2, six weeks ago. Without our reimbursement in a reasonable amount of time we will not have any funds to operate our center and help consumers.

Will – Because we operate on a cash basis, we are reimbursed for our expenses. If we run out of funds we are unable to operate and pay for expenses. At the end of September the funds are no longer available to us and are lost if they are not paid to the SILC office or Part B Center. DARC is still waiting for the reimbursement from July as in the SILC office. Another issue is the contracts for 2014 fiscal year which begins Oct. 1, 2013 running through September 30, 2014. We have been informed that the contracts have been delayed and we may not be able to receive the funding which would mean a 13th month of delay. This was caused because due to circumstances out of our control, we didn’t have the budget required to enter into the contract. Mark is doing the best that he can and has allowed us to submit request for cash advance. We have not heard if the request will be approved. The issue stands that this is a contract for funds that became available and will be in their thirteenth month of spending by the time we receive them. This is due to the impossibility that we send them a budget by June 1 when we had no figures to prepare a budget until after that date. That is just a highlight to give you information regarding difficulties we are having accessing our funding and some of the delays in the current state process.

Julia Sain – Is the SILC office in jeopardy of violating the state wage and hour laws? If I have an employee and can’t pay them, I am in violation of the wage and hour laws and can be sued and be investigated by the EEOC. Just because we are nonprofit doesn’t mean that we are exempt of from common sense and legalities. I am always concerned about Helen and don’t know how Gloria did it, you don’t have money and continue to pay your staff. I know of centers outside of NC that have had similar issues and one in particular that the board chair mortgaged his home in order to make payroll so the center didn’t shut down and weren’t in violation of the wage and hour law. We are all tip toeing on the brink of that and I just want to know at what point in this crisis do we fly off the cliff and we shut down because of the inefficiency of our fiscal agent. I’m concern of wage and hour laws and being in violation of our 501(c)3.

Will Miller – Thank you. I have to give the disclaimer that I am not practicing law and am now operating in a different capacity. You raise a valid point, since I have served as Executive Director we have not had to delay payment to our employees. We do receive a cash advance at the beginning of the year that acts as a buffer and enables us to have enough operating funds to date to pay our employees in a timely manner. You do raise a good point. There comes a point when you run out of that buffer and advance funds and want to pay your employees.

Gloria Garton – Actually Julia we ran into that problem very early on in our life cycle at disability Resource Center. At one time our reimbursement had been delayed and we found ourselves, the biggest difficulty as a solely funded Part B Center usually occurred between the months of June to September, because that is when the state is closing out their fiscal year. I can understand the difficulty in that but we did run out of money. One of our board members wrote a personal check to cover payroll. We had to consult a local attorney to discuss the situation. Although there is a very small time frame to amend that situation we would have been looking at a very serious wage and hour law problems. We are paying for hours worked not ahead of time. It was a very tense time for our center.

Julia Sain – so having said that Gloria and I are not voting members for a reason, we can’t afford it. So if we end up not being able to pay for work that Debbie and Will have done and we don’t’ have the money to pay, the board is fiscally responsible for the health of the 501(c)3. If we lose our 501(c)3 or you all cutting a check something has to happen. The only way we can prevent that is if the state starts paying on a timely basis. A governing board of a 501(c)3 is responsible.

Will – Without having researched this, the board members are not subject to personal liability but we do share responsibility because we are the front line, we are working with our DSU on this funding for Part B dollars. We are working closely with the DSU and found that Mark and Deidre are eager and willing to work with us but also struggle to work within the restraints of their organizations. This is trying to be resolved and these issues are important for us to keep in mind and monitor.

Jeff McLoud – Out of curiosity, the way the 501(c)3 is set up the SILC is the board. The SILC is appointed by the Governor generally when appointed by the state you are immune from these kind of actions, if not then everyone has a certain amount of legal protection.

Julia Sain – You are a 501(c)3 you are not required and you will not be sued, that is the immunity. I’m sure you have D&O insurance. If you let the coffers dwindle to zero and do nothing it will die. I’m saying you took an oath to support a 501(c)3.

Jeff McLoud – I agree, that is something every member should weigh heavily. Many members from the disability community have little income and being appointed by the Governor should not bear this burden.

Mark Steele – We are working closely with Will and Helen about the payment issues. We move the requests out of our office quickly to the fiscal services and on to the controller’s office. Moving forward we are trying to eliminate the barriers we have seen and to work on the budget situation and hopefully moving forward we can eliminate the delays.

Jen Overfield – What are the barriers and delays that maybe the SILC can do to help?

Mark Steele – We get the reports in; I review them and try to get them sent on within two days to fiscal services. Once it leaves my desk, fiscal services reviews it and sends it on to the controller’s office, who writes the checks for the state of NC. There is a 10% match that the state has to meet even though it’s federal money. There have been instances where the state does not have the matching funds which then cause a delay in the checks. Concerning this current delay, I know that Helen has been in touch with our fiscal services department and they up to our chief financial officer have been personally contacting the controller’s office to get them to write the check. We are doing what we can at our end but above us there are still delays but I don’t honestly know what they are.

Sierra Royster – When I am late on a payment there is a deadline, Is there a deadline when the money has to be given back once the report has been submitted.

Mark Steele – Yes, there is a deadline for submitting to our office and for our office to submit but the controller’s office does not have a deadline to write the check.

Jen Overfield – Who do we talk to in the controller’s office? Is it effective?

Keith – We’ve done that, we did started speaking to the controller’s office at 2:00pm and got our money by 4:00pm. There is not a day goes by that Will and I are not working on this. Going on three weeks ago we did sign a request for emergency funding so we will not be in this dilemma. We have not gotten a response; we monitor this we will not let us run out of money.

Will Miller – Jen raises a good point, what can our other council members do to get more involved to help work this process out. We need to consider that and come up with strategies if it becomes necessary for how this council will respond, whether it is contacting an individual in state government or your representative to make them aware of the issue. At this point we are working with the DSU to iron out these issues. I appreciate your offer to lend that support and there may come a point for the members to get involved.

Deidre Dockery – Within the DSU’s we have a Medicaid shortfall, this has caused a delay in DSU’s making their payments. This is way above not even in our agency or department. It helps to give that perspective that there is a lot going on within the state. In the month of July the agency only had one check write. I know it doesn’t help when it’s your pocket but it’s a bigger problem.

Gloria Garton – Speaking on behalf of our center and the Board of Directors. As serious as the incident was when the board member had to write that check, despite the frustrations VR always followed up on my concerns and found that the problems was a chain of events. It is a definite problem that needs to be addressed it does not need to be a finger pointing situation. It’s not fair that the representatives of our DSU have to answer for this problem there are barriers out of their control.

Will Miller – For clarification, we are not in the same bucket as the Medicaid money. Part B dollars are federal monies from a different source that are set aside for particular services. So while there may be delays with Medicaid and that pot of money. That is separate from ours. I do understand the 10% match, does that match go to and supplement our Part B dollars or is spent at VR?

Mark Steele – I’m not sure but that 10% has to be spent before we can get the 90%.

Stephanie Johnson – I know that from the state perspective that at the time of the fiscal year end interpreters call saying they haven’t been paid. We know and expect this to happen because there are such tight restraints. Will, you mentioned a buffer. Is this something that the CIL’s can do in anticipation of the end of the fiscal year?

Will – The buffer is a cash advance that should cover up to two months expenses. By the end of the fiscal year that money is running out. We are supposed to have spent that money, if we don’t spend that money it is returned to the DSU at the end of the fiscal year. That brings in the related issue of being in our second year of funding. If we were operating in the current year of funding at the end of the fiscal year if we didn’t get the reimbursement we would still have another fiscal year in the wings of funding available and we wouldn’t totally loose a year of funding that yes goes to employees but also to programs and services. As far as whether the centers can do that I can’t speak to that. I’m not certain about the Part B center but do think they get an advance. I’m not certain in regards to the contracts that the other centers have in regard to their Part B funds.

Rene Cummins – I would like to speak to this as the representative of the centers on the council. Helen is the only Part B center this effects, but this is important, everything that Gloria’s was saying she also started out as a Part B funded center, that is the only funding source when you start out in the beginning. The rest of us are Title 7 Part C centers, we get our funding directly. We are not under your monitor, review and evaluate. You are responsible for having created a Part B Center that is still only viable with the Part B funds. Helen has submitted for that advance. You get that buffer and then you have to work on paying it back. It could be arranged differently but it would have to be addressed in the contract as the up- front money through Money Follows the Person, a revolving cash situation. SILC has a contract for the Part B funds as is DARC. It should be something to investigate. Having checked with other states, no one else operates this way, only NC.

Gloria Garton – Cash advances were somewhat of a solution. Once you get to August you don’t have time to make budget amendments unless you are following the budget very closely. You have to make sure your spending and you don’t have money left over. When we were a part B Center, as a non-profit, our difficulty was that others perceived that if you were receiving state funding you had money. There is education needed when dealing with other funding possibilities. You have to spend the Part B monies based on what you have in your contract. With unrestricted funds we could spend as needed. When your board members begin to feel the pressure to find funding, it is very hard to recruit and keep board members. This really affects morale. The financial situation reaches far beyond the staff.

Keith, when I was in DC a few weeks ago, Will and I sat down and met with Deb Cotter, our representative with RSA. We are going to have a teleconference where these are some of the issue discussed. The DSU’s were asked to participate. Deb should lay out exactly what needs to happen. We are diligently working on this.

**Provision of IL Services:** Sierra Royster, chair. We are a very small committee; we have not met with DSB or VR. This is a goal committee; I would like conversation on how we can work with DVR and DSB to obtain the information to complete these reports to monitor, review and evaluate according to the SPIL goals.

Mark Steele, my report was emailed out but may be null and void after some of the comments made today. I don’t want to get into all the numbers you all have it to read for yourselves. I know later on I‘m to give another update.

Deidre Dockery, all should have the report with the numbers of people served. DSB is working so hard to get new database, BEAM, up and running. We are far behind, we still use a DOS based program. The numbers are a quarter behind. We will capture a lot more information as of 10/15 when we go live with BEAM. Numbers will be captured in real time.

During the quarter we provided services to 863 individuals through our independent living program using our mini centers as well as in home training for individual who are newly blind. It’s beautiful to see the outcome of the services provided, where people can remain in their homes, cook their favorite recipes and do all they desire to do. We provide instruction in how to be safe in the home, how to manage and identify money, pay bills and how to write. It’s a great program that makes a tremendous impact on the individuals served. 207 have participated in the program through the quarter. I would like to say, even if we separate the numbers out, we as group need to celebrate what has happened within our stat. Celebrate together not as individual groups. It is important that we don’t ever to lose sight of these accomplishments. This is what we’ve done to make life better for people with disabilities. Together we all do great things we can collaborate to achieve better outcomes.

**North Carolina Rehabilitation Council:** Jennifer Overfield, I attended the council meeting in Wilmington. There was a meeting the night before for people to voice complaints and concerns. They talked about their strategic plan and membership updates. I reported that the SILC was working on the SPIL. They would like to have a regular representative from the SILC to attend but reimbursement would be required by the person themselves. VR went over their State Plan for anyone who would like to view and other handouts from the meeting.

**NC Rehab Council for the Blind**: Dorothy Frye. I had the opportunity to attend a mini center in Southern Pines in June. There were approximately 15 – 17 consumers attending, the oldest was 95 years old. They offered training in assistive technology and adjustment to blindness and safety and other areas. It was a very good training and another opportunity for peer mentoring. I think it was good experience. I would like to thank the SILC council for allowing me to serve on the council. I want to encourage everyone to be consistent in attendance and participation, it is very important to what we do. I appreciate the opportunity.

Lunch: 12:00 – 1:05

**Youth Leadership Conference**: Sierra Royster

We have a few pictures of the activity if anyone would like to view them. One of the comments was, “I just want to tell everybody that this is the first place that I’ve ever felt at home with family”

To clarify this is for young people ages 15 – 28, from across NC with different disabilities. There were 4 mentors that were delegates from 2012 that were chosen because of their leadership skills. We had 3 professional peers, as well as representatives from DSB, DD Council, NC State Disabilities Service Office.

We had 20 delegates chosen. All showed up and stayed the entire week. They represented the following Counties, Wake Durham, Orange, New Hanover, Caswell, Pitt, Cumberland, Buncombe, Guilford, Surry, Union, Cherokee and two others. The whole group was split up into four regional groups that carried out activities during the week. Each group made up their own champ.

This is the first year to get Centers for Independent Living really involved, Wilmington, Charlotte, Greensboro and Asheville, all who provided staff and helped with planning emphasis on consumer control and IL philosophy and also help carry out the duties of the YLF.

Quote - “One of the most supportive groups I’ve ever experienced”

In the past we have had 1 or 2 speakers that spoke on every subject. This year we had many: Kay McMillan on Disability History, Julia Sain on IL First Hand. One of the things Julia told them is don’t yell and expect the freebies if it doesn’t benefit the whole disability community. This was a message that made a difference all week. Tucker Dupree, a paraolympian swimmer that fought through the barriers to get where he is today, gave a presentation by Skype. Julia Adams a lobbyist from the ARC of NC talked about systems change and what is coming up in the NC system. Jeri Smith talked about travel training and knowing travel systems. A representative from the Health department talked about sex and relationships. Yvette ?? Taught etiquette while eating in preparation for the banquet. Whitney played off of that about how it may not look the same for a person with a disability.

Community orgs that helped throughout the week were, Raleigh Parks and Recreation, VR, DSB, NCSILC, Self advocates of NC, DD Council, Post-secondary Education Program from UNC, Arts Access, Bridge to Sports, Triangle Downs Syndrome Network, Disability Rights NC and Alliance of Disability Advocates. We also had cars to show the options for transportation.

Quote, “Very well done”.

The delegates shared a week full of fun and activities including going out by group to access Pullen Park with the help of Raleigh Parks and Recreation, Transportation with ½ of the group taking a paratransit van, the other took a public bus to downtown, all then rode the R Line, another group went to speak to random employers because they had no prior response from employers contacted, education options helped by DSB and VR accessing NC State campus. Many group observations were made followed by a panel of experts discussing the good and bad in their region in comparison with the day’s activities. The youth enjoyed a Carnival night, a banquet and spray painting the Free Expression Tunnel at NC State.

Quote, “My cup runneth over.”

“I learned that you shouldn’t hope for change you should make change and advocate for change.”

The NCSILC budgets $18,527, Alliance of Disability Advocates has to match 100%, NC DD Council gave $3,000 for speakers, Raleigh Mayor’s Committee for Persons with Disabilities $600, Sprint Relay gave $250, Cosco gave a $25 gift card, Fresh Market – $50, anonymous-$1100, CIL support was payment for 1 staff member’s travel and accommodations. The total cost was $42,775.05. In kind donations were $1,018.25 including donated hours by center staff, facilitator, mentors, group leaders and volunteers, supplies and materials. Donations were received from Centers, CVS, Sprint Relay, YMCA, CAP, Bridge to Sports as well as personal items loaned or donated by individuals.

Quote, “The powers that be, in the state, should attend YLF meetings, participate as an observer to become familiar with all the components of this worthy function”

Quote, I learned… “How to reach out to the right people to get the information I need.”

Satisfaction evaluations rated us 99.6% satisfaction. The statement that rated lowest was "I feel confident in making change in my community."

Quote, “It was great, the beds not so much.”

Staff evaluations were done every day and showed more involvement desired, more conversations with activities getting more involved. Good new relationships made.

Quote, “Watching them interact with one another and look forward to making change, self-advocating, working together in problem solving, seeing them laugh and have fun.”

Looking forward to 2014 we have four mentors, Buncombe, Guildford and 2 from Wake counties with cross disabilities. We are hoping to get the CILs more involved, getting a website up and running again.

SPIL YLF review, 2011 – cost was $40,054, 19 delegates, 40 staff and 3 speakers; 2012 – cost was $41,000, 19 delegates, 46 staff and 5 speakers; 2013 – cost was $42,774.05, 20 delegates, 53 staff, and 9 speakers. The need is validated for an increase in funding; we appreciate the increase in the 14 – 16 SPIL.

Quote, “I learned more about disability history than I thought there ever was in the world”

In closing, Quote, “It’s life changing, I had fun, I feel better about who I am and where I am in life, thanks to all”

Thank you for supporting us and putting the YLF in the SPIL last time and this time.

**IL Summit:** Jim Whalen. I’m going to do three things, 1. Talk about the summit, 2. Talk about what is going on in the center network 3. Lead with a song.

Jim told a story of an experience where he had gravel stuck in his throat thrown from a truck while on a bike ride across Iowa with Team Stop a Lot. This made him realize how important certain moments are, how things change. How we operate on assumptions in life that don’t have to be true, how they can change, taking into account what is possible. This Summit will have a guest speaker, Kelly Buckland who is now the President of NCIL. He has a wealth of experience speaking on what a SILC is and what Centers are and a perspective on what SILC’s promise can be if people around the table choose to grow this into a full fledge council. It will do us all well to listen to Kelly’s message. So if you want to maximize this council come and listen to the message. Kelly has been a Center Director, Executive Director of the Idaho SILC before taking his current role.

I’ve found out that between bureaucracies, administrations, state and CIL’s there is a big lack of how CIL’s operate and what we do, how and why barriers develop and how those can change. It’s time in this state to change that. It’s time to look at possible solutions to our problems. It’s time to understand the business aspect. When we don’t get funds, when we don’t have control over how we operate it’s our own personal butts on the line. This is our life, when we talk about IL it’s about that consumer control that comes down to us. It’s not just unfortunate when we can’t get a contract it’s an attack on our soul, an attack on what we believe. I believe every center director is with me on that. It takes your soul to learn and live IL. The first day will be the expert of Kelly Buckland. The second day will be a sharing of what the Centers are about and what you want the SILC to be about.

The IL Summit will be held the 5th and 6th of September in Winston-Salem. The registration information will be sent in a few days.

Jennifer asked how the funding of IL Summit travel will be handled.

Will – any SILC member will be reimbursed as you are for a council meeting. We will send out the hotel information, please let us know what nights you plan to attend.

The Centers are not expecting any reimbursement from the SILC. The Center Director’s will be there on their own funds.

**Center Network:** Jim Whalen. In a look back of evidence over several years now for CIL’s in dealing with entities from the State of NC. We have seen a mountain of evidence that says two things. One is clear, in our own neighborhoods and centers we can work to get a consumer goal accomplished working with many or any state agency. In the organizational entity we are in a car called the DSU and the state of NC and our service providers are in that same car with us and sometimes it doesn’t seem like the car has a driver. That car no longer works for us. So we are announcing and dedicating that we are going to embark on doing two things. 1. We will explore a different DSU; this is not a comment on the people in this room. 2. Some of the people within state agencies we would like to have as real partners instead of controllers of the purse strings. I don’t know of any personal or professional malice towards any center but the current relationship does not work so we will pursue something else. The SILC as an entity has for the first time in open air talked about how it isn’t working and moving towards making it work. I would encourage you to think about a different DSU. It cripples the positive parts of the relationship and makes it very difficult for autonomous and beneficial action on the part of the SILC.

One more items talked about at the Center Director’s meetings. One of the problems with the network is we have forgotten a couple of things. You can’t get fruit from a tree that doesn’t have any, i.e., the state has no money. That is why we are starting to sell our story elsewhere. How do we sell our message to external audiences where more resources can be obtained?

Jim then sang a parody song called, *The Butter Man*

Will Miller - I appreciated the performance this is news to me and kind of feel like a bomb has gone off in the room. What was proposed is a radical step, one that the SILC will have to consider and choose how to become involved as we continue to try to fulfill the mission of serving our network of Center’s for Independent Living. We hadn’t been consulted on the decision that was mentioned but it is part of the SILC obligation to support a network of Centers. Our response to that and how we proceed from here is up to our members. If you are confused right now and don’t know what has been discussed and what these issues are, it’s time to roll your sleeves up and figure it out. These are big changes being discussed and have ramifications for the people here and consumers.

I don’t have a response planned or discussed. It’s not of critical importance of what my response will be but of the SILC council and the people in this room. It’s my job to foster your efforts and your decisions. The Executive committee will have to lead some serious discussion about this.

**SPIL Discussion**: SPIL Task Force chair has had to leave. This was my first time through. Here were a couple of things that severely restricted what we could do. There has been a lot of turnover since the last spil was written. There was too much work left to be done in the final hours. I feel the council didn’t have the opportunity to get involved. We will work to have more advance opportunities the next go around. Second was the sequestration, there was a 5% cut in the funding the SILC office, the Part B Center and the Part B dollars that the other Centers receive. There was also retraction of temporary funding that was under the American Recovery and Investment Act. There was a lump sum of money from this that was used to create another center. Now that the money is gone that center now has to be funded out of the same pot that the other centers receive. So now the money that was used for programs has been reduced due to the extra funding required by this center. We are still waiting on federal approval. The next big step is implementation, the committees and the chair persons and how we are going to move forward to monitor, review and evaluate.

Keith – We will be assigning committee members and monitoring, reviewing and evaluating.

I know you heard a lot here today that is probably overwhelming. New members please meet with your mentors to discuss what you have heard today. The Executive committee will meet after the IL Summit. Please attend, it will enhance your understanding of what the CIL’s are and what they do. The SPIL was submitted by the end of June. Will and I have spoken with Deb Cotter. There is some clarification that needs to be communicated. A meeting was requested of the responsible parties, Elizabeth Bishop of VR, Eddie Weaver of DSB and me. This will happen in the next week, we will keep you updated about that. I would like to offer Deidre and Mark and opportunity to speak about their participation of the SPIL.

Mark – this was my first time to work on the SPIL, I learned a lot. I didn’t really know what I was doing but what we thought we should be doing at the time. The next time around if I’m still here I will know much more and that it will go a lot smoother.

Deidre – I too am new to the process. I thing that everybody who was a part of the committee worked well together and I think our hearts were in the right place in putting together a plan that would pave the road for the delivery of quality services to individuals with disabilities. There was the opportunity for public comment which was important with all the new people working on this.

Keith – When we started the SPIL it started January of 2012 with the SPIL Task Force being formed. Many members didn’t get a good direction hopefully as we move forward with members coming on and going off of the SILC it will be a much better system.

Jim – I’ve been involved with two state plans in Iowa and two here. There will always be someone who is disappointed always someone who sees things it doesn’t do in regards to the law, always things that were done one way and changed always details that aren’t consistent. What I’m encouraging us to do is implement this the best we can, move it forward and if there needs to be changes I want the people to listen to the reasons why thought changes needs to be made. We can’t change the dollar amount but don’t relieve yourself of your responsibility to see if changes need to be made. Don’t be afraid to make it. One of the things centers are famous for is we are not afraid to say this is what we believe, so in moving this state plan forward make it sure it’s something you believe.

Keith – Something Jim has taught me, if you don’t get it right today you’ve got tomorrow.

**DSU Reports**:

Mark Steele, VR – I’ll keep it short. I want to say about your announcement with the network, I wish you the best. Long with 1356 I wish you the best with that because that would free up my time to focus on a lot of other things that I need to be focused on. So God bless you, I can’t wait for either one of those to happen.

As far as what IL VR has been doing, we are in the last quarter of our fiscal year with turnover in the state office and in the field, so we strand going out in the field and visiting a few of our 16 offices. We are doing that to meet the staff to put a face with names. We do a monthly conference call to talk about issues. You can only do so much over the phone so we are talking with field staff. What can we do to support our field staff and enable them to better serve the consumers of NC? We plan on being in Wilmington on Monday and visiting Gloria’s Center. We are trying to make is easier for the field staff to serve the consumers. When there is a CIL in that area we encourage them to work together and collaborate when possible. Each offer awesome services so when we work together it’s even better.

Deidre Dockery, DSB – I gave most of my information earlier but want to add one thing. We had our summer youth program at the Rehab center which was very successful with 43 individuals participating. 37 of those individuals were in the adaptive to blindness and learning environment program. 31 of those individuals have a secondary disability other than blindness so helping them to prepare for college and having work experiences in the community.

**Ex. Officio Reports**

Vicki Smith, Disability Rights – This report was sent out to everyone in the email blast

Holly Riddle, DD Council – No report. Both Vicki and Holly are at a DD Council meeting that is taking place today.

Stephanie Johnson, DHHS – I didn’t get the report emailed earlier and I apologize. There are a quite a few department initiatives that happened at the same time so I was a little waylaid. Two things I wanted to follow-up on. The equipment distribution service is a program that provides for accessibility for telephone use. We just completed new RFA contracts for the coming fiscal year with the hearing healthcare providers, audiologist and hearing aid fitters for two years. The contracts that they have had to sign with us are a little bit different in that some of our follow ups with customers have determined that they are not receiving demonstrations on how to use the telecoil so they can use it with the telephone, so the new contracts require that the fitters and audiologist do sign off on a form indicating that they have provided that demonstration so customers know how to use the hearing aid with the telephone. Also the applications have been changed to reflect this and the fitter or audiologist is required to identify which ear is being fitted because it only takes one ear to hear on the telephone. Some consumers can obtain a second hearing aid from another source. This helps to determine for a hearing aid that breaks.

For individuals that are applicants for the equipment distribution services with a speech disability there has been a change in that the equipment selection, there are fewer devices that are being offered. I mentioned at the last meeting that we had to curtail our spending because we were exceeding our 4cents per phone line that are allowed by law. There is still equipment there just fewer selections. In communication access we just completed the first year of a program in which we were awarded money from the FCC to provide communication equipment for individuals who are deaf blind individuals. We had 48 applicants that will soon be receiving their equipment. We are starting to line up the training and delivery of the equipment that is being done by Services of the Blind individuals and regional staff of DHH. We have been approved for a second year with a slight increase of money available. The next year is $260,000, the past was $259,000. If you are familiar with any individuals who are deaf blind individuals and would benefit, please have them contact our office.

Dianne Rawdanowicz, CAP reporting for John Marens – John couldn’t be with you today so he asked me to come in. For those of you who are new to the SILC we are a federally mandated program under the Rehab Act of 1984. Our mandate is to help individual to understand and navigate the public rehab system including VR, DSB, IL and the CIL’s. Our goal is to help individual find resolution when problems. We provide advocacy services.

The case being highlighted this qrt involves a DSB consumer. She had difficulty getting services from DSB. She needed CCTV having one that is very old and no longer useful. She was told that because she wasn’t going to work they couldn’t help. No one told her that IL might be able to do that for her. She came to us with the complaint that her application was refused. Under the law every time you come you have the right to apply for services. We were able to work with DSB to help her apply for IL, they took the application. The consumer asked for CAP to remain involved. We help individual to overcome barriers that are real or perceived. We participated in her application being taken. She requested an appeal, which is her federal right. A consumer can do that with any of the public rehab system offices. Instead of a repeals hearing she got an administrative review which is not able to be requested which requires an independent individual looking at the records only. We were able support her in that review and argue the point. Her application was completed and her plan was completed equipment should be received on the 19th of theism month. This is how we work with individual advocacy.

An issue we are dealing with now is a systemic issue. Normally when VR changes a policy anyone who is close to having that service being provided to them is grandfathered in and able to receive the request. On July 1, VR was told we will no longer be able to participate in vehicle purchasing for VR or IL. Up to this time if an individual has the ability to go to work and must have a vehicle and can present a strong enough of an argument VR will come in and pay ½ of the chassis. The individual is responsible the other ½. VR will then come in and provide for most or all of the modifications so individual can utilize the vehicle to go to work. The policy has stopped that process. There are a number of individual that are caught in the portion of the process where all the paperwork has been submitted with department approval all that is lacking, they are not moving forward. We know of four, our goal is to encourage VR to move forward with these individual that are already that close to the process. WE are told that they are working on it. We are going to go to appeal with at least one of them; VR has 45 days from the day of appeal to have the hearing that place in front of an impartial person. We are hoping things work out and move forward. A hearing cost roughly $5000, it’s to their advantage to find a solution. These hearings are each consumer’s right. We can’t solicit clients to come to us the consumer has to initiate the call; all clients have to be given our number. You may want to weigh in on this situation. The folks in VR that we have been dealing with have been very supportive.

The new administration is focused on the economics of the state rather than always the quality we can provide, maybe they will learn. We can’t lobby as you can’t lobby but you may want to add your two cents. Please give john a call if you would like more information.

Keith - There is information in your Member Handbooks if anyone would like to contact John. They are good to work with and very consumer oriented.

Diane - There are only 3 of us and we cover the whole state, we listen a lot and talk a lot until they say if you hush we will do what you want us to do.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:**  Will – if any member wants to call our office to get more information about issues raised today. I won’t try to make up your mind just call and we can sort through these issues .

**Announcements:** - Mark – I just want to remind everyone that the next meeting is October 25. October is National Disability Employment Awareness month. If there are any activities going on in your area get out there and participate.

**Public Comment:**

Gloria – I just wanted to remind everyone that next meeting we should be ready to gravitate to the goals of the new SPIL. We all need to consider our area of interest and how we will monitor, review and evaluate these new goals. We don’t want to drop the ball going in.

Keith – Thank you to everyone, thank you for attending, for all the comments and remember that in October the SPIL will be approved and we will have committees ready to present. The next meeting will be October 24th and 25th. I would suggest getting your reservations early.

**Adjourn:** (Sandy Ogburn/Teresa Staley) Keith Greenarch adjourned the meeting at 2:52.

Next meeting is October 25, 2014

Attendees:

P = Present / T= attending by Teleconference / A = Absent

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Members |  |  |  | CIL Directors |  |
| Greenarch, Keith | P | Kaufman, Joshua | P | Benita Williams | P |
| Bellamy, Gloria | P | Watkins, Oshana | A | Gloria Garton | P |
| Cummins, Rene | P | McMillan, Sandy | A | Jim Whalen | P |
| Turner, Cornell | A |  |  | Julia Sain | P |
| Lambert, Kimlyn | P | Ex. Officio |  |  |  |
| Sinnot, Sandi | A | Riddle, Holly | A |  |  |
| Miley, Kay | P | Smith, Vicki | A |  |  |
| McLoud, Jeff | P | Dockery, Deidre | P |  |  |
| Staley, Teresa | P | Rawdanowicz, Dianne  (for John Marens) | P | Gallery |  |
| Royster, Sierra | P | Mark Steele | P |  |  |
| Frye, Dorothy | P | Stephanie Johnson | P | Lydia Cosgrove | P |
| Commander, Zach | A | Support |  | Mike Ogburn | P |
| Foster, Monica | P | Will Miller | P | Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke | P |
| Overfield, Jennifer | P | Debbie Hippler | P | 2 personal asst. |  |
| Ogburn, Sandy | P | Cath Kiwitt | P |  |  |
| Miller, Clare “Ping” | T | Gay Joyner | P |  |  |