# NC Statewide Independent Living Council

# Meeting Minutes

# January 17, 2014

Country Inn and Suites, Burlington, NC

## Welcome/Mission /Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:09am by Keith Greenarch, Chair.

**SILC Mission statement:** Kay Miley

**Meeting Accessibility Reminders:** Kay Miley

**Introductions** were made around the room. Absences were explained, Sandi Sinnott is out due to doctor’s appointments, Dorothy Frye is out due to family illnesses, and Zach Commander is out, no explanation. A special welcome was made to our newest member, Mitzi Kincaid. Condolences were made to Kimlyn and Dorothy in the loss of their family members. Congratulations were offered to Oshana to celebrate the birth of her daughter in October.

**Meeting Agenda:**  Gloria explained changes to the Agenda. After the Executive Director’s report is given, there will be no standing committee reports given and no morning break. All minutes have been emailed to members and will stand. All other reports will be held until after lunch. This is being done to allow for a working meeting this morning.

Rene Cummins: The Center Director’s report will be given by Gloria Garton, our newly elected chair of the Center Director’s Network.

**Action:** (Marens/Cummins) agenda as amended was unanimously approved.

**Changes and/or corrections to the Minutes:** No changes were offered.

**Action:** (Royster/Kincaid) approval of the minutes was unanimous.

## Chair Report: Keith Greenarch, Chair

The Executive Committee has met twice since the last SILC meeting. There are several things moving the SILC forward. We have talked with Will about mentorship. He and I had a teleconference last week with Kathy Hatch of APRIL which has a mentorship program SILC to SILC and peer to peer. Will has been with us a year in March, he really got baptism by fire and thrown to the wolves. We are going to spend more time collaborating with other SILC directors, have already making several calls to connect with other SILC directors. He has done a great job; we appreciate you and all your work.

The North Carolina Assistive Technology program each year holds a conference. It used to be called the AT Expo and always was held in Raleigh. The conference has changed names. Last year it was held in Concord, this year the conference will be held in Greenville. We are looking into coordinating our October council meeting in Greenville to be held in conjunction with this conference. There are some really good training offered at this event, we talk about getting members into the Centers. This will offer an opportunity for members to visit Helen’s center, Disability Advocates & Resource Center. Debbie will work on the logistics of this.

## Executive Directors Report: Will Miller, Executive Director

I will not go over everything that was in the written report emailed to you in order to save time for committee work. I want to thank Debbie Hippler for the logistic work of getting these meetings together. We have a new book keeper, Kathleen Boate who is doing a fantastic job; we are excited to have her as a part of the team.

Our phone system has been down. It is up as of this week, contact should be normal moving forward.

I would like to encourage member trainings as they become available. I have sent out weekly updates highlighting other training opportunities. Please consider taking advantage of these opportunities. ILRU have self paced training available, go to [www.ilru.org](http://www.ilru.org), and click on training and register to take courses. Mitzi took a few of these rapid courses yesterday during her orientation. It is great ground work for the work done here.

The offer still stands for members to go through rapid courses and teleconference after completing each course. I am still available to do this, please contact the SILC office if interested.

One thing that I forgot to mention in my written report is the 704 report. This is our major reporting document that is sent to the Federal government. Mark Steele completed this report with our input. Thank you to Mark for taking that responsibility and completing the process.

Disability Rights NC has drafted a letter to Department of Transportation in regards to their 20/40 plan. This is the plan addressing the states plans for improvements and long term plan for transportation systems. The plan did not include a reference to disability standards or disability rights laws. Disability Rights did a good job of drafting the letter, we will hear more about that later today. I think it is important for us to have a say in this process.

We need to begin planning for our 2014 IL Summit, projected to take place in September. Good organization and planning will make the event even better.

Most important item to emphasize is that Goal committees should be meeting. It is the SILC’s responsibility to monitor, review and evaluate implementation of the State Plan. This should be the council’s highest priority right now.

### APRIL Conference Reports

Rene Cummins: I would like to thank the Council for the support that allowed me to participate in the APRIL Conference this year in Tulsa, OK. I have a report that will be submitted with more information.

I attended three sessions that I think will be very helpful, two in regard to my center. There was a session on having inclusive choral groups; we have a similar project with our Triangle Alliance Chorus. There was a session on Money Follows the Person; our center is also involved in that project. Those were both very beneficial sessions.

I also strongly echo the decision on measuring yourself by major league standards and pursuing a SILC peer to peer mentor. That is an excellent decision. I was going to recommend this in my report.

Jen Overfield: I also will be sending my written report. Thank you again for allowing me to go to APRIL. Jim’s center did an excellent job presenting a session I attended. I was not aware their center was doing such a great program for children in elementary schools. Sierra also did a great job with the youth. It was like a mini YLF. It was a great opportunity and it was very well organized. There was another session like a mini community companions like Gloria and Rene holds for youth with disabilities who are also LGTB. It’s something more people need to be aware of.

APRIL just has a great youth program.

Gloria Bellamy: Thank you, I look forward to hearing more of the success stories from Jim’s, Rene’s and Gloria’s center. I think these success stories help push forward Independent Living.

This concludes the morning portion of our business meeting. I would like now to turn the meeting over to Ping who will lead our discussion on the SPIL Goals.

We will ask that during this session we focus on where we are. We have an approved SPIL, we need to identify the items that will allow us to monitor and evaluate this SPIL.

## SPIL Goal Discussion

Ping Miller: We are going to go through the goals, Sandy McMillan will facilitate as I scribe. One of the guiding principles of this session as we work together is that we will focus on each of the goals and outline what activities need to occur in those goals. AS ideas are put on the table I want to make sure everyone receives those ideas and activities. If there are any disagreements about definitions, let’s table those. Our goal is really to get all the documentation ready so that the next step would be for each committee to chase down the financial aspects as necessary. This is our working session to plan and document the activities.

Keith Greenarch: I want to commend Ping for taking the ball yesterday. Ping is a project manager for Duke Power. She has a lot of knowledge and brought great ideas. Sandy McMillan got the ball rolling, Ping joined in. I want to thank them both for taking the lead. I think you will find this very beneficial for each goal committee. Ping you said something yesterday, would you please repeat it.

Ping Miller: With regards to comments, I know it can get heated. The guiding principle is, don’t throw daggers at anybody putting ideas on the table. The goal is to put all on the table and document everything. This is a conceptual log so each committee can take this forward to refine. No idea is a bad idea, let’s just document and move forward.

Oshana Watkins: Can we have a copy of what you are working on?

Sandy McMillan: In your green folders you have this. I would like to summarize what we worked on yesterday.

### Discussion of Each Goal / Activity

Each Goal was reviewed. A grid of tracking activities was compiled.

This work in process will be tweaked further by each individual committee.

Great group discussion ensued, a lot of progress was made toward the grids that will be used for reporting to the SILC at each quarterly meeting and to review, monitor and evaluate implementation of the SPIL goals.

These grids are available from the SILC office as well as from each Goal committee.

## Membership Committee: Sierra Royster, chair –

The committee has met monthly. The SILC office has been doing criminal backgroundchecks on applicants. We have interviewed several people in the last six months. We want to present one for approval. Deja Barber is a young person who attends William Peace University. She is 20 years old, has a disability and has been very active in sports, playing wheelchair basketball. She has also helped to start the track and field program in the Triangle area. She lives in Wake County but the committee felt it was important to submit a good applicant to the council.

Sandy McMillan – where do we stand on our number of youth? Deja would meet one of our goals to recruit youth.

Sierra Royster – youth is 15 – 30, we currently have 2 current members that fulfill that category.

### Action: (McMillan, Cummins) There was a unanimous vote of approval to endorse Deja Barber to Governor McCrory for membership on the SILC.

Keith Greenarch: I know you interviewed a number of others, do you know the status of any of the other applicants?

Sierra Royster – Sandra Hicks application is in at the Governor’s office, we are waiting for references for one applicant and a background check on another. We have a streamlined process to be sure of information being shared with an applicant during this long process.

Gloria Bellamy: The Executive committee has been working with the membership committee. We are looking for ways for all of us to recruit new members. As new members come on the SILC, there will be procedures in place for what each can do during the application process.

## Part B Center Report: Helen Pase, DARC Executive Director –

As the ED of DARC, I appreciate the support from the SILC to operate our center. We work hard to reach as many folks as we can. The last quarter of 2013, I visited Disability Partner centers in Asheville and Sylva to learn how those centers operate and what programs are offered. I want to visit the other centers in the state. This information will be an asset to our center. Finances are tight we have to work as closely as we can with the funding we have.

I’ve been trying to get a youth program started since I came on board. I have hired a youth leadership coordinator, I am excited, her name is Lisa, and she has already joined the YLF group and has visited the Alliance Center. Our program will be launched as of Jan 6; we have youth in our community coming and have shown interest in what we are offering.

I took Tommy, one of my staff who had never flown before, to the APRIL Conference in Tulsa, OK. On the way back they gave him a bottle of champagne. The conference was wonderful. I want to comment on Sierra’s workshop. I really learned a lot about working with the youth. It was an eye opening experience; we look forward to working with you and our youth group.

My 704 report was due the week I returned from Tulsa which was completed.

We have been active in providing lunches for seniors and offering center activities for a girls group home. The girls come to our center and use the computer lab when they are out of school. We provided a Christmas tree and gifts for the girls who were unable to go home for the holidays. It was very uplifting.

Our business has slowed down a little bit but with future expos coming up we expect it to grow. We get the word out by participating in these expos, since we cannot advertise. We did over 20 of these activities in the last year.

Thank you for the increase in the funding and your support.

Lunch: 11:40 – 12:50

## Board Representative Reports

### Rehab Council for the Blind – no report was given

### North Carolina Rehab Council – Will Miller

The SILC is required to have a representative on this council under the Rehab Act. Any voting member that is interested, please let me (Will Miller) know. Until a member is appointed, I will attend these meetings.

The implementation of the BEAM program has had multiple issues. There is no hard and fast date for completion.

The SRC councilmembers discussed personnel matters at VRIL local offices.

There is a restructure of NC DHHS rehabilitation and independent living programs under consideration. It is a work in progress.

John Marens: Under Governor Purdue there was talk of consolidating all rehabilitation agencies in one. This was nixed by is being brought back up. This consolidation would bring all dhhs employees onto one campus.

Ping Miller: As a member of this council any understanding of the SILC process would be beneficial.

### Medicaid – Long Term Services – Teresa Staley –

I would love to be mentored by Kelly Bowlander and completely understand what this group is about. We are currently formulating a plan to present to the legislature in March.

Kelly Bowlander: This is a council funded initiative where basically we are trying to get a cross disability group of self advocates and family members together at the table to learn about managed long term supports and services so they can have educated conversations with policy makers and legislatures. They are now talking about many waivers and Medicaid reform. We are trying to get this group of 28 – 29 individuals at the table in conversation about a series of key principles that need to be incorporated into Medicaid reform. Mike Mayer, chair recently presented to an advisory panel during their all day open forum and they said they were really interested in seeing the group’s final report. This is to help educate stakeholders so they can go back and educate their community and also be a voice for the change they wish to see and shake the system.

The next meeting is next Tuesday at the Hyatt. Visitors and staff sit in the back and speak when called upon.

## DSU Director’s Reports

### Vocational Rehabilitation, Mark Steele –

Copies of my report were provided. Our field offices continue to serve the citizens of North Carolina. Our MFP is moving along. Displacement Prevention Program funds are not known yet but we are anticipating that information soon. These are funds available to help with home modifications for persons with disabilities. I want to make you aware of a couple of things coming up through the Assistive Technology plan. They are going to have a demonstration at their office in Raleigh, Waters Edge Dr., on March 27, to demonstrate the Vego program. Vego is a virtual program where a camera device will follow the person around so a Dr. could follow the person instead of making a home visit. This would be used to help detect if the person needed any type of modifications in medication or other needs. It establishes a physical presence in a distant location.

Annette Lauber, the Funding Specialist for the Assistive Technology Program, is retiring. An open house will be held in her honor on March 28th at their offices. Feel free to go by and wish her the best.

### Division of Services for the Blind, Deidre Dockery –

my report was emailed in the last E-blast. I wanted to share that in addition to the 704 report DSB also has to complete the 703, an explanation of services provided.

We provide much information through our mini centers and classes.

We have implemented a new program called A Flurry Blurry Way. This is a program of sensitivity training for family members of persons with vision loss. This came about through feedback from our mini centers.

We are also very heavy into implementing BEAM and preparing to go live with that.

## Network of CILs, Gloria Garton –

Thank you for your support. The last quarter was a very important time of year for us, the 704 reports were due and completed. This is sharing with RSA the important activities, individual services promoting advocacy and awareness initiatives etc.

I have no formal written report but will provide in the future for all to review.

Two centers continue to work with Money Follows the Person: Charlotte and Raleigh. Greenville, Wilmington and Raleigh centers did allocate funds for transitions outside of MFP so those who don’t qualify can still transition.

The Raleigh center’s new project is the Triangle Alliance Chorus, a group that performs under a professional director as a professional choir. All are individuals with intellectual disabilities.

The Wilmington Center was awarded a grant through the office of Violence against women along with our local Rape Crisis Center, the only project in North Carolina and only one of four new projects that were funded for this. This is an initiative to address abuse against people with disabilities. The main goal is by end of year 3 we will be able to take the created Wilmington area team across the state and educate on how to provide assistance to victims with disabilities. People with disabilities have the highest percentage rate of violence and abuse incidents in any given population. The statistics are staggering. It’s a problem I knew existed but not the level at which it happens until my involvement with our local Rape Crisis Center. We are really looking forward to learning from other projects across the states to help address situation so people get fair and equal treatment from reporting to adjudication.

## Ex. Officio Reports

### Disability Rights NC – no report was sent

Will Miller: Disability Rights NC has drafted a letter to the Department of Transportation regarding the 2040 plan. DRNC and NCSILC are building a coalition of folks to comment on this 2040 plan, the long range plan for transportation. This plan was reviewed and found to contain no direct mention of people with disabilities, standards of accessible design, or regulations that deal with making transportation accessible. This letter is mostly to point out that planning to make transportation accessible for people with disabilities needs to be considered up front and part of the initial planning process rather than as a retrofit. It is the law, and the U.S. Department of Justice has issued transportation regulations. The letter also advises that professionals who are knowledgeable of those standards be consulted as the state makes plans for transportation infrastructure and improvements moving forward. Disability Rights has spearheaded this response and would like to get as many co-signers as possible.

Please let your networks know about this coalition and give them the letter. We are hoping to send it by the end of the month.

### Client Assistance Program, John Marens –

My report is available in large print and I have additional copies of the report. I just became aware of a really cool device that is a combination of a Segway and a standup wheelchair. This allows movement up and down and about. A link to this device will be sent out. It’s about $15,000 which is comparable to stand up wheelchairs. I am uncertain of the availability but will update.

I have an NC Tracks problem. A consumer called who because of their disability needed a rolling commode shower chair because of a spinal injury. He came to IL and went through the process all going well. It was discovered that the Medicare/Medicaid did not cover this chair. The cost of the chair was $1330, IL went to the vendor and the price was lowered but then it was basically stuck. After some time and months went by we were called. IT was basically a NC Tracks problem; if a person has a comparable benefit then you have to apply to that benefit. If the benefit does not pay for the device the state pays still at the Medicaid rate. There was no code at NC Tracks for this device so when the vendor went to bill the only comparable chair that came up was a $67 shower bench. At that point the process could not continue with the vendor not able to supply at that rate. CAP became involved, we went to chief of policy, the promise to pay was made and the consumer was able to obtain the chair. This is a systemic issue because anytime there is no code the process is stopped. We are bringing this up and are hopeful that a solution can be reached.

The next consumer I want to bring up today is related to the last report given about van purchases, another systemic issue. I am happy to report that because of a number of people’s efforts we have been able to push through several exceptions. It does not help moving forward but did help those who were stuck in the process. A young man, who is in college, contacted our office because he had been denied after being told he would get assistance. His paperwork was processed after the policy change thus kicking out his request. We were able to get an exception for him and he will be able to purchase a van.

A woman who needed personal service assistance called. She had applied to IL a while ago and was told she was on a waiting list. After a year she contacted them again and was told they couldn’t find her. At this point she called us. Thanks to Pamela Ogoke’s assistance, IL got the person back on the waiting list and she was able to be moved up on the list, due to a reevaluation and her doctor stating she was in danger of being institutionalized.

### Council on Developmental Disabilities, Kelly Bowlander –

The NC Council on Developmental Disabilities is extremely busy. One of the most pressing things we have going is the stakeholders engagement group. Medicaid reform is coming fast and furious, we want to make sure that all stake holders are at the table and are well informed and able to participate in the conversation. The next meeting is Tuesday. The goal is to come up with the principles that are the most important to include in the reform.

Our quarterly meeting is Feb. 20 and 21 at the Hilton downtown in Raleigh. We have seven new members. The majority of the meeting will be giving the members a briefing of all of our 20+ initiatives. This way the members can be more thoroughly involved. The systems change unit, the unit that is over our programs, policies and advocacy, is meeting with allies and ally organizations to discuss the different initiatives. We have six that have just gotten off the ground in the last couple months. These meetings will help bring in the biggest impact. Please contact us if anyone is interested in an info meeting that would take about an hour.

In addition at the upcoming meeting we will be requesting that the council approve the release of three new requests for applications for new grants. These grants will be in areas of financial literacy, sibling support and community guides. AT the end of Feb. we will make sure to send an email out to Will that can be distributed to the SILC in regards to the RFAs.

We do have a lot of exciting initiatives that have a lot of crossover with the SILC. The biggest one is one to do with transitions, Raising Expectations looking at transitions for students. We are not looking at it at the high school levels we are working with four different local education agencies to develop curriculum to be given in middle school. This will help to identify the career goals and paths at an earlier age.

Another initiative involves Direct Support Professionals. These professionals are a vital part of the workforce and an area where we will have a shortage in the coming years due to the increased aging population. We are working on forming a statewide non-profit of DSP to elevate the field and help them organize better to increase respect of the profession. This will help advocate legislatively and at local levels.

We just started a new initiative in January that focuses on sexual assault and domestic violence. We had a number of meetings with those who deal with these problems around the state. We found two major deficits. These providers of services for those with disabilities don’t know how to address sexuality in general let alone the violence of those they serve. When there are people who end up going to shelters etc. the staff is unsure how to best help them. We are teaming with the rape prevention center that will team with a series of different non-profits across the state to work on developing curriculum that will not only train sexual assault and domestic violence assistance providers but will also train direct support professionals and providers of rehabilitative services. We are very excited about these initiatives. I could go on and on but will not at this point. A list of all our initiatives will be distributed.

We are hopefully in the final stage of the search for a new Executive Director. We are hoping to have an announcement in February or March to address this. Holly Riddle, who was our Executive Director for 24 years, is now working at DHHS Senior Policy advisory over IDD policy. Please go to our website, you can sign up to receive notices and updates. www.nccdd.org

### Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Stephanie Johnson –

My printed report went out in the last EBlast. You will hear Jennifer Johnson’s name a lot, she is our communication access manager, who is working on a number of projects right now, some that have implications for you. One is making sure our printed materials and website are accessible for sign language users. She and several staff in the regional centers recently became licensed as deaf interpreters in North Carolina. They are working on this project to make sure that printed materials are available in ASL format. Philip Woodward is our contact with the office of Communication at VR. They are working together; it is spilling over to other sister agencies making sure there is equal access, such as public health information and press releases.

The second item Jennifer is working on is Emergency Preparedness. A couple years ago at the FL meeting of the registry of interpreters, there was training called strike team training for interpreters to be available as a team in the event of a disaster. Some North Carolina registered interpreters went for this training and worked to bring it to North Carolina. We are now trying to broaden the whole concept of the strike team. To be a member of this team you have to go though lots of levels of training, in February there will be training for interpreters to begin this process. This will be the first tier. I understand we have to cut off numbers because the response has been so great. Over 100 people are expected.

At the regional center level they have been focusing on providing more information, workshops and training, partnering with navigators with the Affordable Healthcare Act. Some of the navigators have been going and providing trainings for our customers, with large numbers attending. We have been unable to find accessible information online for the deaf, the sign language users. We’ve been trying to do what we can at the local level.

Another area has been the emergency management and preparation at the local level. The Wilmington and Charlotte fire departments are providing smoke detectors for the deaf and hard of hearing in their areas.

The Southeast regional institute on deafness, an organization that travels from year to year, is held in one of 6 or 7 states in the southeastern part of the US. We are the host for 2014; it will be in Charlotte the week following the October SILC meeting on Monday thru Thursday. I happen to be on the program planning committee; I don’t have the call for proposals yet but if you are interested in providing a workshop at this conference, please let me know.

On a personal note, I’ve been here for a year and I’m finally starting to understand what goes on here. It’s been a whole different world and one of the things I realized is that I really need to understand what happens at a Centers for Independent Living. I have a rotation going to the regional centers and go to their team meeting, so while I’m in the area I’m going to make arrangements to meet and visit the CIL in the same area. I started with Julia Sain’s center in December. I was just in Asheville but missed the opportunity to visit that center. I am trying to visit and see each CIL and the work you do and how our regional centers can partner to make our services more effective. What I understand is the regional center managers already have a connection with some of the CILs. In the transition to my current job I missed the opportunity to connect with the Greenville center.

## Old Business, New Business, Announcements, Public Comment

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:**

Gloria Bellamy: All Goal committee chairmen need to set dates for their next committee meetings and share them with the SILC office for posting on the website.

Sierra Royster: YLF applications are out for staff who will lead up to five people, and applications for delegates. These applications are due later in March. The delegate applications are out, help spread the word. There are flyers here for you to take, hand out and post. If everybody in this room could get one person to apply we are ahead of the game. Please send out through all your networks. There is money to fund 20 people.

Will Miller: These applications will be posted on our website so all can open and print these materials.

**Announcements:** none

**Public Comment:** Will Miller thanked Keith stating there is no one more devoted to IL and that Will admires that dedication.

Jim Whalen: Keith has had an overwhelming three months with personal stuff.

Keith Greenarch: Jim is one of the most dedicated leaders, trying to lead as well as he could. Jim is totally consumer driven and has stepped in and stepped up. Thank you to one hell of a center director.

## Adjourn: Ogburn/Bellamy

Adjourned at 3:15

Next meeting is April 25, 2014

## Attendees:

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Members** |  | **Ex. Officio** |  | **Guests** |  |
| Greenarch, Keith | P | Smith, Vicki | A | Gay Joyner | P |
| Bellamy, Gloria | P | Dockery, Deidre | P | Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke | P |
| Cummins, Rene | P | John Marens | P | Mike Ogburn | P |
| Lambert, Kimlyn | T | Mark Steele | P | Kelly Bowlander | P |
| Sinnott, Sandi | A | Stephanie Johnson | P |  |  |
| Miley, Kay | P | **CIL Directors** |  |  |  |
| Staley, Teresa | P | Julia Sain | P |  |  |
| Royster, Sierra | P | Jim Whalen | P |  |  |
| Frye, Dorothy | A | Gloria Garton | P |  |  |
| Commander, Zach | A | Helen Pase | P |  |  |
| Overfield, Jennifer | P | **Staff/Support** |  |  |  |
| Ogburn, Sandy | P | Will Miller | P |  |  |
| Miller, Clare “Ping” | P | Debbie Hippler | P |  |  |
| Kaufman, Joshua | T | Cath Kiwitt | P |  |  |
| Watkins, Oshana | P | Mark Lineberger | P |  |  |
| McMillan, Sandy | P | 2 PA’s | P |  |  |
| Kincaid, Mitzi | P |  |  |  |  |