**NC Division of Services for the Blind**

**Report to the NC SILC for April 1, 2016 Meeting**

The below data on numbers served and rehabilitated is preliminary data. Complete data through the end of March is not available until April 15th.

Jan 2016 to March 2016 DSB’s Independent Living Rehabilitation and Independent Living Older Blind Programs served the following numbers:

Independent Living Rehabilitation = 321

Independent Living Older Blind = 550

Total served both programs = 871

Individuals who successfully achieved their independent living goals:

Independent Living Rehabilitation = 100

Independent Living Older Blind = 44

Total served both programs = 144

The NC Division of Services for the Blind’s Independent Living Rehabilitation Program held 4 mini centers serving 56 participants between January to March 2016. Mini centers are community based learning programs in which individuals receive instruction in adaptive living skills, safe travel techniques, peer support and hands-on instruction with a variety of low and high tech devices. Instruction and adjustment counseling is also provided in the home.

Our Independent Living Rehabilitation Counselors were under significant travel restrictions from mid-November until the end of January when we were able to get permission to allow ILR Counselors to travel as needed again which is critical to providing direct services to a primarily non-driving population. Our ILRC’s were exceptionally collaborative and creative in their efforts to continue providing quality services during this time and we are pleased they have been able to resume their normal mode of operating.

Cynthia Speight continues to serve as our Interim Director. The Director position has posted since the last SILC meeting. We continue to be fully staffed with our Independent Living Rehabilitation Counselor positions who provide direct services and hope to fill our Independent Living Program Specialist position in the near future.

Submitted by Patricia Sikes, Chief of Rehabilitation Programs & Facilities 03/21/2016.