# NCSILC Executive Director’s Report – July 2014

Will Miller

Summer 2014 is upon us! I hope this report finds you all cool and enjoying some down time. The SILC office is gearing up for our July meeting and hopes to continue the SILC’s momentum from an excellent April meeting.

In April, the SILC voted to reallocate $13,500 from the FY 2014 SILC office budget and $8,358 from the Joy A. Shabazz Center for Independent Living (CIL) to the other seven CILs. The SILC also voted to allocate $1,000 each to Disability Resource Center (Wilmington CIL) and Disability Advocates and Resource Center (Greenville Part B CIL). These allocations require contract amendments that must be approved by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). The SILC office and CILs have submitted all the documents required for contract amendments and are awaiting approval from DVR.

The SILC also voted to amend Section 3.2 of our current State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) in order to clarify how any Title VII, Part C funds in excess of the standard cost of living increase will be allocated if they are insufficient to create a new CIL. SPIL amendment requires approval by the SILC Chair and the Directors of DVR and DSB (Division of Services for the Blind). All necessary signatures have been obtained and the amended SPIL has been submitted to our funding agency, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). The Complete, amended SPIL will be posted to the NCSILC website once we receive notice of approval from RSA.

Speaking of the SILC website ([www.ncsilc.org](http://www.ncsilc.org)), we have worked out most of the kinks from the recent enhancements and hope that it is becoming a valuable tool for our members. All committee meetings appear on the web calendar, and meeting minutes are posted on the “All Committee News” webpage (<http://ncsilc.org/committees/committee-news/>) or from that individual committee’s webpage. Other documents for SILC meetings will also be posted to All Committee News, and will be archived on the “Quarterly Meeting Documents” webpage at http://ncsilc.org/quarterly-meeting-document/ (available from the Homepage by clicking on the “View Our Documents” link, and then the “Quarterly mtg docs” link on the next page). I encourage you to explore our website, and please share your suggestions, compliments or criticisms with the SILC office.

There have been 3,537 hits to the website since the last SILC meeting (April 26 to July 7). The SILC office continues to monitor the number of hits to our website, which websites serve as portals to ncsilc.org, and what pages of the site are most frequently visited. Thanks as always to Debbie for her work with the website!

As mentioned during the last SILC meeting, I have completed the Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) program’s Smooth as SILC webcourse, and joined the APRIL (Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living) peer-to-peer mentorship program. Brad Williams, Executive Director of the New York SILC, was chosen as my mentor, and we will get together to discuss SILC business on Wednesday, July 16 at the SILC office. Brad will attend our Member Enrichment sessions on Thursday, July 17, to provide training to SILC members on SPIL needs assessment, implications of the loss of ARRA funding, and SILC office priorities. Jeff Stevens from the NC Department of Health and Human Services will also provide a session on Thursday, so please do your best to attend! This will be an excellent learning opportunity for us all.

The SILC office received seventeen information and referral requests via phone and email from April 26 to July 7. Eight requests were from individuals with disabilities (IWDs), seven from family members or friends of IWDs, one from a city government employee, and one from the host of a radio program. Individuals seeking IL services are referred to CILs and/or local VR-IL or DSB-IL offices in their area.

Our SILC committees have slowed down a bit during the summer months but are still meeting to monitor our SPIL. The following is an updated list of committee meetings held this fiscal year:

* Executive: 11/25/2013, 1/7/2014, 2/24/2014, 3/31/2014, 5/23/2014, 5/29/2014, 6/23/2014
* Finance: 1/14/2014, 2/18/2014, 3/18/2014, 4/15/2014, 5/20/2014, 6/17/2014
* Membership: 1/3/2014, 3/12/2014, 4/16/2014, 5/21/2014, 6/11/2014
* Policy: 12/5/2013, 2/6/2014, 3/6/2014, 4/3/2014, 5/1/2014, 6/5/2014
* Goal 1: 3/10/2014
* Goal 2: 11/13/2013, 12/12/2013, 1/23/2014, 6/12/2014
* Goal 3: 1/23/2014, 2/27/2014
* Goal 4: 11/12/2013, 2/19/2014, 4/16/2014, 5/21/2014, 6/18/2014
* Goal 5: 11/19/2013, 3/11/2014
* Goal 6: 2/7/2014, 4/11/2014, 6/13/2014

Looking ahead, there are several items of SILC business to monitor moving forward. As mentioned above, the SILC has a contract amendment pending with DVR. We have also submitted documents for the SILC office’s FY 2015 contracts, also pending at DVR. ARRA funding is set to expire for CILs in the next fiscal year, which will likely result in an approximately $30,000 loss of funding for our Part C CILs. The SILC must continue to monitor our 2014-2016 SPIL, while looking ahead to the needs assessment process required for the 2017-2019 SPIL. The U.S. Senate has passed the Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA), and the bill is expected to pass through the House of Representatives soon, ushering in many changes to the Independent Living programs. The Executive Committee and SILC office are planning the annual IL Summit to take place in Raleigh this September, and we are planning the next regular SILC meeting to take place in Greenville in conjunction with the G.R.E.A.T. Conference in October. AS they say, there’s no rest for the weary!

Thanks again for all of your work on behalf of individuals with disabilities in North Carolina. Have a fantastic spring!

Will Miller, NCSILC Executive Director