

NCSILC Executive Director's Report – April 2014

Will Miller

Greetings from the SILC office. As many of you know, March 11 marked my one-year anniversary as NCSILC's Executive Director. I would like to thank you all for your contribution to the SILC and the independent living movement in North Carolina. I am proud of the progress the council has made after a year of collaboration, and I am even more excited about its potential.

The past year has been a tremendous learning experience for me, and I plan to continue development activities going forward. I have joined the APRIL (Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living) peer-to-peer mentorship program and chose Brad Williams, Executive Director of the New York SILC, as a mentor. Brad has already provided good insight on several topics and will likely join us at our next SILC meeting in July. I have also signed up for the Smooth as SILC webcourse offered by ILRU (the Independent Living Research Utilization program). The webcourse runs from April 28 to May 16 with a subject matter of SILC duties and responsibilities.

Since my first SILC meeting in April 2013 I have heard multiple requests and suggestions for expanded use of the NCSILC website. In response, the SILC office has implemented several changes to www.ncsilc.org that I hope will make it a more useful, interactive and accessible tool for our members in the future. Debbie and I will provide a tour of improvements to the website at the SILC business meeting on April 25. We have also contracted a new company to host the website, email, and to provide I.T. support in hopes that there will be fewer disruptions to these channels of communication going forward.

Speaking of www.ncsilc.org, there have been 3,487 hits to the website since the last SILC meeting (January 18 to April 16). The SILC office monitors 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. More ncsilc.org web stats are included at the bottom of this report. Thanks to Debbie for her work posting to the site and tracking stats!

The SILC office received twelve information and referral requests via phone and email from January 1 to March 31. Seven requests were from individuals

with disabilities (IWDs), four from family members or friends of IWDs, and one from staff of a nonprofit organization. Individuals seeking IL services are referred to CILs and/or local VR-IL or DSB-IL offices in their area.

SILC committees have remained active during the second quarter. 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
- Finance: 1/14/2014, 2/18/2014, 3/18/2014, 4/15/2014
- Membership: 1/3/2014, 3/12/2014, 4/16/2014
- Policy: 12/5/2013, 2/6/2014, 3/6/2014, 4/3/2014
- Goal 1: 3/10/2014
- Goal 2: 11/13/2013, 12/12/2013, 1/23/2014
- Goal 3: 1/23/2014, 2/27/2014
- Goal 4: 11/12/2013, 2/19/2014, 4/16/2014
- Goal 5: 11/19/2013, 3/11/2014
- Goal 6: 2/7/2014, 4/11/2014

Thank you to all committees for your work in-between SILC meetings.

Looking ahead, there are a couple of SILC events on the horizon that I hope everyone can attend. The Executive Committee and SILC office are planning the annual IL Summit to take place in Raleigh this September, and will update you with more details in the near future. In October, we are planning the regular SILC meeting to take place in Greenville, which will enable members to visit the Part B CIL and participate in the G.R.E.A.T. Conference.

Another upcoming event that I would like to bring to your attention is NCIL's 2014 Annual Conference. The conference takes place in Washington, D.C. from July 27 – 31. In addition to offering a great opportunity to meet IL advocates from across the U.S., the conference includes informative sessions on current events and best practices in IL. NCSILC typically sends three of its members, so please contact the SILC office if you would like to attend.

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

WWW.NCSILC.ORG

Web Stats

January 17 – April 16

January 18 – 31: 473 hits

➤ Average per day: 29.6

February 1 – 28: 942 hits

➤ Average per day: 29.7

March 1 – 31: 1351 hits

➤ Average per day: 22.9

April 1 – 16: 721 hits

➤ Average per day: 22.2

Total: 3487

➤ Average per day: 25.5

Top five portals to www.ncsilc.org:

1. Google
2. Bing
3. Yahoo
4. Semalt
5. AOL

Top five pages visited:

1. Centers
2. Council
3. YLF (tie)
3. Contact Us (tie)
5. Veterans