

**NC Statewide Independent Living Council
Meeting Minutes**

July 18, 2014

Country Inn and Suites, Burlington, NC

Welcome/Mission /Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am by Keith Greenarch, Chair. A moment of silence was observed for Mr. Bob Thompson after a time of sharing.

SILC Mission statement: Mitzi Kincaid

Meeting Accessibility Reminders: Keith Greenarch

Introductions were made around the room. Absences were explained and/or addressed.

Meeting Agenda: Motion to accept agenda presented by Keith Greenarch

Action: (Ogburn/Staley) agenda was unanimously approved.

Changes and/or corrections to the Minutes: Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke requested the following corrections: the removal of the extensive footer and changing physical to fiscal in regards to the finances/budget.

Action: (Watkins/Kincaid) approval of the minutes was unanimous with the corrections made.

Chair Report:

Keith Greenarch, Chair

One important issue we've been working on with our Designated State Unit is moving into current year funding. We are moving forward to make this a reality; it's been a lot of hard work. SILC office reviewed their operating cost for the fiscal year finding \$13,500 to reallocate to the Centers.

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Committees meetings are being held, working on our current SPIL. This will continue as we are knocking on the door of the second year.

We had a very good session yesterday. Thank you to Brad Williams. For those who weren't here, you missed a great opportunity to learn about needs assessment and what we need to start looking at. He also worked with Will through the APRIL peer to peer program.

I want to apologize to the Center Directors. The committees that they were appointed to were not notified but have been since. The appointments are as follows, Rene Cummins is the Chair of Goal 1; The Youth Leadership Goal 2 - Cathy Hollingsworth; Goal 3 - Julia Sain and Helen Pase; SILC office, Goal 4 is Barbara Davis; Goal 5 is Gloria Garton; No assignment has been made to Goal 6.

Will Miller – this also appears on the committee pages of the website.

Keith Greenarch - One of the things I'm working on is to gain access to innovation and expansion which is referred to as I&E funds, Social Security state reimbursement funds which can be used to support our SILC office, which then would allow funds from the SILC budget to be used to fund the SPIL and its goals. We talked about this at length but the wheels turn slow. I have sent emails to Elizabeth Bishop but haven't gotten a response. I'm requesting a one on one with her to discuss this. It will be crucial as we move forward.

We worked on an amendment of section 3.2 of the current SPIL. This was submitted on July 2, signed off by myself as chair and our Designated State Unit's, Eddie Weaver and Elizabeth Bishop. This amendment addressed the cost of living allocation.

I want to say that this will be my last meeting as chair. Thank you to the SILC board and staff. I have one more year on my term so you will still have me around you will just have a new chair. We all share the passion to do what we do, we all do it differently but we have the same mission. You

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have to be tough to do what you do. As I look over the past two years, the time has gone fast. The SILC office does very hard work and we have a good working relationship. They are always willing to do what needs to be done. I want you to remember that everyone here is here to make a difference to the people of North Carolina, no matter what your title is. Our job and passion is to make North Carolina a better state for people with disabilities. I know we have folks out there who work every day to fight the fight.

John Marens – Keith I would like to thank you. You have brought a level of professionalism, mindfulness and dedication to this. The meetings are different since you have become the chair. The SILC is a diverse group of many personalities. This is a better experience because of you. Thank you for all you have done.

Executive Directors Report:

Will Miller, Executive Director

I want to thank the staff for all the preparation that is done for these meetings. Are there any questions about the written report?

I'll try not to be too repetitive from the report, but there are a few things that I will highlight. I have been working on my own professional development, completing the Smooth as SILC web course produced by ILRU, the Independent Living Research Utilization organization. This was an excellent course, where I learned a lot and had the opportunity to network with folks from other SILCs around the country. I made a few contacts there that I have been in touch with since then. Also as Keith mentioned, Brad Williams was here from New York as my peer to peer mentor through the APRIL program. I had an excellent experience with Brad, who brings a wealth of experience in Independent Living. There was a fantastic training from Brad yesterday, and I appreciate the opportunity to work with him. I appreciate Brad's conscientiousness about putting together some really good information for us and sharing it with us yesterday during member enrichment.

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Mark Steele has resigned from Vocational Rehabilitation, it has been a pleasure to work with him but am glad he will still be with us just in a different capacity as the Executive Director of The Adaptables in Winston-Salem.

There are some other things that we are working on at the SILC office that I would like to highlight in order to give you an idea of what we do between quarterly SILC meetings. We have been working with all the committee meetings, up to 10 a month which we attend when requested and track meeting minutes. There is a lot of preparation for the quarterly meetings. We are now prepping for the IL Summit in September. We've been working on contract revisions with Vocational Rehabilitation, to reallocate the \$13,500 in savings from the SILC office and other Part B funds to the CILs. We expect these revisions to be completed by September 1. The end of the fiscal year is September 30. We really want to be sure the process to reallocate those funds is complete by then so that they are not lost to NC's federal IL program. We've been working on a recruitment flyer. This will go out to our members once it is finalized. Our office collaborates with the Governor's office of Boards and Commissions for re-appointments and new appointments, working to get the appointments through the process. We continue to examine our policy and procedures with the policy committee having the final say. Every month we have a P&E report, Performance and Expenditure report to provide to Vocational Rehabilitation. This is done to get our reimbursement, which involves a lot of budget forecasting because we are funded on a reimbursement basis. Because of our September 30 deadline to spend the Part B funds that are made available, there is quite a bit of angst and time spent on budget around that time. We continue to research information from other states. It is in our SPIL to learn best practices from other states. Over the past quarter we've research two issues, per diem policies and what is being done to make up for the American recovery investment funds loss. ARRA funds were used to start a Center in our state and with the loss of these funds the current level of Part C funding to the state which is now split between seven Centers will likely have to be split between eight centers.

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This will cause a loss of funds per center up to \$30,000, which is a substantial cut for our Part C CILs. So we reached out to other states about this issue and provided information to the Goal 3. We also had to work on the SPIL amendment which was mentioned earlier, to get all required signatures and turn it in to RSA through their MIS system. The amended SPIL will be published when the final approval comes from RSA.

We're involved with several other councils and work groups. I've been sitting on the SRC, State Rehabilitation Council. I've also applied for membership on the Rehabilitation Council for the Blind as a SILC representative. I'm participating in a service animal workgroup that is taking place at VR. The SILC has been asked to sign a few letters in collaboration with other organizations, such as a letter by DRNC regarding the need for a state office on the ADA, and a letter in support of the Department of Health and Human Services in regards to a No Wrong Door grant proposal they are working on.

Looking ahead, we need to continue to monitor, review and evaluate the current SPIL to make sure we are meeting the obligation we have under the rehab act. This work is currently happening through our goal committees, so it is very important for everyone to continue to work on the goal committees. We need to begin a needs assessment process for our next SPIL. At the end of the fiscal year we always have to keep our eye on the ball to make sure Part B funds are used well to benefit consumers by the September 30 deadline. At that point we have to settle up with VR.

Some big item issues to keep in mind going forward are the loss of the ARRA funds and the passage of WIOA. Workforce Innovation and opportunities act. WIOA only requires the president's signature. We heard quite a bit of information yesterday from Brad Williams in regards to the WIOA. Regulations have to be written, it will take a while for all the changes to take effect. By the way, all the documents used yesterday by Brad are on the website.

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Again I want to say Thank you to all the SILC members, and a special thank you and farewell to our current slate of officers and to those members whose terms are expiring. Ping Miller, our secretary, Keith Greenarch, your dedication and passion for independent living has been an inspiration, Gloria Bellamy, our vice chair and Sandy McMillan, our treasurer. It's been a pleasure and honor to work with you. I want to express a special thank you to Sandy McMillan whose term is expiring. This is her last meeting. She has done so much and brought so many skills to the SILC. She has the ability to connect with so many people and bring about a consensus. She will be truly missed.

Officer's Elections

Keith Greenarch, chair

The executive Committee looked at the people who are eligible to serve as Chair and Vice Chair and member at large. The secretary and treasurer are appointed positions.

The nominees are:

Kay Miley as Chair, Keith Greenarch as Vice Chair and Rene Cummins for Member at large.

The floor is open for nominations. Proxy voting is available for those who are not in attendance by appointing another voting member to cast their vote.

Nominations were closed and vote to accept the slate of officers was taken.
Action: (Kincaid/Ogburn) Slate of officers accepted by unanimous vote.

Keith Greenarch – thank you, each will start to serve in their new position on October 1, 2014.

John Marens – I'd like to ask a question. Can I go back to Will Miller report? Do you have any idea if the service animal issue will be address by the legislature?

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Will Miller – I would defer to Philip Woodward who has been tracking that issue and heads up the service animal group.

John Marens – That is an issue to be brought forward and addressed. There is an issue of certification of animals that doesn't jive with the Americans with Disabilities Act. My vote would be for it to get the kibosh.

Keith Greenarch – Oshana has a comment

Oshana Watkins – Has a date been set for silc congress?

Will Miller – The national SILC congress? No, no date has been received.

Oshana Watkins – I'm just trying to plan for the next SILC.

Will Miller – I will send that out in one of our updates.

Julia Sain – I'd like to give some brief information about the service animal issue, because it is huge. I'm hoping that the policy committee would take this on and write a letter to whoever could do something about this. The Federal government has said that there is no such thing as a registered service animal. Departments don't agree on much but they all do agree that service animals don't need to be registered. The North Carolina state legislator has passed a law that is more restrictive. The ADA says you can't have a state law that is more restrictive than a federal law. This state law limits the civil rights of people with disabilities and the sad part is that it is being carried out. I have advocates in Charlotte that have tested this. A man applied for his invisible rabbit to become a registered service animal which is now a registered service animal. When we reported this to Vicki Smith and Philip Woodward, they said, oh yeah this law is ripe for possibility for stupid. The sad thing is that a person who has a legitimate animal without a state certification won't be recognized. Then we have a state sanctioned violation. Vicki and Philip both agree with me that it is not enforceable. If anyone is told that an animal can't come in because it doesn't have this state form then we can file a complaint with Department

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of Justice and have it investigate the state of North Carolina. It would be nicer if we fixed it internally. Until the legislature changes it and somebody in whichever Department, I think Department of Health and Human Services decides they aren't going to be a party to this, the state is ripe for a constitution investigation. So I would hope that the policy committee or the SILC would send a strongly worded letter stating you can't limit the rights of people that the federal law allows.

If we can do anything as a body to send a strong message I would encourage this.

Pam Lloyd Ogoke – I think we all agree that this is a dumb law. We need to commend the state for taking some action related to service animals prior to ada, that is the good part, but we do know that there is a lot of changes that need to happened with the law. My understanding was that the language was changed and given to the Department. It was difficult to find a sponsor for the bill because of the focus of the assembly during the short session. Our hope is that in the next session there will be a sponsor found. Everyone agrees that it is important.

Keith Greenarch – That sums it all up, we have to get behind these issues letting our legislators know.

Holly – I want to clarify a little bit about the law. The registry is confusing that is for sure but it provides more rights than the Americans with Disabilities Act because you can recognize animals like a rabbit. It does create a criminal misdemeanor for someone that excludes a registered service animal, a voluntary registry. It does offer more rights than the Americans with Disabilities Act If it is a registered with North Carolina registry you can call law enforcement if a service animal is excluded. It doesn't take away rights it actually adds some in certain circumstances.

Keith Greenarch – Julia asked the policy committee to endorse and send a letter. We are all advocates and can all write these letters ourselves. In doing our advocacy we need to look at these things. You should be on list

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serves to help you stay informed, see me if you want more information. Any time you write or call a legislator they listen. I tell you right now the WIOA wouldn't have gotten where it is today without the communication from folks, writing letters, making phone calls, etc. It's been a battle.

Part B Center Update

Helen Pase

Our business has been slow with consumers coming in but the phone is ringing again. Mr. Bob's passing has had a huge impact on our center and on me. I have been operating with just 4 staff because of medical leave but still doing all we can do to get the word out because we are the best kept secret in our area.

We started a youth program in Feb. growing from 8 to 15. They are having a great time doing a lot of activities to get to know each other. We are getting ready to start a focus group with their parents in collaboration with ECU focusing on nutrition.

We have transitioned 3 persons in collaboration with Vocational Rehabilitation Independent Living, two from nursing homes and one from a homeless shelter, spending \$1376 of Part B funds for those activities. Vocational Rehabilitation Independent Living pays for some of it but we cover other expenses working together. I am glad to have that relationship with them.

We are currently funded by Vocational Rehabilitation for our monthly expenses, hopefully this will continue. Our only problem is careless small errors that take a long time to get corrected. One problem started last Oct and is still being worked on to reach a resolution. I had been told that once I submit my report that it goes through 19 hands for approval before it ever gets to the controller's office.

Gay Joyner – I can give a synopsis of what happens. When you submit it to me or Pam we immediately, because it's already been electronically

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reviewed and approved, we will sign it and submit it to fiscal services. Fiscal services has two people review it, one being Trish Harper. After review they will sign off on it and send it to the controller's office. I don't know how many in the controller's office handles the request. I seriously doubt 19 people; I can count maybe 5 or 6 at the most.

Helen Pase – I'm glad to know that because I was worried about 19 people. All in all I have a good working relationship with Vocational Rehabilitation. I loved working with Mark, Cynthia Temoshenko, Trish and Gay. I hope to continue the relationship as long as they are our Designated State Unit. Mr. Bob would want us to be there every day and I love my job.

Keith Greenarch – I have to say that Will and I visited Helen and spent a day last fall, I think that is where Will met Mr. Bob. Our Part B center does a very good job and we appreciate that.

Oshana Watkins – I would love to visit the centers one day, can the SILC set up something like a tour.

Keith Greenarch – funny you say that because on the horizon we will have our October meeting in Greenville. We will be visiting DARC taking a tour and seeing how the center works. If you have a center in your area, visit it. Ping has visited the Charlotte center and Mitzi is planning a visit. If you are passing through and near a center, stop in.

Sandy Ogburn – I wanted to reiterate, all the CIL directors are real open to us visiting. I've visiting Alliance and want to get to others. You don't have to go through the SILC to arrange to visit.

Keith – we also encourage you to visit our SILC office.

Will Miller – like Sandy said, you don't have to go through our office to visit your local center. One of the requirements of our members is to be knowledgeable about independent living and centers for independent living. If you want to go through our office you can be reimbursed for travel when on SILC business such as transportation costs and mileage.

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Keith Greenarch – all our centers are unique and very different but all have the same mission and goal. We have enjoyed all our visits to the centers.

Center Director's Report

Gloria Garton given by Julia Sain

I am taking Gloria Garton's place to give this report. I will do a further explanation of WIOA later during the Goal 1 report for Rene later this afternoon.

First it's Helen Pase's birthday, all broke out in song for her. That was our happy note.

On a non happy note, Gloria is not with us. She has had a tough year, she has a friend that has passed away very suddenly that being the reason she had to leave town quickly. I'd like to read to you a couple of statements made in her last email. "I'm sorry I'm not in attendance; believe me being at a funeral for someone who was so dear and young is not where I thought I would be. She was my neighbor and friend for the 3 years I lived in Charlotte. She is the mother of 3 young children; the oldest is 6months older than my daughter Rachel. I don't think I can handle loosing anymore special people in my life so you all be careful and take care of yourselves that is an order."

Just to piggy back on me being a piece of work, I will say what I said to Pamela earlier, the next time we meet I will have celebrated 30years at my center. (Applause rose from the room) I know Brad got all kind of kudos yesterday for serving for 25 years and I got 30. Pam gave me permission to say what we exchanged, she asked if I was ready to retire and I said I haven't pissed off everybody in NC yet. Pamela said almost.

Yesterday I thought Brad did a really good job. We served on the NCIL board together when he was treasurer and I was the area representative. I

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am jealous of you Will that you got to spend time with him. He is very quiet and very wise.

For those of you who were here yesterday he referred to two kinds of centers in New York. He talked about federal funded centers and state centers. He asked me to share with you what he meant. We have federally funded centers which we call Part C centers. We don't have state funded centers; New York gives them enough money that they have centers that are only funded by state dollars. We have Part B money that funds our Part B centers; they don't use any Part B money to fund centers. We only have Part C centers, which he called federally funded in common with him in New York. One of the things he talked about when discussing ratio of state employees and CIL employees compared to the rest of the SILC. He is able to say, because the state funded centers are not recognized as centers by the department of education because they are not funded with federal money, he can use folks who work at the state Centers on the SILC as consumers.

Also yesterday we talked about the two 704 reports, we've had a training on the 704 reports. This segways into what I'm going to report that the SILC does a 704 report that is more statewide. I'm really excited when I talk this afternoon about the WIOA and the differences and things that are going to happen state wideness, which is the new catch phrase. The SILC is responsible for state wideness, the centers are not. We are responsible for the "we like the corner where we live". We are all different shapes and sizes we all have different numbers of counties and consumers we work with. When you start talked about penetration do not think you know what it means if you weren't here yesterday. That is going to be very important to talk about when doing needs assessments.

The Centers do a 704 report also, one of the things we talked about is that in our report we have to report what we have done to further the SPIL weather you've paid for it or not, we struggle with do I tell you what I've done only with what you've supported or do I tell you everything we do. The answer is both. The things that we as the centers, Part C centers (this

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has nothing to do with Helen) what your Part C centers have done to further the SPIL that we are going to report on our upcoming 704 report that you are not going to get to report in your report because you didn't pay for it. If we can explain it that way every time, I think it may help.

Goal 1 – improving the quality of independent living services; we are reporting the trainings that we have done in our areas since the last meeting.

Raleigh – Alliance of Disability Advocates. Monthly meetings were held on medication management, two staff members went to the ADA symposium, travel training, a three hour workshop on rights and responsibilities of transit riders and a three hour workshop on inclusive worship. Remember, we are consumer controlled and if consumers want this type of workshop we provide it.

Charlotte - Disability rights and resources – effective communication in Gaston, Union and Cabarrus County for our Americans with Disabilities Act coordinators in those three counties, two of our employees attended the Americans with Disabilities Act symposium. I was the first person in North Carolina to complete the ADA certification course. That was only good for a month because the ADA coordinator for the city of Charlotte got it a month later.

Sylva – Disability Partners – computer skills training, employment readiness, arts and crafts, healthy living and personal safety and fire safety, money management, and exercise for people who are in wheel chairs.

Wilmington – disAbility Resource Center – gave a presentation to social workers about transitions of people from nursing homes, a class helping people learn how to buy a home, the ABCs of disability rights protection and North Carolina Relay, how to use the system.

Goal 2 – youth

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Raleigh has an extensive youth program, they have taught teaching advocacy through independent living in four high schools in three counties. They have a program called HEART, healthy education advocacy and relationship training; a youth representative went to the APRIL board meeting, association programs for rural independent living. They usually have the APRIL conference in October or November. When we talk about APRIL we are not talking about spring. Speaking of spring, they also have a group called spring into action youth peer advocacy training, monthly youth advocacy group and as we speak they are wrapping up the North Carolina Youth Leadership Forum.

Wilmington – In three New Hanover County schools an eight week course was taught teaching civil rights protection as people with disabilities advocate for yourself, money management and how to handle disability disclosure at work and school. And they have a youth career camp doing next week.

Charlotte – started a support group called powerful women with disabilities, we are working with young women with disabilities in middle and high schools as mentors.

Disability Partners – the volunteer youth coordinator and staff made presentations to the EC, Exceptional Children's classes about youth programs, youth transitions, at three of their high schools. They meet monthly and they collaborate with the family support network for their family nights to connect with youth.

The last goal that we are reporting on is the transition goal and when Kay does her report for Goal 5 she will tell you that some of what we've done, two of the centers use Part B money for transition so it gets a little bit confusing. When Kay reports it, the figure will go on the SILC 704, when we report it the figure won't. This may overlap Kay's report, I apologize if it does.

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Disability Advocates and Resource center has completed two transitions in collaboration with Vocational Rehabilitation which have already been reported.

Wilmington has assisted an individual from being homeless. It was a diversion issue. This person also got their Social Security benefits with the help of the center because his attorney dropped his case.

Sylva has two people in transition.

Disability Rights and Resources not using Part B money year to date October 1 to present we've trans 32 people from institutions which did include homeless and shelters to independent community based living, mostly through MFP money follows the person but also because we get a grant from a different source that pays some of the expenses.

I think I hope that gives you a sense of what the centers are doing that is dovetailing with your goals.

Helen Pase – I wanted to add on Goal 2 that we just started our youth group this year and we have 5 of our youth at the Youth Leadership Forum this week from our youth group.

Sandy McMillan – I don't think you were here the last time we had the discussion because we were moving money out of the SILC office budget and trying to decide what goals we were going to fund. We had the list that we put together of the holes for the goals. We had a great discussion as the council talked about what we wanted to do but Rene said that we needed to put it in operating expenses so it could be spent down due to the amount of time we had. We talked about how this put the SILC in the position that we could not show a lot of progress being made on our goals. Gloria and Rene said that we had to understand that by supporting operating expenses we were helping to achieve those goals so given that type of environment we need to show something on our 704 report.

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Julia Sain– as soon as it is approved and we start using the \$ as approved we will start reporting.

Sandy McMillan – but in the current we have \$8,800

Julia Sain - currently every center get \$8,355 or 56 for operational expenses. Those contracts were agreed upon a year ago almost. We have a contract with DVR as to what we are going to do with that money, it says operational expenses. My contract with VR that I approved a year ago before you all had that conversation, I have to honor. What operational expenses means to me and my board of directors and what VR has approved is the provision of 4 core services based upon the \$8,355 is what part of my program budget, I then promised how many units of each of those 4 core services I was going to provide during the amount of time the money held out. I did that in November or December. I got all the money used for what was agreed for me to use for which had nothing to do with the conversation your had. My contract is very specific. One of the things we said at the time was the P&E report we send in every month shows what we have done through the operational expenses. It has nothing to do with what you all agreed what we should do with additional money. A couple of the centers had not spent all their money yet and was able to divert some of the money into doing something else which will be reported either in Kay's report or other goal committee reports, I'm only reporting on what we did with money not through the SILC. What you will hear from the goal committees is what was done with silc money. Going forward, because you were more specific with the next pot of money and part of it is supporting the network of centers I'm going to use the money for that. The next set of contracts will affect the reporting the next time we meet.

One thing I can tell you is when we talk about what happened last year for those of you who don't remember, I put in an amendment for funds in March, I got the money the middle of August and was expected to spend almost \$8,000 in 30 days. Moving forward you are right.

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Will Miller – a lot of discussion could be had on this. One point is that the Part B contracts aren't really paralleling the SPIL as they should. The Part B contracts should be to carry out the SPIL activities, and I think to this point they are boilerplate between the centers and VR every year, whereas they should track the SPIL.

Julia Sain – Exactly, and Sandy is right moving forward the SILC has directed the centers and DVR that the definition of operational expenses is one thing but what is the deliverable. What we've been asked for in the past has had nothing to do with the SPIL, we are all for that and with the new contracts it will, we hope, moving forward.

Pam Lloyd-Ogoke – I think what Julie referred to is yes the contracts have to be tightened up. They were not detailed enough and what I was hoping to do today during the break time we can look exactly how the narrative can pass the muster test of the department. Contracts are being looked at very tightly and so to sustain is to be sure the language used provides a lot of details and documentation. I would like to meet with Helen, Julia and the SILC today and I will get in touch with the other directors next week. This is not problematic we just have to write them to pass the smell test. We are still on for October 1 for the beginning of new contracts.

Will Miller – We have 2 contracts pending, the upcoming year 2015 and the amended contracts. What was the significance of October 1?

Pam Lloyd-Ogoke - That was for the new 2015 contract. All of the other contracts passed. The ones affected is who I will be meeting with, one of the amended contracts the rest with 2015 contracts.

Break - 10:45 to 11:05

Standing Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Keith Greenarch, chair

Three teleconferences were held, May 23, May 29 and June 23. An update with DVR, we are moving to the current year funding, the other issues are still being worked on as far as the I&E funds and SILC reimbursement. We discussed our 2015 budget and at our meeting on May 23 the members did not have a clear understanding so we came back and provided more information at a special called meeting on May 29 where Will and Kathleen presented the 2015 budget and scope of work which was then presented to DVR by June 2.

The IL summit, Debbie, Sierra and I are working on the program. I have an outline put together. We are looking at September 11 and September 12 in Raleigh at the Holiday Inn Downtown hotel. We are working around sessions that will meet our SPIL goals. Sierra and I will be getting back together to finish up the agenda. Our next SILC meeting is in Greenville, the rooms are booked and it will be held in conjunction with the Great Conference, the theme is something yellow brick road. Last year's conference was Discovering our Treasures. It is a great conference known formally as the AT expo. Thursday and Friday, we are going to have a track on Thursday where we will kick off our needs assessment which we talked about yesterday.

The committee worked on the slate of officers on which we previously voted.

Sandy McMillan will not be reapplying and I want to say that she has done an excellent job and it has been my privilege to work with her. Sandy is a hell of an advocate; she has fought like all the rest of us. She has her daughter in college who is independent and probably stubborn at times. For a parent with a child with a disability they just can't do at the moment what other folks can do, it's a 24/7 job. Sandy I think has been an

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inspiration to all the folks she has ever touched. She is going back to her own nonprofit. Thank you so much! (Applause)

Sandy McMillan – its funny how things happen at different times of your life. When I first came on I didn't know IL. When I came on it was a selfish desire because all parents want a time when children are independent and move on. One of the first things Kay did was to attend the Youth Leadership Forum, and then she went on to APRIL and really embraced independent living. I'm so thankful that the SILC came along when it did it don't think Kay would be in college and living independently if the silc hadn't come along. Sometimes what we do here seems mundane or contentious but it made a huge difference in one girl's life.

We also discussed the lease of the silc office to be renewed in January end.

The policy committee brought to the executive committee the discussion regarding back ground checks. A full discussion was held on that.

Membership has been reaching out to new members, marketing ourselves to the people interested. For Sandy to come on it was a purpose and we hope to do that with other folks.

The finance P&E reports and reimbursement are processed in a real timely manner, Kathleen does a really great job at getting them in and it makes a smooth transition.

Finance

Sandy McMillan, vice chair

The finance committee meets monthly to review the P&E reports and all financial transactions for the SILC office. The e-blast included the May P&E through May we had spent roughly \$119,500 although we are still measuring to our budget of \$192,850. We are waiting on the revision that will reduce our budget of \$179350 which means we have almost \$60,000

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left for our expenses from June to September. We have already reviewed June's totals but they were not able to be included in the eblast. June was an expensive month, and there are also the expenses of NCIL and this quarterly meeting. Kathleen is monitoring the spending closely and is confident we are on track. The goal is to be tight but not leave any money on the table. To clarify, the budget revisions to move \$13,500 are on schedule to happen by the beginning of September. There was a problem on one contract that is being worked on to resolve. This will give centers one month to spend down. The budget for 2014 to 21015 is the same bottom line number as the unrevised budget of this year which is \$192,500. Recommended line item changes to account for rent increase and other items needed were suggested by Kathleen. The finance and the executive committee have reviewed in detail and is requesting the budget be approved as presented in the eblast. If you have any questions this is the time.

Action: Motion from the finance committee to accept the 2014 to 2015 budget, second Bellamy. Motion carried unanimously.

There is also a report in the eblast showing the entire Part B funds of \$495,640 shown by contract. This is the tail of the dog which our fiscal agent has recognized has been processed and reimbursed for each contract. All Center directors have received and been asked to review this report. So far the SILC has been notified by two centers of inconsistencies, I think three with Helen's problem. The SILC would like to stay in the loop but think that each center should work with Vocational Rehabilitation. It is important that we all know and agree what monies have been spent and what monies are left in each contract.

I'm pleased to report that the next year's contract have been submitted for more than the money contained in the 2nd year funding which means we have broken through the current year funding barrier. This should eliminate the need for budget revisions and the like. The next thing we need to

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tackle is the plan to take care of the ARRA funds which we will somehow figure out how to replace and keep our centers whole.

Keith Greenarch – that last statement is major, something has to be done.

Membership – Sierra will be asked to submit a report that will be emailed to the council.

Will Miller - One issue the council needs to attend to is to vote to remove Zach Commander from the council for lack of attendance. According to our by-laws a 10 day notice is required to be given to a member. This written notice was sent. Boards and Commissions had already removed Zack. This vote is us going through the official process.

Keith Greenarch – we never want to remove anyone but we understand the time commitment and the problems Zack has come up against.

Action: Motion presented from the Membership committee, second, Ogburn. Vote carried unanimously.

Special Presentation

Gloria Bellamy, Vice-chair

I am pleased to be here. My mother's medical situation has necessitated my presence with her. I've been in a lot of different medical facilities and have been spreading the word about SILC and independent living.

My real purpose is to congratulate the new officers elected this morning. I will be back as soon as possible to add my help to what we do at this council. The main purpose of this is to say that we have been through a stormy process with this council, thank you for all who have come through this.

Keith, I know that you are waiting to exhale especially after the stormy time. We have sought to find solutions and for your leadership and your ability to assemble those around you we have accomplished same year funding.

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Thanks for hanging in there, seeing the bottom line and for making decisions that were not easy to make. We believe that you put the consumer first and this council way up on your list and have gotten it all done.

The certificate scroll reads, Keith Greenarch is a proven advocate for people with disabilities Keith Greenarch is a champion in the independent living movement, Keith Greenarch is strong leader who led us through stormy times, made tough decisions but held the course of keeping the consumer at the center of your focus.

A special wooden box was crafted for Keith by Gloria's husband and presented.

Keith Greenarch, I appreciate this and I appreciate all of you and your dedication to this council and standing behind your chair was very important and you have done that through this stormy time. I hope the new chair, Kay has this same support. I have to say that I've gotten to know Gloria and her husband; where ever she goes she is an ambassador for independent living and the SILC that is very important.

Designated State Unit Report

Pamela Lloyd Ogoke – DVR

It's wonderful to go after Gloria. I want to also to congratulate the leadership of Keith Greenarch. Many of you were not at the table in the old days; I can tell you they were not the good old days. I dreaded coming to the meetings because there was so much contention. An attitude of us and them instead of we. Keith, because of the way you've led these meetings, your professionalism, integrity and sincerity has generally changed how the SILC operates and the feelings that we had when we came to these meetings. On behalf of the Designated State Unit, I appreciate that and am glad that you will be around next year to continue to encourage Kay to be the same.

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Mark gave the last report before we let him leave. It has been posted on the SILC website. I'm not going to go over the numbers of people served, etc. it's all in that report.

I want to share what is going on in Vocational Rehabilitation. Elizabeth Bishop was acting director of Division Services Vocational Rehabilitation, she became permanent. We understand that we will be posting the deputy director position that Elizabeth vacated. Jennifer Stackpole our Chief Financial Officer went to work for Department of Health and Human Services, the "big building". Helen Tack was the budget business officer for the division of aging; she has assumed Jennifer's position. Our transition coordinator Erin Strain is now back after being on maternity leave.

Deidre could also speak more on BEAM; we are still alive after going live. Also, for the personal assistance program within the IL program we've changed our fiscal intermediary from GT Independence to a new company called HighLife. They are doing enrollment for those 264 people that receive personal assistance services. We hope to go live with them the end of August. With the personal assistance service program we had many people on our waiting list causing a big concern that we had a great need that was not being fulfilled. We had some money that we could've utilized but were not able to do so. I met with Helen Tack to see if we could get some of these people off the waiting list especially those who we consider to be category 1 - currently in institutions. We don't have any people in category 1 on our list currently. Category 2 are those at risk, they have a change in their condition, disability, medical needs or their Caretaker's ability to continue to provide care. We are hoping to get at least 10 of those people off the waiting list and served. Due to nature of the program, you tend to stay until you relocate or pass away so the need is long term.

I hope to be able to post Mark's position. There was a delay because the general assembly is still in town. Sometimes we have to wait until decisions are made and the budget is passed, which has long term implications on the IL program and Vocational Rehabilitation.

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Holly – is there anyone else doing benefits counseling?

Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke – The benefits counseling previously done by the WIPPA grant will be done by Vocational Rehabilitation counselors. There will be designated staff to take on the extra responsibility. There will also be statewide guidance to those identified in each region if not in each office.

Designated State Unit Report

Deidre Dockery – DSB

I let Keith and Will know that I don't have an official report because now that we have exported all our data into BEAM we are unable to get it out. It's a real learning process because the system we previously used was a DOS base program; we did not have a case management system. We are going from the Fred Flintstone automobile to a Drone. It's a true learning process with endless possibilities.

We've probably served 1100 – 1200 people. I am happy to report that we have had vacancies in the IL program for about 2 years and our Fayetteville position has been filled by a new counselor. We have had a vacancy in Wilmington that now is filled. We are hoping to get our last vacancy filled as soon as we get a budget.

Some of the things that have gone on are a youth transition mini center, which are community based learning programs for students who are transitioning. This helps the students to socialize, advocate for themselves, and prepare for their next level of services and helping to make their goals become reality. In the middle of our summer transition program at the rehab center for the blind, 30 students enrolled who are blind, visually impaired and deaf blind. Some are in college prep, some in independent living program and others in the WOW, World of Work, where they spend part of the time on campus and part of the time working at a job. We have

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been doing some interventive things with diabetes and diabetes awareness, working with veteran's advocacy and a cooking center.

Speaking of kind words, thank you Keith, you were my mentor. I was sitting next to you at my first meeting. All I had to do was look at him and he explained. I appreciate your leadership, I feel honored to have missed the battles. I hope and pray that we move forward with IL as the goal.

Policy Committee Report Keith Greenarch for Joshua Kaufman

I need to move back just a second, I forgot the Policy report. Joshua Kaufman could not be with us today, he is at a conference.

The Policy committee met May 1, June 5 and July 10. During the meetings we had conversation about Thursday training, member enrichment trainings, the need of the assessment training which took place yesterday, travel per diem, and a clarification of mileage cost. We also reviewed the policies of per diem finding no need for change. We also discussed requiring all SILC members, employees and volunteers to undergo a background check. The discussion was tabled and will be taken up again. Rene is doing some investigative work for us.

There was other discussion on reviewing the policy for accrual of flex time or comp time. The committee has questions and Rene is also doing some fact checking and will email her findings to the committee members.

Oshana Watkins – I'm looking at the policies and procedures and on page 13 it still says 56.6/mile will that be changed?

Keith Greenarch – yes, the email went out with new information included in the e-blast. Please be sure to take the old material out of your manuals and insert the new material.

11:56 Adjourn for lunch

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Meeting was called to order at 1:05

SPIL Goal Reports:

Goal 1 Report given by Julia Sain for Rene Cummins Independent Living Service

There are no funds for this goal, nothing has been done except the network retreat. We met but have no report at this time. Jim Whalen has moved to Michigan and Mark Steele has taken his place.

WIOA will be signed soon; it has a two year transition. WIOA is 224 pages; go to the website to see how it affects CIL, www.ncil.org – breaking news – WIOA. When they talk about a 722 or a 723 state, we are a 722 state.

What is the impact on the Centers? It all overlaps in the SPIL. Once this is implemented probably around October 2016, the SPIL is developed by the Chair of the SILC and the Center Directors, not the DSU. There really isn't a DSU anymore if you are a 722 state. They will choose a designated state entity, we will have to start saying DSE, and their purpose will be fiscal intermediary, simply a fiscal agent. They have to cut the checks based on the SPIL. There will be a DSE that we choose and I will tell you more in a minute.

The chair and the center directors will develop the SPIL. Who will sign the spil? The Chair of the SILC, the director of the DSE and at least 51% of the center directors of the Part C centers. I made the mistake yesterday stating that there would be five signatures but Helen's center is a Part B center. There are 7 center directors so 4 of us have to sign the state plan; Barbara Davis will get two votes because she is the director of two centers. You have to make 4 of us happy; good luck although if we are writing it we will probably like it.

For centers only, we have our added 5th core service. We have been doing this for a long time because it was encouraged. Now it is required.

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Community integration and transition not just nursing home transitions; it is anyone transitioning from school to college, college to community living, from group home to independent living so transition is what it is called. We also do diversion keeping people out of a more restrictive environment. We will now be required to report on this fifth service. The other four are advocacy, independent living skills, information and referral and peer support. The Centers for IL are specifically identified so centers for Independent living funded under WIOA will be the only organizations that are mandated to perform transitions and diversion.

When you talk about how it affects the SILC Part B funds will continue to flow to your DSE as determined by the state plan. The state plan will guide the DSE in the distribution of funds. The state plan determines everything for the next 3 years. That is why it is so critical that the state have a very strong and very deliberate plan for IL. The bill does not impact any state funding that goes to the centers. All funding sources should be able to come through as long as it is designated in your state plan. The state plan is your road map; it describes how the funds will be distributed regardless whether they are state Part B or state funds. Therefore it is very important that that is all depicted in your SPIL. So as we talk about the DSDHH the state DSDHH and the bureaucracy it is now with this new WIOA a ripe time to see if there is another DSE that we would like to have. It is not both it will be who we choose. I have a real good relationship and results with DOT, anyone we designate can be the fiscal agent for this money. We have to give serious consideration to who we want as DSE. It will be who we decide and vote to be our DSE.

Helen Pase – I'm confused, state plan is written about Part B funds not about Part C funds so why would only Part C center directors get to sign the plan and the Part B director not be included.

Julia Sain - Technically the SILC decides what you are going to do. You are not obligated as a Part B to fill out the 704 report. You only fill it out because the SILC has you do it. You don't have to follow the standards and indicators for Center of IL; the SILC wants you to do so you will be

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ready to go as a Part C when the funds come down. That is why as we talk about expanding the network of centers, the SILC will decide who you are and what you can do. Just like brad said yesterday they have New York Centers who are funded 100% through state funds. They don't count as centers.

Will Miller – There are also some parts of the spil that do address the Part C Centers such as the plan for growth and the network so it's not as if its irrelevant.

Julia – I can promise you that the 4 center directors are not going to support a state plan that would do anything to harm the network of centers; it will have to expand the network. It's probably going to be stricter as far as increasing the network of centers.

Helen – I know that the contract is an assistance contract through the state but my definition is that I'm a Center for IL; I play under the same rules. The Part C funds don't have anything to do with the SPIL. Why would you as a signer be able to control the SPIL that funds Part B center?

Julia Sain - You are considered a Part B center because the SILC sees you as a center, but they don't have to. Every SILC can call its Part B anything they want to, not calling it a center until it is Part C Center, but this SILC when it came up with the concept of Part B Centers was absolutely adamant that it was an incubation for the entity to become a Part C center so that when the funds came down it wouldn't have to change. 100% of what is expected of a part b center rests in the silc because it's holds 100% of the funding.

Kimlyn Lambert – When her Part B funds run out, does she get Part C?

Julia Sain – She would only if Part C are available, Part B funds can't run out because the SILC made a commitment that it would support and incubate a center. At one point in time they had two Part B centers. For a good long time SILC was supporting two Part B centers. When RSA read

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our state plan they told us that the Wilmington center would become a Part C Center. The SPIL was the reason.

When new Part C funds come down then the RFP, request for proposal is submitted, the first thing that they will do is open our SPIL and read where we want the funds to go. So then the Greenville center will apply and be eligible meeting all the stipulations in the SPIL. This is a great way to incubate new Centers. Another Part B Center can be started and supported.

John Marens – Does the WIOA have any effect on the SILC office?

Will Miller – the changes we know of are posted on the website. Right now there is a lot of speculation. We will know more when all the regulations are written. The final say will come from ILA.

Goal 2 **Sandy McMillan, chair**

Leadership and Empowerment

I usually turn this over to Sierra but she is in Raleigh wrapping up YLF as we speak. It would've been wonderful if we could've taken a delegation to YLF. Today as they are wrapping up, each delegate will stand and make a personal commitment of change, either from a system advocacy standpoint to an individual standpoint and they try to say what they are going to change as to what they are doing or what is happening in their community. It is very powerful I hope in the future, member of SILC could attend. YLF is something to which the SILC allocates \$20,000. It cost a lot more than that. The Centers contribute and the YLF scrap for donations. The total bill last year was up over \$50,000. It will be interesting to see the final cost for this year.

I'd like to read some of the posts from my daughter's Facebook account by those who are there at YLF.

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Tyler, whom some of you will remember. Sierra spoke of him at the last meeting. He was a former delegate and is a mentor this year. When he returned to his community last year he returned to a group home environment. They have been working since for him to live independently. He says this year the YLF has been great so far. I want to thank some people for pulling it off. Sierra Royster you are the bomb, without you we would not be able to pull it off. Lacey Coward you are the best you always keep it going. Mike Beers, I absolutely love the energy you bring, Suki, you are so funny, Christina Branch, you are doing so good as you are the bomb. Krista Hunsack, you brighten my day. We could not do this without our delegates I am so glad that I get to be a mentor. It is so cool meeting new people. NC State, thank you for letting us have YLF here. (Sandy, we pay them) I Tyler, are checked into IL and I will never ever check out.

I want to read something from one of the PCAs that is attending. This was my 1st year at YLF and I had an amazing time this week. I love what this camp is about and I was so inspired by each and every one of you all. I am so sad not to be working with you all for the rest of the week but can't wait for next year. I will most definitely be there.

Having a great time encouraging people to be independent, and it's signed on by 13 people at the YLF.

I can't stress enough what an encouraging, uplifting and wonderful event this is. I hope that you make the effort to attend the last day and watch the stand and declare where they state how they will change their lives and their communities.

Goal 3

Sandy Ogburn, chair

Growth of Independent Living Services

We've only met a couple of times. The meeting that we had July 11 was very productive. Goal 3 has a grid developed by Ping that has been my savior because all we have to do is plug in numbers. It also asks several

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questions, is there a document in place called how to start a CIL? I talked to Rene about that and decided that would be a document about a big as this book and decided that each center would put on their website what a CIL is and if you are interested in starting this to contact them. This would not cost money; it would only involve the center's IT person. The other question that I think Julia touched on in her report. Are we thinking outside the box and looking for other funding sources and of course all the CIL directors are doing that on an ongoing basis. I'm just checking my notes to be sure there isn't more. We will continue to monitor the funding as the years go and maintain the funding and in a perfect world increase the funding.

Goal 4

Sierra Royster, chair

Support the NCSIL office

Sierra is at the YLF. We will ask her to submit any report and email it out to all the council.

Goal 5

Kay Miley, chair

Promote Community Living

I don't have anything to report as I've not been able to talk to Rene. I heard Julia say that they had done 32 transitions so far. I know that Rene and Julia are the only two that gets Money Follows the Person, everybody please forgive me. I've been sick and hospitalized; it turned out to be a bleeding ulcer with not heart problems.

I will get caught up and keep everyone updated. We have no money but we will find a way. I'm determined because these transitions are very important, more than just nursing home transitions.

Goal 6

Kimlyn Lambert, chair

Designated State Unit Independent Living Services

I want to preface my report by stating there are only 3 people on my committee. Myself, Will and Mark Steele who has left his position to take a new one. Some of the things mark was going to check on we will have to get someone else to do now.

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Keith Greenarch – Sandra Hicks will be placed on this committee as well as Oshana Watkins and John Marens.

Thank you so much because we really need help. We meet every other month. Some of the things we have talked about.

One of our objectives is that People with Disabilities have greater access to transportation in their communities. Mark couldn't find any central list we will have to work on that contacting people across the state.

People with Disabilities identified to serve on boards; we will work on that survey to serve on transportation boards.

DSU will increase rural transportation options to People with Disabilities. This is ongoing.

The DSU will research funding opportunities. VR doesn't have anyone doing that presently more information is needed.

People with Disabilities have supports to live independently and safely in the community of their choice. This activity is being carried out according to mark. We will report more at the next meeting.

DSU will collaborate w/ division of medical assistance to able utilized for MFP to deinstitutionalize people from skilled level nursing facilities. This is ongoing and was reported in the VR report.

DSU provide supports that enhance the quality of life such as housing and vehicle modifications, assistive technology, and durable medical equipment. This is also ongoing and included in VR report. The breakdown is being worked on to report by type.

Veterans with disabilities receive seamless support and services to allow them to live independent DSU will increase communication and

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collaboration with Veterans administration and other veteran programs. This isn't being done by maybe Survey Monkey can help.

All these activities are ongoing we will work more on it.

Deidre Dockery – I just wanted to say that I was not able to attend the last 2 meetings. DSB is actually working on some of these things. Working with different counties on transportation and also working with veterans. I look forward to attending the next goal meeting.

Ex. Officio Updates

Disability Rights

Holly Stiles reporting for Vicki Smith

The update was provided. We have a couple of things that are lawsuits and a couple of resources. First the resources.

NC office on ADA. It existed in the past but had fizzled out. DHHS has expressed their understanding of the importance and has reestablished the office. Nancy Lipscomb is the director and currently her priority is to look for the designated ADA coordinators for each state agency.

John Marens - comment, thank you because when I first got into this job I tried to find information and I called the phone number on the website. For years I squawked that the website existed by could never get someone to talk to.

Julia Sain – I guess I am confused because the state is required because it has 50 + employees to ensure that all the programs and activities are accessible to everyone. That is not just interpreter coordinator. There was a violation with the DMV and the lottery department and by default Disability Rights has taken on what the ADA coordinator should be doing. I'm excited that NC is finally complying with federal law, but I'm still not sure that the way they are doing it is appropriate.

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Holly Stiles – I used interpreter as short hand. The ADA coordinator is responsible to the public who are trying to access a public service. The ADA Coordinator is the source to go to a central office for help in correct handling of each situation.

Nancy is new in her position and I don't know her time line. There are a lot of specifics in the regulations about ADA, so that will be the next focus. Mercedes has just taken this one and I have no doubt that the office is full and effective.

Julia Sain – so the next time I get the call that the lottery is not accessible I should call Nancy?

Holly Stiles – that is the intention, if it doesn't work then let us know.

Talking about calling the state and saying I will sue you if you don't have an ADA coordinator. DHHS has adopted their own ADA procedure. It worked out nicely that they happened at the same time. If you are a costumer of DHHS and perhaps the building is not acceptable they have their own grievance procedure. I am currently in the process of testing the first grievance, it hasn't been publicized yet. It involved a person visiting a medical provider, this reaches anyone who accepts Medicaid but doesn't provide access. This has a far reaching impact.

Julia Sain - Who is the ADA coordinator for DHHS?

Holly Stiles - Terry Hodge in the secretary office.

Those are the two policy pieces that are exciting.

Two lawsuits

Pasby vs. Delia regarding personal care services. Services were made easier to receive in skilled care over individual homes. There is a hearing today to determine the size of the class, the number of people affected by the changes and who would see relief through the lawsuit. If you make it

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easier to receive services in skilled care over individual homes that is not fair.

The other class action is K.C. vs. Cansler, this has to do with Cardinal Innovation waiver for persons with intellectual disabilities, they made changes and didn't allow individuals to appeal or pursue review. They are hopeful they can settle the case. It's looking good.

Another case is Clinton L. vs. Cansler, trying to stop the institutionalization of those with dual diagnosis of mental illness and intellectual disabilities. The funding was changed by legislation and as a result they were looking at institutional care to meet their needs. They should not be forced into an institution when it has been proven the services could be provided in the community.

Two cases involve access to records. The federal government gives us the right to get records from suspicious deaths, two cases about two hospitals. They will provide the records. It's an outside eye on care received behind locked doors.

There is a case right now in Fourth circuit called Jacobs. A person requested a work accommodation because of her social anxiety disorder and was let go. There is a hearing coming up to determine whether or not the trial court erred when found that she did not have a disability. We are hopeful that it will be reversed and she will get her day in court.

Medicaid buy in – healthcare coverage for workers with disabilities. If you are working and earning more than Medicaid poverty level limit you can actually buy back into Medicaid. This allows people to work and live independently and not spend all their check on healthcare. There is a hearing coming up in the next 3 or 4 weeks on summary judgment.

Wilson vs. NCDMV – A hearing is scheduled On August 5 to decide if case will go forward. The DMV has a medical review program that is intended to keep those who can't drive safely off the road. It is being used to unfairly

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target People with Disabilities. Motion to dismiss will determine if we have stated a case. It's up to judge to determine. We will let you know.

Nicholas vs. Vos regarding mechanical restraints and whether it is an appropriate way to handle People with Disabilities. It's being mediated. As a general matter use of mechanical restraints is dangerous and causes injuries to People with Disabilities.

NC DD Council

Chris Egan, chair

I started in my new position June 30th. I'm very excited about the possibilities to be part of the initiative and collaborate with all of you. Steve Strom will typically attend and we will share the responsibility of reporting. Steve did provide a written report. I was at a new high end housing project in Meadowmont in Chapel Hill designed to be mixed use YMCA, retail and housing and is on the bus line, promoting housing for people with disabilities. This has been collaboration and 10 years of partnership between local state and federal partners, Orange County home program, US HUD, and the Ireland family foundation. The land is tremendously expensive but was donated because of the advocacy done especially by the ARC to promote housing that is integrated, inclusive and scattered. It's a great success, go and check it out to see images and pictures on the ARC website. David Price and other representatives from our Senator offices as well as local politicians and other interested folks were in attendance. This highlights inclusion and the importance of accessibility.

In terms of the report, you have the update on the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act which will no doubt be signed. The report spoke of our celebration of the fifteen anniversary of the Olmstead Act.

I've been trying to figure out where I should be, here is one place but I've also been able to attend the director's meeting with the Secretary's office, Secretary Wos and other state initiatives. We are like you, that is our Designated State Unit, but we can be at the table. There is real interest in

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looking at how we can make this a system wide transition and not just address the numbers in the suit. I'm hearing again from multiple sources at the state level, how we use this as leverage to look differently and promote services and the idea of moving into community away from congregate settings, people finding a job, having great opportunities for choice which leads to social capital

Something to keep an eye on, I was recently in Washington DC for a conference, National Association of Councils on developmental disabilities. The convention of the rights for persons with disabilities is high on the agenda; Senator Harkin is very close to having this, an international effort to provide protection to people with disabilities. I'm getting a lot of information about it. He has sent out tool kits out to the states to get rid of the misinformation. Senator Burr is on the fence and could be one of the votes to get this passed. Senator Burr is really interested in the ABLE act which will have a hearing next week. It's achieving a better life meant to help people with disabilities, it's like a college saving plan. I don't remember all the areas you can build assets that won't affect your eligibility for Medicaid. It has a lot of support, it needs to pass this year or they will have to start again from scratch. We are very hopeful that will pass as another mechanism to gain assets without losing medical insurance.

We are watching the general assembly. We know it's really contentious right now.

You already had a more thorough look at the initiatives a couple of meetings ago. Let me run through a few of these that we fund; First in Families of NC was authorized as a contractor to work on the sibling support initiative. We have a couple of new grants; one of them is adult care home transitions and community initiative which is being handled by NC Disability Rights. This is to look at what is happening to folks with developmental disabilities in larger congregate settings.

We are also enhancing disability stake holder engaging to manage long term services and supports. Really our initiative is focused on helping

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inform our continuing into managed care, we are very interested in employment and education and transition to post secondary education but also inclusive employment. We hope to continue to move toward NC being a work first state. We are interested in coordinated healthcare; we are getting ready to pilot that. We are interested in emergency preparedness, learning to transition and raise the expectation for students with developmental disabilities, for which we have contracted with Western Carolina University. We are interested in advancing strong leaders in Developmental Disabilities contracting with a university in Delaware, and partners in policy making a long term initiative which we continue to support which helps people with leadership skills to advocate for legislative change and policy making.

We are accepting nominations ahead of our conference for two awards. The Hefner Award is awarded to a person with developmental disabilities or a family member to celebrate the achievement of North Carolina families and people with developmental disabilities. More information is on our website.

The Helen C. Riddle award, named for Holly Riddle, who has served on this council and currently serves in a policy role with, North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. We will be accepting applications thru September 26 and will be recognizing those awardees during our November council meeting. The applications are on the DD Council website.

I am very please to be here with you, my personal interest is in people achieving personal outcomes and the support should follow that. I am here to help that along for as many years as the council sees fit.

Holly Stiles – More of the development of Meadowmont, who are they trying to service how many etc.?

Chris Egan - Because it's HUD supported, it's a sliding scale and people with disabilities. ARC will manage the property and process of

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applications. Folks living there would need to manage successfully to live there. The other piece of this is that there are several units for 8 people. Two of the units would be shared but are designed in a way that the bedrooms are on either end with shared living space in between. Not much different than any other housing project supported by HUD.

Keith Greenarch – it's probably on the ARC website

Chris Egan - Yes, it is. This was started about ten years ago actually accomplished through a merger of the ARCs of the triangle in partnership with the ARC of NC. Nichole Keifer is the one who can give more details.

Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Report given by Dave Schultz for Stephanie Johnson

First I would like to ask, it's been a long day if you would mind to join me for just a minute to take a stretch. Council participated.

You may want to remain standing while I share my report. You may be reaching that full point in your mind due to all the information given out today. Find a little corner for this. Is everybody feeling good now?

Two parts to my report first is about communication access the second is regarding a curriculum targeting hard of hearing.

Communication Act, DSDHH Communication Access Manager has created policy and procedures for sign language interpreter services for the Governor making comments during press conferences during emergencies. These Policy and procedures have been updated since October with input and shared with our agency. Day emergency preparedness and notifications has gone through the public communication office and Department of Health and Human Services office, which I would assume means Philip Woodward's office. They looked at policy and procedure and

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were trying to understand how to request and use an interpreter when the Governor was making an announcement during an event regarding a natural emergency. What's interesting is in our area was with tropical storm Arthur; we had the Governor come to Wilmington and had to do a press conference. They called our office and requested an interpreter for this announcement. We got our communications access consultant and they were trying to understand how to include the interpreter when filming a live announcement and make sure they are visible. Filming and getting them on camera is an ongoing issue but we were able to use the policy and procedures because it was already in place so the person responsible for coordinating the press conference has a substitute who picked that up and the result was successful in this instance. There is still place for improvement, making sure the interpreter is visible within the shot.

The second part of my report is the curriculum called CHAMP. The abbreviation means Communication and Hearing Assistance Mentoring Program. You could consider it a cafeteria approach creating the curriculum. There are seven centers using it across the state. Their hard of hearing service specialist would like to use it as a tool to help those who are hard of hearing and are new to hearing loss or using a hearing aid. They have volunteers that are being trained to become mentors who will help our consumers. The training targets communication, self advocacy and education regarding understanding the everyday events experienced with hearing loss and use of technology. Those are areas focused on in the CHAMP program. Hard of hearing and service specialist have started twelve sites at local senior centers in collaboration with those local centers. We have eleven mentors trained and 6 waiting for training. We are also looking at establishing two more sites.

Kimlyn Lambert – Could you identify a site in the western part of the state.

Dave Schultz - I can find that out, is there a region you are specifically looking at?

Kimlyn Lambert - West of Asheville.

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Dave Schultz - I will contact the office. I would get in touch with Tzena Keyes she is the director for the Asheville regional center.

Keith Greenarch – I believe that is in the Asheville Vocational Rehabilitation office.

Kimlyn Lambert – I will Google it.

North Carolina Assistance Program **John Marens, Director**

First of all I would like to say that if anyone needs my report in alternative format I have large print and Braille. Large print reports were handed out. David, thank you for the 7th inning stretch.

To get to the most important thing today I want to say that when I entered the meeting room today Julia Sain said that I was her favorite state employee. I would like that to be included in the minutes.

Julia Sain – so far, that is today.

John Marens - It could change at any moment. This is fickle.

I'm going to change the way I do my report. I'm not interested in reporting numbers, I care about people. I have a couple of cases to report today in a more general way than I usually do. Some of the things going on are very positive.

We all know with each new administration they have the prerogative to replace people. Linda Harrington was let go over a year ago, a woman with a disability. This created concerns and anxiety that continued when thought that Elizabeth Bishop was basically going to be viewed as a place holder. The fact that Elizabeth has been named as new Director is excellent judgment and hopeful of the direction that indicates. Ms. Bishop

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has been around many years with a great heart and dedication and was the perfect person for that job.

On another note, I would tell you that the announcement of BEAM is a great positive despite the pain of the inception. Having been around more than six years, it has taken a long time, like any new system there is always been bugs, this is light years ahead of what the VR program was using and if there is such a thing as more than light years ahead than Division of Services for the Blind was using. It creates a case management system that holds people accountable and allows access to information in a more professional manner than available before. It will take a while for bugs to be worked out but will be good.

The Department is looking at co-locations. For instance in Raleigh the Assistive Technology people who are located at Water's Edge are temporarily located at Dix campus so the other building can be renovated and co locate with the VR office in Raleigh and Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The idea is as time goes on and leases come up services will be located together for consumers looking for services from multiple agencies. This will create a kind of a one stop center. They are also creating a bus stop to that office. These are good developments happening.

For those who mentioned visiting the CILs, when I first came on board I visited the CILs except The Adaptables. I even dropped in on Julia without an appointment, it was a good experience for me and I'm sure it would be for you.

I would once again like to thank Mr. Greenarch; you are a true gentleman sir.

I would like to toot my own horn which I don't usually do and also NC. I was invited by Vicky Smith to the National Disability Rights Conference in Baltimore, Maryland where I was invited to speak. I was also part of a panel along with the Director of CAP of New York and a staff attorney of CAP program in Ohio. We all presented on several issues. It was an

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honor to be invited and to speak, our presentation was received exceedingly well. We made North Carolina look good. Sometimes when you are proud of something you want to say it.

In terms of cases this quarter there are two I want to talk about. One is kind of the opposite of what I usually talk about, one that we did not actually support. My office will be involved in a number of appeals cases. I wanted to give an example of one that we could not support.

This gentleman who has a wheelchair had developed to the point that he needed both a manual and power chair. He came to IL to get a lift for his truck that would handle both chairs. They agreed to assist. In the process, when the vendor came out to install the lift the gentleman and installer decided to change the specifications that the rehabilitation engineer had written out for the way the lift was to be attached. When IL came to look at it they said it wouldn't work and would violate the manufacturer's recommendations on safety and IL cannot support you in doing this. At this point the consumer called us. We reviewed the case and did some mediation. IL came to the point where they said, look you have a tool box in your truck that the consumer basically used like a trunk. If you take this tool box off, it would solve the problem. The way the lift has to be installed now would create a weight distribution because the lift would have to be installed further back. The consumer decided he did not want to part with his tool box, requesting an appeal. We declined. The gentleman did go to appeal and the decision has not been made yet. During the waiting we believe the consumer has rethought his decision about the tool box and may very well change his mind. In the end we hope his lift will be installed. Like I said, normally I don't report on cases that we decide not to support but wanted to give you an idea of other cases.

The second case is more of an interagency case and that I hope we can see improve over time. RSA is coming to North Carolina within the next couple weeks, before the end of the month to review the public rehabilitation program. I have been in preliminary discussion in regards to how the program is working. The second case comes to what I feel is a

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lack of collaboration. North Carolina had a policy that if you were a consumer of one agency you could not be a consumer of another at the same time. In 2008 a memorandum was issued that said you could be seen on a case by case basis. The reality is that it doesn't always work out. A woman served by DSB and who was a former regular IL client was basically being shuffled back and forth between the two agencies. She had problems getting out the front entrance of her home and also back on her deck. IL said it's really repair work not modification work. DSB had accepted her for services. They both agreed for her to take part in orientation and mobility training. She was a single mother and couldn't get child care. The agency was requiring her to come to Raleigh to take part in week long training. This dragged on for a year, no plan was ever developed the case basically stalled.

We were able to bring the case to Chief of Policy and Mr. Steele who looked at the modifications for us. They agreed that it was not a repair issue but a safety issue.

DSB has suffered somewhat because of mini-centers not being available for the consumer.

The modifications have been done and other issues have been worked on with DSB. She was happy and we don't track after that.

I think that is a systemic issue that we will take to RSA about when they come, about how agencies will collaborate.

In the past two years especially there have been a lot of calls who give us the same message. I don't know what is happening with my case, there has been no progress with my case, no one ever calls me back, and I leave 3 or 4 messages. I think that agencies services have been significantly impacted both by the initiation of BEAM because I know this from personal observation that an enormous amount of resources and person time has gone into monitoring this program and getting it up and running. Normally persons who would be providing or overseeing services were working 60 or

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80 hours a week to get this thing going. There have also been an enormous number of vacancies in both divisions and because of our new administration those vacancies weren't allowed to be filled. The two events created a problem for consumers. Now that BEAM is up and running it will help and the gates have opened in terms of Departments to begin to hire people. 40 – 50 positions have opened up on the state website. This will also allow consumers to receive services they need.

Julia Sain – what a great afternoon, I am so stoked that we are getting these reports. I have a question about the co-locations. I want to get the answer from you who are involved with it. I heard that the building was not very accessible and there was not a bus stop. What is the timing between it's up and running but there is no bus stop there yet. Are they waiting for the bus stop to go in before it is open?

John Marens – I don't know, I don't know if Pam has any information. I haven't been in there.

Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke – the location where the agencies are moving is where Assistive Technology has been housed. There is a bus stop there, where they are temporarily; there is no bus stop on DIX Campus.

Js – is it fully accessible?

Po – it is they had to add an elevator. By my understanding they are still in the process and won't open until it is installed.

Sandy McMillan – the staff of NC Assistive Technology Program has a variety of disabilities and have never observed issues of accessibility. There are two parking lots, one with a slope but with an elevator the consumers can park on the flatter lot.

John Marens – the access to multiple agencies is a great point.

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Holly Stiles – if they are creating a bus stop this is a great time to insure that it is a fully accessible bus stop. It's good to get in front of construction like this.

John Marens – I would call Rene at Alliance of Disability Advocates first.

Sandy McMillan – I have a general question. I would love to know the history of how these divisions were formed. Why DSB and DSDHH are separate but the other disabilities are all clumped together. Is there any place to go to understand this?

John Marens – I don't have the history. You will see it different in different states. In North Carolina the argument has been that certainly across the period of time they were separated because the constituency wanted it that way. That is my understanding only. Each of those folks has felt that we are the right people to provide services to our own group. For instance a general VR counselor does not have the knowledge to deal with a hearing or vision disability. It was a grass roots movement.

Sandy McMillan – it's just been a real curiosity to me.

Dave Schultz – Before I became a manager I was a licensed recreational therapist, so I saw recreational therapy, occupational, physical and speech therapy. There are very specific avenues of expertise, recreational therapist are highly different than the others because recreational therapy involves 24/7. So keep in mind VR focuses on employment during the day. DSDHH can collaborate with VR and DSB and other agencies to provide outside of work during the community at home and other settings that happen after 9 to 5 so you have to bear that in mind. There is a history that has evolved and technology has had an impact on change, money and costs and a whole lot of stuff.

Pamela Lloyd Ogoke – The co-locations, on the drawing board are other locations across the state. Historically when RSA came to do the visit they

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also audited the IL program but they chose not to do that this time. They will only be focused on VR.

Julia Sain – not DSB?

Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke - Division of Services for the Blind and Vocational Rehabilitation both.

State Rehabilitation Council

Will Miller

I can be brief here because a lot of what I would discuss has been covered in our Designated State Unit reports and in our Client Assistance Program report, as well as personnel, co-location and BEAM. Both of these councils are councils that require SILC representation. The SRC met June 12 in Raleigh. We heard from Elizabeth Bishop who is now the permanent director of Vocational Rehabilitation. She discussed budget cuts and we've already heard about that. We haven't heard about training and travel. Apparently there were cuts of VR staff that has loosened up some and fortunately the GREAT conference will be a possibility for staff to now attend. Secretary Wos will be at the great conference to present awards so if you are there you will be able to hear directly from Secretary Wos. In addition to the visit from RSA there is going to be an annual audit, this is done by the state and RSA. The audits are getting stricter at VR and Department of Health and Human Services, my understanding is that VR has added about 20 internal auditors because of that.

Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke – it's not VR that has added auditors, its Department of Health and Human Services.

Will Miller - Yes the entire DHHS has added about twenty auditors. We heard some regional director's reports. One additional thing I would add is that they are a bit behind meeting their annual goals because of vacancies. I'm hoping it will improve now that the hiring freeze has been lifted. There is also an update on consumer service surveys that the division is

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conducting for their state plan. There is a chance we will hear from Jeff Stevens about this in the future.

Commission for the Blind – Dorothy Frye has been the SILC representative. She is now termed off although she represented us at the last commission meeting. I've been asked to apply, have done so and am waiting to hear back about my appointment.

Keith Greenarch – I have one other thing. I have a hand out that I will start around. It's called what every SILC member should know. I got this from Julia. It actually came from the IL network. I will get this turned into alternative format and send it out. Take this home with you and in a few days look at it. Be truthful with yourself and if you can't answer these questions, probably most of the answers can be found on the ILRU website or talk with your mentor or myself or Will. This is very important that each one of us as SILC members who are called to monitor, review and evaluate. If you know the answers, that's great, if you don't know the answers then take the time to look it up.

Julia Sain – I have the answers. I was going to say that perhaps I would be in the position that I will bring the answers to the next meeting. If anyone that is newly appointed or whatever, we can make that part of the event. If you would prefer if you wanted to get in touch with me or anyone in between time we can talk about it. I can send you the right answers, it's important that we all know this and why. Anything you want we can talk about it, I would love to sit down with you.

Old Business:

New Business:

Julia Sain - so it will be on the agenda for the next meeting, yesterday there was a mention by Will and Keith about the quick discussion about the membership being out of compliance. It was asked, why aren't more center directors going to be part of the SILC? It is because at this point, we

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aren't eligible. At the next meeting I hope the strategy to get the SILC back into compliance is discussed.

Announcements:

Public Comment:

Keith Greenarch – thank you for coming. Helen, happy birthday, I hope you have an enjoyable rest of your day.

Sandy Ogburn – I was just thinking about what Julia was talking about, the compliance. I am a member of the membership committee. I know that we have mentioned this at our meeting. Do I need to talk with the committee and we move more forward on this compliance issue and do whatever is needed?

Keith Greenarch – yes we have to come back into compliance. One thing is the lack of applications. When we have people out there being ambassadors we need more people to apply. Will has a new contact with a person at board and commissions, they are one of the reasons we are out of compliance.

Deidre Dockery – we talked about the IL Summit and I don't' know what the dates are. I would like to put them on my calendar.

Keith Greenarch – Yes, the dates are the 11th and 12th of September. We will have it at two different locations. We will send out the information. I encourage all of you to come to the IL summit. We will have our other meeting on October 24th at the GREAT Conference; it will be an abbreviated meeting. We have so much to do so it will be full of information and a visit to Helen's center.

Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke – IL summit, is it a fee and who is it open to? Is it only for the SILC?

Keith Greenarch – no, it is not for SILC only, it will be for anyone. We are inviting CIL staff, board members, DSU and Ex Officios.

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Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke – IL staff will they be invited?

Keith Greenarch - yes, there are still a couple things to work out. We are waiting until after Youth Leadership Forum to finalize. The sessions will be around our SPIL.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:23

Next meeting is October 24, 2014 in Greenville, NC

Attendees:

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

Members			Guests	
Greenarch, Keith	P	Lambert, Kimlyn	P	Gay Joyner
Bellamy, Gloria	P	Kincaid, Mitzi	P	Mike Ogburn
Cummins, Rene	A			Dave Schultz- DSDHH
Lambert, Kimlyn	P	Ex. Officio		Chris Egan – DDCouncil
Sinnott, Sandi	A	Smith, Vicki Disability Rights	A	Holly Stiles Disability Rights
Miley, Kay	T	Dockery, Deidre DSB	P	2 PA's
Staley, Teresa	P	John Marens CAP	P	
Royster, Sierra	A	Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke VR	P	Staff/Support
Sandra Hicks	P	Stephanie Johnson DSDHH	A	Will Miller
Commander, Zach	A			Debbie Hippler
Overfield, Jennifer	A	CIL Directors		Jamie Hill

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Ogburn, Sandy	P	Julia Sain	P	Sara Clark	P
Miller, Clare "Ping"	A	Jim Whalen	P		
Kaufman, Joshua	A	Gloria Garton	P		
Watkins, Oshana	P	Helen Pase	P		
McMillan, Sandy	P				