

**NC Statewide Independent Living Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 10, 2015**

Country Inn & Suites, Burlington, NC

**Welcome/Mission /Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 by Kay Miley, Chair.

**SILC Mission statement: read by Keith Greenarch**

**Meeting Accessibility Reminders: read by Keith Greenarch**

**Introductions** were made around the room. Absences were explained and/or addressed; Gloria Bellamy due to family health issues.

**Meeting Agenda:**

There were no other changes.

**Action:** (Jennifer Overfield/Sandy Ogburn) unanimous vote to accept the agenda.

**Changes and/or corrections to the Minutes:**

A motion to accept the minutes was called for

**Action:** (Keith Greenarch/Kimlyn Lambert) minutes accepted unanimously

**Chair Report**

**Kay Miley, Chair**

I would like to tell you that if anyone has any questions or any issues as far as the SILC or anything concerning the SILC. Call me. Kay then gave her home phone number. As chair, I am the one you should be calling. This is open from 9 to 5, it is my home phone. Please do not call outside those hours unless it's a dire emergency. Please do call me for any SILC business.

Because of my cough, Keith is my backup but I will try to keep the meeting moving along.

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## **Executive Directors Report**

No report given

### **SPIL Goal Reports:**

#### **Goal 1**

**Rene Cummins, chair**

Provision of Quality Independent Living Services

I can give you just a brief report on the progress. It is moving along just fine. There are two upcoming events that Goal 1 will be assisting the Center directors, they will be attending a South East Center Directors meeting in Atlanta the end of this month. That is the eight south east states. NC Center Directors are a part of that association.

We are also planning a retreat to continue to work on our systematic practices and procedures throughout the centers. We are tentatively looking at that the first part of June. When we come back for the July SILC meeting we will have a clearer update as to where we are in finishing out Goal 1.

Everything is on track to complete that goal for this year.

Are there any questions?

**Kay Miley:** I have made a decision. In Gloria's absence, I have appointed Kimlyn Lambert to serve on the Executive committee as the member at large. Kim will be fantastic with our group; she has a lot to offer.

#### **Goal 2**

**Gloria Bellamy, chair**

Leadership and Empowerment of Individuals with Disabilities

**Joshua Kaufman, Co-Chair reporting**

The last several meetings have focused on the request for additional funds for the Youth Leadership Forum. Goal 2 was going to make a recommendation to the Finance committee, so we looked at budgets from previous years, updated budgets for  
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the upcoming Youth Leadership Forum and unfortunately I was unable to make the last call but from looking over the last meeting minutes there has been no decision on that recommendation.

### **Goal 3**

**Mitzi Kincaid, chair**

Growth and Improvement of Independent Living Services

**Kim Lambert, Co-chair reported.**

On March 26 we met with two Center Directors, Keith, Will and me. A few were absent.

We talk about growth and improvement of IL services, current service areas not becoming unserved or underserved to a greater degree and previously unserved consumers are served.

We had a lot of discussion about funding and the cuts that the centers will be taking next year. Will sent us a chart and we had a lot of discussion because there was incorrect information. We discussed how we can maintain current level of funding for the Centers and how we will come up with a plan to do resource building.

We also discussed Part B funds and carryover for the SILC office and the SILC budget. We had a long discussion yesterday about this for those who weren't here. I'm not going to school you all on that. We have quite a bit of carryover and we need to plan on how to spend that and get into current year funding. We discussed about how we come up with a plan to move forward. There was a lot of discussion about that yesterday and trying to figure out what committee needs to come up with this plan.

The staff at the Centers and the SILC office staff have no health insurance, this is one funding issue discussed. The Centers need money desperately with which they could provide more services.

We also talked about one of our objectives, information on how to start a Center. That is an ongoing process provided by the Centers upon request but of course we don't have the money to start a new Center.

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Another objective is The IL network will include information on their web pages and media outlets. That is being done on many web pages and many social media sites. Sandy Hicks reported that the information has been listed and is very informative.

Our Next meeting is at 2:00pm on April 23, anyone can join us.

**Rene Cummins:** That was an excellent and very complete report. I would like to add the financial piece and apologize for not getting this to you. Under this goal the Centers are funded for general operations at \$8,358. What that means is that we get that much support to deliver our services, advocacy, Independent Living skills, peer mentoring & support, and information and referral.

Three of the centers completely moved all those Part B funds out. One center is close to exhausting the funds. We are right on track because the other centers are moving these funds out as well. We are past our 50% mark of moving this funding out. In July, I will give you a further update as well as be sure the committee gets this information.

### **Part B Center Report: Disability Advocates and Resource Center Greenville, NC. Helen Pase Executive Director**

We serve 3 counties Pitt, Wilson and Beaufort. We continue to serve consumers to the best of our abilities. Beaufort and Wilson are more underserved. I'm getting a little short staffed with only four in the office including myself. We don't have any specialized people. I was recently appointed to the transportation advisory board. Pitt area transit PAT in Greenville and Becky Tindale has recently been appointed to Community of nursing homes. We are happy to be getting in the community in those areas.

We are in the process of five consumer transitions at this point. That is a big need in our area. Yesterday something bad happened. Becky got locked out of a nursing home because the lady can't afford to lose their clients. I have to address that on Monday morning. This lady will not let us in the nursing home; this is a big issue, she will be reported to the state because our consumers have their rights.

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All in all we've been doing a lot of expos in place of paying for advertising. Wednesday we were at the convention center with about 100 other vendors, we had a large day with a lot of people coming by for information. Next week we will contact all those folks to see if services are needed. That is how we market ourselves.

Our website is in construction.

**John Marens:** Helen, did you say Becky Tindale is with you now? Is she part of your staff?

**Helen Pase:** Yes she joined after she retired from Vocational Rehabilitation Independent Living in October.

**John Marens:** I didn't realize she was with you, which is great. You've got a good one. That is awesome

**Helen Pase:** We are very happy to have Becky on staff and her expertise. I'm losing my lady that retired from Social Security, she is going to retire again and I'm not happy about that.

Are there any other questions about our center?

**Keith Greenarch:** I just want to say Helen's center does an excellent job.

I have a question for our voting members. By a show of hands, do you think Helen gets Part B funds? Ok, what about Part C funds? The majority of the group raised their hand for the first question. Good, that is great. Helen is our Part B center and she does a really good job and on a shoestring budget too. We need to applaud that center as we continue to support her. I hope that each member will talk with her. Last October we visited her center and I hope everyone enjoyed that visit. We thank you again for hosting us.

I encourage each member to visit your local center, even if you have to drive a little bit; it's worth it to spend as much time as you can. Let your Center Director that you are

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coming. They will be glad to show you what they do. It would be a good learning experience for everybody.

### **Goal 4**

**Oshana Watkins, chair**

Support the operations of the NCSILC non-profit office

Our minutes are all on the website and were sent out with the E-blast. Kim feel free to add on to this report as co-chair, she wears a lot of hats.

Our first activity is; Part B funds provided for general operations of the NCSILC nonprofit office and related activities. In our report there is a breakdown of funds received in advance, \$49,675. In February we deducted from that leaving us with a balance \$38,932.71.

Another activity is a sub-committee identifies and reports annually on best practices of other states. Four silc members attended the SILC congress and will report at this meeting. Will has been in touch with other SILC's as part of a work group drafting recommended SILC standards and assurances. He has been working on that.

We have a bunch of dates of things that have been happening like our quarterly meetings which are being held. We disseminate information through the Executive Directors report to this SILC.

Another Activity: when sufficient funds remain in a fiscal year the SILC implements an annual IL Summit to garner input and monitor implementation of the SPIL. The Executive committee will reconsider an IL Summit after the April SILC meeting and Youth Leadership Forum with the budget considered.

The SILC maintains representation of youth with disabilities. There are three members in this category.

The NCSILC implements recruitment and procedures which is unchanged from last year. The SILC is no longer conducting background checks as directed by the policy committee. The membership committee has approximately ten member's applications in process and we will be updated at each meeting.

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The last activity is the SILC provides orientation training to new members and assigns mentors in conjunction with the quarterly meetings. This was done at the January SILC meeting by Sandy Ogburn and Rene Cummins.

**Kim Lambert:** I just wanted to talk about the first part of your report. I wondered if Ping; are you planning on discussing that in your report, so everyone knows why there was that advance money. The fact that the freeze of the funds during the transition from Rehabilitation Services Administration.

### Goal 5

**Kay Miley, chair**

Promote Community Based Living

Gloria, I want to say congratulations you are really doing some fine work under this goal. Transitions and she has requested additional funds to complete transitions. We like to see things like that.

**Rene Cummins:** Again I should've given this to you Kay. This is an update on outcomes. Everyone needs to be proud of what is going on under this goal, getting people back into the community. We have 18 successful transitions. The average cost is \$566 per transition. That is what the centers collectively have been able to do. I know like Helen mentioned, we have some in progress that are not included in this report. By point of comparison the Money Follows the Person average is up to \$3,000 to support each transition. Those are outcomes that will be reported when we talk about what has been accomplished this year, the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of our state plan when we report at the end of the year.

**Kay Miley:** Thank you. We seem to have this back on track and going forward after our past funding issues. Eighteen since October is real good.

### Goal 6

**Teresa Staley, chair**

Designated State Unit's provide independent Living Services

The Goal 6 has met twice in 2015, February and March and will be meeting on April 17 at 11:15, anyone is welcome to join us, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. We monitor and

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review and evaluate the DSU IL services and our full minutes are available on our website.

Objective 6.1 people with disabilities have greater access to transportation in their communities. We discussed the 57 visually impaired support groups across the state which are supported by DSB but consumer led. We know support groups and transportation groups exist. Consumers should be encouraged to become involved in regional transportation systems. We've share correspondence from transportation service such as email from Greensboro rider advisory. We agreed to ask the ADA Coordinator of NCDOT to speak at one of our future teleconferences and see if they would be good to have speak to the full council

We also discussed having the Center directors give us updates on transportation in their quarterly reports.

Objective 6.2 people with disabilities have the supports to live independently and safely in the communities of their choice. Major progress has been made in respect to targeted housing. Pamela provided a review of the Money Follows the Person program whose funding is scheduled to end in 2018. Pam and Deidre have said that the staff changes in coordination transitional service will be reported in the next DSU reports.

Objective 6.3 veterans with disabilities receive support and services to allow them to live independently. The committee discussed the memorandum of the agreement between division of vocational rehabilitation services and the VA offices in Winston Salem. That references sharing information and coordination of services.

I was reading in an article on line that there may be a strike by the cab drivers in Greensboro. I read it a week or so ago. I will definitely keep the committee updated. They want more money.

This I found real fascinating, Greensboro transit system specialized transit is managed by a company in France.

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**Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke:** I want to clarify the 6.2 objective. I want to clarify the new targeted housing. There is a new policy that if you are a Money Follows the Person client you are prioritized for this housing. The second point to Money Follows the Person is that we are working on meeting the Department of Health and Human Services and the division within the department on a sustainability plan so when funding goes away in 2018 it will be picked up because we know the value of transition services.

**Julia Sain:** Comment and questions. Centers are not allowed to refer to key units because we are not professional by their definition. The question is I heard that Money Follows the Person money ends in 2018 and Pam said in 2020, please clarify.

**Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke:** Funding ends in 2020 the last transition will probably happen in 2018 and funding will be available for one year after transition.

In response to the Centers, Trish Varnham of MPF is strongly advocating for several groups to become agents, one is Centers for Independent Living, Vocational Rehabilitation transition coordinators and the AAA from Department of aging. I know it's on the agenda to make this happen.

**Julia Sain –** That's the first time I've heard that and please ask Trish what the Centers can do to help that along. We have clients on waiting list and we can't refer them and that is just wrong.

**BREAK: 9:55 – 10:10**

**Center Director's Report      Gloria Garton, Executive Director Wilmington Center**

I am Gloria Garton the Director of the center in Wilmington. I came back from dinner last night and thought about yesterday's presentation and what I wanted to say today and I started all over.

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If you were here yesterday, Will gave a state of the SILC and while I'm not going to go over that, it was a very in dept overview of where the SILC is. What we are going to be talking about later today is how we are going to fund the centers with the end of the ARRA funding.

Originally I was asked to present yesterday and amongst the directors decided that we would have more people here on Friday. What I want to emphasize is that how very important the SILC is, and when we write a SPIL, which you hear about all the time, reporting on the goals of the 3 year plan. My presentation kind of ties in to what happened before the ARRA funds or stimulus funding. The goal of my presentation today is to help you understand how we got to where we are today and give you some thoughts about where we go from here. We are in a very important transition right now.

I've always grown up watching the Wheel of Fortune and have always admired Vanna White who gets paid lots of money for turning those squares around, so today my Vanna is Mitzi Kincaid. Because I changed much of my presentation I have this flow chart which she will carry around for all of you to see.

I feel that to understand how we got where we are, you have to understand the history. I'm going back to 2008 when the Wilmington and Helen's center was created out of Federal Part B funds. We each had \$110,000. Keep in mind that the minimum funding level recommended by Rehab Services Administration, the department we were under and now under the new Administration of Community Living, my flow chart shows this.

So we were created as a result of the hard work of the SILC, which was a good thing because if the SILC hadn't taken Federal dollars, who knows if our centers would even, be here. The last center before that was Rene's center in 2003. So there is our starting point for this discussion. The flow chart shows the state funds on the left, the right side is the federal side.

The SILC receives Federal Part B funding which funds Helen's center and funds a smaller portion of the other centers, the goals of the SPIL, the Youth Leadership

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Forum, the SILC office, and the SILC meetings for all of us to be here. How the money comes into the state, it comes from the same federal Department as the Part C dollars, the SPIL tells us how the money is allocated and then dispersed to the different entities.

Part C is the direct federal funds that fund all the other centers, Asheville, Sylva, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Charlotte and Raleigh. What I want to point out is that we don't all get the same funding levels. There are formulas used to determine the amount each receives. Keep in mind that even though Wilmington is now getting federal funding we are not a regular funded Part C center. We are down here in our own little world. We are under the stimulus funding until the end of this year.

A very good question was asked yesterday the 5 years we've known this was coming. Yes we did and you know what, we were fighting this even before we started.

Here is word for word taken from an email from David Asquith, the Rehab Services Administrator, the person at this time that was responsible for the funding of the state of NC, the current person is Deb Cotter. Back on August 28<sup>th</sup> 1988 the state of NC was given the ultimatum of, you either lose the money or you create a new center.

So what happened at that point is they had Helen and I competed and the Wilmington Center was awarded the C status under the ARRA funding. The Rehab administration still was debating whether or not we would have to apply to become a real Part C center at the end of the 5 years. The point is that we didn't create this mess, we were following the directives. We are told that we had to become a Part C center. The other centers did receive some stimulus funding and they could use the funds however they chose over the five years. Our funding was for \$197,500 for five years with no increases.

What happens at the end of your five year funding, in fiscal year 2014 when ARRA funds are no longer available we would receive small cost of living increases, the rest of the money would have to be divided amongst all the centers. That is where we are and why you've heard so much discussion. Our money is going to end, and it's nice to know you are all looking out for us but we are all loosing money because when you all

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have to split the pot it means that everyone is going to have to take a cut. This is not going to impact just the Wilmington center it will affect all the centers. We have all had to make tough decisions not only ARRA but sequestration. I can provide you with a visual of Part B, Part C and Part C ARRA. The funding has continued to go down. The sequestration really impacted the Charlotte center because of the formulas used. The money is not shared equally.

**Josh Kaufman:** Could you clarify sequestration?

**Gloria Garton:** It's when our government decided to shut down, it was when there was not enough money to fund to fulfill budgets so they made drastic cuts to budgets and it impacted everyone in this room, everyone receiving federal money.

**Keith Greenarch:** I just want to say that sequestration is not over it is scheduled through 2021.

**Gloria Garton:** So for centers that have been around a long time, they have worked for many years to get where they are today. When this pot of money goes away we all have to make tough decisions in order to keep programs going.

For Helen and me, we get double whammies. We are new centers and as more and more people learn what we are able to do. For our situation we were told that we have to serve five counties, so our service area tripled.

Our biggest problem is hiring and retaining good employees because we do not have the funds to properly pay them. I've hired some amazing people but have not been able to retain them because I can't give raises etc. It's inevitable that people have to move on. Why would they work for us for \$11/hour with no benefits? We have lots of challenges.

It is not anyone's fault in this room. So when it comes full circle, this shows the importance of your role with the SILC. We learned a hard and fast lesson when this issue came up, that if our SPIL had been worded differently we would not have been forced to be in this position. We are all just busy and thinking we are covered and

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something like this happens and you realize that one simple sentence would have saved you. If we had had a simple sentence in our spil that funding had to be at a certain level to open a new center then we could've avoided this but now we are here and have to deal with it. When you are thinking of your role and ours as center directors, it is real important because when the federal government comes up with these ideas we have to be able to handle them to be sure that we can sustain what we have worked so hard to build. Remember the days of heated discussions about opening new centers? We would love to have every county covered but aren't you glad we haven't so we don't have to worry about funding in the situation we are in right now.

We sit in our board meetings every month and the discussion of finances take over most of our meetings overshadowing our successes and programs we would like to start.

What I need you to do today and as we go forward that we all work together. We need team effort.

The centers have to account for everything but we get to draw our funds down directly as Part C centers. Under the Part B money you all control how those decisions regarding how funds are used and distributed. That is why I had to come to the SILC and ask for the money to continue the transitions because my allocated Part B funds were all used up. I just wanted you to understand the differences in how the Part B and the Part C funds work.

**John Marens:** I can always rely on you. Help me understand, why or how did it get set up for two funding streams, why is there not a simple central funding stream which goes to create the CILS in the state. How did the separation between Part B and C get set up?

**Julia Sain:**

For those of you that don't know, I am celebrating 30 ½ years in my job. Before 1992, there was Part A and Part B money, same law but different parts. There was no such

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thing as a SILC. Part A went to a state Independent living program. All the states set up an Independent living program, a sister agency to Vocational Rehabilitation. It was in 1978 when the money was allocated. The first center opened July 1, 1980. The federal government had \$2,000,000 to be divided, \$200,000 to open 10 Centers for Independent Living, which was a new concept.

Our Charlotte center was one of the first centers in the country. There were no rules or expectations there was just money and a grass roots organization controlled by people with disabilities to help people with disabilities. It could've been anything organization as long as it was consumer controlled and helped people with disabilities, no reporting or accountability. So the Part A money that was supposed to go to a SILC program, North Carolina didn't have one. So our center got both all Part A and Part B because we were the only game in the state.

In 1983 Vocational Rehabilitation realized that there was money from the federal government that had the state of North Carolina's name on it that was coming to Charlotte. We can get money, there is money with our name on it so, they went to the Legislature asking to please apply for the money so we can have the money with our name on it. The Legislature said "Not sure that Independent living is something we understand or is effective so no, unless you can prove that something called independent living works is effective and can make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities and be cost effective."

So Vocational Rehabilitation applied for a grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation out of Winston-Salem, and they started the Kate B. Project.

They started it in our center. We gave them two rooms and furnishings. It was a two year grant, with the goal to prove the importance of Independent living. Part A could be used for direct service but you could not use Part B at the time.

We had a collaborative relationship at our center with the folks that were running the Kate B. Project so that if someone came to us and said I want to be more independent. We asked what you need. Maybe peer counseling, independent living skills; we can do that but if it was a ramp to my front door we couldn't do that. The Kate B. Project

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would pay for the thing and we would do the other stuff. At the end of the 2 years, the state Legislature was presented with the proof of what we had been able to help people with disabilities with and all of that. The Legislature said "I see this is a good thing." So the state set up Independent living programs.

The first was in Charlotte and the people from our office moved out and moved to Charlotte Town Mall and started the first State Independent Living Program with the plan that with the Part A money and money from the state Legislature because the state was not only taking the Part A money, but also adding to it. We were going to have the state covered with the State Independent living program, same thing that was going on all over the country.

So the center in Charlotte only had the Part B money and that was ok, we couldn't do direct services but we could tell how to get out of bed without a leg.

So in 1992 the Federal government reauthorized the 1973 rehab act. It did a ton of stuff. First thing it did was to add another funding source for older blind and moved it to the top and called it Part A. The Part B moved to what had been used to grow the Vocational Rehabilitation IL program and the Part C was ours. They set up a SILC because they said we need to have cross disability, race, gender and state representation of the people across the state that know where the barriers are and instead of using that money to duplicate any kind of services we are going to use the money based on what is in the SPIL. It's going to have 7 uses.

The person who chaired the committee to decide for what the money is going to be used was Case Ballinger from North Carolina. He put in there that the Part B could be used for direct services but you also need to fund the SILC that had been set up and several other things. The number one purpose was to support the Centers for Independent Living that is what it says in the law - and it decides what the SILC is. The SILC is people sitting around figuring out how to support people with disabilities through Center for Independent Living. Most of the states, all but two closed their state Independent Living program because they didn't have any other money than that money. All the money then went to the Centers for Independent Living and the Part B

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was used for the SILC and supporting the network of centers because that is what it says.

We wrote the SPIL, but North Carolina kept their state Independent Living program because they had state funds. Most states with Independent Living money goes straight to the Centers for Independent Living. They get state and federal funding. Not North Carolina, we don't get any state funds at all.

The other thing the reauthorization of the Rehab Act was to set up standards and assurance for centers. We now had a reporting form called a 704. We had accountability and all these other things. We had to fill out a SPIL. I've worked on every plan since 1992.

So out of the federal money North Carolina gets a specific amount and the feds are sitting back and saying what are you going to do with it? We write what we are going to do with it and send it to the feds. They review it and say ok. There are certain allowable expenses, what was decided that needs doing, how it's going to be paid for. You are good to go, understand, that you have the support of the centers and people with disabilities in the state of North Carolina.

Unfortunately before the ARRA funds the only federal money available was new Part C money. In 1992 they put gonga bucks in the Part C centers. There are a lot of centers started in 1992 because the money was just rolling in.

We wrote in our SPIL that any new federal money for Centers for Independent Living will be used to open a new center because up until that point the only new federal money that had ever come was Part C and it was always enough to open a new center.

The ARRA funds came out that had a 5 year life span and Dave Esquith read our SPIL and said, oh my goodness, the SPIL says any new federal money will open a center and so you are bound to open a center. But, we said, Dave that is stupid at the end of 5 years how will it be funded? He said not my problem, you wrote the SPIL. We argued for about 3 months but it didn't matter. You will open the center so we got

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together with the Designated State Unit and the SILC and the Centers. What are we going to do at the end of 5 years? The DSU and Center directors and SILC agreed we have five years. We will work so that at the end of five years you all will have what you need. That is in writing. We listened and waited and we would stand up at SILC meetings and say you realize in October, 2015 you're going to owe us money, we are telling you, you can't say you didn't know it.

Keith recognized we are in a world of hurt because we put in the state plan that in order to cover that cliff we will agree, the state DSU and the SILC that every center is going to remain funded at the current level. The current level was the day we wrote it. Everybody signed it, SILC signed and voted on it and DSU and that was only eighteen months ago. So now is your time, so hello, you promised eighteen months ago that we aren't going to be hurt. It was in writing but not worth the paper it was written on.

Keith found out that there is a little codicil in I&E funds, innovation and expansion money that comes to every state. It goes to the Vocational Rehabilitation and it says in the law that at least \$1 of I&E funds has to go, by law, go to support the SILC resource plan. \$1 if you want to be legal and more if you want to be kind. We have 0, we have never had a dime, why Rehabilitation Services Administration has approved our plan, an illegal plan I don't know. So we realized that we've never gotten any of that money. Keith made an appointment with Elizabeth Bishop and showed her. We sat down with her and said that we need \$210,000 of I&E funds just to buy us another year so you guys have another year to figure this out. It reminds me of going into a restaurant and saying your restaurant is not accessible and they ask me, can I have six months? I think, really you've has how many years and you want six more months? Now I'm in the position, can you give us money and you are asking for another year. That is how it feels to me, so Elizabeth and Phil Protz and state folks have committed \$210,000. They were discussing how this will help the Centers. Every center needs to get \$30,000 because we are all loosing \$30,000 as of October 1. It was a big pot that was covering seven ways and now it has to cover eight ways. Like having a new baby and it's one less piece of chicken for everybody. Now they have been offered this money as a band aid for one year. They don't have to but they are being very nice.

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Now, what are you all going to do this time next year because this \$210,000 will go away? We are in a world of hurt, four and a half years of ignoring it doesn't make it go away. There is a motion that Keith is going to give that will talk about that \$210,000. You all are in charge of what happens now. If we use I&E funds in an appropriate manner for a year that is a band aid or duct tape. Next year, you have 18 months from now to figure out how we are going to make it happen.

**Jennifer Overfield** - I know that Oshana, Rene and Kay and I found out that we can fundraise now and also seek other grants. Is there any way that can help?

**Julia Sain** - Fantastic, the only reason that we are a 501 (c) 3, is one year in the state plan for this reason, not to open an office or provide services, it was to be able to write grants. One thing Kim said in her report is that we need a resource development plan. You have a professional fund raiser on the SILC but you haven't asked her to chair the resource development committee which I think would be a cool thing. The other thing is that the network of centers is now a 501 (c) 3. So now you can get a grant and contract with us, so yes, that is a fabulous idea.

**Mitzi Kincaid** - For those who don't know, I am board chair for Wilmington. I want to give a board chair perspective, because it's important that you know that all of you are contributing to businesses. People forget sometimes that because you are a non-profit that you don't make money and that you don't have employees and things like this. Actually the SILC is a business as is each Center for Independent Living. Every time we have a board meeting I'm running a company, I run many companies and this is just one I've been asked to run. I'm talking to board members who have no idea how this works. I've been here a year and a half and I still have no clue. Sandy is my mentor and laughs at me because I have no clue. You might be sitting here thinking well they can fundraise and so every time I push my board to fundraise but unfortunately we have guidelines and things. I talk with Julia and Gloria and we often have board members who aren't fundraisers. Why do we need more money from the SILC, can't they just go write the grants themselves and raise money. That is absolutely true but we are competing with every other charity in the localities. We are doing everything we can do to get more people in but it's a limited amount. Goal 3 is really going to get involved. These Centers for Independent Living are businesses and

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they will go out of business without money. With my accounting and legal background I have our annual audit because all have to be audited to get grants, I'm crossing my fingers because they do something called a going concern. The accountants and auditors look ahead and say, is there enough money to run this business going forward. If I were auditing the SILC at this moment and the Centers for Independent Living, I'm not sure I would be generous because of what you are tasking us with. We really need to make this a big deal. 18 months will go quickly and we may not have a bail out option. No one knows where the money comes from so let's decide this and make it happen.

**Julia Sain** – Gloria said something so incredibly important I want to emphasize. You give us \$10,000 for operational expenses. Thank goodness, no one wants to fund operational expenses. So that \$10,000 is the only Part B money we have to pay for stuff like rent, electricity and plumber and the stuff that is not sexy. Some of our Part C can be used for that now I go out to a place called Sisters of Mercy, a foundation in Belmont and they want to give us \$30,000 and every dime has to be passed through. I have to use every dime of it to buy stuff for people. That is awesome, if you look at my budget you say, you got \$30,000 and I say yeah and I lost \$30,000 to people. So what funds my operations?

There was a mistake about a year and half ago at an IL Summit that centers could use their money for nursing home transition. Yes I can pay a person out of my Part C to do transitions. Someone has to pay for that because you all done but I can't use it to pay for anything for that consumer. Yes I can use Part C to pay the person but not help the consumer so your Part B is the actual amount that we give to buy stuff. Rene's statement was important is that we have been able to get people out of nursing homes for an average of \$566. That doesn't pay for staff or expenses. It only pays for the stuff. The real number is much more than that because we pay people and other things so much more. So when the Sisters say I'll give you \$30,000 to move people out of nursing home it scares the heck out of me, because I'm like what if I don't have staff what am I supposed to do? I have to have both direct service money which I can't do with Part C and we have to have personnel which I can do with Part C.

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I heard Sandy say yesterday, can the centers tell us what they need. I can but what are you going to do with that information? With sequestration alone, I lost \$120,000 Part C money. I laid off people, I lost part of my Center literally, I had to carve it up and not have as much space. We stopped transportation; the staff had to pay for travel themselves. I personally as Executive Director having been there for over 30 years pay \$553/month out of my pocket for my own health insurance. What could I do if I went to corporate America?

So we are depending on you guys, if I lose another \$30,000, we shut the door. You've agreed to not let that happen, so there is a motion but that is not enough. If you approve the band aid motion but the next discussion is, what are we going to be doing after that? There is no guarantee of any more Part C money, ever, there may be there may not be. Are there any more questions before Keith has the motion? By the way, you all don't pay me to be here. Some of your Part B money is paying for this.

**Jennifer Overfield** – What is your suggestion is well, that you pass this so we can have a band aid and then look at other potential funding sources?

**Julia Sain** – Remember the funds that other states use? We don't get a dime of state money. Does anyone want to go to the legislator? I don't know, I'm not a voting member. You set up the by-laws to restrict the Center Directors, it was not federally mandated to do that, you chose to do that.

**Joshua Kaufman** – My understanding is that the meetings are open to the public. We can receive feedback from the public, just because you aren't a voting member doesn't mean you can't make suggestions.

**Julia Sain** – I'm pretty sure I do.

**Joshua Kaufman** – At the end, the response seemed to be I don't have any suggestions. My response was that, just because you aren't a voting member doesn't mean you can't offer suggestions or provide feedback.

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**Julia Sain** – Thank you and I do have ideas and suggestions. I can only make suggestions because I don't have a vote. I have lots of ideas but will be throwing them out to the powers.

**Keith Greenarch** – To follow up on that, at the last Executive Committee meeting, we did talk about sustaining this money past this one year and that's going to take us to talk to legislator. That is our next bet and that's what we have to do. That plan has been put in motion. I know Kay has agreed to do that. I know our codification is coming up next year. She knows her representative personally to talk about our funding and codification. I know Mark is working and talking about that. There are plans in place we are not sitting on our hands; we've done that enough we are not doing that any longer. We have to be aggressive and go get our funding. It's not going to come to us.

**Jennifer Overfield** – Since the Youth Leadership Forum is getting half the funds from us and requesting more why don't we ask them to go talk to the legislators as well to get more funding, since they are youth with disability.

**Keith Greenarch** – That is a good point, anyone can go talk to their legislator. Any stake holders in Independent living can go talk. We are going to have to solicit the help of everyone we know. That plan is already being put into motion. First of all we have to get a road map to present to you guys before we go forward. We have a motion to present, that will carry us at least through the next year.

**Barry Washington** – I am a new member. While listening, it appears almost as if SILC is responsible for the operation and everything these centers are doing but this is a collaborative effort that will take the Centers as well as the SILC to work together. As I listen it appears that the SILC is responsible for all of this and if we only get a certain amount of funds you can only distribute those funds according to what you get. It would behoove all to work together in this effort to be able to fund this. What I'm hearing as a new member doesn't sound too good the way I hear it. I think you said something about contracting with you guys and letting you chair something and I was thinking that I didn't exactly understand what you were saying. I thought that maybe you would help assist in writing grants or do you have a grant writer, I don't know. I

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think we could work together and what happened is what Josh said is that we need feedback. If you are seeking funds yourself we could come behind and seek those funds also. There may be some areas where the centers can trim, this is a responsibility. There is a responsibility, there has to be some, we all have to be able to work together. There has to be somewhere we can trim the budget because we cannot supply all the money you need.

What I'm saying is I'm a new member and to hear what I hear and see that she is pressing me to respond to what I have to say really makes me feel very uncomfortable almost angry. She stood up there for almost 20 minutes. I'm proud of her; she did an excellent job explaining it in a very good spirit. I am a voting member and I am offended even though I am new here by your presentation and the spirit in which you are pressing me today. I just had to say that for the record because I think we have to work together as a team and collaborative. We could go after these grants this is a simple thing if we come together. I've done it myself and I'm not even a grant writer and raised myself \$50,000. You're talking about a state agency. We can do this, it's a simple thing but we can only do it in a spirit of collaboration. You can say; here are some of our success and some of our stories which can be portrayed to corporations and others and they would be willing and glad to assist us and give us the money we need. If we're not standing together that is going to show. Thank you.

**Kay Miley** – Keith is going to present the motion now.

**Keith Greenarch** – We've heard all the comments. It's tough but we do have to go on and we do have to work together and I think we are working together. Barry, you said you can only work with what you have and we are working with what we have. We are making every penny go farther. Being in the independent living world, I've been in every center in North Carolina and I've seen the great work the centers are all doing. I can say honestly that all the centers work to try to find information and referral and provide our consumers with their needs. In order for us to do that, times change and we're standing still and the funding is standing still. You are correct we only have so much money to work with. That is why we have to go to our legislators and tell our stories, the nursing home transitions, the Youth Leadership Forum and about the youth programs we have. We have to talk about going in and working with youth in our

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schools. I have to say and pat our center on our back. I've seen the difference it makes in a youth life when we are involved and give them the information they need to transition and do what they want to do. Often times they are hearing that they can't do anything and we come along and say yes you can. I've seen the results of that, the changing of a young person's life and how they view it after mom and dad.

I do have a motion; there has been a lot of work put into this from the SILC and Center Directors. It's been a collaborative effort. I'm going to read the motion and then it is your responsibility. Yes no or abstain. I'm tell in you right now, in order for the Centers to proceed forward in keeping good people with the dedication needed to provide the services that the people with disabilities of this state need. We have to do something it's up to us. When we took our oath of office we said that we would do all we could do to support the Centers for Independent Living and the consumers served, each from a different part of the state. You have an obligation to the best of your ability to make decisions that affects their lives. I thank everyone here and every one of you is wonderful but this is serious times.

As Julia said we have been working with North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation, to accept \$210,000 in Innovation& Expansion funds from North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation, to be used for the SILC resource plan.

The finance and executive committee will determine the proper use of the funds based on the SPIL allowable expenses. We have a resource plan, that doesn't mean that we are going to use the money for everything. We're going to use this to keep doors open and people working. We have to look past this, but this is just a band aid.

**Jennifer Overfield – I second.**

**John Marens** – Keith, I'm assuming that whatever the executive and finance committees decide determining the use of the money would be reported to this council and would be transparent. Thank you for your motion.

**Keith Greenarch** – Of course!

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**Rene Cummins** – I just wanted to add that the funds would be used in keeping with the SPIL. We've referred to the SPIL on and off all day. We are bound by what we have in our three year state plan. This will carry out what is already approved through the state plan. I know you had that in the motion and wanted to make sure all understand that this will help us to carry out our already approved state plan.

**Kimlyn Lambert** – I have a point of order, is this the appropriate time under the Center Director's report instead of under the financial report?

**Keith Greenarch** – At this time this is not financial. This is the motion being made. Once it's approved then it goes forward. The SPIL will have to be amended and go out for public comment as we talked about. Does everybody understand the process?

**Ping Miller** – Can we just run through the process?

**Keith Greenarch** – Sure, we're bringing this motion to the SILC today, then the process will be, if you approve, we move forward to accept the \$210,000 from North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation. It then goes out for public comment for thirty days. Our SPIL will have to be amended, we will have to update our resource plan then go to the finance and executive committees. Will vote because it will come quick once it comes back from public comment it will be sent out electronically for a yes or no vote. Does that answer the question?

**Ping Miller** – Yes it does.

**Oshana Watkins** – I'd like to second the motion.

**Kay Miley** - All in favor of the motion. It was a unanimous vote to approve. So now it's out for public comments for thirty days.

**Pam Lloyd-Ogoke** – There are two other motions that I am assuming will happen because of the state plan. Will those be taken up?

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**Keith Greenarch** – I said that there will be an amendment of the SPIL which will have to go out to vote. There was also a motion in regards to the Youth Leadership Forum. A new disbursement will be allocated for the 2016 contracts with the centers and there was also a motion related to the Youth Leadership Forum amount for 2016 as well. All 3 of those affect the SPIL so an amendment needs to be inclusive of all three of these motions.

**Ping Miller** – Will was going to bring up that up during the finance report.

**Keith Greenarch** – That will be brought up after lunch.

**Kay Miley** – We sort of went through things pretty fast. Sierra sent someone to report on the Youth Leadership Forum,

### **Youth Leadership Forum**

### **Nellie Placencia**

The Youth Coordinator at Alliance of Disability Advocates and work with Sierra, I will give the report. Sierra was going to be on the teleconference.

Just to go over some logistics we will be at NC State in the North Hall dormitory which is really a renovated hotel, which is really nice because it's been done to be totally accessible.

The recruitment for leaders and delegates was done through all the Vocational Rehabilitation offices and eight centers as well as Division of Services for the Blind and Wake County schools where we do a program. In each high school we promoted this Youth Leadership Forum. We have a lot of folks on our planning committee who posted on social media. We do have some alumni in the house who posted which helped getting youth to apply. It was nice to see all stepping up to get the word out there. We have a pool of 4,365 fliers and applications distributed.

The planning committee is made up of youth who are people with disabilities, four mentors chosen from last year's forum and were voted to be mentors for this year's Youth Leadership Forum, three Center peers and three professional peers from each of the following dsb, bridge to sports and from youth move and 1 community member a well rounded committee. Working around high school hours were a challenge. We

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decided to have a chair and co-chair and then split the committee into four sub committees.

The Forum subcommittee was responsible all the activities for the week, themes, donations of meals and supplies. They have successfully planned each day, Monday to Friday it is complete. The theme is Americans with Disabilities Act past, present and future. We are watching, Back to the Future during the Youth Leadership Forum. The food donations have been requested. We are also working on volunteer recruitment. Let me know if you want to volunteer.

The Delegate subcommittee focused on recruitment and interviewing for the group leaders positions. This was worked on by all but focused on by this subcommittee. We got thirty three applicants for delegates, youth with disabilities, from 15 counties. The 20 delegates were voted on by sending out the essays to the entire planning committee. They were voted on because they showed they are ready to gain the independent living skills etc. Those twenty delegates came from nine counties. Each year we typically get more from Wake County. This year we have delegates from Wake, Alamance, Guilford, Buncombe, Davidson, Durham, Forsyth, Watauga and Wilkes counties. We are happy with the representation. Most are age 15 – 19 most are in high school or transitioning out. All have been notified and those who weren't are automatically considered an alternate, thirteen of them who could step in if an opening came available.

Group leaders subcommittee – We had a lot of alumni apply, we had eight applicants from five counties. Four were selected, all have public speaking experience, one has writing experience for a newspaper and one is leading an advocacy group on her own campus. All the leaders have been notified, the others are on a waiting list.

Presenters subcommittee - Their job was to find the speakers and facilitators for the forum. We have three speakers, Mike Beers a Center employee out of Montana; he is our go to for disability history. He's been doing a lot with rural Montana youth. Eddie Rea from the California SILC who will be our facilitator and Billy Alton the Executive Director of APRIL will be speaking. He's really good on leadership and self advocacy coming from Little Rock, Arkansas.

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We have really good nationwide representation of our speakers. We've got some really great advocates coming to speak to our young people to inspire them and excite them about doing leadership in the future. Are there any questions on the status of Youth Leadership Forum planning? Sierra is on the phone.

**Mark Steele** – How many applicants did you have all together?

**Nellie Palencia** – 33 applicants

**Oshana Watkins** – Thank you so much for all you do. I know this is a lot of work for you and Sierra and Alliance, I appreciate it. What is it that you need from us specifically? I know a printer but what other stuff, someone may have a contact. What are tangible in kind donations that we can seek out to help you out.

**Nellie Palencia** – I have copies of our sponsorship letter. I have 20; I can email a copy to be sent out by the SILC office. If you do know of a restaurant, we are still working on meals. If you want to contact me and let me know of a restaurant that might be able to make a donation we will work together. T-shirts, if you know of a printing company that can help us out with cheaper t-shirt. We decided to go with black and white because we want to tie dye them.

**Keith Greenarch** – Do you have a number of how many t shirts you need?

**Nellie Palencia** – We will need at least 50 I believe because...go ahead sierra.

**Sierra Royster** – We actually try to order 75 because we put them out on the table at registration and at Friday for the presentation for parents or donors or who ever. Purchasing one can support and advertise across the state kind of like a little fundraiser. I also use them throughout the year when making promotional presentations.

**Keith Greenarch** – Have you ever contacted Haines brands for donations?

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**Sierra Royster** – No we have not.

**Keith Greenarch** – Guess what? My property borders their property and two of my neighbors work in the administrative office. So I may be able to help you there with a donation of Haines brand. I will see if we can get a contact through our neighbors.

**Sierra Royster** - Just to expand on Oshana's question, what exactly do we need from you? We will follow up any leads, we want to send out the delegate's demographics in your area so you can say, I have this young person who is right here in our community, we would love for you to donate for this person to go to this event. Sometimes speaking of specific person is helpful. Deidre has helped me tremendously and I've been in talks with others about nursing. If anyone has leads on students who are working on the transition of the furthering of their education involves community hours. If we could contact some of those who want to volunteer that would be great. I've contacted some places and the nursing board association had no one in mind but said I was able to advertise in their newspaper for \$700.

**Barry Washington** - I just wanted to add to what Keith said. We've gotten 200 shirts a year from Haines; they give them in all sizes. I remember last quarter you did a wonderful presentation of the outcome of what you have done and I heard yesterday how this benefited a past delegate and I think this is a noble thing you are doing.

**Nellie Palencia** – To clarify, can the shirts be printed?

**Keith Greenarch** – No, they are plain.

**Sierra Royster** – A couple of other things too, if anyone has a local store that would donate a gift card that is very helpful for us to use toward grocery bills. Our bills are usually around \$600 – \$700, anything toward food, we take food and drinks we eat and drink a lot during that week. That would be great if you can find donors.

**Nellie Palencia** – To expand on that, I know last year we weren't able to feed our volunteers. It would be nice to be able to do a volunteer appreciation so they could have a meal as well. We have to keep in mind different dietary needs or restrictions

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such as vegan, vegetarian or gluten free, so looking into stores that offer those foods as well.

**Keith Greenarch** – Please share the dates again.

**Nellie Palencia** – June 15 – 19 and staff training is June 14. We also want to feed them.

**Jennifer Overfield** – UNCW has a big nursing program and I can give you the contact number and if you email those sponsorship sheets.

**Keith Greenarch** – Can you give me an idea of how much water you need?

**Nellie Palencia** – Sierra, do you remember how much water we used last year and how much we need?

**Sierra Royster** – We have 3 – 4 cases left over but we need to provide at least two bottles a day so 60 x2 every day, do the math, it's a lot. Thursday it's usually a little more because we go downtown.

**Deidre Dockery** – I have a contact for you from Walgreens, are you going to be here for lunch?

**Nellie Palencia** – Yes, I can.

**Oshana Watkins** – Do you have a Facebook page or twitter?

**Nellie Palencia** – There is a Youth Leadership Forum alumni Facebook page. We promote some of this year's Youth Leadership Forum on it.

**Oshana Watkins** – I have a contact from Carolina vending, can you send me numbers of how much soda and water you need?

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**Nellie Palencia** – Something we would really love is that if you can't volunteer or come the entire week of Youth Leadership Forum please put Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. We always have a big presentation where the delegates all talk about what they've learned and what they've experienced. Its open to family and friends and you are cordially invited to come and see what the delegates have learned that week. It's awesome and transformative and fun to see the relationship changes with their parents.

**Barry Washington** – I was going to say, if you need more water we have a relationship with Home Depot and can get more if you can come and pick it up. For the future reference you might want to check up with Joni and Friends and Christopher Reeves, they do give money for what you are doing since Rene's center is 5013c.

**Nellie Palencia** – Thank you, I would've never thought to go to Home Depot for water. Again like what we were talking about earlier in the day. Right now it's me and Sierra and our part timer Christina doing the office work, we are 3 ½ legs so if you all can pass out the sponsorship letter and make the contacts that really helps us out a lot.

**Sierra Royster** – One more suggestion is that we put together gift bags with trinkets and snacks and candy (peanut free and gluten free), tablets and pens anything along those lines. They can be brought to the SILC office or dropped off at Alliance.

**Nellie Palencia** – Thank you for all your help.

**Kay Miley** - Right quick, I want us to vote on the request for additional funds for the Youth Leadership Forum, since we just got through talking about it. The Executive committee is proposing a \$5,000 additional to the \$20,000 that they already get which then is \$25,000. I call for discussion first.

**Ping Miller** – The finance committee has gotten together on two occasions to discuss the funding requests from Youth Leadership Forum and the disAbility Resource Center. We met Tuesday and the committee discussed the \$5,000. We do know that they asked for quite a bit higher but because they do receive the \$20,000 of Part B, we

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thought that the \$5,000, with Kathleen and Will's recommendation was something we could do with o any additional hurdles.

**Keith Greenarch** – I want to make this comment, first of all, that is not Will or Kathleen's recommendation. That is your committee and your recommendation. It was also reported back that there has been conversation about saving money we talked about that in our Goal 3 meeting. We are not in the business to save money, if that money is not spent that money goes away.

**Ping Miller** – Can you clarify, I don't have context?

**Keith Greenarch** – That as we move forward that we need to have capital reserve in case something happens.

**Ping Miller** – Let me give you some backdrop on some things. Maybe I don't have a full appreciation. So we have this funding freeze and a couple of things at play to balance out our operations, the day to day operations. Without the full committee here I can go ahead and start talking about the finance piece.

**Keith Greenarch** – The funding freeze has nothing to do with it.

**Ping Miller** – I think we were trying to figure out the proper balance of giving funds out for Youth Leadership Forum and all these requests now coming we have other programs to fund as well.

**Keith Greenarch** – Is this your committee or the SILC office?

**Ping Miller** – What do you mean our committee or SILC office?

**Keith Greenarch** – Is this from your committee which has talked about or something you have been given by the SILC office? You said you relied on the SILC office to give you the information on the \$5,000.

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**Ping Miller** – The committee, clarification is the committee met twice, I apologize if the syntax is wrong. They all agreed that the \$5,000 would allow the Youth Leadership Forum to take the additional funds and move forward. That is the committee's recommendation.

**Keith Greenarch** - So you're talking about the \$5,000, is that the recommendation of the SILC office?

**Ping Miller** – I said the committee met on Tuesday and made the recommendation to go forward with the vote today.

**Oshana Watkins** – I've been on the finance committee calls in the last year and we haven't talked about capital reserves at all. I don't know where this is coming from'.

**Ping Miller** – Maybe I can ask for the context of that?

**Keith Greenarch** – Am I the only one that has heard that, can someone else speak up?

**Gloria Garton** – Maybe that is about second year funding.

**Oshana Watkins** – We haven't talked about reserves.

**Keith Greenarch** – I'm trying to clarify who made the recommendation. I'm just going to say, you said Will and Kathleen; that is the SILC office.

**Ping Miller** – No, when I said Will and Kathleen we basically went through the spread sheets of what it would cost for the Youth Leadership Forum, we dissected it as a committee and looked at the accountants record books which involves Kathleen, to give me the treasury book. I can't operate without the accountant to provide me the book; I don't have the tool sets. That's what I meant to context. I'm operating under the understanding of what the accountant tell us is on the books.

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**Keith Greenarch** – I would like if I can at this time for Rene to talk about the explanation she gave in your finance committee meeting about moving into the current pot of money.

**Ping Miller** - Are we mixing two conversations here?

**Rene Cummins** – No I think I know where you are going. I'm not on the finance committee but have sat in on some sessions. Ping, correct me if I'm wrong. I looked at the percentage of budget that we are moving out currently, we are on track to move out 8.5% of the budget that is sitting idle right now which will be in the second year as of October 1, 2015. With the two requests for amending already existing contract, to add money, the one request was from Gloria Garton's center because she moved all of her transition funds out in the first quarter. I reported that in January. The other request was for the additional \$25,000 for Youth Leadership Forum because when Nellie and Sierra presented in January you saw that the true cost of the event last year was in excess of \$82,000. With the increases that they know about, housing, meals on campus, parking and adding the additional nursing staff we fully expect the true cost will be about \$90,000; that is the reason for the request.

If you figure for the additional \$28,500, it will bring us to slightly more than 86% of the budget that we will start out with in October. Think of it this way, we were talking yesterday about pulling three quarters from the budget which will be gone at the end of the year because it's in the second year and it was the three final quarters and then you move over and pull three quarters of the budget for that year. As of October 1, 2015 what the SILC is on schedule is funding at the levels of slightly more than 86% of the budget which is in its' second and final year and 100% of the budget that begins October 1 so in excess you will have access to 186% funding with the additional requests made in January. Right now it's 91.5% and 100%. I think that is what Keith was talking about.

**Keith Greenarch** – That's exactly what I was talking about, thank you. I didn't mean to put you on the spot.

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**Kimlyn Lambert** – I have those figures in front of me and for Ping's benefit, I think we are having two conversations, how much money to give to Youth Leadership Forum and another about how much carryover money we have.

**Keith Greenarch** – They go hand in hand.

**Kimlyn Lambert** – Yes they do. According to what we talked about before and what Rene is talking about, is that the proposal that came from Will is that we take 8.5% of the current money and spend it and so what we're talking about is the funding requests that keep coming in and how can we go into current year funds and pull money from that to go towards these requests. So what we talked about yesterday is where is the plan that talks about the percentage of current year money that we are going to spend? Who has the plan and what is the plan and at what point, Will talked about yesterday, that close to 2017 – 2018 is where we will get to this 50% spend down of this money. We don't have a plan; nothing has been approved by this body. That is the plan that we need to look at and see if we are in agreement or if we need to be more aggressive. If we are more aggressive, what is that carryover money, what is the current money going to be spent on? That is what I'm hearing.

**Keith Greenarch** - Those may be two topics, but they do run parallel. I appreciate that you hear it from someone else besides me.

**Pamela Lloyd-Okoge** – We have about two or three different conversations but to add a fourth, we have to leave here today with the specific amount for next year's Youth Leadership Forum. The request for application may mean that we have a new vendor. The request for application needs to go out. I have to leave here with an amount voted on by the SILC. Is it \$20,000, \$25,000 or \$45,000? I need to know by the end of the day.

**Jennifer Overfield** – I move that we talk about this after lunch.

**Kim Miley** – Ok, we need some fuel for our brains.

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**John Marens** – Totally unrelated, are we done with this topic so I can bring up something else.

**Kay Miley** – Well we aren't done with it we will need to vote on it.

**John Marens** – I had spoken to Will about this and want to ask Keith and Kay, are you aware that we are going to have a guest this afternoon? Claudia Horne is scheduled to be here with us today at 1:15. She is the new person in Vocational Rehabilitation. She is the Director of Employment Services and head of Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Services for the Blind and Department of Health and Human Services. She has been going out to meet a lot of folks in the field, she attended the SRC meeting recently and it dawned on me that you may not know she is coming and wanted to let you know that.

**Kay Miley** – Thank you.

**Barry Washington** – I thought we were going to vote on this. The finance committee said it was ok. I make a motion that we vote on it instead of waiting.

**Mitzi Kincaid** – I second that motion.

**Kay Miley** – Is there any discussion?

**Joshua Kaufman** – Just one point of additional clarification, in one of our discussions in Goal 2, I wanted to make sure that everyone knew that in addition to the \$5,000 we are voting on here, that Deidre had suggested that additional funding was available for Youth Leadership Forum participants who work with Division of Services for the Blind and Vocational Rehabilitation so there is possible additional funding available to the Youth Leadership Forum. I wanted everyone to understand that we weren't making the conscience decision to not provide the full \$25,000 but identified additional funds.

**Kay Miley** - This is a very important decision and some things that need to be ironed out and it has been highly recommended that we hold the vote until after lunch.

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**Oshana Watkins** – We have to follow protocol.

**Barry Washington** – We have a motion and second.

**Julia Sain** - We have to vote now.

**Keith Greenarch** – I appeal to you to listen to this, what are we going to do with this money that is available to us? We've agreed to \$5,000, but the need is greater. We have that money sitting there, are we going to let that money go back?

**Oshana Watkins** – I have a question you said there is a million dollars available somewhere?

**Keith Greenarch** – Can we let Julia explain?

**Oshana Watkins** – I still want to go to lunch.

**Keith Greenarch** – We need all this information before we can make this vote.

**Ping Miller** – We are voting on \$5,000, we can vote on \$5,000 but we can also make a motion to vote on more. We are recommending \$5,000 that the finance committee has already endorsed and authorized.

**Oshana Watkins** – It not saying we won't vote more.

**Ping Miller** – I'm thinking this is very favorable, and move on, no harm.

**Keith Greenarch** – We are running out of time.

**Oshana Watkins** – We have to follow protocol, we've already called the vote.

**Keith Greenarch** – Mark Steele has just provided the proof is you want to look at it, what money is available.

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**Oshana Watkins** – I'm not saying I won't ask for more money, but we do have to follow protocol.

**Ping Miller** – We need some clarity of what is in the pot. But, we are endorsing \$5,000. We can than talk about some of the discrepancies later.

**Oshana Watkins** – It's already been seconded so call the vote.

**Kay Miley** – Who made the motion?

**Oshana Washington** – The finance committee made the motion, Barry and Mitzi seconded the motion.

**Barry Washington** – I made the motion based on Ping saying there was no problem. I say Aye.

**(Action)** Kay Miley called the vote. One Nay, zero abstains and the rest were Aye. The motion carried.

Lunch: 12:15 – 1:17pm

Meeting reconvened by Kay Miley. John Marens was asked to introduce our new guest.

**John Marens** – As I mentioned earlier today and want to remind all that we do have a guest today. Ms. Claudia Horn, she is the new Director of Employment Services for DHHS. She is overseeing Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Services for the Blind, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, she is new to us and the state and has been spending quite a bit of time meeting people and attending different meetings. She was at the SRC meeting and is joining us today to meet people and get a sense of what is going on.

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**Claudia Horn** – Thank you and I'm glad to be here. The first meeting, I'm only 6wk old; the very first meeting was this quarterly meeting at the office at the Adams building on the Dix campus. That was my very first meeting.

**Mark Steel** – That meeting was the Center Directors meeting with Vocational Rehabilitation.

**Claudia Horn** – Oh, it was a separate meeting, well that is exactly how young or old as I am. I'm glad to be here. I have a very strong vocational rehabilitation background and I think I've played every part of the vocational rehabilitation continuum of services from vocational evaluation, work adjustment placement; I was a Rehab Director and worked for almost 10 years for the National office of Goodwill Industries. I've been around this area for quite a long time, came from Maryland just been here a couple of weeks. I'm really glad to be here, thanks for letting me listen.

**Kay Miley** – State plan discussion with Rene is next.

### **State Plan for Independent Living 2016-2019 Committee Rene Cummins, chair**

We've been going across the state doing information gathering sessions. Keith and Mark and I did one in Winston-Salem recently. We're going to go west, Keith and I, not sure Mark will join us. We are going to the western most counties. Barbara Davis is helping to set this up through her two centers. I've been working with Della in the Sylva center and Eva in the Asheville center. We are trying to consolidate one day where we will do a session in Waynesville at a senior center in the morning and then in the afternoon move to another senior center in Asheville to do another session.

This is to maximize the travel to the west. They indicated that their two service areas very much draw from different populations. I was thinking if we did one in Waynesville it might pull from both areas. The feedback from the centers was it was better to do two, one in the morning in the Sylva area and one in the afternoon in the Asheville area.

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We are looking at the last two weeks of May after the National ADA Symposium, we are looking at the week of May 18 or the last four days after Memorial Day break. Once we get the details pinned down, which day, we will share the information out to all. It will go to the SILC office and members. Any of you who are from that area will have a flyer similar to the one in Winston-Salem and we appreciate getting the flyer out far and wide. It will be distributed through all the Ex-Officios because they touch a great number of other offices.

**Kay Miley** – Are there any questions?

### **SPIL Amendment discussion – Rene Cummins**

I think I was supposed to mainly introduce this and Keith had the information of the wording of the amendment. I think where we're going next, but my introduction of what we are doing in terms of the next SPIL writing session, because that plan will take effect roughly in about 18 more months, we are about  $\frac{1}{2}$  way. It is a continual process writing that plan. Going back to the discussion this morning about putting the I&E funds into the third year of our current state plan. I think that is where I was expected to throw this to Keith.

**Kay Miley** – Oh, it's already been addressed, thank you. Next will be the Executive Committee.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **Executive Committee**

**Kay Miley, chair**

We've been meeting quite a bit with a lot of decisions thrown out on the floor. We've been working on trying to get the codification. That is the next thing we need to do. I'm going to be getting information from Rene to go to talk to the Senate Pro Tempore, he's actually my lawyer. He is a friend and is all the time wanting to do something to help. This year he swore me in. I plan to go to him and Keith is going to meet Josh

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Stein in the house. This is happening to get the codification going. I realize that the congress is in short session.

**Keith Greenarch – It's a long session.**

**Kay Miley –** Next year is short. We are trying to get the codification done before next year, June of 2016.

There are a lot of things coming up to make decisions on. I will update you as soon as we can. The next issue is continuing with the standing committee reports. Ping will give the finance report.

**Finance Committee**

**Ping Miller, chair**

I would like to bring back one of the topics discussed before lunch. During the break we received new information that allows us to make an amendment to our earlier vote. It turns out from an operations perspective, that there are two pots of money, one we've been operating against and the second I'll have to continue to tick in time. Thanks to some of the subject matter and experts that have enlightened me.

That said, the Finance discussed during lunch and recommend that \$25,000 total one time, not to set precedence for prior years to fund Youth Leadership Forum request. Let me open it up for discussion first. To put some color to this, this other pot of money allows us to put the \$25,000 requested by Youth Leadership Forum. We did talk during lunch break and discovered that even though we put this motion to vote that the money may not be timely available for June, with that said, it could be net \$45,000 if Youth Leadership Forum is operating under expecting these monies. We spoke with Pamela and she will do her best to push the paperwork along. We did not know before this lunch hour whether it is \$5,000 or \$25,000, it has to go through the rigor of changing the contract. I've learned that you have to ask the right questions. We were operating under the Finance committee that if it was under \$5,000, it didn't have to go through the rigor. We are now recommending the \$25,000 because it doesn't matter if it is \$1.00 or \$25,000; it all has to go through the same process. I hope I've given you all the information to make an informed vote.

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**Kimlyn Lambert** – To clarify, it is an additional \$20,000 for a total of \$25,000.

**Kay Miley**- the Youth Leadership Forum will then receive a total of \$45k Part B money.

**Keith Greenarch** – Are we clear that there is already \$20,000 in the contract for Youth Leadership Forum so \$25,000 will make a total of \$45,000?

**Ping Miller** – Yes, Youth Leadership Forum is operating under Part B \$20,000 already. This morning we voted for an additional \$5,000. We are now adding another \$20,000 so in total it is \$45,000. So for this vote, round 2, it's \$20,000.

**Kimlyn Lambert** – I'd like to second that motion.

**Kay Miley** – Any discussion?

**Barry Washington** – Just making one concern, I thought that any reserve we had we would be trying to help the centers. If we take an addition \$20,000 out of the money that could go to the centers...?

**Ping Miller** - This is good dialogue and I am learning as well. We have goals and this money is supporting the Youth Leadership Forum which is one of our goals. We have to balance the requests coming through and Youth Leadership Forum is one of our goals.

**Barry Washington** – If we give this, what are we giving to the centers, \$30,000 a piece?

**Rene Cummins** – \$16,000 but we are talking about two different things.

**Keith Greenarch** – I want to thank Oshana and Ping and Kimlyn and whoever else on the Finance committee for looking at this. I may have muddied the pot for you before lunch, my deliver may not have been that well, but I am a very passionate advocate. I

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want us to do due diligence and I want to thank you. If we hadn't had that discussion this might not have happened.

**Barry Washington** – What is the recommendation from the Finance committee in regards to the additional \$20,000?

**Ping Miller** – I have broader recommendation from the Finance committee. I would like the chairs of each of these goal committees to be on board the Finance committee so I can see a broader and fuller picture. We only have a concentrated view and I'm learning along the way you are only taught what you are taught, in light of this it makes more sense to have broader eyes to the finance and how these goals are met. We meet every third Tuesday of every month. If the chairs cannot come I'm going to put the accountability on the co-chairs.

**Keith Greenarch** - I know that Barry Washington doesn't have a committee yet but you may be a good fit on the finance committee.

**Oshana Watkins** – The finance committee asked a lot from Sierra and she did a wonderful job to get us information so we could break this down and see what is happening. She did an awesome job and we looked at the spreadsheet. They were able to get more fundraising last year that did not come in this year. That was why they came to us to make up the gap. Hopefully with everyone's help we can get in-kind donations. This committee has been meeting sometime twice a month to go over the numbers. We believe in this conference and the youth and that is why we have been looking at the numbers so hard.

**Keith Greenarch** - Thank you, and to the member that said I was crazy, I'm not crazy.

**Ping Miller** – So Barry, to wrap it up from finance, just from an operational perspective, the \$192,000, we should be at a 50% burn rate and we are at 49%. Our accumulative expenses are \$94,591.41, so we did a health check on that and we are on mark.

**Action :(Finance/Kimlyn Lambert)** unanimous vote to approve

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**Joshua Kaufman** – As a follow up, I would like us to insure that the Youth Leadership Forum does pursue the possible funds for clients as mentioned earlier, because the \$45,000 will not cover all the expenses and if we could get an additional \$1,500 for participants that are working with Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Division of Services for the Blind, we need to continue to pursue that.

## **Policy and Long term Planning**

**Joshua Kaufman, Chair**

We have spent most of the time and energy trying to line up Thursday member enrichment training and I want to remind everyone how important that time is. It is a great opportunity to have open discussion and gathering information and to continue to increase our knowledge and understanding on what the SILC does and what our responsibilities are. I've been here close to four years and I am just now getting to the point where I have enough information and background to ask intelligent questions most of the times. I would like to encourage everyone as often as you can to come to Thursday member enrichments. As part of that, I would like to invite members to suggest topics that they would like to have covered over the Thursday member enrichments. In the time I have been part of the SILC I have not heard this expressed explicitly but for the CIL directors I would also invite you explicitly to bring topics that you think would be beneficial and important to the SILC members to the policy committee for discussion and consideration for inclusion on the Thursday enrichments. You are the front lines doing the work and your input is essential for us to do what we can to support you. Please feel free to contact me with your suggestions.

I have a couple of items on the horizon that I will hold off until our July meeting to discuss.

**Kay Miley** – I missed something on the agenda because I was using an electronic agenda and it was incorrect. We need to do a vote on an additional \$3,500 to the Wilmington CIL for transitioning. This is Gloria's center.

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**Joshua Kaufman** – As a point of clarification, the finance looked at this and supports it.

**Ping Miller** – Yes.

**Action:**(Ping Miller, Joshua Kaufman) Unanimous vote carried the motion.

**Membership**

**Sandy Ogburn, Chair**

First off Joshua, as the membership committee we've had a lot of different discussion on what we may need in training and such. We have discussed that we do need to contact you and keep you in loop. You will be getting some two cents from us.

I am on the agenda for this and for endorsement of new applicants. I will be doing this all at once.

To start off with, I would like to introduce Mr. Gary Ray.

**Gary Ray** – He's dressed up for the first time.

**Sandy Ogburn** – Gary and I had a wonderful conversation when I introduced myself and he is quite the comedian. I endorse him just for that.

The committee has been really busy. As all of you know we have four positions open on our council. Right now we are out of compliance. Then the governor thought it a good time to throw in a monkey wrench and said to appoint a veteran before we appoint anyone else. It was kind of hurry up and wait and now it's come on, let's go. We have a veteran that has applied. We have five potential applicants to fill those four seats. We feel as a committee, they are very strong applicants and that they bring a lot to the table. We have some grant writing experience and leadership experience, we have people that are honest and willing to say I'm not familiar with this area but I want to learn. That to me says volumes; we talked about that about doctors. I respect

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someone more when they tell me I'm not sure about that but I am willing to learn and find out. That is one of the attributes that stood out when we interview the candidates.

I'm hoping to give you a quick synopsis of each one. I really would like to thank the membership committee, Sandra Hicks, Keith Greenarch, Gloria Bellamy and Teresa Staley. I really appreciate you all being diligent with me and patient with me, being willing to step up when I forget about the calls myself and take it over and getting everything done that needs to be done. I really do appreciate all you guys do.

Gary Ray, I said that I was going to introduce you and then kick you out.

**Gary Ray** – I'm used to that too.

**Sandy Ogburn** - He was talking about that he actually gets kicked out a lot on first dates. That was interesting and might be worth further conversation.

**Gary Ray** – A lot of those pictures on the internet, they have been doctored.

**Sandy Ogburn** – I am really pleased with all these candidates and Mr. Ray is the first one. He meets with our MMR requirements, that he is a person living with a disability and does not work with a state agency. He is from Asheville, Buncombe County. He worked at the North Carolina Library for the blind and he's a very eloquent speaker and we've learned today a comedian. When I was talking about the honesty virtue he was the one I was talking about. He admitted he has been a bit myopic about disabilities because he was advocating for himself. He didn't see the entire picture. He is willing to learn and passionate about helping all those with disabilities. He seems to be dynamic; he has held every position in an organization throughout the years. I'm looking at that as a future officer and things like that. He seems to have good organizational skills and seem to be a really good team player. I'm making this as a motion from the membership committee that we endorse Gary Ray and send his application to the Governor's office.

**Action:**( committee first/Rene Cummins second)

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**Sandy Ogburn – Any discussion?**

**Kimlyn Lambert**– I've served with him and he was always an active participant and I think he termed off and I would definitely endorse him.

**Action:** Unanimous vote to endorse.

**Sandy Ogburn** - One is our veteran, she is also a Person with a Disability and I was really impressed with some of the things that she said. She is again very passionate about being an advocate and helping others. That is what we are about. She seemed to be real knowledgeable about Independent Living and the whole movement. I think in her notes I read that she actually started losing her vision in college or right after college, a real scary time for her. She has seemed to have taken on that challenge and not let it define her. I think that is one of her strength, she seems to be outgoing; she is aggressive and communicates well and likes flexibility. The membership committee endorses and makes a motion that Tavonne Enoch be considered for endorsement on this board.

**Mark Steele – Where is she from?**

**Sandy Ogburn** – I'm sorry, she is from Greensboro.

**Action:**(committee/Barry Washington)

**Sandy Ogburn – Any discussion?**

**Action:** Unanimous vote to endorse.

**Sandy Ogburn** - The third applicant is Gerald Green. He is from Kernersville; we do understand that we have some heavy representation from around this area. The thing that I really think Gerald really impressed the committee is again that he is a People with Disabilities but he has never let that stop him, he has always moved forward and has always been able to adapt.

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In dealing with and living in the disability committee for fifteen years I've seen a few people that think that, I'm disabled so you owe me the world, but for the most part people with disabilities just want the playing field to be even. I'm not asking for something special; just treat me like you would anyone else. This was something that I was impressed with Gerald. He is again an outgoing person we had good conversations on the interview. We were able to dialogue with him. The membership will make a motion that we endorse Gerald.

**Action:**(committee/Barry Washington)

**Sandy Ogburn** – Do we have any discussion?

**Action:** unanimous vote to endorse

**Sandy Ogburn** – The fourth candidate is a lady. We have discussed this lady. At one time she did not qualify for our MMR because she worked for a state agency. Since that time that has changed. She is very knowledgeable about Independent Living programs and has been involved in advocacy over the years and has been in the middle of it. She meets with the MMR of a person living with a disability. So again the membership committee makes a motion to endorse Krista Hunsuck for endorsement.

**Action:**(committee/Joshua Kaufman)

**Sandy Ogburn** – Is there any discussion?

**Teresa Staley** – Isn't she also youth?

**Sandy Ogburn** – She is not youth.

**Keith Greenarch** – I've worked with Krista at Disability Partners which is the Center she worked with. She is a very passionate person and has worked with the youth over the years and I think that is where her passion is.

**Action:** unanimous vote to endorse

**Sandy Ogburn** – I have one more Paul LaVack, again from Guilford County. He meets with MMR requirements because he is a person living with a disability. He also does not work for a state agency. I was impressed with his passion for people with disabilities being in the workforce. I think he has worked a lot on that particular part of it. To me he seemed to be very organized. Two of his strength that we picked up was conflict resolution and facilitating meetings. Again I'm thinking future officer here. He again understands the importance of training and broadening his horizons.

We have a group of people who really want to learn. If they don't know everything they are ready to learn.

So the membership committee would like to endorse Mr. Paul LaVack.

**Action:**(committee/Sandra Hicks)

**Sandy Ogburn** – Is there any discussion?

**Kimlyn Lambert** – I just have a question. You said we have 4 openings and there are five applicants. Can you explain that?

**Sandy Ogburn** - We just really wanted to send six but it ended up only being five. These were the applications we could get done with the interviews. I think we had to have a ten day window before the meeting to announce that we were going to be doing this vote and this was the amount we could get done. We still have other applicants.

**Barry Washington** – So the governor will only return four?

**Sandy Ogburn** – Yes

**Joshua Kaufman** – the four vacant positions included the newly created position the governor requested for a veteran.

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**Sandy Ogburn** – yes he wanted a veteran to be put into our council. It wasn't created. He just said one of the members needed to be a veteran.

**Action:**(unanimous vote to endorse Mr. Paul LaVack)

The membership committee will get with the state office and get these memberships to them. Hopefully they will expedite some of the appointments.

The last thing I would like to do is for those with expiring terms to please complete the application to reapply and return them to us as soon as possible. We would like to be able to send the reappointment applications and the new applications all together so they could get them all done. The people up for reappointment, Oshana Watkins, Jennifer Overfield, Gloria Bellamy, Keith Greenarch, Teresa Staley, Sandra Hicks and Rene Cummins. You all should've gotten an application and again we hope you will reapply for the council.

**Mark Steele** – Of the four new appointments, once the governor makes the appointments when do you expect them to come on board?

**Sandy Ogburn** – Hopefully the July meeting. That concludes my report.

#### **Designated State Unit Reports:**

**Vocational Rehabilitation Independent Living      Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke**

We did send out the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation report in the April blast so I'm not going to bore you with all the details. I will just give you the highlights. Because this is not exactly our quarter period it is December 1 to February 28, because of the time this report is due to the SILC we are in the middle. Independent Living personal care services were provided to 229 and we amended our contract to continue with our life our fiscal intermediary, the person who handles the billing and payroll for our past consumers. For home modifications we did 269, provision of medical equipment was 85. During the same time period we provided 3,398 consumers training and job

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placement for 4,035, in that same time 46 consumers were helped in the technical program. With device loans and demonstrations we trained 368 people. Doing 28 training events we provided information assistance to 2,342 and continue with the technology exchange post. All of the information is in the report.

Claudia Horn is our new Senior Director for Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Services for the Blind and Deaf and Hard of Hearing and we are excited to have her. I shared at the last meeting I had a vacancy because Erin our housing and transition specialist moved back home to Asheville to work in that area so Jenny Pleasants, some of you may know her, she served as a counselor in the Durham office. She was going to come today but two days ago she broke her kneecap. The new administrative assistant for the Money Follows the Person Program started in February and is here with us today, Vicki Wilson.

As you know this is the time of year that we have to work on contracts. One of the things that is happening is that the process has to change. One of the things is that the centers Part B funds were based on the amount the SILC recommends. Because the state wants and needs to be transparent, we have to do a notice of funding availability. We have to post on the state government website that this money is available. The way we have designed the notice of availability is that it is specific and says it is only for the eight Centers for Independent Living, it doesn't open the door to anyone else but we must be transparent and post this. I was planning to release that to the Center directors but it is under review by our department. On Monday the directors will receive the electronic copy of this notice. It does change the date that the information is due back to me. The contract information, the scope of work the budget all of that is outlined in this new notice of funding availability but it does not change the amount or who the money is intended for. It does day based on my conversation with Will and Keith, the last email where you had indicated how much money will be available because of the freeing of the I&E funds for the SILC makes more funds available for the centers so that amount is \$568,902. I hope the vote today to let money go to the Youth Leadership Forum doesn't change anything but if it does I need to know before this is posted because the posting will say \$568,902. What needs to happen today is that the SILC needs to decide if it wants to disperse that money differently. Right now the notice gives the total amount but when it's time to do the

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contracts I have to specify the amount to each of the Centers for Independent Living. The information I have now is, Asheville \$43,771, Charlotte \$43,771, Greensboro \$43,771, Greenville \$227,863, Raleigh \$43,771, Sylva \$43,771, Wilmington \$58,413, Winston-Salem \$43,771 and Youth Leadership Forum \$20,000 for a total of \$568,902. This has to be released next week, including Youth Leadership Forum. A decision has to be made today. This is for funding that becomes effective October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016. So hopefully someone will make a motion. I don't know if the numbers came from the finance committee or the centers.

Also the request for the Youth Leadership Forum as you know the covering contract expires on September 30, 2015. We need to post that RFA and it is not just limited for centers, it is for anyone with a 501(c) 3 who provide youth leadership services to people with disabilities so that will also need to be posted. That is why I need the funding amount for the 2016 year. That is a decision that has to happen today.

Also within our department, we are very lucky that so far, knock on wood, knock on eggs knock on anything, the governor's budget did not include any cuts proposed to Division Vocational Rehabilitation programs but as you know that budget hasn't been signed yet. We have to get through the house and senate proposed budgets. I just wanted to share that currently our programs are secure.

**John Marens** – I want to clarify that the budget includes Independent Living.

**Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke** – All Division Vocational Rehabilitation programs.

**Ping Miller** – Where do these numbers come from?

**Helen Pase** – As a Part B center in Greenville, we need additional funding. Who do I go to and where do I go to request additional funds?

**Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke** – Through this council, we handle contracts the decision has to happen here.

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This email is from Will on March 13. I believe all of the Center directors were included on this email as well as Vocational Rehabilitation staff. Obviously it wasn't communicated to the finance committee but some quick decisions need to be made. If we delay this further the money won't be available October 1, for the new contracts. The new contracts are all effective October 1, 2015.

**Ping Miller** – Was this the baseline compared to last year or was it an uptick?

**Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke** – In the past year the SILC operating funds were part of this money, for example last year the Part B for Julia was \$16,000. To compare it is now \$43,000, it is about \$25,000 more because we have the extra SILC operating fund taken out and moved to give the centers more money.

**Mark Steele** – I think this is like what Pam said; this is the \$197,850 that was funding the SILC office divided amongst the centers. Isn't that where this dollar amount came?

**Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke** - It is.

**Mark Steele** – The I&E funds will now be used to fund the SILC.

**Mark Steele** – The \$568,902 Pam reported on does not include the \$25,000 that has been voted on earlier today for the Youth Leadership Forum.

**Ping Miller** – That was a one time for this year. The Youth Leadership Forum is \$20,000 for next year. You said there was an uptick of \$25,000?

**Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke** – \$20,000 for next years. This is for the new contracts and the \$20,000 is for next summer's Youth Leadership Forum.

**Julia Sain** – Just to bring this back to where was the \$210,000 this morning. Currently my center is getting \$16,000 Part B money. Thank you very much. Next year I need \$46,000 because the \$16,000 you already are giving me plus the \$30,000 you need to get for me making up the ARRA loss. Every center is going to lose \$30,000. The I&E is \$210,000. That is over and above what the SILC office needs to run. The I&E funds

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came from the fact because we told them 7 centers need \$30,000 and they did the math. But then the money that goes to fund the state office at this point is less than that, so when we talk about my center getting \$43,000 next year that is a \$3,000 decrease over what I need just to be clear. Each center as I understand while this is a good thing, I am not complaining about it at all, that is a \$3,000 deficit that I was promised as you will. So each center is in a \$3,000 deficit because we were getting \$30,000 and now we're getting \$27,000. I just want to say that there was the vote this morning that the finance and executive committee is going to look at the \$210,000 and decide what to do with it. It's not going to take \$210,000 to run the state office so there are discussions about what can be done with the difference. Hopefully there may be some money that comes to the centers. So when you approve that, it's great for my center to get \$43,000, yes it is, but with the understanding that there is \$3,000 somewhere to bring us back up to level. The SPIL goal says that we don't lose any money so the way, unless something changes, that has me losing \$3,000 and so while this is a great move forward and I'm prepared to send in my documentation to Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke, there is still \$3,000 for each center that has to be negotiated so that we meet the SPIL goal of doing no harm. Just wanted to clarify that.

If I could just have another moment I would like to tell you that Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke has done a great job and I don't say many nice things about state employees. Because this is not easy what Pamela has to do and she keeps taking on more and more jobs and I have to contact her for seven different things she is responsible for. I find that amazing. All my SILC P&E reports are responded to so quickly and turned back around. Sometimes I don't get credit for the things I don't say. I haven't complained about them this year because Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke has done a great job getting the money back to me. I'm not easy to deal with and she has done a great job. Thank you Pamela.

**John Marens** – I'd like to note this in the record, it's only the second time Julia has said anything nice about a state employee.

**Oshana Watkins** – Mitzi put it great earlier that it is like a two year learning curve so this is an informational question just still trying to learn. You are the holder of the

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money; you don't make the decisions of how it is dispersed. How much is in our pot of money total, is it that number or is it more.

**Ping Miller** – That is what I was going to ask also. What is our start money for October? I have to ask the correct questions.

**Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke** – When Will met with who, the center directors or finance committee, this was what he anticipated plus the Part B award amount. That is where he came up with the \$568,902; the amount has been verified by the Division Vocational Rehabilitation fiscal staff that this money would be available October 1.

**Ping Miller** – So we are drawing down all of it?

**Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke** – No, it is all reimbursement based. So it is up to that amount.

**Oshana Watkins** – So all the numbers you gave that the centers would be awarded, does that total up to that \$568,902? We can't ask for more.

**Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke** – Not that I'm aware of, but we don't have the final Part B award letter, it could be different.

**Ping Miller** – When do we get the award letter information?

**Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke** – It tends to be June or July.

**Julia Sain** – August at least.

**Ping Miller** – Could we get the award letter much less, like 50% of what we expect?

**Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke** – Generally the funding has been pretty consistent, it wouldn't be 50% less.

**Rene Cummins** - I was just going to say, all of us get our grant award notifications sometime in the summer. They have been as late as August. Once we get the grant

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award notification for Part B and Part C we will know what that budget looks like starting October 1. We spiked up to \$524,138 for the year before this year. That is the money we are trying to move out right now because it's in its second and final year. The other budget that is sitting idle has hovered around \$508,000 or \$506,000, so if you want to just call it \$500,000. At one time, we should be working out of those two budgets. That is if the two full budgets were there which they should not be, but that's the situation we've put ourselves in. October 1 of 2014 both of those budgets were there because we only started accessing the budget in its' second and final year, so we had about \$1,030,000 not that we were going to spend that but, the two budgets that we should be spending from that is historically what they have totaled somewhere around \$500,000 each so roughly about \$1,000,000. Because of the I&E funds coming in well have more funds to give us that year that we were talking about this morning to try to offset what's going to happen when the ARRA funds cease September 30, 2015 the end of this fiscal year. This is one year we are buying ourselves some time to figure out what we are going to do. It should be somewhere around that \$500,000 mark. Because of the vote to bring in the I&E funds, we are looking at a number for this one single year only will be different. I hope that adds and doesn't make the issue cloudier.

**Ping Miller** – As a recap, the \$560,000 includes the \$210,000 and the SILC operations and all the centers? Did I miss anything?

**Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke** – The centers and the Youth Leadership Forum it does not include the SILC because they will have I&E funds.

**Julia Sain** – There will be zero starting October 1 of Part B funds to run the SILC office. You will run off the I&E funds which will be a little more than needed and you all will decide what to do about that. In addition to that you have the money for the centers and Youth Leadership Forum. The critical question that Oshana asked, no one knows right now. If you talk about the carryover funds, because we didn't spend last year's money last year. Then on October 1, they gave us another \$500,000 so that gave us \$1,000,000 in our account so now we have \$1,000,000 to play with. If we are going to budget \$568,000 of that, we still have \$440,000 we haven't decided what to do with, but nobody knows the exact amount except Deb Cotter who is with ACL, the

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Administration of Community Living, who used to be with RSA as Gloria so clearly explained this morning. Same person different title different office. So when the finance committee sits down with an email with Deb and says, show us exactly, because the money is in a pot in Washington, so when we ask for some of it, somebody from Vocational Rehabilitation types in the computer and that amount requested gets put into Vocational Rehabilitation's bank account and then they cut me a check for my part. Only Deb Cotter can tell us how much is in our account from October 1, 2014, it was about \$1,000,000 but we didn't have an exact amount. We don't have an exact amount now. Once Deb can look at the account and she says this is how much you have as of today then the SILC can make a decision of how much of that amount in there is going to be allocated. Right now you're saying we may have \$900,000 starting October 1 of this year. We decided what we are going to do with \$568,000, ok, once we know how much more we got we can have another conversation about what we are going to do with it. This is a good start and this is one of the best SILC meetings I've ever been to because of the productive stuff getting done. All of us are anxious to see what that pot looks like.

**Oshana Watkins** – What department is she with?

**Julia Sain** – Administration on Community Living. With WIOA it went over to Health and Human Services. She can tell you how much to the penny is still in there and then you can make an informed decision.

**Ping Miller** – So going back to the rounding \$1,000,000. We really have a \$500,000 bucket to work with, perhaps. What we are looking at percentage wise, we up that \$500,000 by maybe 11% or so increase. We are really asking for about 10% or 12% of what we need as a cushion in what we don't know. Meaning coming October, we don't know what we are going to be operating with but 10% or so increase is ok.

**Julia Sain** – It's ok because we will have more, we just don't know how much. We could be real comfortable with 11%, we just don't know how much.

**Kay Miley** – We need a motion that we approve the CIL amounts total for the Part B funds and the Youth Leadership Forum regular \$20,000 we need to approve those

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figures and the total for 2016, of \$568,902 and the associated centers break down and Youth Leadership Forum.

**Action:**(Ping Miller/Kimlyn Lambert) unanimous vote to approve the motion

### **Division of Services for the Blind**

### **Deidre Dockery**

This is the report for Division of Services for the Blind and you all have the report. I'll just skim over. Division of Services for the Blind celebrated 80 years of service; it was established in 1935 with the assistance of Helen Keller. It was the first agency in the state to provide service to deaf blind. This was celebrated across the state, it was a real milestone.

In the last quarter, we lost an ILR counselor position. We now have 14. We lost a position out of the Greenville office. As a result we have reallocated, we are almost finished with the process of assigning areas to each counselor.

We actually have taken on a new counselor that started last week in our Wilmington office. We are happy to have her. We do have a Fayetteville office vacancy.

If we look at our numbers, the under 55 program provided services to 239 individuals and older blind to 413 for a total of 652. The ILR program is run by those 14 counselors; they provide hands on training to individuals who are newly blinded. Guidance and counseling, adjusting to vision loss, the skills necessary to help them live independently in their home whether it's paying bills, accessing technology, I-phone, I-pad for a variety of purposes whether identifying color, clothing or money or being able to take pictures and magnify certain things that they are not able to see. How to label, organize in the home, and administer medication accurately and safely, how to write and cook and move safely from one place to another using appropriate lighting to maximize the eccentric vision and so forth.

I'd like to tell you that the information you have in this report came out of BEAM, I'm so proud! That has been an ongoing and lengthy process. It was actually beautiful to pull this information; we are able to go in and pull out the data.

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One thing I'm real excited about is something I reported about last meeting. We are at the point of transitioning a gentleman from a nursing home to their own apartment on Monday. That is a big deal. He is in Sampson County. It's really major, he's been in a nursing home for four years before he went in and had a medical crisis. After the crisis, when he stabilized he just stayed there. We were actually contacted by the nursing home staff asking can you help this man he should not be here. He will be living his life on his own terms. We are celebrating and really thankful for that nursing home. So we need to get that nursing home in touch with the one Helen is working with, to show them how beautiful it is to see a person transition out. We primarily get involved with nursing home diversions. When we get involved we are actually preventing a person from being institutionalized because of vision loss. We are real excited.

We have had eight mini centers in eight different counties across the state this last quarter. We had 95 participants in these classes. They are very successful especially with the peer support and all the services provided really empower individuals to go forth.

**Rene Cummins** – I just want to add a little Paul Harvey, the rest of the story to this. This consumer had the vision loss before something entirely different landed him in the nursing home for four years. Deidre and I were sitting in the same meeting, as a person with significant low vision all my life, the statement was made well we can't let him go back into the community because, what about his vision loss, duh! He had this before and this was keeping him in the nursing home so I applaud Deidre's advocacy to come to the assistance of this person when he was kind of living hostage because of his disability. He had already lived in the community with his vision loss before. I want to give kudos because this was really an injustice. It was the people who should've been getting him out, who should've been helping him out but they were the ones that were questioning him because of his vision loss. I thought how ironic.

**Deidre Dockery** – Can I add one thing? I should say thank you, I wouldn't have been there if you hadn't told me about that meeting. That is collaboration. With that, you reminded me of another thing. I've had this discussion with Rene and several people

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and I really want you to think about this in terms of how the centers can partner with Vocational Rehabilitation and Division of Services for the Blind in terms of provided computer training and how we can build bridges to work together. When we have funding left over it is a horrible thing. I'm hoping that we can go forward and collaborate and work together for the good of our state.

**Keith Greenarch** – I don't think we let our honored guest today know what his status was.

**Gary Ray** – I got invited back after getting thrown out.

**Sandy Ogburn** – Yes, Mr. Ray we did vote that we would forward your app to the governor as an endorsed applicant of the SILC.

**Gary Ray** – So I get a second date?

**Keith Greenarch** – One of the prerequisites is that you have to come with me to anger management training.

## **Ex Officio Reports**

### **Disability Rights NC**

**Vicki Smith, Director**

A written litigation report was sent by Mercedes Restucha-Klem and included in your E-blast prior to today's meeting. This report is also available on the website.

**Keith Greenarch** – Steve was with us but had to leave.

### **NC Developmental Disability Council**

**Steve Strom**

Steve provided a written report that was included in the E-blast sent prior to this meeting. It is also available on the website.

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**Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

**vacant**

No report was provided or is available

**Deidre Dockery** – Stephanie moved to Division of Services for the Blind,

**Keith Greenarch** – Will you please let her know that we will miss her and wish her the best? I guess that means that we will be getting a new representative soon.

John Marens from North Carolina Assistance Program is next. Let me just say this, this is a man that really cares about People with Disabilities in North Carolina. He's got a tough job too. He gets to hear all the complaints, but somebody had to do it.

**John Marens** - I'm sure there is significantly something wrong with me because I love this job. I don't know what that means but I'm not going to question it.

**Keith Greenarch** – You'd make a good husband being a good listener.

**John Marens** – Well yes, but I'm not going to go there.

**North Carolina Assistance Program**

**John Marens, Director**

Before I give my report, from what people know, I have been wading through the notice of rulemaking from WIOA. There are significant things going on with Vocational Rehabilitation there are some things I find pretty exciting.

This is not going to do full justice but I will tell you, first of all I'm excited about WIOA in general. It's about time for the law to be reenacted and brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To highlight, there is a real emphasis on transition services, kids coming out of school going into college or employment. One of the things is to create two definitions. There is one for youth with disability and student with disability. Youth is defined as someone of age 14 – 21, one of the interesting thing is that it states pre-employment services need to be provided to youth with disability starting at age 14 and Vocational Rehabilitation is asked to be involved in those pre-employment services whether or not they are an actual client of Vocational Rehabilitation. Apparently they can go into the

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schools and helping maybe the schools do things like career assessments or pre-employment job training, like how to fill out an application. It is the first time I've seen anything like that. That is a major change. Students with disabilities are someone from the age 16 – 24 so that extends that out a little. Again a major emphasis to provide services for students on transition and pre-employment.

The other thing and I think you'll be happy, it is very clear in the act that Vocational Rehabilitation will be able to help people with advancement in employment. It says explicitly that an individual that is eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation in every other way but who needs help to advance in their employment will now be able to receive services.

A lot of the act makes it clear that the act is intended to help people find real jobs and careers that will help people to become independent and make a living, not just entry level jobs. This has been a major bug-a-booo for Vocational Rehabilitation, not because of their fault but this contradiction that if you are working you don't need Vocational Rehabilitation. So if you want to come advance and come to Vocational Rehabilitation they couldn't help you, it's not their fault. The way the new law is written that for an individual for who it is appropriate, they can receive that assistance.

In the spirit of trying to move the process along a little further, it also creates a timeframe for developing an employment plan. It should be developed as soon as possible but within 90 days. That is a major change as well because now a person can stay in the status for up to six months. That does not mean you can't extend past ninety days but you have to ask for an extension.

Employer related service, technical assistance to employers. I was at a meeting yesterday. A presentation from Work Force Solutions was given and mentioned something very exciting, that there may be the ability for Vocational Rehabilitation at some point to share a data base system on employers with Employment Services Commission.

As you all probably know there is no longer going to be such a thing as Vocational Rehabilitation state plan, there is going to be a unified state plan.

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That is a brief overview of the things that kind of came off the page at me and I said, wow, this is really cool.

In terms of my report, Ms. Horn, let me share with you in terms of why this report is given. First of all I've been asked to give it. The nature of the report is to essentially give a snapshot of some of the things we see in the office, the issues and problems people run into. Sometimes individual issues, sometimes they are systemic and sometimes they really give verbalization to some of the challenges the agency faces working with folks. It's an overview of things that we see. To just give you a little background.

Thanks for listening so far. It is a pleasure to be here today. I did send the report electronically. I do have printed copies and also have it in large print if anyone would like a large print copy.

Copies were handed out.

I essentially have three cases to report on today.

The first case involves a 55 year old female that reported multiple issues which included Asthma, Asperger's syndrome, Bipolar Disorder, Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, Fibromyalgia, obesity, photophobia and due to a significant car accident a frontal lobe disconnect. This woman had been employed as an attorney for a number of years until her multiple issues made this impossible. She currently lives alone with her two dogs. She approached the Independent Living program for assistance with modifications to her home, bathroom. A number of factors made this case very, very, challenging. These challenges led to delays in service.

She originally applied in May of 2013. Her original counselor retired, the next became ill and was out of the office for a period of time that led to delays. The communication was further hindered due to her several conditions. She reported to the Independent Living folks that she had to sleep during the day most of the time and then she didn't want anyone to call during the day because the sudden noise of the phone resulted in severe anxiety for long periods of time. She reported that this was due to her

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photophobia and traumatic brain injury, related to her form of profession she frequently sent emails, which was her preferred method of communication to her counselor which were very, very, lengthy and couched in a form of legalize which created in a lot of confusion and frustration among Independent Living staff. She was also reluctant to sign required appropriate doc which contributed to the delay in her project. She also said that she had a friend that she described as her advocate that would discuss any decisions and requests made by Independent Living. Cap was contacted by client in an effort to get communication about the mod back on track. We were able to establish a system of email communication only between Client Assistance Program, Independent Living and the advocate, to avoid other communications, especially by phone. All parties agreed that all communication would be through emails and that the emails to Independent Living staff would come from the client's friend "advocate". The reason our office did that was that the advocate was able to communicate more clearly and succinctly.

Based on this a better level of trust was established and the task of the project and timeline were rectified. Our office basically provided guidance to the client, Independent Living staff and the client's advocate friend as a mediator to all parties. The results of this is that we understand that project is moving forward at the time I wrote this at the beginning of the month is was hopefully moving to completion in the next few weeks.

Case number three and then I'll go back to two. This case was a referral from your office Keith. A gentleman called The Adaptables and was referred to the Client Assistance Program. It involved an Independent Living consumer who has received a number of services from Independent Living over a course of time including personal assistance that he continues to receive. He recently contacted Independent Living to discuss further services and was told they could not provide any further services because he had reached his case limit of \$12,000. The consumer contacted Client Assistance Program, referred through The Adaptables. In discussing the history, the financial referred to the Independent Living staff was actually related to home modification limits of \$12,000, which is a lifetime maximum expenditure. The client's impairments were due to quadriplegia. He uses an environmental control system to complete a number of home tasks, like adjusting the temperature, adjusting his bed,

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turning the television off and on and using the phone. He had this devise for a number of years and it was in need of repair or replacement. That is what he was asking for from Independent Living was assistance for this devise. The Client Assistance Program advocate on this case obtained release for information and investigated his concerns. In our opinion, once we looked at it, was that the request he was making should be considered assistive technology not home modifications. Therefore there was no \$12,000 limit. We were able to argue that with Independent Living staff successfully and as of today, as far as I know, the Independent Living staff and the consumer are updating his financial needs assessment and moving forward.

Case two. Sometime we find that people don't know what the policy is and sometimes we find that they chose to make up their own policy and sometimes folks just don't do what they should do. This case was actually presented to SRC because it's a combined Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living case. I think you will enjoy the spirit of this because this is a very feisty client. This involves a 28 year old female who lives with quadriplegia resulting from an auto accident at the age of 3. She has completed a degree in criminal justice; she receives Medicare which usually sponsors a new wheelchair every five years.

In 2013 while a consumer of Vocational Rehabilitation services both she and her counselor determined that she was in need of a new wheelchair prior to the next Medicare approval which would be 2015. The Independent Living counselor requested an exception to policy which was granted by Vocational Rehabilitation chief of policy so that the consumer could participate in job searching and maintain independence. That was the reason for exception. The consumer was very clear about the kind of chair she wanted. She wanted a quickie with the exact features to which she was accustomed, which she had been using for many years. A disagreement ensued between the consumer and vendor. The vendor determined that her choice of chair was not safe and finally persuaded her to choose another make and model. We don't know all the reasons why there were a lot of delays, probably from a lot of different areas and participants. There were significant delays in providing and adjusting the chair and it basically took two years to get this chair. The client then found the chair to be unsatisfactory she felt it didn't fit her well, was too wide for her vehicle and the foot extensions were not calibrated correctly. She became fed up and demanded another

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chair. Now I will tell you that this is a tiny person but a very loud individual who apparently swears like a sailor that probably didn't help the situation.

She got disgusted. The wheelchair was finally returned to the vendor, she wouldn't use it and at this time the consumer contacted our office.

We began negotiations with Vocational Rehabilitation/Independent Living to obtain the chair the consumer wanted. As so much time had elapsed it was now possible for Medicare to cover the cost, however the client demanded that Vocational Rehabilitation pay the 20% copay because she was so mad, angry and frustrated. She didn't feel she could afford it first of all and on principle. Vocational Rehabilitation counselor denied the request citing policy, and that is Vocational Rehabilitation policy, they do not pay copays. We advocated with the regional director for a policy exception and to the Chief of policy. Based on that negotiation the consumer's quickie chair was due to be delivered to the vendor on April 1 and should be in her possession as we speak. We cannot verify because we have not been able to get a hold of her. The new wheelchair is the client's choice and is described as fire engine red as requested which we felt seemingly fitting related to this individual's right to choice the dangers of independence.

That is the end of my report.

**State Rehabilitation Council**

**John Marens**

The council met on March 20 in Elizabeth City. Some of the things discussed there were that on June 10 the annual legislative breakfast will coincide with next SRC meeting. Vocational Rehabilitation plans to attend and have an informational letter that will be sent out to each legislator regarding accomplishments and successes on Vocational Rehabilitation consumers in their respective areas. Anyone who wants to attend is advised to attend, June 10, contact myself or Phil Protz for more information. It starts pretty early in the morning.

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Vocational Rehabilitation is working real hard to come into compliance with the new act. At that point in time the NPR notice of approval had not come out, they were wanting for that. You may or may not know that there is a reprieve in revision of the 2015 State Plan. They are allowed to work off of the 2014 plan while efforts are in place to create a unified State Plan in 2016. The 2016 unified state plan will be the primary responsibility of NC Works Commission, and involves basically them, the Department of Labor as the overseeing board and also involves Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker programs; Adult Literacy, Vocational Rehabilitation programs and I may have left one out. There are basically 4 different or 5 different agencies that are involved in what will now be a unified state plan, which if you think about it makes perfect sense. It's taking all these different agencies that have programs that are related to employment services, bringing them together under one state **plan** so that everybody is working toward the same goals and will be evaluated with the same criteria. Now Vocational Rehabilitation instead of having its own state plan will be part of this unified state plan. Philosophically it makes eminent sense.

Phil Protz reported the fact that his office was working with the SILC with the Innovation and Expansion funding for one year. You already know about that.

On the office of Disability Employment Policy has applied for a grant to increase the employment rate for people with disabilities in North Carolina. The national average for people with disabilities is 18% while North Carolina's average is 16%, so the Department has been looking at ways to identify grants or ways to increase working on this.

There are current budget issues we all know budgets and discussion, travel restrictions involving Vocational Rehabilitation staff. On the positive side as was mentioned earlier, the budget for Vocational Rehabilitation remains the same as the last year with no increase or decrease. The Human Services of Vocational Rehabilitation are working very hard to fill vacant positions. We have actually seen a lot of that, new hires going on and have gone on in Vocational Rehabilitation. Part of what we are doing as a piece of that is folks from my office, including myself are getting out to different offices where we have identified where there are a lot of new counselors to orientate of Client Assistance Program services.

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The Vocational Rehabilitation department is also working with NC Fast to coordinate accurate Medicaid rates especially non pharmaceuticals. There have been issues that caused billing errors and that would hold things up. The department is working very hard to correct all these rate issues. Vocational Rehabilitation is submitting a grant to hire more benefits counselors. I don't know if you are involved in this in anyway but I would heartily recommend that you send your voice. This is a sorely needed piece that has been missing. Because of the decrease of benefit counselors, over time, people are missing information. There was a point in time when there would be benefits counselor available to you, who would meet consumers helping them to understand that if you want to become employed, this is what it will look like for you in terms of benefits and check. The big piece of information that I would want to know. Basically there has been a drop off in those services but hopefully, if this comes through we will see more benefits counselors.

You've heard good things about BEAM today. We've considered the issues as birth pains. I've had one IT guy tell me that if you create a system like this is basically takes two years to become stable. There seems to be some good progress being made in this stabilization.

Jeff Stevens reported on the current status of the State Plan. Vocational Rehabilitation is revising their customer satisfaction survey in terms of changing some questions and when these questions are asked in the course of the case. Perhaps more surveys will be returned.

NC Works Commission 2014 – 2016 strategic plan, which if you are able to get ahold of it, it is well worth reading. It is very much in the spirit of WIOA and pretty impressive.

That is all I have fit to print.

**Kay Miley** – Are there any questions?

**Ping Miller** – how do you spell the acronym WIOA?

**John Marens** – WIOA, Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act.

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**Kay Miley** – members of the board make sure you get your travel expenses to Debbie today before you leave.

### **State Rehabilitation Council of the Blind**

No report was given.

### **Old Business: none**

### **New Business:**

Steve Strom left flyers about the ADA Legacy bus tour and the dates they are going to be in Raleigh, Greensboro and Winston-Salem. So please pick these up and participate in the ADA Legacy Bus Tour.

**Ping Miller** - Duke Energy actually provides sweat grant funds. The sweat means working to achieve an end result like building ramps and repairing homes something like that. What organizations might be able to tap into this? That would mean some of our employees to help out. I want to plant that seed. I'd be more than happy to partner especially in the Charlotte area. If you have any ideas, please come and talk to me. If I could champion to get resources to help out in this cause then I could work to possibly make this happen.

### **Announcement:**

**Keith Greenarch** – I just want to say there is going to be a ADA celebration on July 24 in the Triad Park which is on the Guilford, Forsyth county line in a community called Colfax. I will be sending out a flyer. There will be disability organizations in the Triad area which is High Point, Greensboro and Winston-Salem and surrounding outer communities. We would invite you to come. We plan to have a SILC booth and maybe even do some of our assessments. We are expecting a large turnout; we have a lot of agencies on board. We would love for you to come and celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA. It's going to be a good day for advocacy. We hope to have something for children. This Park has a Veterans Memorial and hope to have Veterans ceremony sometime that day. We will have vendors for food and games. We are expecting a wide variety of different types of vendors on July 24, time to be

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determined. The shed is booked from 9am to 9pm but we aren't going to do it that long, maybe 4 to 8pm time span. Please come and if nothing else represent the SILC.

**Public Comments:** none

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:50pm**

**Next Meeting: July 10<sup>th</sup> at the Country Inn and Suites in Burlington, NC.**

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

Members	Ex. Officio	Staff/Support	
Alewine, Ricky	P Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke VRIL	P Will Miller	<span style="background-color: red; color: black;">A</span>
Barber, Deja	P Steve Strom DD Council	P Debbie Hippler	<span style="background-color: green; color: black;">P</span>
Bellamy, Gloria	<span style="background-color: red; color: black;">A</span> Dockery, Deidre DSB	P Mark Lineberger	<span style="background-color: green; color: black;">P</span>
Cummins, Rene	P John Marens CAP	P Cath Dewitt	<span style="background-color: green; color: black;">P</span>
Greenarch, Keith	P	2 PCAs	<span style="background-color: green; color: black;">P</span>
Hicks, Sandra	P Center Directors		
Kaufman, Joshua	P Mark Steele	P Guests	
Kincaid, Mitzi	P Gloria Garton	P Vicki Wilson	<span style="background-color: green; color: black;">P</span>
Lambert, Kimlyn	P Helen Pase	P Gary Ray	<span style="background-color: green; color: black;">P</span>
Miley, Kay	P Julia Sain	P Alyssa Ng	<span style="background-color: green; color: black;">P</span>
Miller, Clare "Ping"	P Joann Anderson	P Sierra Royster	<span style="background-color: cyan; color: black;">T</span>
Ogburn, Sandy	P	Nellie Placencia	<span style="background-color: green; color: black;">P</span>
Overfield, Jennifer	P	Mike Ogburn	<span style="background-color: green; color: black;">P</span>
Staley, Teresa	P	Vicky Wilson (DSB)	<span style="background-color: green; color: black;">P</span>
Watkins, Oshana	P	Claudia Horn	<span style="background-color: green; color: black;">P</span>
Barry Washington	P		

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Hippler, SILC staff