**NC DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE DEAF AND THE HARD OF HEARING**

**Report to NC State Independent Living Council (SILC)**

**Friday, July 15, 2016**

1. **DSDHH Services**
	1. Relay North Carolina
	2. Client Services (advocacy, information/referral, consumer skill development…)
	3. Services to Agencies and Organizations (Training, consultation)
	4. Outreach and Education
2. **NC Council for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing**
* Legislatively-mandated advisory council
	1. Charged with providing guidance to DHHS Secretary and DPI Superintendent
	2. 27 members: appointed by Governor, President Pro Tem and House Speaker
	3. Anyone can present his/her issues and ideas to representatives
	4. For more information on Council: www.ncdhhs.gov/dsdhh/councils-commissions
* Upcoming quarterly meetings in 2016: August 5, November 4
1. **Legislative Updates**
* Proposal to sunset licensure for sign language interpreters
	+ HB1007 (which retains licensure for SL interpreters) passed House
	+ Senate version referred to Finance Committee – no further action
1. **Service Updates**
* Increasing outreach to veterans, including via partnerships with veterans-related agencies and organizations
* Partnership with NC Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) – increasing outreach to health care service providers via all-day training at AHECs (CEUs available)
* ASL video on how to file a complaint on non-compliance with ADA by DHHS agency or provider (e.g. Medicaid healthcare provider) will be posted by end of July 2016
* Article on Video Remote Interpreting service under review – goal is to publish in DHHS Medicaid Bulletin (which reaches 75,000+ NC Medicaid providers). Intend of article is to educate providers on limitations of VRI, especially in reference to “effective communication” as noted in ADA.
1. **General Updates**
* All seven DSDHH regional centers have a manager on board
* Filling positions across DSDHH
* Two critical vacancies remain: Telecommunications Resources Program Manager and Community Resources Program Manager – both currently posted