**NC Statewide Independent Living Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 27, 2012**

**Country Inn and Suites, Burlington, NC**

**Welcome/Mission /Minutes**

Barbara Davis, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:07.

Michael Martin read the SILC Mission. Barbara Davis read the meeting accessibility reminders.

All council members and attendees introduced themselves.

The Chair called for Agenda changes. There were two additions. The “Let’s Communicate” presentation will be made by Rene Cummins, Cynthia Temoshenko, Karen Whittingham and Frank Griffin. There will be a WIPA (Work Incentives Planning & Assistance) program update after lunch.

**Action:** (Martin/Greenarch) after additions, the Agenda was approved unanimously.

Changes to the Minutes of the October 2011 meeting were called for. Sierra stated that the YLF Presenter’s last name is spelled Rea.

**Action:** (Miley/Martin) a motion to approve the minutes as amended was made, seconded and carried unanimously.

**Chair Report: Barbara Davis, Chair**

Brian Jones has resigned as SILC Chair; As Vice-Chair Barbara Davis fills the vacancy. New officers will be elected at the July meeting. The Governance committee has been speaking with members about their interest in serving as an officer. A proposed slate of officers will be presented from the Executive Committee and nominations will be taken from the floor prior to the July vote.

**Codification Update Barbara Davis, Chair**

There is no new information. It has been requested again that the exact language from the Rehabilitation Act be used in the Governor’s order.

**Committee Choices**

All members are asked to study the committees. There is a lot to accomplish in the next year and half to fulfill the SPIL. The Council needs people on all the committees who would be dedicated, become informed about the committee duties, the SPIL and work toward fulfilling the SPIL goals. Each member is requested to choose at least two committees: one standing committee and one SPIL committee (based on the six goals in the state plan). Please return the completed forms to Barbara or Cynthia. A meeting of the committee chairs will be scheduled soon (community members will be welcome). Members are also encouraged to think of community members who would be interested in serving on a SILC committee.

**Executive Director Report Cynthia Sexton, Ex. Dir.**

* Explanation of folder contents.
* Website vendor has changed
* NC Open Meetings laws were researched. A summary is available on the SILC website. NCSILC is required to give 48 hours public notice of any meeting held including all committee meetings. The definition of an official meeting quoted from the state statute, “An official meeting is a gathering together at any time or place or the simultaneous communication by electronic means of a majority of members for the purpose of transacting public business within the jurisdiction real or apparent of the public body” You must keep full and accurate minutes of any meeting including closed sessions. The public body is any part of the body composed of two or more members that exercises or is authorized to exercise a policy making administrative or advisory function. All meetings do have to be on the calendar, have accurate minutes that are published.
* Agrability is being subcontracting to disAbility Resource Center who will now be the coordinator of this project and grant. The work to this point was not covered by any Part B funds. This will let the centers get started on the work involved. Cynthia Temoshenko verified that the documentation was presented to prove no Part B funds were used.
* NCDOT 40 year plan. Consumer input is needed, the third survey is on the table, please complete and turn in to us. The survey was also sent out to all the Centers. Barbara Davis pointed out that this is a good work for the Civil Rights committee to get involved with. Chair Jeff McLoud agreed.
* Website statistics report was given. Frank Griffin asked about our presence on Facebook and Twitter. Cynthia Sexton verified that we do have a Facebook page but not a Twitter account.
* AT Expo: SILC will fund an IL track at this expo in November, 2012. Please let Cynthia Sexton know if you are interested in working on this project.
* Our move has been completed. The IT has been the biggest issue and taken the most time. Our office is beautiful please come visit us.

**Story:**

Keith Greenarch shared a Phoenix story. I am working with a group of citizens from Elkin, NC in the northwest piedmont. There are 4,000 people in the city, 23% of those are people with disabilities. I was asked to co-present with VR and IL to Surry County interagency committee. The Post Office is not accessible. Working with Joann the Interagency Committee Vice-chair we decided to have a public forum, advertised in three publications. The day of the meeting we were surprised to have about 45 people in attendance including the Post Master. The meeting lasted about 2 hours. This group was very charged up and is a perfect example of what can happen when a group gets together and become advocates. The post office offered solutions that were not acceptable to the group. The Post Office Master is working with the facilities maintenance and he has put in a request to do the cheapest and quickest thing which is to put in two accessible parking spots. Back in about 1980 there was a proposal to build a ramp that would have cost $7,000. It would’ve been a worthwhile investment due to the pay out of about three times that amount in medical bills due to people falling. The story is that these 45 folks with some leadership have come together as advocates. I heard Kay Miley say one time that we pretty much are advocates from the day we are born because we come out screaming and crying. That’s what these folks are doing, they are being heard, and getting media attention and I thought it was a great advocate story of something positive. They are looking for the next project; it may be a great foundation to even start a Mayor’s Council on disability.

**Executive Committee:** **Barbara Davis, chair**

The meeting minutes are in your packets.

SPIL writing task force needs training. A representative from ILRU will be invited to present a program in July. The members have been asked to educate themselves with the materials on the ILRU website. We need to be able to measure and evaluate our SPIL. Mark your calendars now; this will be a mandatory attendance. You will be notified very far in advance. The SPIL writing process will cease until after this training.

**Finance Committee: Sandy McMillan** The report provided to each member was read. There is a line item breakdown of expenses. Our current budget is $203,000. All expenses are tracking about 50%. We are on target to meet our budget goals for 2012. Charlie has been doing a great job holding monthly meetings by teleconference.

**Membership Committee:** **Dorothy Frye, Chair**

There are four vacancies. No appointments will be made until codification is complete. Our focus is on a recruitment campaign, asking each member to provide two names and phone numbers of people you feel would be good candidates for council membership. Forms are available, please fill them out and return to Dorothy or the SILC office. Our guest today, Sandra Hicks is a prospective council member, please stop by in the lunch room to meet and greet her.

None of the vacancies include those serving in hold over. No specific group of people is being targeted but youth should be a priority with local colleges being suggested.

**Governance Committee: Michael Martin, chair**

A slate of officers will be presented for vote at the July meeting. Michael has spoken to almost every member to ascertain their willingness to serve.

**Evaluation Committee: Michael Martin, chair**

The Committee is going to review the ILRU instructions concerning collection and evaluation data regulations. The information collected did not meet the criteria needed.

* Cynthia Temoshenko wanted to clarify that the DSU is not collecting the data they are dispensing the surveys.

SILC vote is needed to stop collecting current consumer surveys. A new instrument, procedure and criteria on collection will be developed after training.

**Action:** (Martin/Bellamy) motion carried to stop collecting consumer survey data.

**Community Based Living Committee: Kay Miley, Chair**

Question raised, “Is transition money available or was it frozen?”

* Cynthia Temoshenko answered that the money was included in the Center’s contracts.

There are now transition specialists on staff in many hospitals, helping consumers being placed back into their homes with appropriate assistance

A request for van modification was denied due to funding being focused on transitions.

Only four universities are equipped to handle students with significant disabilities. A student going out of state to take advantage of these universities runs the risk of losing their CAP funds. Education on assistive technology would help consumers live more independently.

* Barbara Davis stated that MFP is working with three CILs obtaining contracts to do transition work. Work is also being done with the CRCs.

**Break – 10:30 – 10:52**

Cynthia Sexton and Barbara Davis clarified that all committees will be restructured, if you serve on a committee now you need to request to remain on that committee. 100% involvement is desired.

**Part B Center Report Helen Pace, Ex. Director**

The center in Greenville is staying busy; consumers are finding us, more know about us and are referring others to our center. We enjoy what we are doing and helping all that we can. APRIL - peer to peer out of Lubbock, TX is coming for two days to work with our center.

**Expanding the Network of Centers/IL Summit Keith Greenarch, Co-Chair**

A show of hands was asked for of those attending and learning from the Summit as well as a desire to attend another summit in the future.

Jim Whalen gave information regarding the summit experience.

* There were 63 unique attendees at the summit with half of the SILC members attending
* Substance results:
  1. an opportunity for those with a shared philosophy, that people belong in their communities and need to have self determination, to meet to have a conversation and determine how to work together.
  2. Center staffs are now working together.
  3. A wiki center has been developed. An IL list serve is being discussed.
  4. A commitment to keep a network is now in place
  5. A resolve to get the IL message out thru the state.
  6. Staff came back excited and joyful wanting to “keep this going”.
  7. Billy Alton from APRIL, said, “Thank you, I am going to take back some of the ideas to the Arkansas SILC”

The challenges for next time is finding a location with better access and including other partners. It was great, Thank you!

* Barbara Davis stated that we do need to do an evaluation of the summit with a space for suggestions. It was very good for everyone.

**Promoting Civil Rights Jeff McLoud, chair**

A wider distribution of the NCDOT survey will be done through emails of the members.

Legislative Day is a no – RSA replied that NO SILC funds could be used

We will inform the SILC of the following

* What is the scope of our legislation? Following current laws.
* Continued monitoring of Federal law

Medicaid budget cuts were discussed, the full extent is still being realized. At the Federal level there is talk of block grants. We will monitor this process.

Court decisions in regards to Disability Rights was discussed

* Gloria Bellamy shared a brochure found on Disability Rights NC, website. We can use any and all information as long as credit is given to DRNC. A suggestion of inclusion of this pamphlet in a kit of information distributed to local hospitals for distribution to consumers. Please let the committee knows if you have information to be included.
* Barbara Davis spoke of the need to develop a state-wide advocacy plan.
* Rene Cummins spoke encouraging all to be fully informed in regards to voting in May.
* Barbara Davis stated that CILS will be working to get people registered to vote.

**Provision of Direct IL Services & Support Sierra Royster, Chair**

The committee has not met, there is no report.

**Youth Committee Sandy McMillan, Chair**

The committee has not met; a copy of the charter in our SPIL with the current progress has been submitted. Once the contract is in place there is not much for the committee to do until the evaluations come in at the end of the YLF.

**Youth Leadership Forum Sierra Royster, Youth Coordinator**

**Alliance of Disability Advocates**

YLF details to date – Sierra Royster. The Youth Leadership Forum is scheduled for June 18 – 22. 38 youth applicants out of 16 counties have applied. An extension of the deadline to the 21st of March was put into place due to an error by the Post Office. The planning committee had training on March 31 and April 1, on IL philosophy, consumer control, person first language and goal setting, accomplishing contract stipulations. 20 youth from across the state were chosen as delegates 6 alternates. Information packets have been sent. All have been encouraged to contact Sierra about goal setting or concerns in regards to their independence. Susie Badger from PA, the current Miss Wheelchair America was also chosen as another speaker so there are now three speakers with diverse disabilities. Two youth leaders out of four were chosen. Accommodations and travel arrangements for youth and all speakers are being made. The staff will have training on June 17. A total of 55 youth being involved is anticipated.

All Centers were encouraged to include disability history. Kay McMillan and Sierra went to a Durham middle school reaching over 400 students with disability history and etiquette.

Two applicants who would fulfill the youth requirement have been approved for membership. We are waiting for approval and appointment from the Governor.

* Sandy M. we are making good progress towards our SPIL goals on the youth committee. We thank Sierra for all her efforts the planning has been outstanding and we are looking forward to what will happen in June.
* Barbara D. – Kay will be giving her disability history presentation in July.
* Cynthia T. – are the delegates to the YLF being given an application for SILC council?
* Sierra, “It may be a good question to put on the evaluation.” The SILC will be represented at the expo at the end of the YLF. Involvement on the youth steering committee would be a good indicator of the commitment of a youth.

**Economics of Disability Charlie DesLaurier, chair**

Absent – no report given.

**NC Rehabilitation Council Report Charlie DesLaurier, member**

Absent – No report given

**Rehabilitation Council for the Blind Report Dorothy Frye, Member**

As of July 1 the three agencies will merge, they will be called Services for the blind, deaf and hard of hearing and rehabilitation as ordered by the governor. Summer Adjustment to Blindness Vital to Visually Impaired Youth (SAVVY), High school students offering training in college prep, assistive technology, and work experience. It will begin during the month of July, lasting four weeks at the rehab center for the blind.

A discussion regarding the consolidation, the executive order and the naming of the new organization followed as well as discussion of the use of vacant buildings on the sites of the schools for the deaf. Praise for the Dept. of Public Instruction supervisor for working to keep all three schools operational. Disability Rights is working to be sure the influx of people to these campuses does not create an unsafe environment for the current residents.

**Div. of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Cynthia Temoshenko**

**DVR IL Program Specialist**

During the period of October 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) Independent Living Rehabilitation Program (ILRP) provided services to 1,080 individuals with significant disabilities of which 298 individuals received personal assistance services, 15 individuals were deinstitutionalized and 123 individuals were prevented from institutionalization.

 The Money Follows the Person Project transitioned 14 individuals from October 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012.

As of March 30, 2012, DVRS has mailed 1,319 NCSILC satisfaction surveys to clients with closed cases.  The clients will return the completed satisfaction survey directly to the SILC office.

1,319 surveys were handed out being sent back directly to the NCSILC office.

MFP – transitioned 14 individuals from nursing home from 10-11 to 3-12.

* Keith G – asked if there was a regional breakdown.
* CT – answered yes but she would have to send it at a later date. This information will be sent to the SILC office to send out to all.
* Barbara Davis – funds have been frozen, otherwise there would’ve been more.

**NC Division of Services for the Blind Cynthia Speight, DSB**

**Independent Living Services**

There are two IL programs to report. One IL program for older individuals 55 and older and the IL rehab program available to all ages. Because the other program is limited to older individuals, the state was given the flexibility of determining who we serve under the ILR program. That is the program we have chosen to designate those who are less that 55 years old.

The Division of Services for the Blind Independent Living Rehabilitation Program provided independent living rehabilitation services to 303 individuals who have significant visual impairments and were less than 55 years of age during the second quarter of the federal fiscal year.

The services provided are comprehensive in scope. We work with consumers in their home and in specialized local mini centers. These centers are short term centers where small groups of individuals. Can come together in their local community where we can replicate the services available if they and come to the rehab center for the blind. This has been very successful.

**Center Directors Report Rene Cummins, Ex. Director**

**Alliance of Disability Advocates**

The most significant thing that has happened for the NC network of Center Directors was our meeting at the IL Summit. Maureen Ryan was our resource person who came from WI. We would have many benefits as an official network.

1. Act as one body to accept contracts and grants, such as Agrability.
2. Be competitive with our limited funding to attract competent and dedicated staff.
3. Afford to offer better benefits.

In conclusion the advantages of pursuing this are worth the time and energy. The NC Network of Centers for Independent Living will be able to carry out statewide projects, give us a greater presence and the ability to pursue things as a network, thus giving us more options and strength benefiting consumers in the long run. Maureen offered to be available in the future. Thank you to Jim for giving us that time and advantage to be encouraged and informed by such a knowledgeable person.

A discussion followed with questions and thoughts of the makeup of this proposed network.

**LUNCH BREAK: 12:05 PM**

**Meeting resumed at 1:07 PM**

**WIPA Presentation: Brenda Lowe/Rebecca Opachan, Bridget Hassan**

**Easter Seals, UCP, Means Coordinator for NC and Virginia**

We are at risk of losing a very worthwhile program that help individuals with disabilities go back to work, sort through their benefits and building assets, under the WIA (Workforce Investment Act). The funding of this program is scheduled to be reauthorized in June but appears it will not happen.

A presentation explaining the benefits and workings of this program were given, individual assistance and explanation of benefits interacting with the workings of all other program assistance benefits all.

A short discussion and questions followed. An explanation of lengthy and difficult application process was shared. The loss of this program will be a terrible loss. A template for letters along with website information to contact your representatives will be sent to the SILC office to be sent to all members. Handout information was made available.

Disability Rights PARAM, protection and advocacy for beneficiaries of Social Security is also part and funded by SS Administration in the interim of June 30 and whenever we run out of money a call to Disability Rights would help they are supposed to step in and remove barriers to gainful employment. WIPA is the frontline Disability Rights is the last resort. We are not a discretionary grant we are a formula grant so we are not caught up for the moment in this end of funding cycle. Word from DC this is this is all about reducing Social Security, reforming Medicaid Medicare. It is not simply a matter of writing a letter we need to make an argument that the work being done actually would reform the system quicker and more effectively by getting people to work.

**Presentation: Let’s Communicate Rene Cummins, Ex. Director, ADA-CIL**

**Cynthia Temoshenko, VRIL, Cathy Whittingham, DSDHH, Frank Griffin, SILC**

How to better communicate with SILC members.

* Strong contrast between letters and background
* Simple and clean fonts using Upper and lower case letters begin at 18 font
* No background patterns
* No color to differentiate text, a screen reader will not recognize this, use underline
* Use non glossy, low glare paper for printed material
* When forwarding a message remove all < forwarding marks
* Don’t use Excel insert tables in a word doc
* Number paragraphs for a lengthy document
* If a person who is blind or visually impaired is to participate in a meeting the documents need to be sent early for them to look over, more than 24 hours. This allows active participation

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

* ASL is NOT English
* Communicating with an interpreter and technology
* Go to dsdhh to find an license interpreter
  + There are also Educational interpreters
  + Fact sheets on line
    - Some use contact language
    - Some are transliterate
* When speaking, don’t identify by “over there” etc.
* Be aware of lighting and glare
* Be careful to get a person’s attention, tap on the shoulder etc.
* Talk directly to the person, not the interpreter, not “Ask him” etc.
* Video phone demonstration
* 40 – 50% of words cannot be lip read, many look the same like, beach and peach, lip reading is NOT common
* If speaking without an interpreter
  + start the conversation with the topic
  + speak slowly
  + use gestures
* Don’t turn away or cover your mouth, don’t talk down, facial hair can get in the way
* Don’t assume
* Email is preferred
* Deaf and blind use tactile
  + A common sign for emergency is an X made on the person’s back

**SHIIP Presentation: Kenneth Wilkins**

Senior Health Insurance Information Program, Part of NC Department of Insurance. Started back in 1986 by Jim Long because the population of seniors in state so they could have location to go to for information about Medicare. There is a SHIIP counseling site in every county. A list of county sites was made available. Unbiased information and explanations regarding Medicare as well as the drug plans is offered to seniors as well as individuals with disabilities. When you call us we will need the information on your Medicare card as well as your drug information, types, dosage etc. You can choose the plan you want. The form can be filled out and filed over the phone. SHIIP is always looking for volunteers. Training is available online it would take approximately 12 hours. Passing a test at the end of each module is required. After completion you will be invited to attend our quarterly updates. The trainings are not captioned but are all text based. SHIIP fights Medicare fraud and strongly advises having a medical professional review your medication on a regular basis to avoid drug interactions and side effects. ASL interpretation was suggested for the SHIIP website.

Handouts made available: Combo SHIIP form, Extra Help, List of Centers, Health Insurance Options for those with Disabilities, Preventative Services guide.

**Ex-Officio Reports:**

**Disability Rights NC (DRNC) Vicki Smith, Exec. Director**

There are five litigations in process. PBH – persons with dual disabilities has not appealed. Parts of the Home Managed Care. New Hanover County has an employment case. Pasby Case – Personal care – part of the perfect storm. Need daily help.

On July 1 Disability Rights turns 5. On June 21 at the McKimmon Center there will be a celebration. Jeff McLoud is the current chair. The board will have six vacancies as of December.

**NC Council on Developmental Disabilities (DDC) Holly Riddle, Exec. Director**

Absent - Written reports provided.

**Div. of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Susanna Bourgeois, Director**

Absent - No report.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

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**Announcements/Public Comment:**

**Adjourn –** 3:40pm

**Attendees:**

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

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| **Members** |  | **Ex. Officio** |  | **CIL Directors** |  |
| Bellamy, Gloria | P | Susanna Bourgeois | A | Rene Cummins | P |
| Barbara Davis | P | Holly Riddle | A | Gloria Garton | P |
| Charlie DesLaurier | A | Vicki Smith | P | Helen Pace | P |
| Dorothy Frye | P | Cynthia Speight | P | Julia Sain | A |
| Clyde Goodwin | A | Cynthia Temoshenko | P | Jim Whalen | P |
| Keith Greenarch | P |  |  | Benita Williams | P |
| Frank Griffin | P |  |  |  |  |
| Fannie Martin | P | **Support** |  | **Gallery** |  |
| Michael Martin | P | Debbie Hippler | P | Tami Andrews | P |
| Sandy McMillan | P | Tim Holt | P | Sandra Hicks | P |
| Jeff McLoud | P | Cath Kiwitt | P | Donna Lovell | P |
| Kay Miley | P | Mark Lineberger | P | Karen Whittingham | P |
| Sierra Royster | T | Cynthia Sexton | P |  |  |
| Sandi Sinnott | P |  |  |  |  |
| Teresa Staley | P |  |  |  |  |
| Cornell Turner | P |  |  |  |  |