

# STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

June 29, 2023

Meeting Held Via Zoom

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DHS HillsvieW Plaza/Conference Room

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mark Koterwski, Matt Cain, CJ Moit, Ryan Groeneweg, Eric Weiss, and Tasha Jones. **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Roger Bowie, Ronda Williams, Ben Wolf Necklace and Syndee Jundt. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Mark Sternhagen, Patty Kuglitsch, Jennifer Lewis, Codi Erickson, Susan Ray-Degges, Lyle Cook, Katie Peterson, and Colette Wagoner. The interpreters were Julie Paluch and Whitney Gard.

**OPENING ACTIONS:** Welcome & Introductory Comments: Mark Koterwski, SILC Chairperson, started the meeting and there was consensus to delay the action items until Matt and Tasha could join.

Mark asked Jennifer Lewis to begin with the **DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES (DRS) INDEPENDENT LIVING (IL) REPORT**. Jennifer started with the Consumer Satisfaction Survey Summary results for both Western Resources for Independent Living (WRIL) and Independent Living Choices (ILC). The results identified a 20.80% response rate. WRIL's response rate remains low. Jennifer and Codi have been discussing ways to increase the response rate. Jennifer and Codi are meeting in person tomorrow and one idea is to add the option of completing the survey electronically, which should help increase survey responses. Jennifer reviewed the survey's written comments. Comments under what was most helpful reflected services were helpful (modifications, purchase of devices), staff were on time/courteous and helpful with applying for other services. In terms of responses identified under what was least helpful included comments about program limitations, messages not being returned, waiting list, and a number of "no complaints".

Status of CIL Contracts: The report referenced reflected the status of the Division's contracts with the CIL's at the end of the 12-month period. The report shows that ILC provided the needed service units, expending 100% of the contract. ILC exceeded the needed service units (over 13,000 units which is approximately \$265,000). WRIL also expended its full contract, going over by 350 units. Contracts for the new fiscal year will begin July 1.

Western Resources for Independent Living 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Report (December 2022 through February 2023): These reports were running on the state fiscal year, and work was done to pair the report with the State Plan period of October 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of September. Jennifer worked with the CILs to align the reports with the SPIL time period, which will also coincide with the Program Performance Report time period. WRIL is providing more core services which includes nursing home deterrence. This

quarter shows WRIL working with 48 new participants. She spoke to the concerns raised previously about WRIL's little usage of the Home Modifications and Assistive Devices (HMAD) funds. The report reflects individuals being served and hours of services dedicated to this area. There have been discussions with WRIL staff about utilizing these program funds throughout the year and not waiting until year end. Activities show work done to network with other partners and they recently became a Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) provider, which provides another funding source. Concerns were addressed with the lack of staffing in Spearfish. The report also included the organizational chart, with openings in Spearfish and Rapid City at the time of submittal.

Independent Living Choices (ILC) 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Report: ILC provided services in all core service categories except for the post-secondary transition area this quarter. This involves providing transition assistance for youth with significant disabilities after the completion of secondary education to post-secondary life. Work is being done to improve the provision of this service. A comment was made about the numbers reported under the nursing home transition and deterrence which uplifts the importance of CILs, and the work provided to support individuals with disabilities choice to live in their home/community with the appropriate supports. A question was asked about sharing examples of nursing home deterrence's. The following were provided as examples: provision of a ramp which allows a person to enter/exit their home, emergency dialers (to contact emergency help) lift chairs, shower chairs (items that support safety within the home). ILC is providing a lot of HMAD services, which they also conduct fundraising activities to raise other funds to support HMAD services/supports. Staff are involved with outreach activities throughout the coverage area. The largest area where participants learned of services comes from the medical area (doctor, nurse, therapist). ILC's organizational chart reflects being fully staffed at the time of submittal.

IL Funding Sources: There were two handouts which outlined all funds supporting IL services and programs, i.e., ACL (federal funds) and state funds (Part B funds, HMAD and ramp funds, Social Security Administration Reimbursement funds, and state match). One chart reflected the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 and the other was for SFY 2024. Providers received a 5% increase this fiscal year (state funds). She explained several of the columns on the chart i.e., ramp funding. These funds are based on what each CIL believes they can provide. WRIL's funding level is much lower due to the challenge of obtaining a contractor to do the work. Rapid City requires that contractors to be licensed with the city to do these types of projects. Eric spoke to the state funds utilized in support of IL services i.e., ramp projects and noted that if WRIL could expend all those dollars, more could be requested.

**SD DEAF RESOURCES AND OUTREACH PROGRAM/SD DROP** (formerly known as CSD): Mark K introduced Katie Peterson, staff from the Rapid City office. Katie

Peterson spoke to SD DROP as a new organization, which separated from Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD) on June 1. She spoke about the history, mission and work being done to develop its vision statement. SD DROP will have four components: community support, equipment distribution, advocacy, and fundraising. The Communication Assistance Program supports four areas to include community skills training, communication assistance, peer support and family communication assistance. In response to a question, it was noted that ASL classes can be provided one-on-one or in group settings. SD Services for the Deaf also offers ASL classes, with a focus on building vocabulary. There is communication between the programs, referrals are exchanged depending upon who is requesting ASL classes.

SD DROP offers the Telecommunication Equipment Distribution (TED) program which provides amplified telephones, captioned telephones, iPhone and iPad and other accessories. The TED program is funded through a contract with the Division of Rehabilitation Services. Project Link SD is a broadband initiative supported by federal monies to provide affordable connectivity (\$30/month internet service subsidy).

Bridging South Dakota is another grant activity that involves working with the SD Network Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Disability Rights SD, Urban Indian Health, and the Compass Center to address the high prevalence of violence against people with disabilities. This involves advocacy efforts working with disability related organizations, shelters, domestic violence centers, medical/legal and law enforcement agencies to improve the work and support of victims of violence/abuse who are persons with disabilities.

SD DROP was awarded funds by DRS to conduct a camp offering Pre-Employment Transition Services (PRE ETS) to high school students who are deaf or hearing impaired. This is the fourth summer to offer this camp. SD DROP staff will assist students from across the state with transportation needs to attend the camp located at Cedar Canyon Camp in the Black Hills. The theme this year will be "GPS for Life" and it will be held July 17 -21. Students will be introduced to career assessments, learn about career opportunities, job interests, and hear from individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired who are working in various areas. Peer interaction/peer support is powerful as most of the students are living in communities/attending schools with no other students that are deaf or hearing impaired. Other activities that staff have been involved with this month include attending the SD Association of the Deaf Conference, Midwest Deaf Education Conference, hosting the UBU Conference, hosting a golf tournament, an open house at the Sioux Falls office and a retirement party for Mark Koterwski for 33 years of service. Staff will be attending the Transition Summer Institute and host an ADA picnic on July 26<sup>th</sup> in Rapid City. Slides outlined staff members and contact information.

SILC Chairperson returned to the **OPENING ACTIONS** after a few more members joined. Mark K asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda, there were none. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, MADE (M), SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C).** YEAS – Matt Cain, CJ Moit, and Ryan Groeneweg. NAYS - None. Mark K asked if there were changes or additions to the minutes that were distributed, none were noted, **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 6, 2023, AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FROM May 17<sup>th</sup>, MSC.** YEAS – Matt, CJ, and Ryan. NAYS - None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mark invited public comments or announcements. Mark Sternhagen asked to provide comments and was recognized. Mark S noted he was incredibly disappointed with the lack of appointments or reappointments to the SILC. He noted he has been attending meetings and committee meetings in good faith, hoping to be reappointed soon. Patty K asked to be recognized and indicated she wanted to add the same thoughts in support of Mark S.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mark asked if there was a need to hold an executive session. (This is a standing agenda item. The agenda includes a note that if there is a need for closed discussion to address any matter(s) that is sensitive/private or confidential the agenda provides time to do so). Hearing no need, he moved the agenda.

**CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING REPORTS/UPDATES:** Independent Living Choices/ILC: Matt referred to information mentioned earlier by Jennifer. ILC had staff turnover, losing two staff in the Watertown office, one staff member in Yankton and another staff member from the Martin office. He reported that all positions have been filled and ILC is at full staff. ILC will be hosting a listening session on July 25<sup>th</sup> and people can attend in person or virtually. There was a provider increase for the ADLS program, thus ILC provided an increase for all other staff including attendants. ILC is conducting more outreach efforts promoting IL services, attendant services, and other services. ILC will be adding a service by becoming a HOPE Waiver provider.

ILC has held a few of the Transition Summer classes (Sioux Falls, Brookings, and Mitchell). Classes are coming up in Huron, Aberdeen, and Watertown. Students attending have various disabilities. Topics vary by location and have included: CPR training, fire safety, housing, voting, advocacy, nutrition, introduction to transportation, college tours, cooking, cleaning, budgeting, and recreation. Staff from VR and the Business Resource Network were involved with the classes.

Matt mentioned the contract with the state and ILC providing over 13,000 service units beyond the contract. This is over \$250,000. He stated this is worth mentioning and something to keep track of. He explained that the agency earns the state funds by providing the services/units and then the Part C federal funds have supplemented services. This past year ILC utilized all Part C funds four months early and earned all

its Part B funds. ILC needed to utilize reserve funds to finish that last few months to pay for staff and services. Again, he noted this is a good thing but something to keep an eye on. Perhaps it calls for review of the reimbursement rate. Matt indicated they will not lay staff off or stop providing services, but something to watch. Eric responded with an appreciation of all that ILC has done and the services provided. He noted the other additional funds that go into the CILs agreements, i.e., state funds (\$433,000) and Social Security Reimbursement funds (\$349,000) to support IL services in this state.

Western Resources for Independent Living/WRIL update was deferred to allow the next presenter to continue.

**WHAT IS YOUR BEST LIFE AT HOME/HOME MODIFICATIONS TO SUPPORT INDEPENDENT LIVING AND ENHANCED WELL-BEING.** Susan Ray-Degges, North Dakota State University was introduced. A PowerPoint was utilized outlining the following topics: How do we define Home Modifications; Statistics to Consider; The Value of Home Modes; Universal Design Principles; Universal Design Principles to Enhance Well Being; and Examples of Home Modifications to Maximize Usability.

Home modifications include making changes to the home environment to support a person's changing needs to promote health, safety, independence and support the work of caregivers. This includes converting or adapting the environment, removing hazards, adding special features or devices, changing where activities occur, renovations and making repairs.

Statistics include 1 in 4 Americans has a disability that affects how they interact with their environment to perform daily tasks. Only .15% of all homes in the US are wheelchair accessible. Sixty-one million adults in the US live with a disability. She spoke to the percentage of adults with disabilities by disability type (13.7% mobility, 6.8% independent living, 3.7% self-care). Adults with disabilities are more likely to have obesity, smoke, heart disease, diabetes and have barriers to healthcare. Disability numbers in South Dakota include 167,318 adults who have a disability (mobility, cognition, IL, hearing, vision, and self-care).

Universal design principles include the principles of being diverse, flexible, intuitive, perceptive, minimal hazard, low effort, and appropriate space. She spoke to these principles in specific areas of entrance/circulation, lighting/electrical, kitchen, and bathroom/ bedroom. She provided examples of ways to make a home accessible, i.e., eliminating entryway steps, upgrade to lever hardware, add grab bars/handrails, rearrange furniture, create wider doorways and hallways, update flooring/remove rugs and ensure adequate lighting.

She utilized the slides showing accessible features of various homes: ramps, zero depth thresholds, wider doorways (expandable offset hinges), accessible hardware, use of pocket doors, grab bars/handrails installed at critical points, position poles, stair lifts, open floor plans, furniture placement, flooring considerations, ADA compliant appliances, access to cooktops/shelving/prep and storage areas, bathroom considerations, and outdoor areas.

A question was asked about vendors that are knowledgeable about accessibility, home modification and design needs. Susan responded that she is working on a vendor list and is willing to share this with members. She has worked with multiple vendors who have been involved with constructing/redesigning projects with the forethought of quality-of-life issues (disability, aging in place) for all people. She expects to have this information completed this summer (CILs, architects, business owners, government agencies, health care, interior designers, extension offices). "Voices for Home Modification of the Dakotas" will include a listing of the above referenced agencies, testimonials from people from ND and South Dakota, social media materials, educational content, and consumer resources. To learn more about this work, visit the site: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/voices-home-modification-dakotas>.

Members thanked Susan for all the information she shared. She invited members to be in touch with further questions or information.

### **CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING REPORTS/UPDATES (Continued):**

Western Resources for Independent Living/WRIL: Codi spoke to staffing, losing one employee in the Spearfish area. The position is being offered today, and if the person accepts, she will need to relocate. It is expected to have her in place in July. Staff from Rapid City will provide coverage for this area until the new staff is in place.

Staff worked hard to complete the contract with the Division to fulfill the required service units. WRIL started providing ramps with the extra funding provided through the Division, including the use of metal ramps. WRIL is working with a local company to install the ramps.

Staff have been working on fundraising activities. One activity was working with Monument Health, which was not as beneficial for WRIL as expected. Another activity will involve hosting a backyard BBQ which will be utilized as an open house. Flyers will have information announcing the new office location, services, and coverage area. Attendees will be invited to walk through the new office location.

Codi will be traveling to Pierre to work with Jennifer on various activities to include the consumer satisfaction survey. WRIL is involved with the planning of the ADA Celebration picnic scheduled on July 26<sup>th</sup> (Main Street Square/Rapid City at 11:00 am).

**BOARD OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION UPDATE:** Eric spoke about the BVR and responsibilities as the State Rehabilitation Council to the VR agency. The BVR provides input regarding the agency's performance, assists with developing the State Plan's goals and priorities, and analyzing consumer satisfaction. The BVR last met on June 14<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. There were presentations by the Teachwell STRIVE staff. Staff explained that STRIVE was developed to support high school students with disabilities, ages 18-21, whose IEP goals and post-secondary goals included college or career training programs. Teachwell STRIVE is hosted at Southeast Technical Institute to blend college readiness, completing college level courses, career readiness (learning real world work experience) and life skills (living independently, social/emotional learning and self-advocacy). There was an Employer Partnership presentation involving representatives from South Dakota Retailers Association (a membership organization) and Horton, Inc., (a manufacturing business). The representatives spoke about their experiences of hiring individuals with disabilities, recruitment, and working with the VR agency. This discussion was facilitated by Kim Ludwig. Vicki Stewart provided an update on the Business Resource Network, now named Employment Disability Resources. The June meeting hosted the election of officers, and the new officers include Cole Uecker, Jonathan Englund, and Vicki Stewart. The next meeting will be held in September. More information about the BVR or any other board/commission can be found on the boards/commission's portal at: <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/>.

**STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL) PREPARING FOR THE FY 2025-2027 SPIL:** Eric reminded members of the work conducted so far on the 2025-2027 SPIL. The SILC disseminated a survey over a year ago to solicit feedback on the IL needs of South Dakotans. The SILC's Consumer Services Committee met and reviewed information from the survey in addition to other information collected from organizations (public meetings, surveys, statewide needs assessments) to identify the IL needs and barriers. Information has been compiled and will be utilized in drafting the goals and objectives. The SPIL committee will be meeting to work on the goals and objectives which will be shared with the full SILC by the December meeting. A public meeting will be held early in 2024 to obtain feedback/input regarding the draft SPIL. The SPIL will be finalized and submitted prior to the end of June 2024 to ACL for review and approval.

## **LUNCH BREAK**

**DIVISION OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (DSBVI) & BOARD OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (B/SBVI):** Ryan spoke to the following items with Ronda being absent.

- 1) An update was provided on the Accessible Library Services (ALS) formerly known as the Braille and Talking Book Library program. ALS provides access to information to patrons who are unable to access standard print due to a physical

or learning disability, i.e., books in both audio and Braille, educational materials for children who require adaptive textbooks, audio described DVDs and the NFB Newslines.

- 2) Center for Disabilities will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Run, Walk and Roll on September 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a community event to engage persons with disabilities in Sioux Falls.
- 3) Ryan Groeneweg was selected to serve as the ambassador for the Usher Syndrome Coalition for South Dakota.
- 4) Nichole Nelson, Transition Specialist, resigned her position from the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Kiersten Sombke will take her place.
- 5) Chelle Hart, SBVI Board member is organizing White Cane Day in October.
- 6) April Schulte, SD Rehabilitation Center for the Blind is fully staffed. The remodeling work is finished, and an open house was held in April. Transition Week was held in early June with eleven students attending.
- 7) Independent Living Older Blind Program: applications are down this year when comparing numbers to the same time period as last year.
- 8) SBVI was approved to purchase 16 new units for the CCTV lease/loan program. There are currently 226 machines. Surplus property can be made available to nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
- 9) Sandy Neyhart, SBVI staff attended the Independent Living Older Blind national conference in March. She also participated in a workgroup to rewrite best practices for the older blind program with a focus on community outreach.
- 10) B/SBVI Board priorities include Governor's Awards, NDEAM events, Youth Leadership, NFB convention was held in April along with a public forum, and now work will continue on the State Plan.
- 11) B/SBVI had their election of officers. Ryan Groeneweg/Chair, Richard Crawford/Vice Chairperson and Cole Uecker/Member-At-Large.
- 12) B/SBVI received reappointments (Carla Miller, Nichole Nelson, Ryan Groeneweg, Cole Uecker, Kelly Decker, and Pam Fisher).
- 13) The next B/SBVI meeting will be held September 15 via DDN sites in Sioux Falls, Pierre, and Rapid City.

**SILC STAFF UPDATE:** Colette provided updates on the following items. The Program Performance Report (PPR) was resubmitted on May 8<sup>th</sup>, and the portal now shows the PPR was approved. The 2024 State Plan for Independent Living (the amended SPIL) was submitted to ACL/OILP for approval to our OILP program officer. We received an email from our program officer, Edward Ahern, indicating that it "seemed good to go!" Staff followed up with the Program Officer asking if we would receive something else regarding its approval. An email response was received with the following response "I think you're all set! Thank you. I'll reach out if there's anything I need further."

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM): The US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy announced the 2023 Theme: "Advancing Access and Equity". More information can be found at



<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam>. The US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy announced the 2023 Theme: "Advancing Access and Equity". NDEAM celebrates the contributions of America's workers with disabilities past and present. The above link will have a poster and other resources (sample proclamations, press releases, articles) available soon. Anyone can order off the site directly, and the items are free. Staff will compile a list of events of all the scheduled NDEAM events. The list will contain the community, date, location, speaker, and topics. Once the list is finalized it will be shared with board/council members.

Governor's Awards Update: Nominations for the seven award categories were due on May 5<sup>th</sup>. There was a total of forty-two nominations submitted, including two duplicates. The Governor's Awards Review Committee (representatives from the BVR, B/SBVI and SILC) met on June 13<sup>th</sup> to review the nominations (SILC members were Mark S and CJ). The committee is tasked with identifying a recommendation for a recipient for each category.

The committee meeting went well, discussion included reviewers' comments about what stood out about a given recipient, activities that went above and beyond the call of the person's duties or an employer's responsibilities. The reviewers selected a recipient for each of the 7 award categories. The recommended recipients are forwarded to the Division and Department Secretary and then forwarded to the Governor for final review and consideration.

Once we hear from the Governor's office, work will start to coordinate a date for the ceremony and reception and communicate with the recipients and their nominators. The event is typically scheduled in September or October.

It was noted that feedback was sought from those who participated on the Review Committee. There was a recommendation from the reviewers to seek ways to promote the Governor's Awards i.e., advertising, obtaining news stations to be on site/promote event. This was discussed during the BVR meeting several weeks ago and financial support towards advertising efforts was approved. The topic was deferred to the BVR's Public Awareness Committee to work on. Mark S provided comments in his role as a reviewer and encouraged the SILC to consider financial support of advertising efforts as well. He spoke to utilizing media to raise awareness of the awards and other disability related activities (use of Kelo Land Living). Patty noted her support of this recommendation. There was no further discussion.

Champion of IL Services Award nominations were due June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Public Awareness/outreach/advocacy/collaboration committee will review the nominations and make a recommendation to the Exec Committee. A question was asked about the timing of the solicitation process for the Champion of IL nomination and whether the SILC would consider changing it in order to obtain more nominations. Another

comment was made in support of this. There was no additional discussion on this. Staff noted that honoring of the award recipient typically takes place during the SILC's September meeting.

Fall Conference: Plans are progressing with the Fall Conference (October 23-25) which will be held at the Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center in Pierre. National presenters will highlight topics such as advocacy, accessibility/universal access, ethics, case file documentation, client engagement, boundaries/safety concerns, and working with participants with Mental health/chemical dependency/criminal backgrounds.

Breakout sessions will include presenters from SD Parent Connection, Division of Developmental Disabilities and Division of Behavioral Health. Registration information will be coming at the end of July. SILC members are encouraged to contact staff if interested in attending. All expenses will be covered through the staff support agreement (registration fee, hotel, mileage). There is a line item in the budget to support CIL staff to attend training such as this.

Budget: There have been limited expenditures within the BVR and SILC expense line items. The contract started January 1<sup>st</sup> and expenses are tracked separately for the BVR and SILC in terms of meeting expenses, member travel, and strategic planning expenditures. The month of May reflected a few expenses i.e., Zoom license renewal and outgoing member gifts. Expected expenses will be coming for the Governor's Awards Ceremony, NDEAM events and member expenses to attend the Fall Conference.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Mark K passed the gavel to Eric, asking him to speak on behalf of the Executive Committee. Eric spoke about the committee's discussion and review of current members in terms of appointments/reappointments, eligibility, and interest of members to serve. The SILC's officer positions consist of Chair, Vice Chair, and Member At Large.

Eric outlined the proposed slate as Tasha/Member At Large, Matt/Vice Chair, and Ryan/Chair. All have indicated an interest in serving as an officer, if elected. He outlined that he would welcome any nominations, noting that nominations would be called for as each position is presented.

Eric started with the position of Chairperson. He called for further nominations for the Chair position in addition to Ryan's name, two times. Hearing none – **MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND ELECT RYAN AS CHAIR – MSC.** YEAS: Matt, CJ, and Ryan. NAYS: None.

Eric moved onto the position of Vice Chairperson. Eric called for further nominations for Vice Chair, twice. Hearing none – **MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND**

**ELECT MATT AS VICE CHAIRPERSON – MSC.** YEAS: Matt, CJ, and Ryan. NAYS: None.

Eric moved to calling for further nominations for the position of Member-At-Large, twice. **MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND ELECT TASHA AS MEMBER-AT-LARGE – MSC.** YEAS: Matt, CJ, and Ryan. NAYS: None.

Eric noted being short on voting members at this time and thanked Ryan, Matt, and Tasha for adding their names to the ballot for consideration. New terms will take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and he handed the gavel back to Mark K.

**HONORING OF OUTGOING MEMBERS:** Mark K thanked Eric for leading the election and welcomed the new officers. Mark K turned the meeting back over to Eric again. Eric invited members to speak during this period of honoring the outgoing members. Eric recognized Mark K and will term off the SILC the end of June, each serving two full terms. Roger completed his first term and declined to add his name for consideration of reappointment. All were thanked for their willingness to serve, sharing their knowledge, providing guidance, and mentoring new members. It was recognized that serving on a board/council is a large commitment as a volunteer member. Eric encouraged them to attend meetings as they are open meetings. Mark stated it was a great experience and emphasized that more work needs to be done. He encouraged members to continue advocating for the needs of persons with disabilities so all can live as independently as possible. It was noted that thank you gifts were purchased and disseminated to each of them. The gifts were purchased from the Suzi Cappa Art Center as a demonstration of the SILC's appreciation. Mark thanked members for the beautiful picture that he received.

At this point on the agenda, Mark K handed the gavel over to Ryan, the incoming Chair.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** There was none.

**CLOSING ACTIONS:** Future Agenda Items: Members were asked to send suggestions to staff for possible agenda items. Next Meeting: staff will disseminate a doodle poll to identify a date in September that works for the majority. Adjournment: The Chair asked if there was anything else or any other final business. He called for a motion to adjourn. **MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 1:40 PM.** YEAS: Matt and CJ. NAYS: None.