

Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living

Roots of Change Grow a Mile High

#APRIL2018 #Organize #Mobilize #Resist #Vote

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### A Note from the President

Welcome APRIL advocates to a “Rocky Mountain High!”

This is APRIL’s 24th Annual Conference and you are in for one fabulous conference covering the entire range of issues facing all people with disabilities. APRIL leadership is hopeful you will engage in the numerous opportunities provided to you this week to give your voice to these issues and help shape the future.

While we close in on the end of another year of stunning surprises, and mind-numbing decisions by our nation’s policymakers, we strongly encourage you to embrace the energizing power of our community and celebrate our strength and unity. Wrap yourself in the theme of this year’s conference, Roots of Change! And celebrate the amazing youth from across the country, which should be enough to jazz up the passion of any IL advocate. Take advantage of all the great knowledge and resources of your peers from across the country. Absorb and share our mutual passion for the free exercise of our civil rights. Learn from each other, celebrate knowledge, embrace the exuberance and emerging leadership of a younger generation, and most importantly—have fun!

But, we also have other work to do while we are together. Today in our nation, there remains a nearly inhumane and appalling lack of affordable, accessible, non-toxic housing, and even more appalling so in rural America. Too many of our brothers and sisters still cannot go where they want to go, when they want to go there. And there remains a persistent and shockingly low rate of participation in the workforce for all people with disabilities.

Each of us individually has a responsibility to ourselves and to others to be the agents of the change we seek. It is embedded in our DNA! It can be found in the roots of who we are. And it can be brought to bear through energizing your internal passion for fairness and justice. As we close in on critical elections across this country, we need your voice. VOTE! Your future depends on it. It’s time to get to work!

Sincerely,

Tim J. Sheehan

Welcome from the Executive Director

Hello and welcome to APRIL's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual National Rural Independent Living Conference: *Roots of Change Grow a Mile High*. We are proud to be in Denver, Colorado on this 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gang of Nineteen. These men and women were the catalyst of accessible transportation as we know it today! We are honored that Atlantis has brought so many pieces of history for us to enjoy and commemorate. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity.

We are thrilled that you are here. We have an incredible line-up of speakers and workshops. We want this conference to be informative and fun. So please utilize this opportunity to meet and share ideas with your colleagues from all over the country.

I also want to thank all of our sponsors for making this event possible, but most importantly, thank You for being here and all the things you do in your community to enrich the lives of our brothers and sisters with disabilities.

Billy

## Conference Support/Exhibitors

CONFERENCE SUPPORT

CENTENE

St Louis, MO

ANTHEM

Indianapolis, IN

Independence *First*

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Ability360

Phoenix, AZ

Amtrak

Washington DC

ARCIL

Austin, TX

Tim Sheehan

Menomonie, WI

AZ SILC

Phoenix, AZ

Julie Ballinger

Albuquerque, NM

EXHIBITORS

ADA National Network

Colorado Springs, CO

AgrAbility

West Lafayette, IN

Research and Training Center on  
Community Living (RTC:CL)  
Lawrence, KSRTC: Rural University of Montana  
Missoula, MT

Q90 / CIL Suites

Salem, UT

Center for Disability Rights

Rochester, NY

American Assoc. on Health and  
Disability (AAHD)

Rockville, MD

ILRU

Houston, Texas

RAMP

Rockford, IL

MiCIL

Honolulu, Hawaii

Cripple Concepts

Aurora, CO

Partnership for Inclusive Disaster  
Strategies

Charleston, SC

Sorenson Interpreting Services  
LLC

Salt Lake City, UT

Dana and Christopher Reeves  
Foundation

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018:Preconference/Youth Conference

Registration:

8:30 am PreCon and Youth Registration ONLY

1:30-5:00 pm Conference Registration Opens for all

Youth Conference

APRIL Youth Conference Agenda: “Let’s Rock, Radical Advocacy”

Date: October 5, 2018 (Friday)

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Room: Aspen

Join us while we spend some time talking about the radical side of advocacy. Why does it work, how does it work, and how do you fit into it? We will explore our history and learn about groups and how their work shaped the IL movement. We will identify the current issues and figure out how we are going to take a radical step forward and make a change in our own community!

Emily Robinson, Brittany Zazueta, et al

8:30-9:00am	Breakfast and Registration Prefunction Area
9:00-9:30am	Welcome and Introductions Emily Robinson
9:30-10:30am	Stand and Declare Whitney Harris
10:30-10:45am	Morning Break
10:45-11:30am	Radical defined as ADAPT Rosemary McDonnell
11:30-12:00pm	History Chain

12:00-1:30pm	Lunch Break – registered Youth Conference & Pre-Con attendees only Boxed lunches with tables in Platte River explore the hotel
1:30-2:00pm	Radical Voting Carrie Ann Lucas, Kayln Heffernan, Chris Hinds
2:00-3:00pm	Round Table Actions Brittany Zazueta
3:00-3:45pm	Round Table Movement Brittany Zazueta and Emily Robinson
3:45-4:00pm	Wrap Up



## **Preconference 1: Disability, Diversity Intersectionality: An American Journey for CILs**

A Pre-Conference Session at APRIL Conference

October 5, 2018 • Denver, Colorado

### Ballroom A

This session will share the findings of the Disability, Diversity, and Intersectionality in CILs study conducted by Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) and seek input from participants about their CILs' journeys around the topic. The ILRU study named nine CILs, chosen from several dozen nominated by their peers, as making progress in how they are designing, implementing, and evaluating culturally and linguistically competent policies and practices to improve services, programs, and outreach. Leaders at each of the nine CILs are quick to say that they do not consider themselves experts. They recognize that we're all learning together—but they are eager to share what they have learned with other centers and to continue learning in return. The presentation will include both large group and breakout groups to examine several aspects of diversity and the building blocks for replicating these emerging practices in your organization.

### AGENDA

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 8:30-9:00 AM   | Breakfast and Registration Prefunction  |
| 9:00-9:10 AM   | Welcome and Introductions Richard Petty   |
| 9:10-9:35 AM   | Agenda Review, Intro Case Studies, Overview of DDP Project & Activity Stan Holbrook and Judith Holt   |
| 9:35-10:15 AM  | Where is the Rural in all this? Language and Terminology<br>Darrel Jones, Stan Holbrook, Brook Curtis |
| 10:15-10:30 AM | Questions and Answers   |
| 10:30-10:45 AM | Morning Break Prefunction   |
| 10:45-11:20 AM | Creating Supportive Organizational Culture and Infrastructure Jesse Bethke Gomez                      |
| 11:20-12:00 PM | Using Data and Community Mapping to Address Diversity Susan Dooha                                     |

12:00-1:30 PM Lunch Break (registered Youth Con & Pre-Con) Box lunches provided in your room. There are tables in Platte River or lounge in the lobby or around the meeting space. Get out and about for a stretch and some food!

1:30-1:45 PM What This Means for your CIL Ballroom A

1:45-3:15 PM Break Into Discussion Groups

Ron Halog, Judith Holt Playing Well with Others Ballroom A

Jesse Bethke Gomez, Stan Holbrook, Reyma McCoy McDeid  
Center Infrastructure, Polices, and Procedures, and Board Maroon Peak

Kim Gibson and Susan Dooha Creating a Welcoming CIL Pikes Peak

3:15-4:00 PM Report Out and Wrap Up Ballroom A

4:00-4:15 PM Closing Comments and Evaluations

Preconference 2: The Power of ADAPT  
9:00 AM- 4:00 PM (lunch from 12:00-1:30)

Ballroom B

Ian Engle, Dawn Russel, Mike Oxford, Josh Winkler and Candie Burnham

**9:00-9:15 AM Welcome and Introductions** Ballroom B  
Dawn Russel, Mike Oxford, Ian Engle and Josh Winkler

9:15-10:30 AM Theory and Principles of Organizing in the Grassroots  
Communities We Live and Work In

10:30-10:45 AM Morning Break Prefunction Area

10:45-12:00 PM Continue Theory and Principles and Advocacy Plan of  
Action

12:00-1:30 PM Lunch Break

Registered Pre-Con attendees only. Box lunches will be provided in your room. There are tables in Platte River or feel free to lounge in the lobby or around the meeting space or in your meeting room. Let's get out and about for a stretch and some food!

1:30-4:00 PM Review and Implement Plans of Action Ballroom B

### **Noteworthy Announcements**

The Boulder Room is available for sensory-breaks or a 'quiet' room as a reasonable accommodation throughout our entire conference.

If you have a chance, stop by the ADA-PARC vendor table and share your experiences with access in rural America. Please also take a moment to use the notecards on your table in the general session to help get the rural voice heard in their project.

Check out the vendor table from AAHD and vote on what health means to you.

Thank you to Atlantis Community Inc. for making their IL Mobile Unit available Friday and Saturday parked outside the hotel. Also please take a moment to look at some of the ADAPT memorabilia brought by Atlantis Community. Let's celebrate being in Denver and the home of ADAPT.

Say hello to our Healthy Community Living Partners who are having their kick-off training in the Big Thompson room on Friday.

In order to assist you in choosing your workshops to attend, we have indicated those that were chosen as SILC, Youth, or Careers in IL Track. There may be other workshops in that block that also may fit these categories or be of interest to you. You also might not fit one of these categories, but still have interest. Please choose any of our many wonderful workshops that peak your interest.

## Friday Evening October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Main Conference Agenda

4:30-5:30 Youth Leadership Meeting

Aspen

We encourage those that want to stay for our leadership hour to hear from youth that are interested in taking that next step in leadership. We will provide a time for people that want to run for a board seat to share their testimony with us and then the Youth Steering Committee will have a time to vote on who we will endorse as running candidates. We will also have a time for people that want to take a leadership role in the Youth Steering Committee Executive Committee can do so by sharing their testimony and then the voting will happen the whole weekend with the announcing of those running at the Banquet on Sunday.

6:00 PM-7:00 PM APRIL Annual Meeting and Board Elections Ballroom A

Learn about APRIL's accomplishments in the past year. Voting members may vote in the APRIL Board of Directors Elections.

7:00 PM-8:00 PM Welcome Reception Ballroom CD

(Light snacks and cash bar)

Come join us to meet and greet old friends and make some new ones.

**Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

8:00 AM Prefunction Area

Conference Registration Open

T-shirts and Raffle Tickets go on Sale!

Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM- 10:30 AM Ballroom

Welcoming and Opening Keynote Colorado Ballroom

9:00 AM Welcome from:

Executive Director, Billy Altom

APRIL Board President, Tim Sheehan

Atlantis Community Inc. ED, Candie Burnham

Brittany Zazueta, Youth APRIL Board seat

Invitation for participation from ADA-PARC team

10:00 AM Welcome to Colorado IL Keynote

Ian Engle, Executive Director

Northwest Colorado Center for Independence

Get excited for the conference and for being a “Mile High” in Colorado.

Colorado is key to IL/Disability Rights History. Learn about IL in Colorado.

Get jazzed and get ready to grow those roots of change.

10:30-11:30 Prefunction Area and Conference Parking Lot

Visit Vendor Booths

Prefunction Area

Visit IL Mobile Unit (outside)

Note that we will have these open all day! Youth don't forget your Fort Right papers!

11:30-12:45

Colorado Ballroom

Luncheon and Luncheon Keynote

12:00 Keynote: Michael Beers

Growing Up APRIL: A Love Letter to IL

Come listen to advocate and comedian, Michael Beers. Michael was APRIL's first youth board member, one of the founders of the APRIL Youth Conference and APRIL youth mentoring program. Listen as Michael returns home with more gray hair and more lessons learned. From his heart to yours, let's reminisce about the past and dream about our future.

12:45-1:30 PM Transition to Afternoon Workshop Breakouts

**1:30-3:00 Concurrent Sessions Block 1:**

Equipping Youth for Advocacy

Big Thompson

Emily Beasley

Many youth with disabilities encounter abuses of their civil rights on a daily basis. When we understand the issues involved, however, we can change them for ourselves and for others. This session will provide the tools youth with disabilities need for creating change in their own lives and communities. Youth participants will explore current disability rights issues and how they may affect them. Youth participants will discuss how these disability rights issues play out in their local communities. Youth participants will create strategies for using their voice and finding their power to address disability rights issues for themselves and with their peers.

The Values Adventure

Aspen

Barbara Lefler and Brenda Adair

RRCI was struggling with low morale, staff turnover, lack of performance, and a culture of distrust and fear. Using the principles from Ann Rhoads book, *Built on Values*, RRCI has transformed its culture, staff resilience, and consumer connection. RRCI's Executive Director Barbara Lefler began the process and Brenda Adair, Office Manager took the implementation

lead. This presentation demonstrates the process that miraculously transformed an agency's culture. Topics include values identification, teamwork, trust, communication, and responsibility. Careers in IL

### Effective and Engaging Teaching Strategies Platte

Michael Lefevor

Consumers learn best while doing fun activities that teach and inspire at the same time. This session will focus on lesson plans that teach disability history, advocacy, leadership, problem solving, teamwork, communication and a variety of other skills in an engaging and effective way that will help consumers remember and apply what they learned. Time will be given to the audience to share additional ideas that have worked for them.

### Independent Living Serving Alaska Natives with Disabilities (IL STAND) A Rural Southeast Alaska Perspective Telluride

Joan O'Keefe and Gail Dabaluz

Southeast Alaska Independent Living, in partnership with the Administration for Community Living (ACL), NCIL, Alaska Native Elders care, and strategic tribal partners, implemented the IL- STAND demonstration project. The objectives include 1. Increasing understanding of service needs of southeast Alaska Natives with Disabilities, 2. Increase cultural competency of SAIL staff, building capacity to deliver the core services in six communities. 2. Disseminate the lessons learned and best practices with anticipated outcomes.

### SILCS and CILS Collaboration

Clear Creek

#### On Developing the SPIL

Stephanie Jensen, Jeremy Morris and Kathy Foley

Since the passage of WIOA, the CILs are now required to collaborate with the SILC on developing the SPIL. More than 50% of the CILs also need to sign the SPIL. This has changed the dynamic in SPIL development. The process doesn't need to be brutal whether there are a few CILs or many. The collaboration can create a better SPIL for the state. The panel will share their experiences then participants will share their experiences. How



have states done this and are doing it? Is it easier with fewer CILs or more? How can we think outside the box with the process and the SPIL objectives? The workshop will be an interactive discussion. SILCS

IL Philosophy & Veteran Services:

Vail

Merging Paradigms in Rural Communities

Marsha Unruh, Michelle Chamberlain, Kim Howell and Ashley Billington

What role can a Center for Independent Living play in working with Veterans to promote independence? See how The Independence Center's Veteran in Charge (VIC) program (Veteran-Directed Home & Community Based Services, VD-HCBS), partnered with the VA Medical Center to operate a program where Veterans have the freedom and flexibility to self-direct services to remain in their homes and rural communities in Colorado. Learn how collaboration with the Outreach team helped VIC overcome the challenges of rural living and merged the philosophy of independent living with the need for a VA driven medical model. We will discuss finding caregivers, funding home modifications, establishing support groups, and other needs of consumers.

3:00-3:30 PM BREAK

**3:30-5:00 PM Concurrent Workshops Block 2**

Youth Voice 101: How to Engage Young People in Program and Policy Development Zach Garafalo Big Thompson

This session will explore best practices for engaging young people in program and policy development at your SILC or CIL. Topics include a discussion of the fifth core service, how to cultivate intergenerational partnerships, how to engage non-traditional allies to create or enhance youth transition services, tools to assess your SILC or CIL's organizational readiness for youth engagement and meaningful ways to infuse youth voice into the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Technical assistance documents will be provided to participants. SILCS

Everybody Vicki Leeper Aspen

This presentation is a virtual tour of the Smithsonian exhibit EVERYBODY. Many stories and events related to people with disabilities never made it

into the history books or shared public memories. This presentation chronicles the story of disability in America for the past 200 years culminating in the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act over a quarter of a century ago. This engaging and interesting presentation is appropriate for high school and older and culminates in a stimulating discussion afterwards. Careers in IL. Youth

**Be a Hero: Emergency Preparedness Planning for People with Disabilities**  
Julia Beems and Candiss Leathers Platte

Individuals with disabilities are unserved or underserved when considering emergency preparedness. As a result, most people with disabilities are on their own when developing plans for response. Participants will be empowered to take responsibility for themselves, their independence and safety before, during, and after an emergency, disaster or disruption. Topics to be covered will include: Emergency Management, Hazards and Disasters, Personal Assessments, Evacuation vs Sheltering in Place, Personal Support Networks, Communications Plans, Emergency Kits.

**Cutting Edge IL Research on Rural Community Living** Telluride

Craig Ravesloot, Lillie Greiman, Rayna Sage

The Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities (RTC: Rural) conducts research and training to support rural independent living. We will present results and foster discussion about 1) Rural CIL Service Coverage, 2) Rural Community Events and 3) Satisfaction with Rural Community Participation. 1) CIL services are invaluable for people with disabilities living in rural communities. Our research explores what access to rural independent living services looks like across the nation as well as in two rural states (MT and AR). We will identify both the barriers that rural consumers and CIL staff face in accessing/providing rural IL services as well as some strategies and policy recommendations for change. 2) Rural Community Events provide participants with opportunities to connect, build community, and develop community-based skills and knowledge. In our research, the strong desire to preserve historical and

cultural integrity of the community is sometimes in conflict with a desire or need to make structural and social adjustments to be more inclusive. 3) Consumer Satisfaction with Rural Community Participation is highest when communities accommodate people's needs, regardless of the severity of their disability. Discussion will focus on the importance of CIL services in rural communities for increasing accessibility and improving/preserving rural quality of life and generate ideas for increasing availability of rural IL services.

## Tools and Partnerships for Digital Information Access

### Clear Creek

Danny Housley and Ken Mitchell

The first part of this session will cover the various accessibility features of iOS devices (iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch) for people with physical, hearing, visual and learning disabilities. This session will encourage participants to bring their own device to try things out in real time and get questions answered. Features will be demonstrated by the presenter and made visible via screen mirroring. A step-by-step demonstration of how to find the features and how to adjust them for specific needs will be covered. Resources for additional training will be provided.

The second part of this session will discuss the partnership with the Georgia Radio Reading Service (GARRS) that disABILITY LINK and Tools for Life have forged to reach consumers across the state and provide services that have made an impact on consumers in rural areas. We will also discuss ways that GARRS has changed, for the better to increase their access and accessibility. Danny and Ken will also discuss the partnership with the Center for Leadership in Disability, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disability. This partnership has allowed both disABILITY LINK and Tools for Life to shape the services and structure of the organization to better serve the disability community and increase access to services.

Finding Your Good One: Sexuality and Relationships for Individuals with Disabilities Whitney Harris and Grant Heffelfinger Vail

The purpose of this session is to assist providers and community members with developing the tools for creating an inviting space to discuss sexuality and relationships. A space that supports sexuality and gender identities that we, people with disabilities, each belong to. Participants will be able to: Distinguish between sex, gender, sexuality, and relationships as it pertains to individuals with disabilities. The presentation will address an individual's barriers to successful relationships (i.e. LGBTQ+ folks with disabilities) as well as possible solutions to creating inviting spaces where individuals can learn and develop healthy relationships. Lastly, participants will have the opportunity to share their unique perspectives with sexuality and relationships as it intersects with their disability identity.

8:00 PM- Midnight Dance

Ballroom AB

(For Youth and Young at Heart). Come boogie the night away with new and old friends. Snacks provided.

**Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

8:30 am Prefunction Area

Conference Registration

T-shirts and Raffle Tickets go on Sale!

Continental Breakfast

9:00-10:00 AM

Ballroom AB

Advocates Organize and Mobilize

Bob Williams, Deputy Commissioner of the Administration on Disabilities and Director of the Independent Living Administration (ILA)

Billy Altom, APRIL ED

Scott Burlingame, APRIL Advocacy Chair

Join us for updates from ILA and opportunities to get involved with APRIL.

10:00-10:30 Break

Prefunction Area

(Transition to Workshops/Visit Vendors)

10:30-12:00 Concurrent Workshops Block 3

Doing My Chores A Rural Approach to Youth Leadership Forums Jen Hermanson and Michael Beers Big Thompson

This session will describe how a YLF (Youth Leadership Forum) can reach the most rural youth with disabilities. Recruitment, funding, and training materials will be shared.

Value and Evaluation in Rural Communities: Interpreting and Understanding Context Aspen

Judith Steed

The work we do takes place in various communities: urban, rural, agricultural, downtown. We are called to evaluate our efforts and often have reports to submit. However, communities differ in significant ways and possibly one report does not fit all. This presentation will explore how understanding context and identifying what you value will significantly enhance your evaluation efforts. Context and value influence how and what you measure, evaluate, assess and report. Data could support or derail your programs; especially, if you do not consider how context influences the message your data are offering. It is critically important to identify key questions you want answered; then, use them to guide what you measure so the data you collect will help map a path to improvement and greater impact.

The Blue Folder Project: The Four Step Guide in Helping Individuals with Disabilities be Prepared for an Emergency Platte

Jerry Riener

How many steps does it take to be prepared? How do you teach personal emergency preparedness when there is so much to cover? The Idaho State Independent Living Council, when trying to answer these questions developed the Blue Folder Project. This project is a comprehensive, four step worksheet that centers on helping individuals with disabilities be

prepared for an emergency, and how they can take the steps to help themselves be independent. This is a train the trainer workshop.

Understanding Medicaid Policy and Introducing the Disability Stories Project Jae Kennedy, Davi Kallman, Elizabeth Wood and Noelle Kurth Telluride

The first part of this workshop will provide an overview of the Medicaid program and discuss recent/current policy changes of relevance to the disability community. 1) Provide an overview of the evolution and current design of the U.S. Medicaid program, 2) assess the growing role of Medicaid managed care; and 3) discuss recent Congressional and Administrative proposals for Medicaid reform. The second will be talking about CHRIL's newest project, "Disability Stories about Health Policy". The purpose of the Disability Stories project is to document and share the personal experiences of people with disabilities as they respond to changes in the US healthcare system. We will use a portion of this presentation to discuss the project and discuss ways that APRIL members can contribute as "health policy advisors". Careers in IL

Moving Through Life

Clear Creek

Rene Cummins, Rebecca Williams and Emily Robinson

This interactive session will help you understand your rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Fair Housing Act (FHA) as you move through life. Attendees will get a glimpse of the ADA and its history. We will be walking through each title of the ADA and participants will be provided take home tools. For example, when discussing employment (Title I), we will discuss the choice of disability disclosure, the requirement of an employer to provide accommodations for an employee when requested (examples of such accommodations etc.), and who is a qualified employee with a disability. We will discuss reasonable accommodations as well as employment discrimination. We will also discuss your rights in housing and how the ADA works with the Fair Housing Act. The basic ideas from the ADA and the Fair Housing Act will be applied to interactive activities. Join us to have fun and to learn more about how to use these two important civil rights laws to meet your needs as you move through life. Youth

How the SILC Can Be a Resource and Support to the IL Network Vail  
Jeremy Morris, Sandra Breitengross Bitter and Kathy Foley

The IL Network can only be a strong and effective network in your state if all partners are working collaboratively to support the purpose of Independent Living. Each partner in the IL Network has different abilities and duties, and the SILC can be a resource to the Network in the State by effectively utilizing its duties and authorities to focus on the larger mission of the SPIL and the purpose of the IL. This session will include examples of effective strategies used in different states, lessons learned, and discussion of creative ways to support the IL Networks. SILCS

12:00-1:30 LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

#### **1:30-3:00 Concurrent Workshops Block 4**

Teaching Sexual Education to People with Intellectual Disabilities Big  
Thompson Jennie Ostermiller and Anna Sherlock  
Join us for an interactive presentation about sexual education for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Come prepared for adult content in an interactive setting. Question your own views with regards to healthy sexuality, being sex positive and the rights of full sex lives for individuals with disabilities. We will provide you with tips and techniques for effective teaching and have important conversations with the individuals you teach as well as parents and care providers. Remember sex is an Independent living skill!

How to Weather and Work with Changes in Administrations Telluride  
Ann McDaniel, Paula McElwee, Stephanie Jensen

The election of a new Governor and other changes in the Administration in your state can bring many changes for a SILC including new members, a new DSE director and/or a new DSE altogether, and many more. Some changes may be welcome and positive. Others may bring unknown players to the table and the need to develop new relationships. This session will provide you with suggestions for how to handle such changes as well as an opportunity to share your experiences. SILCS

Difficult Conversations: How the #LiveOn Campaign Challenges Ableism and Confronts Suicide in the Disability Community Aspen  
Leah Smith

The #LiveOn Campaign is a project by and for disabled people showing how worthwhile life is, despite the heavy burden of living in an ableist society. Many of us are bullied, forced into nursing facilities by the institutional bias, or discriminated against at school and work. While it is not often discussed in disability rights spaces, oppression can and does lead to depression and sometimes suicide. This workshop will describe current efforts to confront this problem directly with #LiveOn: a multi-media campaign showing disabled people who choose to #LiveOn and connecting those at risk with resources they need. Further, statistics show us that those with newly acquired disabilities are at the greatest risk for suicide. These two groups have great needs to hear how other disabled people have gotten through this period and now are living great lives with a disability.

Expanding the Reach of the IL Philosophy: Building Successful Community Partnerships Platte  
Hayley Steinlage, Lillie Greiman, Bronwyn Troutman

Building a network of housing and participation resources is a critical component of the RTC's latest project: Promoting Interventions for Community Living, or PICL. We are collaborating with CILs to address community participation barriers within the home and in the community. CIL specialists work directly with individual consumers to set goals and make changes either within their home or in their community. Developing a "network" of community resources helps the CIL specialist provide the best information and services to consumers so they can achieve their goals. However, building these community networks can be challenging, especially when partners may not be familiar with the IL philosophy or the work that CILs conduct. Join us in exploring, through activities and discussion, strategies for building and maintaining relationships with organizations and individuals in the communities where you work. Who are some of your most valuable network connections? How does your organization foster these connections and what are the barriers that you



face? What do these relationships look like in rural communities, are they different? This discussion will highlight a training/tool, developed by the RTC, focused on building community networks with focused content on IL philosophy and consumer choice and control for different types of community partners, for example, health professionals like occupational and physical therapists and housing professionals like property managers and contractors.

The American Red Cross Disaster Cycle Services Program for Disability Integration Mary Casey-Lockyer and Shari Meyers Clear Creek

This workshop will outline the steady state and operational program for Disability Integration in American Red Cross Disaster Cycle Services, with emphasis on implementation of the Regional Disability Integration plan. Response service delivery will be discussed, and a detailed matrix, demonstrating how whole community shelters can accommodate individuals with various needs, will be offered to all attendees to utilize for planning with emergency management agencies. The workshop will include a discussion-based format to develop understanding of disaster needs in a rural setting.

Self-Determination Vail  
Shentelle Harris and Tylor Freeman

Lots of times the people around us are bullies or don't understand the rights and responsibilities we have or need. We need to stand up for ourselves and speak up for what we need. These skills can be used in an IEP, college, job setting, or more. We are going to talk about strengths and interests while applying it all to goal setting. We will share some of our personal stories and goals and the skills we used to get there, and hope you will share yours too. Interactive and youth lead. Youth

3:00-3:30 PM                      Break

**3:30-5:00 Concurrent Workshops Block 5**

Parental Rights for the Disability Community: Addressing Discriminatory Termination of Parental Rights Codes in the US    Big Thompson  
Kirt Toombs and William Toombs

This session is to inform, discuss, coordinate, and collaborate with the attendees on the topic of termination of parental rights (TPR) codes in the United States, with the objective of developing sound and practicable solutions to eradicate discriminatory policies. We will provide an in depth historical analysis of the evolution of TPR codes in the US and discuss instances where disability advocates have been successful replacing discriminatory language and practices in state policy.

ADA Basics and Social Media  
Dana Barton and Emily Shuman

Aspen

In this workshop, participants will review the essential elements of the ADA and learn about the ADA National Network. Likewise, participants work through the five titles included in the ADA, review enforcement agencies of the ADA, and take a glimpse of the future of the ADA. For each title, we will review Social Media and give practical examples of how to ensure that accessibility is top of mind.

Mining the Gap: Diversifying CIL Funding  
Patricia Yeager and Dixie Herring

Platte

The Independence Center has diversified its funding and created a business plan for other “lines of service” by identifying gaps in the disability community and making a business case for others to fund the service. Fees for services (i.e., Workforce Center, DVR, Schools, State Medicaid, etc.) and contracts (primarily with health care entities and the VA) are helping us bring in additional revenue. Our “traditional” fund raising efforts start with advocacy (Art of Accessibility) and bring in people interested in our mission and willing to donate. Participants will learn:

1. How to mine the gaps in their community for service opportunities
2. Figure out who benefits from this service being provided (beside the consumer)
3. Broad steps on figuring out cost to provide, cost to charge and marketing the service

#### 4. How advocacy fits into raising funds to support your organization

Wheels in Motion: Understanding and Improving Accessibility for People with Disabilities      Telluride

Jonathon Stalls and Garrett Brumfield

It's no secret that barriers to accessibility and mobility often hinder a person with a disability more than their actual disability itself. With that in mind, this workshop will provide attendees with the knowledge, skills and tools to identify and improve those barriers - thus creating more accessible communities for people with disabilities. Attendees will learn the key features of accessible communities and how to conduct successful walking and/or rolling audits in the community - the results of which will hopefully empower community leaders and decision makers to be more inclusive in their planning, policy making and implementation. Attendees will also learn how to develop partnerships with decision makers and others in the disability community bring about positive change in their communities.

Opportunities in Agriculture for Adults and Transitioning Youth with Disabilities      Clear Creek

Paul Jones, Candiss Leathers and Gracie Franklin

Agriculture is a key component of most rural communities. This presentation will explore opportunities and obstacles related to employment in agriculture for people with disabilities, including transitioning youth. Information will be presented by staff from the National AgrAbility Project (a USDA outreach program for people with disabilities in agriculture), the Colorado AgrAbility Project, and APRIL, which is a subcontractor on the National AgrAbility Project grant. Topics include: the win-win collaboration potential between AgrAbility and CILs; existing models of agricultural employment for non-traditional growers, including transitioning youth; assistive technology in agriculture; and web-based resources related to disability in agriculture. Additional ideas and strategies will be solicited from the attendees.

International Exchange and Disability: How You Can Volunteer, Study or Intern Abroad Vail

Justin Harford and Abel Astrada

People with disabilities can sometimes assume that international exchange is not an option, yet there are many mainstream organizations out there that are looking for their contributions. In many ways, they can make study and volunteer abroad experiences better for everyone. Not to mention the possibility of enhancing their own independence and self-confidence. In this session, participants will learn about the many opportunities available through the US Department of State and beyond. They will be outfitted with the tools to identify the right opportunity, as well as the creative know how to make it happen. Learn about finding alternatives for reasonable accommodations overseas, different cultural ideas of accessibility, scholarships and more. Presenters will include a representative from MIUSA's National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange, which has advised people with disabilities on international exchange since 1995, as well as a university study abroad representative and an alumnus of international exchange with a disability.

6:30 – 9:00pm Ballroom Awards Banquet & Raffle  
Ballroom AB

Plated Dinner and Cash Bar  
Linda Gonzales Award  
Earl Walden Award

Youth: The Final Word  
(Name badges required)

### **Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

8:30 AM Plated Breakfast                      Ballroom AB

9:00 AM Ballroom Closing Keynote Final Sendoff

9:15 From Ideas to Action Closing Keynote Tim Sheehan  
Jazzed from the conference! You should be. Let's head for home with our passion aroused and pledge to take the fabulous ideas heard this week and turn them in action!

## Celebrate, Honor, and Remember Our Colleagues

### **Linda Gonzales Award**

Linda Gonzales was the first Executive Director of APRIL for more than 20 years, and truly was a visionary when it came to including youth with disabilities as leaders in the rural Disability Rights and Independent Living Movement and more specifically, the APRIL youth movement. This year's award is being presented by Linda Gonzales's daughter, Melissa Montoya. Linda's son-in-law Greg Montoya and Linda's eldest granddaughter Audra Montoya-Torres will also be present. We are proud to announce this year's Linda Gonzales Award for outstanding Rural Youth:

#### *Whitney Harris*

Those who know Whitney best would say that her advocacy and her work in the disability community is not limited by an organization. She lives Independent Living and promotes equality in all areas of her life.

She has been instrumental in creating opportunities for youth with disabilities in Florida to reach their goals through YLF (Youth Leadership Forums). She has been in leadership roles in the Association of YLFs (the national organization) including currently serving as secretary. You can find Whitney volunteering at Woodhull Sexual Freedom Summit and with the APRIL Youth Executive Committee, holding the Vice Chair position in 2016, and always jumping in and leading a round table discussion or an impromptu activity without even being asked. She is a Public Member Director of the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification and a council member for the Florida Independent Living Council. Whitney has been a leader in the disability community for creating opportunities for conversations around sexual health and relationships. Including co-founding "The Good One." To many young people across the country, Whitney is a role model, a mentor, full of infinite wisdom and support. And to many of us who have grown up in and around the movement, we are lucky to call her friend and enjoy her infectious sense of humor and positive outlook. Congratulations Whitney, we can't think of someone more deserving.

### **Earl Walden Award**

In the early days of APRIL, Earl was a great friend and supporter of our new organization. As a colleague who worked at ILRU (Independent Living Research Utilization) in Houston, Earl had a heart as big as Texas and a gift for finding resources or solutions to problems. He took APRIL under his wing when we needed an advocate on our side. It is our honor to announce this year's Earl Walden Award for Outstanding Achievement in Rural Advocacy:

#### *Ian Engle*

Ian was nominated by his friends and colleagues “due to his relentless pursuit of equality for people with disabilities... in particular to those living in rural and frontier counties. Frontier counties have an even greater disparity as they have the least resources and are often forced to fend for themselves just because of their choice of where they live.”

One colleague wrote: “The first time I met Ian (we were both part of the IL movement in Michigan in the 90s and knew of each other and had the same people in our lives, but had not officially met) was at an IL gathering in Steamboat Springs. One of the chair users got his wheel stuck in the outdoor restaurant we were in and none of the wait staff could figure out what to do. Ian flips out of his wheelchair, crawls over to his friend's chair, twists the wheel and pulls it out—with our friend still in the wheelchair—crawls back to his wheelchair and flips himself in. *THAT IS IL!* Just taking care of business.

Ian epitomizes rural IL. He mentors young people in the rural areas by being a peer role model. He mentored one of his youth to become the youth representative on the SILC. I regularly have heard Ian building this young man up in his confidence. He had a chair lift passenger van donated to his CIL because his transportation initiative has increasingly grown. This is because of his practicing belief that people with disabilities living in rural America should be able to get where they need (and want) to go simply because they choose to live in a rural or frontier place. People with disabilities are going to meetings, rallies, doing systems advocacy all over the state and out of state because he made the transportation exist where none did before.

Ian also demonstrates by his life that people with any kind of disability can do any sport they want. He brings people to No Barriers (high active sports for people with disabilities) events where he has been involved with for years (and has pictures to prove it!)—everything from belly-yakking to ski jumps, to... you name it, Ian has done it and modified equipment to do it. He has recreational groups that go out and do these sports---because he is the ultimate peer mentor.

Don't take our word for it, hear from some of his others colleagues too:

*“He is eloquent and passionate, and he is a team player. He isn't territorial. He makes systems change happen by bringing the players together.”* —Martha Mason, Executive Director, Southwest Independent Living Center, Durango

*“His creativeness in bridging relationships with local businesses in the communities in his catchment area is another strength. I really am impressed with the access assessments that he and his staff do with local businesses and then give them a stick showing their accessibility to promote best business practices.”* —Nancy Jackson, Executive Director, Disabled Resource Services, Fort Collins

*“There are many things about Ian that I both love and respect. However, I am always impressed by his efforts to engage the community in the mission of his CIL and the IL philosophy. Whether it is the local DVR office, city council, or school districts. He's such a strong advocate and a mentor to his staff. Of course, I also love his no nonsense approach and how he always brings topics back to the issue of independent living and consumer control.”* —Candie Dalton, Executive Director, Atlantis Community Inc., Denver

### Honoring Glen White

Glen and I worked closely together beginning in the late 1980s through today. One of my favorite memories was when our two research groups met in Atlanta as part of the early development of *Living Well with a Disability*. During a break in our work, one of our colleagues, Ann Szalda-Petree, commented that her birthday was the next day. Everyone wished her a happy birthday. Then someone asked jokingly, "What do you want for your birthday?" Ann said that she wanted a tiara. She told us that she had first wanted a tiara for her birthday when she was three years old. She didn't get one then and she had never forgotten it. Glen caught me later and said that we needed to do something for Ann.

That evening, after we all had dinner, Glen and I went out to local shops looking for a tiara for Ann. It was a hard search and, given the late hour, we found nothing even close. So, Glen asked, "How hard could it be to make a tiara?" We spent the next several hours - until early into the next morning - fashioning a tiara fit for a princess. First, we found heart-shaped chocolates wrapped in shiny foil in a candy store. Next, we got wire hangers from housekeeping and aluminum foil from the hotel kitchen. We spent hours twisting the wire to "cut" it at just the right lengths, shaping the wire into form so that it could hold the heart shaped candies, and wrapping the creation in aluminum foil so that gave a shiny silver glow.

That morning at breakfast, we presented Princess Ann with her tiara. She was, of course, surprised and delighted. She looked it over. She tried it on. Then, she asked how we made the hearts. We told her that they were chocolates. "Oh!" She said. She pulled one off the tiara, peeled off all the foil, popped it in her mouth, and ate it. "Really good," she said. Glen has always focused attention on others. He is one of the most thoughtful men I have ever known. His family, friends, colleagues, church, and community have all been better for having Glen. It has been a privilege to be counted among those. -- Tom Seekins

I first got to know Glen back in the mid '80's. At first, I was skeptical about him because he was a researcher researching Independent Living. At that time in my life, like a lot of advocates, I thought all the money needed to go to services and advocacy. As I got know him, he helped me understand the need for research in the field. As we talked more and more I grew to see where one helps the other. Our relationship as friends grew over the years



to someone that I truly respect for his knowledge of Independent Living and all the research he has done. – Marcie Goldstein

Dr. White has been a familiar face and true champion of APRIL since its inception. The relationship between University of Kansas and APRIL dates back decades. Together, this partnership has contributed to the study of and progress in both IL and disability services not only in the United States but internationally as well. Dr. White was instrumental in bridging the cultural and geographical gap in 2005 between APRIL and our International brothers and sisters in Japan making possible the International attendance to the APRIL Conference in Hawaii! His work also includes coordinating a contingency of IL Directors and advocates to travel to Peru. APRIL's Exec. Dir. Billy Altom was fortunate enough to attend that trip with the group. Glen's contributions to the IL Movement and the incredibly important research of disabilities and the societal barriers facing people with disabilities cannot be overstated. His work has made IL a better place! APRIL will always have a fondness and solid bond with both Dr. White and the University of Kansas. His name and contributions will live in the history of the APRIL Organization and for that, we are incredibly grateful.

### **About Our Keynote Speakers**

Michael Beers is the Youth Coordinator at Summit Independent Living Center in Missoula, MT. He also is a professional stand-up comedian and has won several competitions throughout the country and Canada. Mike has sat on the Missoula County Public Schools Board of Trustees, several terms on the APRIL board as a youth and then as a member at large, and has held various positions on various boards and councils throughout the country since he was old enough to do so. Mike was endearingly nicknamed the "Dick Clark of Youth" by many in the APRIL family, because no one can remember an APRIL youth program that didn't involve Mike Beers. That's probably because he helped start them. He doesn't just advocate for people with disabilities, but for all people, because for him, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to Justice Everywhere."

Ian Engle After growing up in northern Michigan (yes a Yooper), while wrestling for Michigan State University, Mr. Ian Engle sustained a spinal cord injury in a 40 foot fall from a tree October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1994. Shortly thereafter, Ian began participation in the Center for Disability Leadership (CDL) at Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc. (MPAS). In 2008, Ian

moved to Durango to take the position as Executive Director at the Southwest Center for Independence. In February of 2010, Ian moved to Boulder to assume the Executive Director position at the Center for People with Disabilities. As of July 2013, Ian is in Steamboat Springs serving as Executive Director for the Northwest Colorado Center for Independence. Ian appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with stakeholders in the communities where he lives and works to realize a more inclusive and healthy environment for everyone. Ian enjoys spending time in the mountains and any beautiful secluded spot out-of-doors. Ian also loves skiing, hand-cycling and any outdoor physical activity. Living in Colorado has brought new friends and wonderful opportunities to enjoy life.

Tim J. Sheehan is Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin, current President of the Governing Board of the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL), Chair of the National Advocacy Committee, the past Region 5 Representative to the NCIL Governing Board, 4- year Chair of the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers and a three time member of the Wisconsin SILC. For nearly 30 years, Tim has been an active advocate, promoting the rights of people with disabilities to live independently and to be active participants in community life. He is a founding member of the Western Wisconsin Area Consortium on Transportation now known as the Western Wisconsin Transportation Coordination Committee.

### **About Our Presenters**

Brenda Adair joined RRCI in 2015. She has loved her job both as office manager and helping with the youth program. Having twin daughters who are hard of hearing, she has been involved in disability advocacy for over twenty years and has a passion for working with the youth. Before joining the RRCI team, Brenda worked in the medical field and has a degree in Medical Office Management.

Abel Estrada

Abel has a background in K-12 education. Abel entered the workforce as an eighth grade reading teacher and has a passion for equity, social justice, and student empowerment. Abel currently serves as the Coordinator for Access and Inclusion at the University of Colorado Boulder education abroad office where he manages a portfolio of programs in Spain

and Latin America. Abel leads diversity initiatives including a scholarship program for first generation college students who want to study abroad. During his undergraduate, Abel completed a public health field study program in Argentina.

Dana Barton is the Director for The Rocky Mountain ADA Center (RMADAC). Her role within the organization is to lead the staff's daily efforts to provide the Rocky Mountain Region with technical support, training, guidance and the most updated information pertaining to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Prior to joining RMADAC, Barton served as the Business Relations and Employment Development Director at the Pikes Peak Workforce Center in Colorado Springs, CO. In this role, she planned and implemented business services, and youth and adult programming under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. In this role, Dana worked closely with community partners to provide training and development opportunities to individuals with disabilities to increase their employment opportunities. She brings to RMADA over 10 years of extensive work within the ADA's Title I and Title III with the experience she gained as Director of Recruitment for the world-famous Broadmoor Hotel. Among her many accomplishments at The Broadmoor; she led a program that recruited students with disabilities from local school districts to work for the hotel as paid interns.

Emily Beasley is the EQUIP Coordinator at Able SC. She coordinates the programming for young adults 13 to 28 with disabilities. As a person with multiple disabilities, Emily understands the importance of self-advocacy and self-determination in all aspects of one's life. She aims to empower other young adults through her own experiences.

Julia Beems, MA, is Senior Research Instructor and the Assistive Technology Program Outreach Coordinator, and Emergency Preparedness Program Coordinator with *Assistive Technology Partners* in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Department of Bioengineering at the University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus. She also holds secondary appointments in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Pediatrics. She has worked in the field of assistive technology for over 30 years providing assessments, technical assistance and training to individuals with disabilities their family members and the professionals who serve them. Her areas of expertise include low-tech, low-cost assistive technology solutions, emergency preparedness, and modifications for the

rural and agricultural communities. Ms. Beems represents ATP as a member of the FEMA Region VIII Advisory Council, North Central Region Functional Needs Steering Committee, the state Community Preparedness Advisory Council, and the Colorado Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

Ashley Billington is a Veteran Coach for The Independence Center (IC) in Colorado Springs since December 2015 and is responsible for care coordination for Veterans in El Paso, Park, Pueblo, and Teller Counties. Billington has a Bachelor's degree in psychology and a Master's in vocational rehabilitation counseling. Billington is a certified rehabilitation counselor and holds an advanced certification as a job development from UMass Boston.

Sandra Breitengross Bitter is the Executive Director of the Texas State Independent Living Council. Before joining the Texas SILC in 2012, she was a Legislative Director and Senior Policy Advisor for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. As a legislative staffer on Capitol Hill for over eight years, she specialized in transportation and infrastructure policy. She is the Vice Chairman of the Texas Emergency Management Advisory Committee Disability Task Force. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from California Baptist University.

Michele Chamberlain is an Independent Living Program Manager (Outreach) for The IC since June 2017. Chamberlain has a Master of Arts in Mass Communication/Public Relations from the University of Florida and a Master of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from Florida State University. Chamberlain manages the Outreach Department which covers Park, Teller, El Paso, Lincoln, Kit Carson and Cheyenne Counties in Colorado. The goal of the Outreach Department of The IC is to bring all the services we offer in downtown Colorado Springs to our rural communities.

Dr. Rene Cummins is a Researcher with the Southeast ADA Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Cummins earned a PhD in Psychology in the Public Interest with Minors in Counseling and Behavioral Medicine, an MA in Developmental Psychology and Educational Research & Evaluation, and a BA in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education. Dr. Cummins founded Alliance of Disability Advocates, Center for Independent Living, in the capital city of Raleigh, NC, and served for 12 years as its first Executive Director. In her capacity as Executive Director, Dr. Cummins supervised

the development of the Center's youth programs and the creation of the NC Youth Leadership Forum. Prior to becoming the Executive Director of Alliance, Dr. Cummins was the Access Specialist at the NC Office on Disability and Health, and she served as an access consultant on all of the projects through that office. For more than 15 years, Dr. Cummins has been a trainer for the Southeast ADA Center, and has provided training on the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as various other disability rights laws.

Gail Dabaluz was hired by SAIL April 2017 to administer the Independent Living –Services to Alaska Natives with Disabilities (IL-STAND) federal demonstration project. She has over 20 years of federal, state and SBA contracting and tribal management administration experience and is an enrolled citizen with the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA). She loves traveling to remote southeast Alaska villages, providing technical assistance to the six tribal partners. Ms. Dabaluz has an MA in Rural Development from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and is completing her doctoral dissertation there, focusing upon the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). She lives in Juneau with her husband Leroy, 12 year old son Pietr and has an adult daughter, Ke'ala.

Katherine Foley is the Executive Director of Services for Independent Living in Cleveland, OH. For over 35 years, she has worked to increase access to community, influence program development, administration and implementation on behalf of persons with disabilities. She serves on multiple local, state and national system change committees to address barrier to transportation, community based long-term care and access to the community. Serving various roles within Centers for Independent Living, Kathy has developed, coordinated and/or participated in advocacy initiatives that impact community engagement and public policy changes for individuals with various disabilities. Kathy is a licensed social worker and has a degree from University of Wisconsin-Stout in Vocational Rehabilitation with a Specialization in Human Development and Family Life.

Gracie Franklin

Hi, my name is Gracie Franklin I am 16 years old. I love the Ag life because I get to have hands on experiences. I love spending time working with my

mom and dad in the hay fields driving the tractors. Animals are also a love of my life, I raise goats to feed and take them to shows and have fun. I also like to have them to breed and sell them for money. I went through the 4-H program and this I how it all started with showing rabbits and then I did catch-it goat. That first time I got to have a goat, I fell in love with them and it led to a family project. I was also involved in FFA in school. Aside from Ag, I am involved in Student Council, FCCLA, track, cross country, and enjoy playing volleyball for fun.

Tylor Freeman I am 23 years old I have cerebral palsy. I have been in the independent living movement June of 2013 when I went to my first youth leadership forum where I learned so much I went back in 2014 as a mentor. I attended the APRIL conference last year I think all these things have helped me become a stronger advocate. I am a strong advocate for people with disabilities and not disabilities to make sure they get what they need or what they are asking for. Sometimes you have to be the squeaky wheel but I'm good at that. I hope to be on the North Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council on their advocacy committee that is my hopes and dreams for my future.

Zach Garafalo is an advocate and organizer whose work focuses on deinstitutionalization and workforce development for people with disabilities. Zach brings over a decade of experience empowering people with disabilities to be active, healthy and informed citizens who use their voices to change the system. Zach is the Program Director for the Money Follows the Person Peer Outreach and Referral program at the New York Association on Independent Living. Prior to joining NYAIL, Zach was the Assistant Director of YOUTH POWER!, the New York State network of young people who have been labeled and are seeking change. Zach is the Vice Chairperson of the New York State Independent Living Council and the Vice Chairperson of the Albany Citizens' Police Review Board. Zach was honored at the White House as a Champion of Change for embodying the next generation of leadership within the disability community.

Lillie Greiman is a research associate at the Research and Training Center on Rural Communities at the University of Montana. She received her M.A. in Geography in 2012 from the University in Montana after conducting research in Morocco. She is currently involved in several projects at the RTC: Rural in the realms of housing, health promotion, community participation and geospatial data analysis.

Frances Dorrance (aka Fran) I am a grandmother of four + 1. My grandchildren are very active in sports and other activities in our community and school. I am one of those grandmothers that follows them to their games and activities as their #1 supporter and fan, so I stay very busy. I pretty much like all foods, with the exception of pancakes. My favorite foods are Italian, Mexican and Asian...yumm! I am excited about being involved with the HCL program and the upcoming training. As the Outreach Coordinator for The Independence Center, I am looking forward to learning more about this program and being able to offer more services to those people with disabilities that I serve and are underserved in the rural areas of eastern Colorado. I already offer some opportunities in my catchment area that help my consumers to live well and participate fully in their homes and communities, but these have been limited due to lack of training and resources, so being able to learn about HCL is very exciting.

Justin Harford is a Program Coordinator of the National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange at Mobility International USA. He works to increase the participation of people with disabilities in all kinds of international exchange between the United States and other countries through advising, maintaining online resources and organizing workshops. Justin has presented at a variety of conferences including the Association on Higher Education and Disability, The National Association of Blind Students, and the Generation Study Abroad Conference. He has also authored articles for The American Foundation for the Blind, ViaTRM, Global Ties, and is working on his first book chapter which will come out in the fall of 2018.

Whitney Harris holds a Bachelors of Applied Science in Orthotics and Prosthetics from St. Petersburg College in 2012. After the completion of her residency in Denver, CO, she became a Certified Prosthetist by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics. Learning that her passion was in disability advocacy and not patient care, Whitney switched career paths and returned to Florida to work in the non-profit industry for three years before joining the team at the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology as Comptroller.

Whitney fills her time with multiple volunteer roles. She currently sits as the secretary for the Association of Youth Leadership Forums, Public Member Director of the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification, a long-time volunteer at Florida's Youth Leadership Forum and council

member for the Florida Independent Living Council. Whitney Harris resides in Tallahassee, FL.

Shentelle Harris I am a 22 year old female from Warrenton, Virginia. I graduated from Fauquier High School back in 2015. Now I currently am a JR in college, majoring in Early Childhood Special Education. After I get my degree I plan to teach at a Christian Montessori or Reggio school. As of right now I work at my local Center for Independent Living called Access Independence, I am a cashier at my local grocery store Giant and I am a Youth Leader for I'm Determined. Working with my CIL, being a youth leader and being a youth with disabilities I attend and speak at many different places. I speak about youth with disabilities, how to be an advocate and the things I have overcame in the school system. With that being said I love to tell people at church or anywhere about my disabilities and how God has helped me through every obstacle that way they can see living proof that I am able to do everything everyone told I wasn't able to do and that is my testimony.

Grant Heffelfinger is currently managing youth wellness services at a non-profit gym in Milwaukee, WI. He is a Certified Inclusive Fitness Trainer through American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and received a Bachelor's Degree from UW-Milwaukee in Kinesiology. Grant also received a Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders while attending UW-Milwaukee and has knowledge of Autism research, methods, and support. Collectively, he has worked with individuals with disabilities for over 10 years. He has worked in both rural and urban areas and brought sexuality education, relationship and community safety, disability history, disability awareness, and Independent Living (IL) Skills workshops to those communities. He has experience working with youth across the lifespan and their parents/caregivers on educating and empowering youth. Grant continues to serve and support multiple advocacy groups, including the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)'s Youth Executive Committee and the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)'s Rainbow Caucus. He has used these national platforms to ramp up youth with disabilities involvement in local national level advocacy efforts. Grant has a passion that is in line with the Independent Living Philosophy and continues to advocate for his community. In his spare time he enjoys yoga, biking, attempting to cook and traveling.



Dixie Herring has worked in the disability field for the last 20 years. Growing up with a brother with a developmental disability sparked her interest in advocating for people with disabilities. She herself has a hearing impairment which has given her great appreciation for the difficulties of living with a disability. For the past 8 years she has worked at The Independence Center in Colorado Springs and is currently the Director of the Independent Living Program. During her time with the agency she has helped to increase revenues from \$200,000 to \$1.4 million and has grown employees of the Independent Living Center to 45.

Dixie is the currently the Chair of the Association for Colorado Centers for Independent Living, which advocates for independence for individuals with disabilities statewide. As a member of the Regional Advisory Council and Chair of the Technical Review Sub-Committee she advises and recommends funding levels to agencies that seek to create system wide and comprehensive services for seniors in the Pikes Peak Region. Dixie is a graduate of Colorado State University – Pueblo where she received her Bachelor's degree in Social Work. She is also certified in nonprofit management through the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs. In her spare time Dixie enjoys traveling with her family and spending time with her grandson. The thing she enjoys most about working at The Independence Center is seeing the difference that it creates in the everyday lives of people in our community.

Danny Housley is the Assistive Technology Funding and Resource Specialist with Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program. He finds funding solutions and resources for people with disabilities to increase or maintain their independence, and manages the state's alternative financing program, Credit-Able. Previously, Danny has worked as the Social Media and Assistive Technology Specialist at the Center for Independent Living in Atlanta, disABILITY LINK. Danny is also active in the advocacy world, he is an executive board member for the Atlanta chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Georgia, is active with Georgia and National ADAPT and sits on several councils and committees for increased access to funding and assistive technology.

Kim Howell is a Veteran Coach for the Veteran in Charge Program at the Independence Center (IC) in Colorado Springs since August 2017 and is responsible for care coordination for Veterans in Elbert and El Paso Counties. A graduate from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina, Howell has both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in social work. Kim has

eight years of experience working as a hospital social worker and with individuals with disabilities.

Stephanie Jensen has been working with independent living since she earned her master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Utah State University in 2008. She began at the Idaho SILC working on a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant. She currently manages the Independent Living programs for the Wyoming Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, where she has been for almost eight years. She was previously the Vocational Rehabilitation representative on the SILC and is the liaison between the SILC and VR.

Paul Jones is manager of the National AgrAbility Project, a USDA-funded program for agricultural workers with disabilities that is administered through the Breaking New Ground Resource Center at Purdue University. He has been a staff member in Purdue's Agricultural Safety and Health Program since 1998, began managing Indiana AgrAbility Project in 2000, and began managing the National AgrAbility Project in 2008. Paul specializes in educational resource development, including print, electronic, and audiovisual materials and has also played a significant role in acquiring funding for AgrAbility and other farm safety-related initiatives through federal, state, and foundation support.

Davi Kallman is a graduate student at the Washington State University and is pursuing her doctoral degree in Communication at the Edward R. Murrow School of Communication. She was recently appointed to be the ADVANCE at WSU's Graduate Assistant housed out of the Provost's Office and was appointed to the Washington State Governor's Council for State Independent Living (SILC). Currently she serves as a research assistant in the Murrow Center for Media and Health Promotion under her advisor Erica Austin and as a research assistant for the Collaborative on Health Reform on Independent Living (CHRIL). Her current research focuses on the power of the media to change people's perceptions of individuals with disabilities. Kallman uses positive deviance, entertainment education, media literacy, and other media-based interventions to break down prejudices and stereotypes in institutional settings.

Jae Kennedy (PI) chairs the Department of Health Policy and Administration at Washington State University. He began studying disability policy at the World Institute on Disability (WID) in 1989 and completed his

doctorate in Health Services and Policy Analysis at UC Berkeley in 1996. His research focuses on understanding the health and employment disparities experienced by people with chronic illness and disability, and on developing effective programs and policies to lessen those disparities. He has published over 50 peer-reviewed journal articles, and received the Switzer Distinguished Research Fellowship from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research in 2000.

Noelle Kurth is an Assistant Researcher Senior at the University of Kansas Institute for Health & Disability Policy Studies, Life Span Institute. Her work in the disability field for over 20 years has included state and federally-funded research projects on improving health, employment, and post-secondary education outcomes for people with disabilities. She has extensive experience conducting survey research, including survey design and multi-modal administration, data collection, management, and analyses. Further, in recent years she has worked to establish strong working relationships with staff in government, community and university agencies to develop increased capacity for data sharing and outcomes analyses. One specific interest is connecting primary data to administrative datasets to more fully measure the longitudinal impact interventions and public policy have on the health and quality of life of people with disabilities.

Candiss Leathers was raised in rural Colorado in an agricultural setting and has worked in the field of Vocational Rehabilitation and Disability services for over 40 years. At present she serves as Project Manager for the Colorado AgrAbility Project. Colorado AgrAbility serves farmers and ranchers affected by an injury, long term illness, or other functional limitations to remain involved in agricultural work by providing assistance, information and education.

Vicki Leeper

Disability Action Center NW. The Marketing Specialist for all three DAC offices, she uses her 10 years of marketing experience to get the word out about DAC and all they do. Originally not computer savvy, she finds anyone can learn to use social media to make information accessible to the disability community.

Michael Lefevor is currently the Youth and Office Coordinator for the Utah Statewide Independent Living Council (USILC). Prior to joining the staff at USILC, he worked at a Center as a Community Integration and Youth

Coordinator and served as a Council member. Michael has worked in the independent living field for 8 years and in the disability community for 13 years. He holds a degree in Nonprofit Management and loves working with youth. In 2013, he was one of the founders of the NINJA (New Ideas to Network Junior Advocates) Youth Leadership Conference, Utah's version of a YLF. He is married to a beautiful wife and has 2 wonderful children. He loves the outdoors, requires cookies at every function and lives by the motto "Life is too Boring to be Boring."

Barbara Lefler has worked as the Executive Director of RRCI for nearly seven years. She has a passion for serving individuals in the disability community as well as RRCI's staff members. She has a bachelor's degree in Human Services Management and a master's degree in Leadership and Management. Combining 16-years of nonprofit management experience with her passion, and education, has provided ample opportunities for personal growth and the growth of RRCI over the years.

Mary Casey-Lockyer is currently the Senior Associate for Disaster Health Services at the national headquarters of the American Red Cross. For over seven years, she has fulfilled this role for program development and continuous quality improvement for Disaster Health Services at national headquarters and manages a cadre of 2600 + Disaster Health Services volunteers. As a Disaster Health Services manager/chief with the Red Cross, she has been on seventeen national deployments, most recently to the 2017 Florida Hurricane Irma response plus supporting response operations in Texas, California, Nevada, Puerto Rico and USVI from the Red Cross national headquarters' Disaster Operations Coordination Center (DOCC). She is also supporting Red Cross long term recovery efforts in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands as a subject matter expert for community health. Mary continues to act as the Red Cross liaison to the Secretary's Operation Center at the Department of Health and Human Services and serves on the board of Healthcare Ready. Mary sits as the Red Cross representative on the Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies at The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine. She has published many articles, most recently "*Disability Integration throughout the disaster cycle of prepare, respond and recover*" in the Journal of Business Continuity and Emergency Planning, Spring 2017.

Ann McDaniel is the Executive Director of the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). She has Master's and Bachelor's Degrees from Marshall University and worked in the independent living and advocacy field since 1985, beginning with eleven years at the Mountain State Centers for Independent Living in Huntington, WV followed by her current position. Under her direction, the SILC has developed 7 State Plans for Independent Living (SPILs) and sponsored, organized, and conducted the West Virginia Disability Caucus 8 times since 1997 and the WV Youth Disability Caucus in 2005 and 2015. Ann has served on the Board of Directors of the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) and is Co-Chairperson of the NCIL Rehabilitation Act & Independent Living Funding subcommittee. She is a member of the WV Olmstead Council, WV Take Me Home WV Advisory Council, WV Coalition for Medicaid, WV ADRN Advisory Council, WV Access and Functional Needs Work Group, and the Fair Shake Network. Ann has served as a mentor to eight other SILCs and provides training and technical assistance through the national IL Net training project. She has provided national, state, regional, and local training on the history and philosophy of independent living, the roles and functions of SILCs, SPIL development, strategic planning, measuring consumer satisfaction, the legislative process, advocacy, parliamentary procedure, the Rehabilitation Act, disability awareness and sensitivity, and a variety of other disability and independent living topics.

Paula McElwee directed Link, Inc., in 1979 based in Hays, Kansas, one of the first ten centers funded through the Rehabilitation Act. She worked in the disability field in Kansas for 25 years, and was appointed by two governors to serve three terms on the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas. In 2000 McElwee relocated to Fresno, California, where she serves on the board of Resources for Independence of the Central Valley, a long-standing California Center. Since 2006 she has also served as interim executive director for four centers for independent living in California, assisting the boards to transition to their next executive director. Since October, 2012, McElwee has worked with Independent Living Resource Utilization (ILRU) based in Houston, TX as the Technical Assistance Coordinator through its IL-NET, CIL-NET and SILC-NET programs. For access to the on-line technical assistance resources go to [www.ilru.org](http://www.ilru.org) McElwee can be reached by phone at 559-250-3082 or by email at [paulamcelwee.ilru@gmail.com](mailto:paulamcelwee.ilru@gmail.com). And be sure to subscribe to her TA blog at [ilnet-ta.org](http://ilnet-ta.org)

Shari Myers is the Disability Integration Coordinator for American Red Cross, leading ARC in building a National Disability Integration Network and a broad-ranging Disaster Cycle Services Disability Integration Program. She brings to this position nearly a decade of experience in inclusive emergency preparedness, disaster response and recovery focused primarily on the needs of people with disabilities. Over the course of many response operations, Shari has developed a body of knowledge which earned her reputation as a Subject Matter Expert in disaster preparedness, response and recovery services for people with disabilities. She has participated in the development of best practices in access and functional needs support and whole community disaster planning, and assisted in the design of a college-level course in inclusive emergency management.

Jeremy Morris is the Executive Director of the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council. Before joining the SILC in 2017, Jeremy had spent almost 10 years working in Independent Living, previously serving as the Executive Director of the Access Center in Dayton, Ohio and Finance Coordinator at the Western Reserve ILC in Warren, Ohio. His background in Centers for Independent Living includes direct services, advocacy and community partnerships, and operations management. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Akron.

Joan Herbage O'Keefe is in her 16<sup>th</sup> year as Executive Director of Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) following 5 years in SAIL's adaptive recreation program. SAIL's service region is arguably one of the most geographically challenging in the nation, roughly the size of North Carolina, and comprised of dozens of small, remote communities and Native villages not connected by a road system. Ms. O'Keefe has a MBA and lives in Juneau, Alaska with her husband and 13-year old dog, Marbles. When not at work, Joan enjoys spending time at her Horse Island cabin or on any number of wilderness trails in the area.

Jennie Ostermiller and Anna Sherlock are independent living coordinators at OPTIONS for Independence in Logan, UT. The two became friends over twenty years ago working in health care. Anna left that job and moved on to working with individuals with intellectual disabilities in group home and day program settings and Jennie followed. The pair developed a passion for the rights of individuals with disabilities as they saw a community

philosophy that encouraged diminishing rights of the clients in exchange for compliance. Over the last 7 years Jennie has worked to develop a strong youth program and Anna enjoyed working as a coordinator and educator. During this time their ILC developed a partnership with the local sexual assault prevention agency and the two were able to take their passion for education and individual rights to teaching about healthy sexuality in individuals with intellectual disabilities. This has taken them to trainings certifying them to be sexual educators and provided them with skills to educate over 100 people in the last 8 months about healthy relationships, personal sexuality and abuse prevention.

Richard Petty, Program Director at Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU), TIRR Memorial Hermann, has more than twenty-five years of experience in the application of evidence-based practices in community programs, advocacy and lobbying, grassroots action for change, transition from nursing facilities to the community, rapid feedback assessment, and leading organizations in transformational change. Petty directs the ILRU New Community Opportunities Center, a national center that fosters community programs for transition from nursing facilities and youth transition from school to community. He directs the IL-NET, the national project that provides training and technical assistance on programming and management to centers for independent living and statewide independent living councils, organizations which foster community independence for people with disabilities.

Dr. Craig Raveslout is a Clinical Psychologist and Research Professor of Psychology at the University of Montana where he directs rural disability, health and community living research for the Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities. Dr. Raveslout has over 25 years' experience in research, program development and evaluation of services for people with disabilities funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIC) and the Public Health Service (PHS). He was awarded the Disability and Health research scientist of the year award by the Southwest Conference on Disabilities and the Distinguished Service Award by the National Association of Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers. He has published numerous articles covering a range of topics including health, employment and independent living for people with disabilities.

Jerry Riener, who was born and raised in Idaho, attended Idaho State University for his undergraduate in Sociology and his Masters in Communication. He currently works for the Idaho State Independent Living Council doing ABLE technical assistance, and emergency preparedness. When he isn't out playing disc golf, he is out with his big goofy dog and his little corgi.

Emily Robinson is a member of WV Statewide Independent Living Council and President of a student organization at West Virginia State University called Student Access Advocates. She got into IL because the WVSILC Executive Director Ann McDaniel did a presentation at her school and it intrigued her. Ann said that Emily should apply to be on the council. Now, Emily says, "I have stayed involved with IL because it is my passion. WVSU motto is to find your passion, and I have found mine with IL."

Dawn Russell is the lead organizer for the ADAPT chapter based in Denver, Colorado where she is also a board member for the Atlantis Community. Dawn and gang organized the occupation of Senator Gardner's office during the #SummerOfADAPT and has coordinated Colorado's efforts to secure cosponsors for DIA.

Rayna Sage is a Rural Sociologist with the University of Montana's RTC: Rural. She earned her PhD from Washington State University in 2012. Her past experiences include 4 years as a home visiting social worker, 3 years as an internship coordinator for human services, and teaching a variety of course related to human development, family, and inequality. Rayna uses a variety of methods to study disability, gender, and economic inequality, focusing on ways to enhance the vitality of rural labor markets and community support systems. Her most recent project explores the importance of rural community events in the lives of people with disabilities and ways to improve access and participation.

Emily Shuman is the media coordinator for The Rocky Mountain ADA Center. The organization serves a six-state service area: Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota by providing free technical support and training on the Americans with Disabilities Act. She is responsible for engaging the region through social media, partnership development and community outreach. Emily has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Western Governors University.



Leah Smith holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in political science and public relations, as well as a Masters of Public Administration from Texas Tech University. She has nearly a decade's worth of experience in the independent living movement, first as a Relocation Specialist and later working as a Senior Marketing and Communications Specialist and in quality management. Currently, she manages #LiveOn, a web-based, anti-suicide campaign aimed at disabled people, for the Center for Disability Rights (CDR) in Rochester. She has also served two terms as the Director of Public Relations for Little People of America, the largest support and advocacy group for people with dwarfism in the world.

Judith Steed is the Quality Assurance Coordinator for The Independence Center (IC) in Colorado Springs, CO. Her joy is in leveraging evaluation to celebrate truly valued outcomes and to reveal challenges, that when solved, lead to continuous improvement. Having 20 years' experience, Judith brings a passion for process mapping, facilitating strategic and tactical conversations and intentional cross functional collaboration and awareness of context. Her extensive experience with methodological innovation and a love of data analysis helps to accommodate people with disabilities. Judith enjoys making meaning to enhance understanding and use of data. Working closely with The IC teams, she identifies key programmatic outcomes & outputs, designs projects to measure them and reports regularly to The IC Board. Previously, Judith worked for the Center for Creative Leadership as an evaluator of management training and presented at multiple professional conferences as a subject matter expert on evaluation.

Hayley Steinlage is the research project coordinator at the Research and Training Center on Independent Living at the University of Kansas. She received her M.S.E. in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Development and Learning from the University of Kansas in 2017. She is currently working on the RTC for Promoting Interventions for Community Living which focuses on addressing home usability and community participation barriers for persons with disabilities.

Kirt Toombs is the cofounder of EOCIL and has served as its chief executive officer since January 2000. Kirt is an alumnus of the University of San Francisco, where he was awarded a Master of Management and Disability Services degree, and has studied at the University of Ireland-

Galway, Department of International Disability Law and Policy, through its summer immersion program. Kirt also has extensive educational and professional experience in program design, implementation, and evaluation. Kirt is currently on the Board of Directors for the United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD) and has been a fierce advocate of the Independent Living Movement since 1986.

William Toombs is a political science doctoral candidate at Idaho State University, as well as research and policy officer at EOCIL's Institute for Disability Policy and Studies. William has a bachelor's and master's degree in history and his research focuses on societal impacts of wildland fire and various disability related topics. William is currently serving on the Board of Directors for LIFE, INC. and is a voting member of the Idaho SILC.

Bronwyn Troutman is the Community Living Specialist at Summit Independent Living. Previously, she worked at University of Montana, Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities for 3 years as the project manager of Movin' On in Montana, a transition to college summer camp for high school students with disabilities. Additionally, she worked as an Access Coordinator at Disability Services for Students at University of Montana. Bronwyn received her Master's in Social Work in 2016, during which time she interned at Summit in the Peer Advocate program. Her passion is assisting others with their independent living goals, leading to fuller participation in communities. Bronwyn lives in Missoula, Montana with her teenaged son, daughter and cat.

Marsha Unruh is an Independent Living Program Manager for The IC since October 2015. A graduate of Regis University, Unruh has a Bachelor's degree in social science and a Master's in sociology and culture, with an emphasis on aging adults with developmental disabilities. Unruh manages the Veteran In Charge program for Elbert, El Paso, Park, Pueblo, and Teller Counties. Unruh is Co-Chair of the Veteran Sub-Committee for the National Council of Independent Living's Legislative & Advocacy Committee and serves on the Colorado Veteran Community Partnership Steering Committee. The Independence Center is a local nonprofit organization that provides traditional and self-directed home health care, independent living and advocacy services such as peer support, skills classes and employment assistance for people with disabilities.

### Rebecca Williams

Rebecca has been employed as the Information Specialist for the Southeast ADA Center since 2011. She provides technical assistance and resources/referrals to callers from eight southeastern states on the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, Air Carrier Access Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and other disability related inquiries. Rebecca has over 30 years of experience in the disability field. She has developed and presented numerous workshops and trainings on the ADA to a wide variety of audiences both locally and nationally. Rebecca completed the ADA Coordinator Certification Program offered through the University of Missouri - College of Human and Environmental Sciences, School of Architectural Studies and the Great Plains ADA Center in April 2012. Rebecca is a member of the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) and the National Council for Independent Living (NCIL). She is also a board member of the Lancaster Lions International and is a member of the Millersville University (PA) Disability Arts Advisory Council. Rebecca provides audio description services for live theater for patrons with visual impairments for Millersville University. Josh Winkler is an accidental activist, he rolled through college and 5 years as an engineer on a NASCAR team on the great system that advocates had built. After getting laid off and having multiple different systems fail him he got involved in advocacy, joining Atlantis ADAPT and the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition and now tries to balance volunteer advocacy and his business Cripple Concepts.

Elizabeth Wood is an Assistant Professor and a research scientist for the Collaborative on Health Reform and Independent Living on the Washington State University research team. Prior to her graduate work, she served as the administrative coordinator for the Washington Rural Health Association, a nonprofit advocacy group.

### Patricia Yeager

For 40 years, Patricia Yeager has worked in the disability services and advocacy fields in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, California and Colorado. Patricia completed her PhD in Human Rehabilitation at the University of Northern Colorado in 2011 and has worked as a consultant on a variety of projects involving Independent Living-civil rights for people with disabilities. She holds an MS in Rehabilitation Counseling from West Virginia University and a B.A. in education from Marshall University. In 2011, Patricia took the position of CEO at The Independence Center located in Colorado Springs,

Colorado. The IC operates a traditional Medicaid funded (skilled) home health agency as well as one of El Paso County's largest providers of consumer-directed Home and Community Based Services (non-skilled) aimed at keeping people with disabilities out of long term nursing homes or other similar facilities. The IC has annual revenues of roughly \$12 million. She launched several advocacy/community organizing activities in the areas of transit, housing and emergency services. After the devastating Waldo Canyon and Black Forests fires, she hired an emergency planner with disability experience to work with local governments in the Pikes Peak area to improve their disability planning and response to emergencies. She is leading an effort in the Pikes Peak area to make medical facilities accessible and provide services that address the "social determinants of health" as they relate to people with disabilities. In April, 2018 The IC initiated a hospital to home transition program for persons with disabilities with UC-Health Memorial Hospital to create better outcomes and allow the Hospital to safely move people more quickly through their system.

### **Many Thanks**

Thanks to Linda Gonzales's family, the Montoya's, for coming and presenting the LGA Award. Your Mom's legacy lives on!!

Much appreciation to Atlantis Inc. for showcasing the ADAPT memorabilia, the IL Mobile Unit, and for helping all the conference folks with their DME referrals!

We are grateful to all the wonderful workshop presenters for sharing your information and lessons learned with the conference.

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Much thanks to Lee Shultz from Independence *First* and all his years of support for the conference. Enjoy your retirement, Lee, you will always be an APRIL Hero.

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