

Volume 1, Issue 4
June 2009

Events Calendar

**SILC Public
Forum:** July 9th,
4-6 PM

SILC meeting:
July 10th, 8:30 AM
to 3 PM

Both Held at
HSDC/ Hearing
Speech and
Deafness Center:
1625 19th Ave,
Seattle. [More Info](#)

Note from Editor, Rob Honan

For this issue, I encouraged the SILC members and Centers for Independent Living to provide me with some ideas and relevant articles. I also hope that you enjoy the new format (formatting issues prevented me from eliminating pages 6 and 7, and are intentionally blank).

This edition includes:

- “Office Connection” from dRC in Everett. Page one.
- Information from The

Alliance for People with disAbilities (Seattle): Pages two and three

- CWDR news from Ellensburg, page three
- NCIL Conference, page 4
- Summer Youth Programs, page 4
- dRC: “7th Avenue Coffee Shop,” page 5
- State Plan for Independent Living Update, page 5

dRC announces addition of Office Connection

As of June 2009, The Washington State Department of Labor & Industries has approved disAbility Resource Connection’s Office Connection Program as an official retraining site for injured workers. This program is significant, as (1) dRC is the first CIL in the world to be awarded such status (2) it will expand traditional IL services to include office skills training and (3) it will extend the reach of IL programs, not only to traditional consumers, but to those not typically considered as having a disability.

Adding further to the value of the program, Office Connection’s computer lab,

software, technology and progressive system of operation will be of Universal Design. It will address the broad range of abilities, disabilities, ages, reading levels, learning styles, native languages, cultures, and other key characteristics of its students.

(cont. on page three)

Special points of interest: Guardianship/ Payee

Presentation:
David Lord,
Disability Rights
Washington @
dARSW in
Vancouver. Aug.
5th. Noon to 1:30
PM. 360-694-6790
to RSVP. Free

SILC Information

[Centers for Independent Living](#)

[SILC members](#)

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Disclaimer: The SILC accepts articles for publication, but has the right to modify for the sake of brevity and formatting. Further, the SILC does not check donated articles for accuracy. Please accept our apology for any mistakes made.

We email this newsletter out to save costs and to utilize hyperlink technology (links). However, if you would like this document in another format, please contact us.

The Alliance Annual Meeting, by Lucille Walls

On May 30th, the Alliance of People with disAbilities had its annual meeting. At the event, the Alliance's new Board members Ann Farmer and Joe King were introduced. New appointments to the Board of Directors were also made: Laura Lakings-Becvar, Board President, Dr. Robert Blumenthal, Vice President, Erich Ho, Treasurer and Mary Ann Pelkey Schleer, Secretary.

The event was well attended, even with it being on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. With this meeting, the Alliance wanted to provide the community with a program that was relevant to current times. To that end, a portion of the meeting was devoted to a panel discussion on strategies for surviving and thriving in a tough economy. People received information on how to grow and protect assets, maintain housing and purchase their own homes, establish individual development accounts and receive tax assistance. Presenters included representatives from the Seattle-King County Asset Building Collaborative, Parkview Services and United Way of King County. King County's Election Department also made available their accessible voting machine for people to test out newly added accessibility features. Ensuring the disability community votes and has a strong voice is critical in working to improve the overall financial status of people with disabilities, so they are not disproportionately affected by economic downturns. Members in attendance were enthused about the upcoming year and eager to become more involved in the organization. We hope to work with the community to continue to grow the Alliance and the local independent living movement.

King County Youth Club to Attend Mariner's Game! by Charity Marie Drummond

The Alliance of People with disAbilities hosts a Transition and Event Club for teens and young adults with and without disabilities. The Transition and Event Club provides opportunities for high school students and young adults to explore and plan for life as an adult. It also gives participants the chance to meet other youth with disabilities in King County. Teens and young adults with all types of disabilities are welcome to participate, as well as other youth who are friends and allies of those with disabilities.

Thanks to a generous donation by the Mariners Baseball Team, participants in the Transition and Event Club will be attending a Mariner's game on July 27, 2009 at 7:00pm. This outing will provide the youth an opportunity to learn how to plan a trip using different means of transportation and how to budget for food and mostly how to have fun with their peers. For more information about this event, please contact Charity Marie Drummond at 206-633-6623 or charityd@disabilitypride.org.

dRC (Cont. from Page One)

Together, Office Connection's staff, with a background in Instructional Technology, Rehabilitation Counseling, Assistive Technology, Special Education and Social Work, will work collaboratively to meet the needs of the students in achieving the overall goal of independence - made possible through education and meaningful employment.

As countless individuals with disabilities remain unemployed or underemployed, dRC's Office Connection is determined to address this pressing and timeless issue – beginning with their own community of Snohomish and neighboring counties. The need for top-notch vocational training for individuals with disabilities coupled with the growing need for qualified office workers, dRC hopes its program will gain popularity quickly.

The first 16 week Office Connection training session will begin September 1, 2009. For more information on our program, application process, course descriptions and schedule, please visit www.drconline.net

News from Ellensburg: Central WA Disability Resources is gearing up for their summer recreational activities, which includes a youth camping trip in June, with approximately 14 participants, courtesy of an Outdoors For All grant. Additionally we are getting ready for some Yakima Bears baseball (let's not forget to mention the many Bears Dogs that are consumed), and a trip to Lake Kachess for swimming, sunset and s'mores in July, and August mini-golf in Leavenworth. We will also be starting basketball at the end of the month, along with weekly bingo. We may even fit a Mariners game somewhere in there!" - Von Elison

NCIL Conference:
Washington DC, By Rob
Honan

Fourteen members of the Washington IL community recently attended the NCIL conference in Washington DC. The valuable time was spent attending workshops, networking, checking out the sites, but most importantly educating our Congressmen and Congresswomen about the issues that matter to the disability community.

Some of the legislative topics included:

- The Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Urging Congress to incorporate the Community Choice Act (introduced in both the House and the Senate) into Health Care Reform
- Educating the Washington Congressional delegation to better understand what Centers for Independent Living do.
- Partnering with advocates to stress the importance of the "Disability" in ADRCs (Aging and Disability Resource Centers)

Legislative visits to the Hill was preceded by an inspirational march to the U.S. Capitol, always a highlight for NCIL conference participants.

I would like to thank the CILs for assisting me (and SILC chair Romel Mackelprang) in attending this very important conference.

Summer Youth Programs.

This is an exciting time for youth with disabilities in Washington state. Five of the six centers for independent living are sponsoring youth programs so that youth will enrich their skill levels, learn about Centers for Independent Living, meet new people, and, of course, have a lot of fun.

Additional information, including dates of program and contacts at the CILs, is listed below:

- Center for Independence (Lakewood):
July 28-31.
Contact Lorrie Lund for more information:
253-582-1253,
Ext. 5
- disAbility Resources of Southwest Washington (Vancouver):
July 13-17
Contact Mike Bailey for more information:
360-694-694-6790, ext. 104
mikeb@darsw.com
- disAbility Resource Connection (Everett):
July 6-22, Mondays and Wednesdays from 9AM to noon
Contact Christy Rommel for more information, 425-347-5768, ext. 102
christy@drconline.net

- Alliance of People with Disabilities (Seattle):
August 18-21
Contact Charity Marie Drummond :
206-633-6623
charityd@disabilitypride.org.
- Coalition of Responsible Disabled (Spokane):
July 20-24
Contact Ed Kennedy
509-326-6355,
ext. 103
ejk@cordwa.info

Additional Independent Living Resources

<http://www.ncil.org>:
National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)

<http://www.april-rural.org/> Association of Programs of Rural Independent Living (APRIL)

disAbility Resource Connection's 7th Avenue Café – not just another coffee shop, by Charley Lane

If you're part of the disAbility Resource Connection team, you never stop inventing new ways to foster consumer independence. This year – dRC has taken matters one cup above its competitors by not just opening a coffee shop, but an entrepreneurial program for individuals with disabilities. "Our consumers will have true ownership of our cafe, as they learn the skills to work in the competitive labor market, as well as what it takes to manage a business," says Executive Director, Charley Lane.

And the timing – perfectly in sync with the opening of dRC's Office Connection, a vocational training site for injured workers and others with disabilities.

This is just one more way dRC strives to communicate the importance of consumer control over their own lives while encouraging community inclusion of those with disabilities. "We are indebted to North Sound Family Medicine of Bellingham who graciously donated equipment and supplies to our progressive operation," states Mr. Lane. "This is a promising gesture, as we look toward other community leaders to help establish, maintain and strengthen our business."

7th Avenue Café is scheduled to open sometime in August. The espresso cafe will feature the best quality in coffee products and healthy snacks – all in a friendly, supportive, and web-surfing atmosphere.

State Plan for Independent Living Update- by Rob Honan

One of the major duties of the State Independent Living Council is to develop, review, and monitor the State Plan for Living (SPIL). If you are not familiar with the current SPIL, I encourage you to take a look at the document [here](#).

The SPIL is a "roadmap" of how to implement and incorporate independent living services in this state using the CILs, the SILC, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, ACIL-WA (the CIL association) and Department of Services for the Blind as partners in this endeavor.

There are seven primary "issue areas" in the SPIL, all of which are critical to the SILC, CILs, and ultimately people with disabilities:

- Transportation
- Housing
- Deinstitutionalization
- Transition services for youth
- Emergency Preparedness
- Assistive Technology
- Outreach

I wanted to take a moment to talk about one of these areas, outreach. Because of finite resources, it is difficult for the CILs to provide services to all people with disabilities and disability groups. Historically the CILs have not provided in-depth services to those who are Deaf-Blind, Deaf, or Hard of Hearing (DB, D, and HH). Advocates approached the SILC three years ago to try change this.

To this end, a DB, D, and HH task force was

convened by the SILC. The purpose of this group is to bridge the lack of services gap.

To date, there have been five meetings of this task force. During discussions what we have discovered is that, with a few exceptions, expertise in DB, D, and HH services is lacking by the CILs. It is pretty obvious that this has been the case for a long time, but the critical piece is "what are we going to do about it?"

The group believes there are two approaches to addressing this situation. One is to provide basic training to the CILs about DB, D, and HH issues. On June 1, such a training was provided to the staff of the disAbility Resource Connection (Everett). Nancy Sommer of the Lighthouse for the Blind and Dorothy Walt of Northwest Helen Keller National Center gave basic information to the dRC staff about how to identify and interact with persons who are Deaf-Blind.

The second approach is to encourage the Centers for Independent Living and the Regional Service Centers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RSC) to partner together to provide IL services. At the current time, the partnership between the CILs and the RSCs is very primitive, but with the assistance of Eric Raff of the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, this partnership will begin to explore ways in which Deaf-Blind, Deaf, and Hard of Hearing folks can get their IL needs met.

We are still early in this process, but there are many encouraging signs in addressing the lack of cohesive services for persons who are DB, D, and HH.

