

Roots of Change Grow a Mile High



Denver, Colorado . October 5-8, 2018

Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living

#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 24th Annual National Rural Independent Living Conference: Roots of Change Grow a Mile High. We are proud to be in Denver, Colorado on this 40th 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.

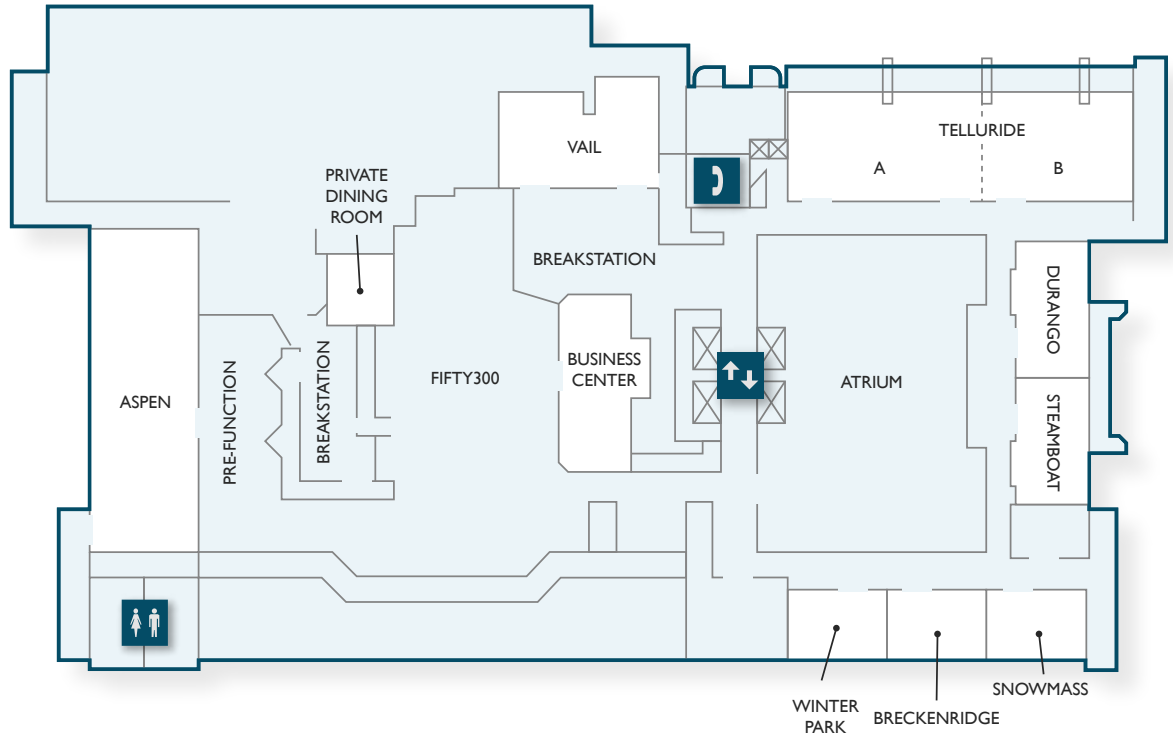
I also want to thank all of our sponsors for making this event possible, but most importantly, thank You for being here and all the things you do in your community to enrich the lives of our brothers and sisters with disabilities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Billy Altom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

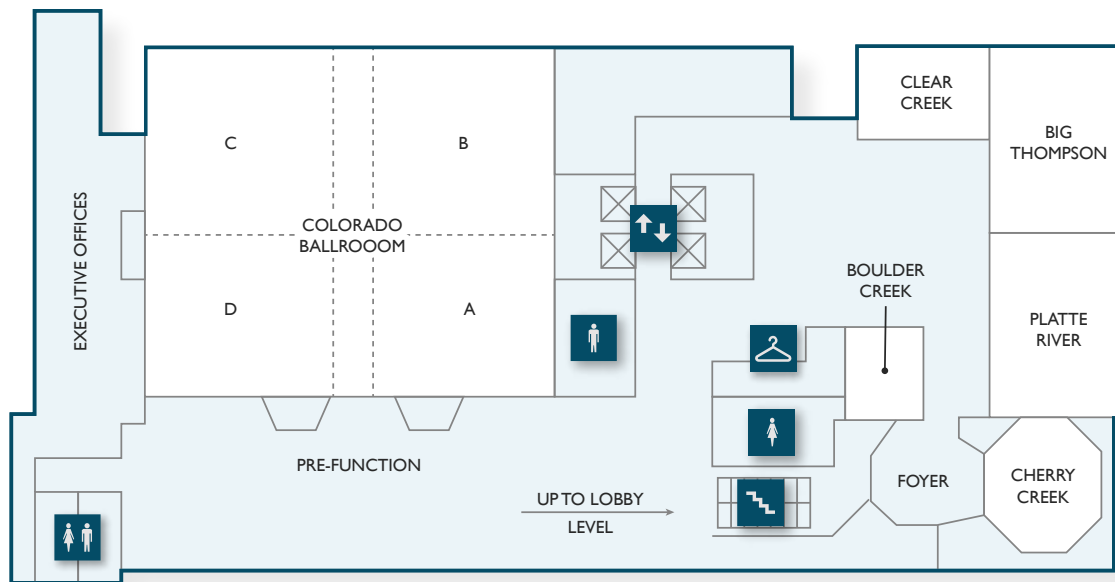
Billy Altom

Conference Area Map

ATRIUM LEVEL



BALLROOM LEVEL



Conference Sponsors/Exhibitors

Sponsors

CENTENE
St Louis, MO

ANTHEM
Indianapolis, IN

IndependenceFirst
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

ARCIL
Austin, TX

Tim Sheehan
Menomonie, WI

AZ SILC
Phoenix, AZ

Julie Ballinger
Albuquerque, NM

Amtrak
Washington, DC

Ability360
Phoenix, AZ

Exhibitors

**ADA National
Network**
Colorado Springs, CO

AgrAbility
West Lafayette, IN

**Research and Training
Center on Community
Living (RTC:CL)**
Lawrence, KS

**RTC: Rural University
of Montana**
Missoula, MT

Q90 / CIL Suites
Salem, UT

**Center for Disability
Rights**
Rochester, NY

ILRU
Houston, TX

**American Assoc.
on Health and
Disability (AAHD)**
Rockville, MD

RAMP
Rockford, IL

MiCIL
Honolulu, Hawaii

Cripple Concepts
Aurora, CO

**Partnership for Inclusive
Disaster Strategies**
Charleston, SC

Atlantis Community
Denver, CO

Sorenson Interpreting
Salt Lake City, UT

**Christopher and Dana
Reeve Foundation**

Youth Agenda



Friday, October 5th, 2018
9:00 AM-4:00 PM
Let's Rock! Radical Advocacy
Aspen (Youth Only)

8:30-9:00 AM	Breakfast and Registration	Prefunction
9:00-9:30 AM	Welcome and Introductions Emily Robinson	Aspen
9:30-10:30 AM	Stand and Declare Whitney Harris	
10:30-10:45 AM	Morning Break	Prefunction
10:45-11:30 AM	Radical defined as ADAPT Rosie McDonnell	
11:30 AM-12:00 PM	History Chain	
12:00 PM-1:30 PM	Lunch Break (registered Youth Con & Pre-Con 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. Let's get out and about for a stretch and some food!		
1:30-2:00 PM	Radical Voting Carrie Ann Lucas, Kayln Heffernan, Chris Hinds	Aspen
2:00-3:45 PM	Round Table Actions and Movements Brittany Zazueta	
3:45-4:00 PM	Wrap Up! Don't forget about the Youth Leader Meeting!	

Pre-conference Agenda 1



Friday, October 5th, 2018
9:00 AM-4:15 PM
Disability, Diversity & Intersectionality:
An American Journey for CILs
Ballroom A

8:30-9:00 AM	Breakfast and Registration	Prefunction
9:00-9:10 AM	Welcome and Introductions Richard Petty	Ballroom A
9:10-9:35 AM	Agenda Review, Intro Case Studies, Overview of DDP Project & Post-it note activity Stan Holbrook and Judith Holt	
9:35-10:15 AM	Where is the Rural in all this? Language and Terminology 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	Ballroom A
11:20 AM-12:00 PM	Using Data and Community Mapping to Address Diversity Susan Dooha	

Pre-conference Agenda 1

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 All of 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, Procedures, 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 Stan Holbrook Ballroom A



Independent Living Research Utilization

Pre-conference Agenda 2



Friday, October 5th, 2018

9:00 AM-4:00 PM

The Power of ADAPT

Ballroom B

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

Note-Worthy 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 feel free to choose any of our many wonderful workshops that peak your interest.

Conference Agenda

Friday, October 5th, 2018

Main Conference Activities Begin

4:30-5:30 PM 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 time to vote on who we will endorse as running candidates. We will also have time for people that want to take a leadership role in the Youth Steering Committees' 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.

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

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

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

Come join us to meet and greet old friends and make some new ones. Light snacks and a cash bar available.

Have a good night! See you at 8:00 AM for continental breakfast and registration

Conference Agenda

Saturday, October 6th, 2018

8:00 AM **Registration Opens** **Prefunction Area**

Conference Registration Open; T-shirts and Raffle Tickets go on Sale!
Continental Breakfast

9:00-10:30 AM **Welcome and Opening Keynote** **Colorado Ballroom**

Welcome from: Executive Director, Billy Altom; APRIL Board President, Tim Sheehan; Atlantis Community Inc. ED, Candie Burnham; APRIL Youth Board Member, Brittany Zazueta, participation invitation from the ADA-PARC team; Blessing from Ed Sandoval

Welcome to Colorado IL Keynote

Ian Engle, Executive Director NorthWest Colorado Center for Independence

Get excited for the conference. 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 AM **Vendor Fair** **Prefunction Area Outside Hotel**

Everyone, visit our vendor booths and the IL Mobile Unit (outside). Youth don't forget your Fort Right papers! Note that vendors will be open until Sunday at 5:00 PM.

11:30 AM-12:45 PM **Plated Luncheon and Keynote** **Colorado Ballroom**

Conference Agenda

Growing Up APRIL: A Love Letter to IL Michael Beers

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

12:45-1:30 PM

Transition to Afternoon Workshop Breakouts

1:30-3:00 PM

Concurrent Workshops Block 1

Equipping Youth for Advocacy
Emily Beasley

Big Thompson

Many youth with disabilities encounter abuses of their civil rights on a daily basis. When we understand the issues involved, 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. 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. Participants will create strategies for using their voice and finding power to address disability rights issues for themselves and with their peers. **Youth or IL Consumers.**

The Values Adventure
Barbara Lefler and Brenda Adair

Aspen

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 transformed its culture, staff resilience, and consumer connection. RRCI's ED, Barbara Lefler began the process and Brenda Adair, Office Manager took the implementation lead. This presentation demonstrates the process that transformed an agency's culture. Topics include values identification, teamwork, trust, communication, and responsibility. **Careers in IL.**

Conference Agenda

Effective and Engaging Teaching Strategies **Michael Lefevor**

Platte

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) **Joan O'Keefe and Gail Dabaluz**

Telluride

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

SILCS and CILS Collaboration on Developing The SPIL

Stephanie Jensen, Jeremy Morris and Kathy Foley

Clear Creek

Since the passage of WIOA, CILs are required to collaborate with the SILC on developing the SPIL. More than 50% of CILs also need to sign the SPIL. This has changed the dynamic in SPIL development. Collaboration can create a better SPIL for the state. The panel will share their experiences and invite participants to share theirs. How have states done this? How can we think outside the box with the process and the SPIL objectives? The workshop will be interactive. SILCS.

Conference Agenda

**IL Philosophy & Veteran Services: Vail
Merging Paradigms in Rural Communities
Marsha Unruh, Michelle Chamberlain, Kim Howell,
Ashley Billington**

What role can a CIL 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 helped VIC overcome the challenges of rural living and merged the philosophy of IL 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

Prefunction Area

3:30-5:00 PM

Concurrent Workshops Block 2

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

This session will explore best practices for engaging young people in program and policy development at your SILC or CIL. Topics include 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.

Conference Agenda

Everybody
Vicki Leeper

Aspen

This 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. This presentation chronicles the story of disability in America for the past 200 years culminating in the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. 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. Topics to be covered will include: Emergency Management, Hazards and Disasters, Personal Assessments, Evacuation vs Sheltering in Place, Personal Support Networks, Communications Plans, and Emergency Kits.

**Cutting Edge IL Research on
Rural Community Living**
Craig Ravesloot, Lillie Greiman, and Rayna Sage

Telluride

The Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities (RTC:Rural) conducts research and training to support rural IL. We will discuss 1) Rural CIL Service Coverage, 2) Rural Community Events and 3) Satisfaction with Rural Community Participation. CIL services are invaluable for people with disabilities living in rural communities. Our research explores what access to rural IL services looks like across the nation and two rural states (MT and AR). We will identify barriers that rural consumers and CIL staff face in accessing rural IL services and some strategies and policy recommendations for change. Rural Community Events provides participants with opportunities to connect, build community, and develop community-based skills and knowledge. 3) Consumer Satisfaction with Rural Community Participation is highest when communities accommodate people's needs. 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.

Conference Agenda

Tools and Partnerships for Digital Information Access Danny Housley and Ken Mitchell

Clear Creek

This session will cover various access features of iOS devices (iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch) for people with physical, hearing, visual and learning disabilities. We encourage participants to bring their own device to try things out in real time and get questions answered. 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 is the partnership with the Georgia Radio Reading Service (GARRS) that disABILITY LINK and Tools for Life have forged to reach consumers across the state in rural areas. We will 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.

Finding Your Good One: Sexuality & 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 boogy the night away with new and old friends. Snacks provided.

Conference Agenda

Sunday, October 7th, 2018

8:30 AM Registration Opens Prefunction Area

Conference Registration Open; T-shirts & Raffle Tickets go on Sale! Continental Breakfast

9:00-10:00 AM Advocates Organize and Mobilize Ballroom AB

Bob Williams, Deputy Commissioner of the Administration on Disabilities & Director of 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 AM Break Prefunction Area

10:30 AM-12:00 PM Concurrent Workshops Block 3

Doing My Chores Big Thompson
A Rural Approach to YLF's
Jen Hermanson and Michael Beers

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 & Evaluation in Rural Communities: Aspen
Interpreting & Understanding Context
Judith Steed

The work takes place in various communities: urban, rural, agricultural, downtown. We evaluate our efforts and often have reports to submit. However, communities differ in significant ways and one report doesn't fit all. Explore how understanding context and identifying values will enhance evaluation efforts. Context and value influence how and what you measure, evaluate, assess and report. Data could support or derail your programs. It is 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.

Conference Agenda

**The Blue Folder Project:
Helping Individuals with Disabilities be
Prepared for an Emergency
Jerry Riener**

Platte

How many steps does it take to be prepared? How do you teach personal emergency preparedness with so much to cover? The Idaho SILC when trying to answer these questions developed the Blue Folder Project. This project is a comprehensive 4 step worksheet that centers on helping individuals with disabilities be prepared for an emergency, and how they can take 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

This workshop will provide an overview of the Medicaid program and discuss 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. Second, we will talk about CHRIL's newest project, "Disability Stories about Health Policy". The purpose of the Disability Stories project is to document and share personal experiences of people with disabilities as they respond to changes in the US healthcare system. We'll discuss the project and ways that APRIL members can contribute as "health policy advisors". Careers in IL

**Moving Through Life
Rene Cummins, Rebecca Williams and
Emily Robinson**

Clear Creek

This interactive session will teach rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Fair Housing Act (FHA) as you move through life. Get a glimpse of the ADA and its history. We will walk through each title of the ADA and provide take home tools. For ex., employment (Title I), will include disability disclosure, employer requirements, reasonable accommodations and employment discrimination. Learn rights in housing and how the ADA works with the Fair Housing Act. Come have fun and learn about these important civil rights laws. **Youth**

Conference Agenda

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 be a strong and effective network in your state if all partners are working collaboratively to support the purpose of IL. Each partner in the IL Network has different abilities and duties, and the SILC can be a resource 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. We 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 PM **Lunch On Your Own**

1:30-3:00 PM **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 views about healthy sexuality, being sex positive and the rights of full sex lives for individuals with disabilities. We will provide tips and techniques for effective teaching and having important conversations with individuals you teach as well as parents and care providers. Remember sex is an IL skill!

How to Weather and Work with Changes in Administrations **Telluride**
Ann McDaniel, Paula McElwee and 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. 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 suggestions for how to handle changes and an opportunity to share your experiences. SILCS

Conference Agenda

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 and 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. 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.

Conference Agenda

The American Red Cross Disaster Cycle Services program for Disability Integration **Mary Casey-Lockyer and Shari Meyers**

Clear Creek

Learn about 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. Discussion-based format to develop understanding of disaster needs in a rural setting.

Self-Determination **Shentelle Harris and Tylor Freeman**

Vail

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

Prefunction Area

3:30-5:00 Concurrent Workshops Block 5

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

Big Thompson

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.

Conference Agenda

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. Careers in IL

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: How to mine the gaps in their community for service opportunities, Figure out who benefits from this service being provided (beside the consumer), Broad steps on figuring out cost to provide, cost to charge and marketing the service, How advocacy fits into raising funds to support your organization.

Wheels in Motion: Understanding and Improving Accessibility for People with Disabilities Jonathon Stalls and Garrett Brumfield

Telluride

It’s no secret that barriers to access and mobility often hinder a person with a disability more than disability itself. Attendees will get knowledge, skills and tools to identify and improve barriers. Attendees will learn the key features of accessible communities and how to conduct successful walking and/or rolling audit in the community, as well as how to build partnerships. Hopefully empowering community leaders and decision makers to be more inclusive in planning, policy making and implementation.

Conference Agenda

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. Explore opportunities and obstacles related to employment in agriculture for people with disabilities, including transitioning youth. Information presented by staff from the National AgrAbility Project (a USDA outreach program for people with disabilities in agriculture), the Colorado AgrAbility Project, and APRIL, 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 related web-based resources. 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**

In this session, participants will learn about the many opportunities available through the US Department of State and beyond for travelling or studying abroad as a person with a disability. 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.

6:30-9:00 PM

Awards Banquet and Raffle

Ballroom AB

Plated Dinner and Cash Bar
Linda Gonzales Award
Earl Walden Award

Youth: The Final Word
(Name badges required)

Conference Agenda

Plated Breakfast and Closing Keynote Colorado Ballroom

8:30 AM Plated Breakfast

9:00 AM Closing Keynote: From Ideas to Action
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!

Don't forget to go home with one of our APRIL T-shirts!



Celebrate and Honor 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 get it done attitude. Congratulations Whitney, we can't think of someone more deserving.

Celebrate and Honor Our Colleagues

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 “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 youth to become the youth representative on the SILC. I regularly heard Ian building this young man up in his confidence. He had a chair lift van donated to his CIL because his transportation initiative has increasingly grown. This is because of his belief that people with disabilities living

Celebrate and Honor Our Colleagues

in rural America should be able to get where they need (and want) to go 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 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

We are so proud and happy to announce Ian as this year's Earl Walden Award winner.” ---APRIL Staff

Celebrate and Honor Our Colleagues

Glenn 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.

Celebrate and Honor Our Colleagues

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 Keynotes

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 1st, 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.

Michael Beers

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, it feels like he has been around forever! That’s probably because he helped start them all. He doesn’t just advocate for people with disabilities, but for all people, because for him, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to Justice Everywhere.”

About Our Keynotes

Tim J. Sheehan

Tim 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.



Ian Engle



Michael Beers



Tim Sheehan

About Our Presenters

Brenda Adair

Brenda 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

Dana 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. 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.

About Our Presenters

Emily Beasley

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

Julia 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

Ashley 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

Sandra 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.

About Our Presenters

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

Michele 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. al communities.

Dr. Rene Cummins

Dr. 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

Gail 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

About Our Presenters

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.

Katherine Foley

Katherine 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.

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.

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

About Our Presenters

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

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

Lillie 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

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...yummm!

About Our Presenters

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

Justin is 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

Whitney 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.

About Our Presenters

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 overcome 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

Grant 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.

About Our Presenters

Dixie Herring

Dixie 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 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 received her Bachelor's degree in Social Work. She is certified in nonprofit management. In her spare time she joys traveling with her family and spending time with her grandson. She enjoys working at The Independence Center and seeing the difference that it creates in the lives of people in our community.

Danny Housley

Danny 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

Kim 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.

About Our Presenters

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

Stephanie Jensen

Stephanie 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

Paul 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

Davi 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.

About Our Presenters

Jae Kennedy (PI)

Jae (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

Noelle 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

Candiss 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

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

About Our Presenters

social media to make information accessible to the disability community.

Michael Lefevor

Michael 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 moto "Life is too Boring to be Boring."

Barbara Lefler

Barbara 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

Mary 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

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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

Ann 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

Paula 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

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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 McElwee can be reached by phone at 559-250-3082 or by email at paulamcelwee.ilru@gmail.com. And be sure to subscribe to her TA blog at ilnet-ta.org

Shari Myers

Shari 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

Jeremy 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

Joan is in her 16th 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.

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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 Sherock

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

Richard, 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 Ravesloot

Craig is a Clinical Psychologist and Research Professor of Psychology at the University of Montana where he directs

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rural disability, health and community living research for the Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities. Dr. Ravesloot 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 Reiner

Jerry 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

Emily 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

Dawn 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

Rayna 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

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for human services, and teaching a variety of courses 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

Emily 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

Leah 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

Judith 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

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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

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

Kirt 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

William 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

Bronwyn 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

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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

Marsha is an Independent Living Program Manager for The IC since October 2015. 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. She 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. She 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.

About Our Presenters

Josh Winkler

Josh 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

Elizabeth 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 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.

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The RTC on Promoting Interventions for Community Living Congratulates APRIL on Nurturing the Roots of Change!

Our researchers are partnering with centers for independent living and their consumers to increase community living and participation.



Home Usability Program



Out and About



Life starts at home. A usable home is one that fits your needs and allows you to be in control. In this program, people with disabilities work with their local CIL and other community resources to assess and improve the usability of their homes.



Life expands in the community. In this program, people with disabilities learn a variety of ways to set goals that matter to them, overcome barriers, and build social networks so they can participate more fully in their communities.

A project of the Universities of Kansas and Montana.



The Research and Training Center on Promoting Interventions for Community Living

For more information:
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RTC:Rural Stays *Rooted* In Rural Disability Research

Together we can grow a mile high!

The University of Montana Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities is pleased to announce it has received five more years of funding to continue to support the **Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities (RTC:Rural)**.

We are thrilled to grow and build on 30 years of work and continue our partnership with APRIL to support the community participation of people with disabilities.

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, WE WILL:

Assess rural transportation options to inform policy, new programs, and funding.

Grow our health promotion program partnerships with rural hospitals and Centers for Independent Living.

Explore and assess Personal Assistance Services models and develop training specific for rural workers.

Explore the types of resources people use to participate in their communities to inform needs and opportunities for community development.

Partner with tribal Voc-Rehab to create a cultural adaptation of our online self-employment guide.

Visit our vendor table to **LEARN MORE** and **GET INVOLVED** in these exciting new projects!

THANK YOU
APRIL
FOR BEING A LONG-
TERM PARTNER!



HERE'S TO THE
NEXT 5 YEARS!

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.

Thank you to Betty Walden and the Walden Family for supporting APRIL and coming to our event.

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.

Kudos to Sorenson Interpreting and ACS captions for giving us a discount on accommodations and helping all our attendees access our training.

Thank you to Boulder Chip Company for supplying yummy snacks to our youth dance.

Notes



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APRIL

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