As many of you know I am leaving WASILC as the Executive Director at the end of September. While wrapping up and reflecting on my time with WASILC, I am filled with such gratitude.

Gratitude for all the advocates (teachers), disability community (mentors), and the tireless work that you bring to the independent living philosophy which realizes the self determination for our community. I have been deeply moved by the fortitude and strength within each of you with your vision of a more inclusive world.

Thank you to the Council for your leadership, your time, and commitment serving on the council. Sharing your lived experienced and voices so we can continue to advocate for systemic change. A special thanks to Mark Leeper and Alyssa Adwell, Council Chairs, for your guidance, patience, leadership, and commitment.

And now to the future! WASILC has hired Rebekah (Bek) Moras as our new Executive Director. It has been a pleasure to work with Bek as she transitions into the position and am excited for what is yet to come. They started with us in mid-August and you can read more about them in the newsletter.

Kindly,
Kim
**NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Tyler Schrenk** is dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities achieve their full potential through the use of assistive technology. Tyler is the president of the Tyler Schrenk Foundation and Manager at Assistive Technologies Consulting. Along with being a technology enthusiast, Tyler enjoys reading and listening to books, skydiving, scuba diving, golf, TV, movies, and advocating that disabled individuals can live full and independent lives.

**Dr. Raymond Miller** is a United States Air Force and Vietnam veteran. He is the President and Founder of Vets Place Northwest-Welcome Home. Chair of the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs committee of the Alaska, Oregon, and Washington State Area Conference (AOWSAC), National Association for The Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Founding member and Past Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee, National Association for Black Veterans, Inc. (NABVETS).

Dr. Miller is a nationally certified veteran service officer and veteran advocate authorized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Ray has helped thousands of veterans and their families go from homelessness to either owning their own homes or have secured long term stable housing. As a National Veteran Service Officer, he has helped veterans and their families receive more than 2 billion dollars in benefits.
RETURNING COUNCIL MEMBERS

We have two returning council members as well. Naomi Marteeny, from Redmond, is our Young Adult representative on the council and Tricia Eyerly, from Yakima, is our Ex-officio from the Department of Services of the Blind.

WASILC’s NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rebekah (Bek) Moras grew up in Alaska (western Yupi’k and southcentral Dena’ina lands). She identifies as a survivor, has “hidden” disabilities, and a family member of people with disabilities. Bek uses she/they pronouns, has a PhD in Disability Studies, and has worked professionally with survivors of domestic violence/sexual assault with disabilities since 2002. She is excited to be involved in independent living, policy and systems change. Bek lives with their family in Olympia.

WASILC’s NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Rebecca Rodriguez joined WASILC in June 2022 with the desire to hit the ground running to support the WASILC mission. She brings professional administrative experience but also personal experience supporting people with disabilities. Her younger sister acquired an injury at birth and they have spent everyday since adapting, learning and having adventures. Being a lifelong Washingtonian, she can be found in the beautiful outdoors, on the water in her kayak with a “four-legged captain”, hiking or getting muddy in her Jeep.
CIEP Hosts Tabletop Exercise: Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake

On June 22, 2022 CIEP (Coalition of Inclusive Emergency Planning) held the first of its kind tabletop exercise: Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake. Led by Jim House, CIEP Disability Integration Manager. The purpose of this exercise was to facilitate the discussion between people with disabilities, emergency planners, and the people who advocate for them.

During this meeting several scenarios were discussed. It brought to light areas for improvement and with the wide variety of participants, ranging from Washington State cross disability stakeholders and representation from both local, state, and federal emergency management, this open dialog allowed for discussion on many topics including organizational capabilities, acquiring situational awareness, and operational communication and coordination.

A Fresh New Look, Same Great Work

In June 2022, Alliance of People with disAbilities made a name change and a fresh new logo.

“This new name reflects the important services they provide their community in an empowering setting that emphasizes choice and autonomy for people with disabilities.”

- Disability Empowerment Center (DEC)
Do you know your Acronyms in the Disability Community?

ACIL  Association of Centers for Independent Living
ADA   Americans with Disabilities Act
APRIL Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living
CART  Computer Assisted Real Time Transcription
CIEP  Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning
CILs  Center for Independent Living
DVR   Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
DRW   Disability Rights Washington
IL    Independent Living
NCIL  National Council of Independent Living
ODHH  Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing
SPIL  State Plan of Independent Living

Take A Guess!

DDA
DSB
CWDR
IDEA
DOH
WASILC

Visit our website to find answers and other resources.

Resource Library

Quarterly Meeting Schedule
Thursday, October 6th from 10a to 2:45p  Online via Zoom
All are welcome to attend. Join the zoom meeting from the WASILC website.
Tips for Accessible Virtual Meetings

Today’s world sees a lot of virtual and hybrid meetings. Below are some helpful tips.

1. Use the hand-raising tool if you can or voice that you would like to talk
2. Only one person has the floor at a time
3. Please speak slowly and clearly—this helps interpreters and captioners
4. Identify yourself before speaking - this is Rebecca
5. Stay muted until it is your turn to speak. Turning off your video helps if bandwidth become an issue. You may turn it on when you are speaking.
6. Avoid blocking the view of your face and mouth
7. If the interpreter freezes, stop all conversations until the technical issue can be addressed
8. If in doubt, ask what to do. Then, listen and follow the individual's recommendation
9. Not everyone can use the chat function, ensure there are multiple ways to communicate

New Nationwide Three-digit Dialing Code for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) has a new lifeline for anyone who is experiencing mental health-related distress. Dialing 988 code will connect people via call, text, or chat, to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Text messaging is allowed now to increasing access to services for youth and individuals with different abilities. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, and use relay services should dial their preferred relay services or 7-1-1 (for TTY) then ask the communications assistant to call 1-800-273-8255 [or simply text to 9-8-8].

Available 24/7, Confidential and Free
WASILC stands in solidarity with the Black Community and all Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. We fully support the Black Lives Matter movement and condemn systemic racism, oppression, and injustice. Achieving our mission requires us to educate and advocate for systemic changes for all people with disabilities, which includes the intersectionality of race and disability. We recommit to this vital work and will hold ourselves accountable to become better allies. We know we cannot elevate the disability community without elevating the BIPOC communities we serve.

TELL ME MORE ABOUT INDEPENDENT LIVING!

We promote the Independent Living (IL) Philosophy by empowering communities through advocacy, education, and collaboration. This philosophy emphasizes the idea people with disabilities are the best experts on their own needs, deserving of equal opportunity to decide how they live, work, and take part in their communities. Learn more.

ABOUT US

The Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC) is an eleven person, Governor appointed council that ensures Washington State delivers Independent Living (IL) services that are community based and consumer controlled for all disabilities. The primary purpose of WASILC is to monitor, review, evaluate, and maintain a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). For questions about WASILC and its mission please contact Rebekah Moras, Executive Director, at 564.669.1409 or email: rebekah.moras@dshs.wa.gov

The Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP), a program of WASILC, is a statewide disability advisory group that provides technical advice on physical and programmatic accesses and effective communication strategies. Questions about CIEP and its mission can be directed to Jim House, Disability Integration Manager at 360.339.7435 or email: jim.house@dshs.wa.gov.

For general information on upcoming meetings, events, and resources, visit us at: wasilc.org.