

2016 Texas State Independent Living Conference



*Presented by
The Texas State Independent Living Council*



Featured Innovate Speakers



Welcome

The 2016 Texas State Independent Living Conference, *Innovate*, focuses on how the Independent Living (IL) community can connect, collaborate, and create.

Working together we can accomplish great things and remove barriers to IL. While it is often a challenge to develop innovative solutions, the rewards for our community can have tremendous impact.

The *Innovate* conference will provide sessions that demonstrate a variety of ways to advocate and problem solve by collaborating with networks in your community. Other sessions will educate us about the rights of all Texans, highlight innovations in advocacy, identify inclusion needs, and develop solutions to meet those needs.

After the *Innovate* conference sessions end, attendees can take part in the *Exhibitor Interactive Network/ Demonstration Power Hour*. This is a great opportunity to get involved with exhibitors and the wonderful services offered.

The Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC) hopes you enjoy the many opportunities to connect, collaborate, and create innovative change in your community.

"Creativity is thinking up new things. Innovation is doing new things."

-Theodore Levitt



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#TXSILC
#TXSPIL
#TXSILCINNOVATE



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

CEUs

Are you seeking to earn Credit Education Units (CEUs) for professional development? If so, attend qualifying one-hour sessions, complete the surveys, and take them to the registration desk on Tuesday after sessions end for the day. For more information, go to the CEU desk anytime during the conference. **Note all sessions qualify for CEU credits.**

Sunday, April 3, 2016

2:30- 3:00 p.m. **Welcome and Introductions**
Shelly Gray, Emcee

Location: *Texas Ballroom, main stage*

3:00-5:00 p.m. **General Session 1: Discussion on Independent Living Needs in Texas**
Sandra Breitengross Bitter

Join us for an interactive discussion on the Independent Living needs in Texas. This session will give participants an opportunity to provide input on the next State Plan for Independent Living. This session is open to the public.

Location: *Texas Ballroom, main stage*

6:30-9:30 p.m. **Social Mixer**
Hosted by Cigna

This exciting event sets the tone for collaboration, creative connections, and fun in an energizing atmosphere with music, entertainment, and appetizers. Join us for a special feature of, Independent Living's Got Talent.

Location: *Texas Ballroom, main stage*



Monday, April 4, 2016

6:45-8:15 a.m. Networking Breakfast

Location: Texas Ballroom Foyer

8:30-8:55 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
Shelly Gray, Kitty Brietzke, and Regina Blye

8:55-9:55 a.m. General Session 2: *Paralyzed Veterans of America: Paving the Crossroads between Innovation and Independence*
Al Kovach and Sherman Gillums

Effective advocacy for persons with disabilities begins with programs that focus on self-empowerment and achieving tangible results. Paralyzed Veterans of America pursues these aims through a "holistic transition" approach to recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration for several veterans with disabilities. This approach can serve as a model for the broader community for individuals with disabilities.

Location: *Texas Ballroom, main stage*

9:55-10:15 a.m. Break and Exhibit demonstration signup

10:15-11:15 a.m. First Set of Breakout Sessions

10:15-11:15 a.m. Breakout 1: *The Transition of DARS Independent Living (IL) Services to Centers for Independent Living (CILs)*
Martha Bagley and Jonas Schwartz

This interactive session will provide you a brief update on the transition of IL services from DARS to CILs. It will also give you an opportunity to share ideas and service delivery strategies related to the delivery of IL services now provided by DARS for individuals with significant disabilities and older individuals who are blind or have low vision. Come



prepared to work together to develop ideas and approaches to service delivery and administrative strategies related to the delivery of Independent Living services such as; orientation, mobility training, purchases of hearing aids, and assistive technology.

Location: *Texas Ballroom A*

10:15-11:15 a.m.

Breakout 2: *The Power and Importance of Self-Advocacy*
Sha' Stephens

Self-Advocacy is a human and civil right. This movement began over 35 years ago with people with intellectual disabilities and reduces the isolation that people with disabilities often experience. Self-advocacy is widespread among all diverse groups of disabilities. Individuals need to embrace what self-advocacy is and take a seat at the table so that voices can be heard and issues can be discussed.

Location: *Texas Ballroom B & C*

10:15-11:15 a.m.

Breakout 3: *Political Power and the Disability Vote*
Molly Broadway and Bob Kafka

The Power of the Disability Vote: Molly and Bob will discuss the importance and power in mobilizing the disability community to vote. They will also review different accommodation tools for voting, and the importance of online voter registration in Texas.

Location: *Texas Ballroom D*

10:15-11:15 a.m.

Breakout 4: *On the Move: Meeting the Transition Needs of Individuals with Behavioral Health Conditions*
Dena Stoner, Natalie Maples, and Jessie Aric



Money Follows the Person (MFP) is a national demonstration whose goal is to move institutionalized persons with disabilities into home and community-based care. Americans with behavioral health conditions, such as severe mental illnesses, live much shorter lives than the general population. In this session, the outcomes of Texas MFP Behavioral Health Pilot will be discussed, which has helped people with behavioral health conditions successfully transition to the community.

Location: *Texas Ballroom E*

Monday, April 4, 2016 (cont.)

11:15-11:35 a.m. Break and Exhibit demonstration signup

11:35-2:15 p.m. **General Session 3: SILC Awards Luncheon**
Shelly Gray and Rodrick Robinson

Note: The first 30 minutes of this luncheon is dedicated to networking with speakers and sponsors.

Ability360 - Developing and Delivering Innovative and High Impact Programs and Services

Phil Pangrazio

Learn why and how Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL), now rebranded as Ability360, built the Disability Empowerment Center (now named Ability360 Center) and the Virginia G. Piper Sports & Fitness Center for Persons with Disabilities (now named Ability360 Sport & Fitness Center) to better achieve its mission. Phil will describe how Ability360 leveraged its Core IL programs and launched new and innovative programs to reach a diverse audience of people with disabilities.

My Journey to Walk Again

Marcela Turnage



Marcela will share her personal story, educate, and raise awareness about the latest exoskeleton technology that is helping people with Spinal Cord Injuries (SCI) walk again. Attendees will gain knowledge about the different exoskeleton devices in the market and learn about different adaptive sports.

Location: *Texas Ballroom, main stage*

2:15-2:30 p.m. Break and Exhibit demonstration signup

Monday, April 4, 2016

2:30-3:30 p.m. **Second Set of Breakout Sessions**

2:30-3:30 p.m. **Breakout 5: *Descriptive Audio in a Nutshell***
Carl Hyland

Carl will share the history, availability, and use of descriptive audio. Attendees will learn how and where to ask for descriptive audio as well as how to implement descriptive audio on various media platforms.

Location: *Texas Ballroom A*

2:30-3:30 p.m. **Breakout 6: *What do I need to know about the Client Assistance Program, CAP?***
Karen Stanfill

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) is a mandated, federally funded program through the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) that provides advocacy services to persons who want to receive or who are receiving independent living or vocational rehabilitation services. Attendees will learn the purpose of the CAP program, how CAP interfaces with independent living services, and its role in the changing environment of independent living services.

Location: *Texas Ballroom B & C*



Monday, April 4, 2016 (cont.)

2:30-3:30 p.m. **Breakout 7: *Texas ABLE Act - Opportunity and Independence***
Chris Masey

This presentation will provide an overview and current status of the historic ABLE Act (Achieving a Better Life Experience) and the recently passed Texas ABLE Act statute with a focus on how the Texas ABLE Act can be used by self-advocates and parents to build economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities.

Location: *Texas Ballroom D*

2:30-3:30 p.m. **Breakout 8: *Taking on Transportation: Innovative ways on Coordinating for Service***
Kari Banta, Perry Hunter, and Rob Stevens

Looking at the bigger picture of transportation in your region may help solve the problems at the individual consumer level. Though it can be hard to get the conversation started, partnering with local transit providers can open new options. Learn how two organizations manage coordination from both the CIL and transit provider perspectives as well as tips from TxDOT.

Location: *Texas Ballroom E*

3:30-3:45 p.m. Break and Exhibit demonstration signup

Monday, April 4, 2016 (cont.)

3:45-5:00 p.m. **General Session 4: *National Employment Strategies***
Michael Murray

Americans with disabilities lead thriving businesses, teach our children, and serve our Nation. We are



innovators and pioneers in the private and public sectors. The contributions of people with disabilities strengthen our economy and remind us that all Americans deserve the opportunity to participate fully in society. During this presentation, participants will examine various model employers of people with disabilities, explore powerful workforce practices, and strategize actions to build employers of choice for all.

Location: *Texas Ballroom, main stage*

Dinner on your own

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

8:30-9:00 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions**
Shelly Gray, Kitty Brietzke, and Regina Blye

9:00-10:00 a.m. **General Session 5: *Innovation in Dance Creates New Opportunities in Fitness and Health***
Joanne Fluke

JoAnne's passion for dance will open up your eyes and get your heart pumping as you learn how fun staying healthy can be. Through her passion, JoAnne hopes it will help you see your passion and how it can create innovation in fitness and health.

Location: *Texas Ballroom main stage*

10:00-10:25 a.m. Break and Exhibit demonstration signup

10:25-11:25 a.m. **Third Set of Breakout Sessions**

10:25-11:25 a.m. **Breakout 9: *The Benefits of Music and Memory for Independent Living***
Stephanie Hoffman

Stephanie will provide an overview of MUSIC and MEMORY and its mission to bring personalized



music into the lives of the elderly and those with disabilities through digital music technology.

Location: *Texas Ballroom A*

10:25-11:25 a.m.

Breakout 10: *Parents with Disabilities*
Shelly Gray

Shelly will discuss parenting as a single mother working full-time; and some challenges parents with disabilities face – both personal/emotional and legal.

Location: *Texas Ballroom B&C*

10:25-11:25 a.m.

Breakout 11: *Federal Disability Law Overview*

Martin Cirkiel and Kenneth Carden

Martin and Kenneth will provide an overview of federal disability laws, including the ADA, the FHA, the Rehabilitation Act, the IDEA, and how they affect families. Attendees will better understanding the rights of individuals with disabilities under the federal law.

Location: *Texas Ballroom D*

10:25-11:25 a.m.

Breakout 12: *Disability Entrepreneurism: Community Advocacy in a Business World*
Mack Marsh

The Parking Mobility program is a disability run product that addresses accessible parking abuse. Mack will discuss lessons learned in developing, selling and running the program, and insights into how a disability owned business is perceived by other businesses and local governments.

Location: *Texas Ballroom E*



11:50 a.m.-2:00 p.m. General Session 6: Networking Luncheon

Note: The first 30 minutes of this luncheon is dedicated to networking with speakers and sponsors.

Inclusion through Play: A Look at Ultra-Accessible Morgan's Wonderland General **Ron Morander**

Ron will provide an overview of Texas' only fully inclusive theme park. Attendees will learn about all aspects of Morgan's Wonderland rides, attractions, and programs as well as partnerships with our on campus special needs school, The Academy at Morgan's Wonderland, and CRIT USA. Also given is a sneak peek into Morgan's Inspiration Island; The First Ultra-Accessible Splash Pad Water Park

Over 65: The New Kids on the Block **Lex Frieden**

Not too many years ago when one thought about aging with a disability, the focus was on people who acquired disabilities early in life and grew older with those disabilities. Now, the focus is on people who are already older, more than likely retired, and who are acquiring disabilities as a result of the natural aging process. Within five years, it is estimated that half of all over-65 adults will have a disability. Like younger people with disabilities, nearly all seniors wish to “age in place” – live in their own homes and be active participants in their communities as long as possible.

Location: *Texas Ballroom, main stage*

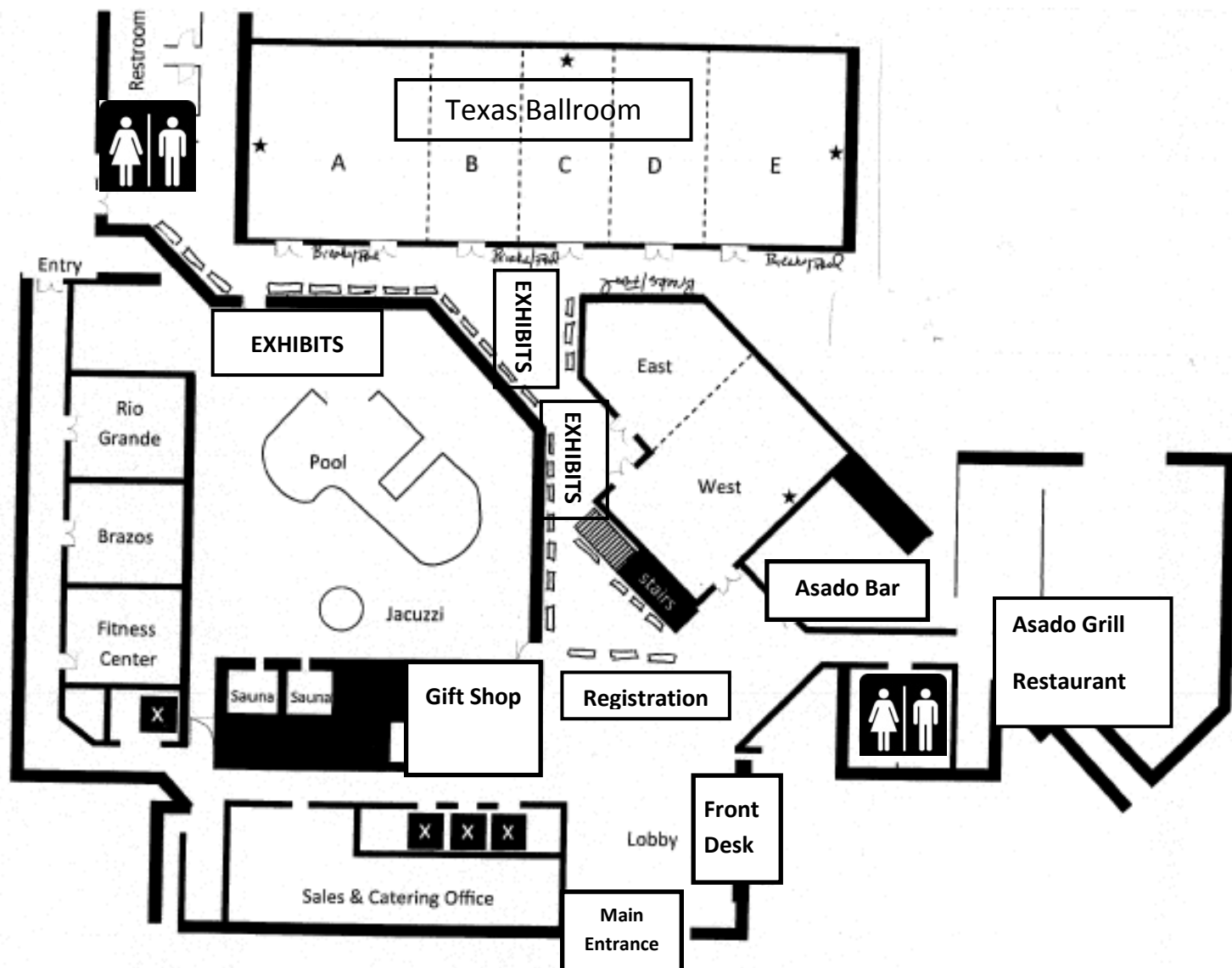
2:00- 3:00 p.m.

Exhibitor Interactive Network/ Demonstration Power Hour



HOTEL MAP

Conference sessions and exhibits are held on the first floor of the Hilton San Antonio Airport. Accessible restrooms are in the conference area and restaurant area on the other side of the hotel lobby. An ATM is located in the main lobby area. **All conference session are held in the Texas Ballroom.**



INDEPENDENT LIVING

The **Texas State Independent Council (SILC)** is a statewide non-profit entity comprised of nine voting members, and four Ex-Officio members who are appointed by the Governor. Unlike most organizations, the majority of the members must, by law, be individuals with disabilities and come from all regions of the state.

The Texas State Independent Council is charged with the following responsibilities:

- developing and monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the SPIL;
- systems advocacy;
- educating the public regarding disability-related topics; and
- technical assistance concerning the Independent Living philosophy and approach.

The **State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)** a detailed three-year plan that sets the parameters and establishes the goals for the provision of Independent Living services in Texas.



A **Center for Independent Living (CIL)** is a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private nonprofit organization that is for individuals with disabilities (regardless of age or income), and provides an array of Independent Living Services by individuals with disabilities. Texas has 27 CILs.

A CIL must provide the following five core services:

1. Information and Referral (I&R) services;
2. Independent Living skills training;
3. Peer counseling or support (including cross-disability);
4. Individual and systems advocacy; and
5. Services that
 - facilitate the transition of individuals with significant disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions to home and community-based residences with the requisite supports and services;
 - provide assistance to individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions so that the individuals may remain in the community; and
 - facilitate the transition of youth who are individuals with significant disabilities, who were eligible for IEPs under section 614(d) of IDEA, and who have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school, to postsecondary life.



MEMBERS



Texas State Independent Living Council



Jim Batchelor: Chairman – Cooper

Lynne Richardson: Vice-Chair – Austin

Karen Swearingen: Treasurer – Rowlett

Shannon Alexander: Secretary – Bryan

Paul S. Luther: Council Member – Georgetown

Jim Brocato: Council Member – Beaumont

Ralph Jones: Council Member – Harlingen

Mack Marsh: Council Member – Georgetown

Colton Reed: Council Member – New Braunfels

Wesley Yeager: Ex-Officio – Austin

Jonas Schwartz: Ex-Officio – Austin

Terri Richard: Ex-Officio – Austin

Martha Bagley: Ex-Officio – Austin



STAFF



Texas State Independent Living Council



Regina Blye: Executive Director

Craig Davis: Executive Assistant

Sandra Breitengross-Bitter: Project Analyst—SPIL

Brian White: Project Director

Nour Hammoudeh: Project Specialist, Conference Planner

Adriana Rojas: Financial Officer



LUNCHEONS



**Monday SILC Awards
Luncheon and Networking**

12:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

**Tuesday SILC Luncheon
and Networking**

11:50 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

CONSUMER OF THE YEAR

Awarded to

Tanya Winters

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

BY A SERVICE PROVIDER

Awarded to

Judith Laufer

EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Awarded to

Farhat Chishty



FEATURED SPEAKERS

Phil Pangrazio



Ability360 - Developing and Delivering Innovative and High Impact Programs and Services

Phil Pangrazio has been the President and CEO of the Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL), now renamed Ability360, since 2000. Ability360 is one of the largest Center's for Independent Living serving people with disabilities in the U.S. with a budget of \$38.5 Million. Pangrazio oversees a wide array of programs designed to empower people with disabilities to achieve or maintain independent lifestyles within the community.

Michael Murray



Employment - The Unfinished Business of the Americans with Disabilities Act

Michael Murray is the Chief Operating Officer at the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD). In this role, Michael supports all aspects of AAPD's mission to promote equal opportunity, economic power, independent living, and political participation for people with disabilities. Before joining AAPD, Michael served as the principal advisor to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), steering and designing the policies and programs of 56 Federal agencies throughout the country to implement the President's Executive Order on Increasing Federal Employment of Individuals with Disabilities.

Sherman Gillums



Paralyzed Veterans of America: Paving the Crossroads between Innovation and Independence

Sherman Gillums, Jr., executive director for Paralyzed Veterans of America, began his military career in the U.S. Marine Corps when he enlisted at the age of 17 and quickly ascended into leadership, retiring as a chief warrant officer. During his career, he served in numerous assignments, including a tour as a Parris Island drill instructor, Program Officer for Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton's Close Combat Program, and Director of the Combat Visual Information Center.



FEATURED SPEAKERS CONTINUED

Al Kovach



Paralyzed Veterans of America: Paving the Crossroads between Innovation and Independence

Al Kovach, Jr., of Coronado, CA, was elected national president of Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) during its 69th Annual Convention held in May 2015, taking office with the other members of Paralyzed Veterans' Executive Committee July 1, 2015. A member of the elite U.S. Navy SEALs, Kovach broke his neck in a parachuting accident in 1991. Kovach has been a two-time winner of the LA Marathon, a participant of the 1996 Paralympic Games, and has completed a 3,700-mile transcontinental triathlon.

Joanne Fluke



Innovation in Dance Creates New Opportunities in Fitness and Health

JoAnne Fluke is an energetic, inclusive Zumba Instructor who loves giving the opportunity of the Latin Dance workout to everyone. She has been teaching Zumba since September 2011. Zumba has given her the opportunity to share her passion in Orlando, FL; Los Angeles, CA; and let's not forget Carrera, Italy. Some of the organizations she has taught for are Ms. Wheelchair America, Camp MITIOG, various Centers of Independent Living and The National Center of Physical Health Activity and Disabilities (NCHPAD).

Ron Morander



Inclusion through Play: A Look at Ultra-Accessible Morgan's Wonderland

Ron moved to San Antonio in June 2011, started at Morgan's Wonderland as a volunteer, joined the MW team in October 2011 and was promoted to General Manager in late November 2011. Prior to relocating, Ron's experience includes operating large indoor sports centers in Massachusetts, YMCA in Dallas, and residential rehab facility in New Hampshire.



Lex Frieden

Over 65: The New Kids on the Block



Lex Frieden [pronounced Freedon] is Professor of Biomedical Informatics and Rehabilitation at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). He also directs the Independent Living Research Utilization Program (ILRU) at TIRR Memorial Herman. ILRU is a research, training and technical assistance program on independent living for people

with disabilities and seniors. Frieden has served as chairperson of the National Council on Disability, president of Rehabilitation International, and chairperson of the American Association of People with Disabilities. He is recognized as one of the founders of the independent living movement by people with disabilities. He was instrumental in conceiving and drafting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

"Innovation is not a process but a state of mind. Therefore, it can't be learned but felt."

-Ivonne Kinser



SPEAKERS

Innovative speakers come from a variety of backgrounds. Many have disabilities or have family members with disabilities. They will share resources and contacts so that you can increase your independence or provide information to others.



Sandra Breitengross Bitter • Discussion on Independent Living Needs in Texas

Sandra Breitengross Bitter is the Project Analyst for the State Plan for Independent Living. Before joining Texas SILC in October 2012, she was a Legislative Director and Senior Policy Advisor for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from California Baptist University.



Regina Blye • Welcome

Regina Blye is the Executive Director of the Texas State Independent Living Council. Regina is a current Presidential appointee to the United States Access Board. Blye is a graduate of West Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication and the University of Texas, LBJ School where she received her Masters of Public Affairs through the Executive Masters of Public Leadership Program.



Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D. • Welcome

Dr. Brietzke began her formal college education at the age of thirty. She graduated from St. Mary's University School of Law in 1996. Today she is very proud to be the Chief Executive Officer of San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS), the only state and federally designated independent living center in San Antonio that assists persons with disabilities.





Martha Bagley • The Transition of DARS Independent Living Services to Centers for Independent Living

Martha Bagley of Austin is a program specialist for the Independent Living and Blind Children's Vocational Discover and Development programs at the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services. She is a former member of the Southwest Society on Aging and the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind. She received a Bachelor of Arts and Masters in Sociology from Florida State University.



Jonas Schwartz • ILS Updates

Jonas Schwartz is a native of Tipp City, Ohio and a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He holds a Master's degree from the University of North Texas-Denton in Rehabilitation Counseling. Jonas began his career in human services at a Center for Independent living as the Employment Specialist. In his current position he is the Program Specialist for Independent Living Services and other Initiatives for the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.



Sha' Stephens • The Power and Importance of Self-Advocacy

Sha' Burke-Stephens is the current Executive Director for the Arkansas Statewide Independent Living Council (AR SILC) located in Little Rock, Arkansas. She is a chartering member of the Little Rock Metro Branch of the National Association of University Women and is immediate past first Vice-President. Sha' serves as an adjunct professor teaching Master level courses at Webster University. Sha' serves on several boards and task force such as the NCIL Voting sub-committee and the NCIL Diversity sub-committee.





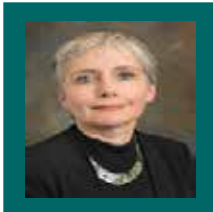
Molly Broadway • Political Power & the Disability Vote

Molly Broadway is a licensed Master Social Worker and received her Master's in Social Work in 2013 from Texas State University after an internship at DRTx working in their Policy Department. Her senior thesis evaluated the voting inaccessibility faced by the disability community. Her experience includes supervision, case management, and public speaking – all while working with a diverse client base ranging from ages 15-65.



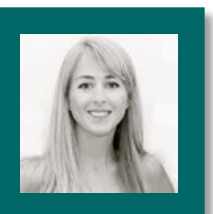
Bob Kafka • Political Power & the Disability Vote

Bob Kafka graduated from the University of Houston with a BA in Economics in 1974, and then went on to earn his M.Ed. in special education in 1977. Bob was also involved with Houston's Coalition for Barrier Free Living, CBFL, serving as Chair of the Architectural Barriers Committee and then as president in 1979. During his presidency of CBFL the group received the grant to start one of the first CILs in the country, Houston Center for Independent Living. In 1984, Bob co-founded ADAPT of TX and has served in the capacities of local, state and national organizer ever since.



Dena Stoner • On the Move: Meeting the transition needs of individuals with behavioral health conditions

Dena Stoner is currently Senior Policy Advisor for the Texas Department of State Health Services. She serves as Chair of the National Association of Mental Health Program Directors Medicaid and Finance Division and as an appointed member the National Academy of State Health Policy. Ms. Stoner has over 35 years of experience in public policy, management, strategic planning, program design, and implementation experience.



Jessie Aric • On the Move: Meeting the transition needs of individuals with behavioral health conditions

Jessie Aric performs consultative services and technical assistance under the direction of the Senior Policy Advisor for the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Assistant



Commissioner's Office for State Health Services. Her responsibilities include serving as the program manager for two federal demonstration projects: Texas' Money Follows the Person Behavioral Health pilot and CMS' Medicaid Incentives for the Prevention of Chronic Diseases (MICPD) pilot.



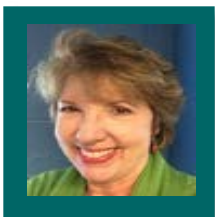
Natalie Maples • On the Move: Meeting the transition needs of individuals with behavioral health conditions

Natalie Maples, MA, LPA, Project Director, is a Faculty Specialist in the Department of Psychiatry and Principal Investigator on contracts with the Department of State Health Services, the Center for Health Care Services and the Friends for Psychiatric Research. Her area of concentration is on implementation of psychosocial treatments and liaising with community mental health clinics, government agencies, and insurance administrators.



Carl Hyland • Descriptive Audio in a Nutshell

Carl Hyland serves the Web Master at the Texas State Independent Living Council since 2013 and serves as a volunteer for many organizations. The Texas Leadership Conference has recognized Hyland for his abilities in computer science, business, and leadership for several years. Hyland received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Management Information Systems from Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas.



Karen Stanfill • What do I need to know about the Client Assistance Program, CAP?

Karen Stanfill is an advocate supervisor for the Client Assistance Program with Disability Rights Texas where she has worked for the past 16 years. Karen is a member of the National Rehabilitation Association and the Texas Rehabilitation Association. Karen has a Bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation and a second Major in Business. She is also a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor.





Chris Masey • Texas ABLE Act - Opportunity and Independence

Chris Masey is the Developmental Disability Policy Fellow at the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities. Chris recently obtained a Master's Degree in Business with a concentration on strategic planning and nonprofit management. Chris is the parent of a child with a disability and has been active with a variety of organizations that provide support and services to children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Kari Banta • Taking on Transportation: Innovative ways on Coordinating for Service

Kari Banta previously worked in transit planning for Louisiana and as a comprehensive planner for eight years before starting with the Texas Department of Transportation in 2014. Transportation options and accessibility issues have been her areas of interest since she grew up in rural New York. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2004 with a Master of Science in Community and Regional Planning and has called Austin home since 1997.



Perry Hunter • Taking on Transportation: Innovative ways on Coordinating for Service

Perry Hunter, is currently the President and CEO of Mounting Horizons Inc. He has spent 13 years as President/CEO directing its mission and overseeing the day to day operations. Mounting Horizons' mission is to provide services for people in need promoting independence, self-sufficiency, and advocating for the full inclusion in society. He also has more than 25 years of progressive experience in the nonprofit industry. He has overseen the start-up, survival, and growth of many facilities.



Rob Steven • Taking on Transportation: Innovative ways on Coordinating for Service

Rob Stevens brings 25 years of transit experience managing systems in San Angelo, Longview, and Midland Odessa, Texas. He currently manages the Midland Odessa Urban Transit District. Rob was appointed by the Lt. Governor to serve on the TXDOT Commission's Public Transportation

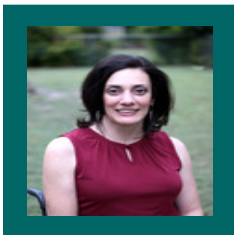


Advisory Committee (PTAC) in January 2012 and selected as PTAC Chair in May 2015.



Stephanie Hoffman • The Benefits of Music & Memory For Independent Living

Stephanie Hoffman is the former Director of AGE of Central Texas Adult Day Health Center where she pioneered person-centered care. Stephanie currently serves as VP of Education and Training for the Texas Culture Change Coalition and previously served as President of the Adult Day Health Care Association of Texas. Stephanie is inspired by those who think differently and believes that strong creative collaboration is key to positive change.



Shelly Gray • Emcee and Session Speaker: Parents with Disabilities

Shelly Gray was born and raised in Texas. She received her B.A. at Wesleyan University in CT in 1992, and her J.D./M.S.W. at Washington University in St. Louis in 2000. Shelly has been an employment lawyer for a State agency for over 10 years. Shelly has been living with Multiple Sclerosis since 1999, and used a wheelchair since 2008. She served as Ms. Wheelchair Texas in 2015. She has an awesome 9-year-old son, and a wonderful service dog.



Martin Cirkel • Federal Disability Law Overview

Martin Cirkel has a private practice and law firm that both provides general legal services and those especially related to serving the needs of persons with a disability and their family. They are skilled in the area of Guardianships, Small Estate Planning, Special Needs Trusts, Disability Related concerns (SSI and SSDI), and provide representation by Advocates and attorneys in cases where a person's rights have been violated pursuant to IDEA, Section 504 and the ADA.

**"Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower."
- Steve Jobs**





Kenneth Carden • Federal Disability Law Overview

Ken Carden, an attorney since 1975, is a retired Army infantry officer, a T-5 paraplegic, and uses a wheelchair. He is a successful trial lawyer with over 300 jury trials, licensed to practice of law before the Supreme Court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and all federal and state courts of Texas. He has a unique perspective on disability law and is a recognized expert in disability civil rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Rehabilitation Act.



Mack Marsh • Disability Entrepreneurism: Community Advocacy in a Business World

Mack Marsh currently serves as the Project Director of Access Empowerment, and is responsible for the daily operations of the Parking Mobility program to end accessible parking abuse. Before coming to Access Empowerment, Mack was the Executive Director of the Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living (TACIL). Prior to coming to Texas to lead TACIL, Mack was a life-long resident of Louisiana where he owned a successful wholesale company for 13 years.



Rodrick Robinson • Speaker and Exhibitor and Sponsor Ambassador

Rodrick Robinson is Founder and CEO of New Life Medical Equipment, headquartered in Dallas, TX. Rodrick has been recognized by several organizations and agencies for his continued participation and support of the community. He also served as the Chairman of the 2014 TRAN Conference, a previous TRAN Board Member, City of McKinney Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Board Member, and on the advisory board for Creative Financial Professionals.

"Why fit in when you were born to stand out?"

-Dr. Seuss



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During the Networking Luncheon on Monday, April 4th, Sponsors will be available at assigned table to meet with about their current projects and programs that help people achieve greater independence. Take the time to thank them for their contributions, which have allowed us to keep Innovate Conference prices lower!



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We like to thank our Volunteers: Linda Levine, Michael Milford, Amir Hammoudeh, Nora Ng, Amar Hajj-Ahmad, Devan Gartman, Zach Bice, Shelly Gray, Emily Allen, and Jay Davis for their dedication to conference planning.

We would also like to thank: Hilton San Antonio Airport staff, especially Paula Doris, Terri Epperson, and Teresa Valenzuela, in conference planning and making the event inclusive.

The Texas SILC Staff thanks Council Members Jim Batchelor and Karen Swearingen for their dedication for helping to plan several conferences, including the 2016 Texas Statewide Independent Living Conference *Innovate*.

We hope we have not forgotten anyone. We are thankful for all of you and your participation in making *Innovate* a great success!

**"If you ALWAYS DO what you ALWAYS DID, you will ALWAYS GET what you ALWAYS GOT."
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The Texas SILC thanks Hilton San Antonio Airport and Alamo Mobility for their assistance with accessible shuttles during the conference!





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My name is Dennis Goehring, and I have been a practicing dentist in Southwest Austin for over 18 years. I treat a large number of patients with cognitive disabilities, patients who are medically compromised, and patients with phobias. I use a variety of methods to treat patient populations, and my office and staff are equipped and trained to provide specialized care for patients. Many dentists and their staffs find it difficult or are uncomfortable treating some populations due to the patients' lack of cooperative behavior and cognitive ability. These issues in combination with the many health issues of some patient populations increase the risks associated with providing dental care. My goal is to inform you and other dentists and physicians in the area that I welcome referrals of such patients and hope you will consider my practice when referring.



The majority of patients with cognitive disabilities or phobias require IV sedation/deep sedation, which is a service available in my office. We are very efficient at providing the best dental care possible while maintaining a conservative approach focusing on disease control. This is a passion of mine and it is the way that I try to contribute to what is hopefully a betterment of our society.

If you ever need a second opinion or just another pair of eyes to review a case as it relates to dentistry, I would be happy to help in any way I can. In closing, I thank you for taking the time to read this letter and hope it finds you doing well. I also hope you would consider Goehring Dental for your referrals of patients with mental, physical, and medical challenges that are in need of dental care.





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Upcoming Accessible Transportation Project:

Are you interested in improving transportation in our State? Are you interested in learning more about transportation technology platforms, such as UBER and Lyft, that are accessible for Texans with disabilities? If so, the Texas State Independent Living Council is kicking off Transportation Works and is looking for individuals passionate about increasing accessible transportation in our great State to serve on the Project Advisory Committee.

Please contact Project Director Brian White at brian@txsilc.org or (512) 371-7353 if you are interested. Help build collaborative solutions and be an adviser on this innovative project.



2016 Texas State Independent Living Conference



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the word about
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