**Candidates Forum**

July 6, 2023

>> OPERATOR: Recording in progress.

>> JENNY SICHEL: Hello, everyone. We are going to give it about a minute or so. Let people kind of trickle in. And then we'll get started.

(Standing by)..

>> JENNY SICHEL: Okay. Let's get this show on the road.

And we will kind of get started with housekeeping. I know that we have a couple of our candidates who are running late today. So if they respect here when they are called, we'll call them up later on. Just giving everybody a heads-up on that to start with.

First off, I want to welcome everybody to the 2023 NCIL Candidates Forum. My name is Jenny Sichel. And I am the operation s director at NCIL or National Council on Independent Living.

The purpose of this forum is for all of the candidates who are running for NCIL Board positions to give a short statement on themselves and introduce themselves to you as we're in the middle of election s right now.

We probably will not have time for questions.

But you can email me any questions after the forum. And we'll do our best to get answers from the candidates.

Please note we will not be having a Q&A Section as part of this webinar.

To give you a brief description on myself my pronouns are she/her and I am a White female with brown hair that's pulled back into a bun. Blue eyes. And I'm wearing a light blue V neck shirt.

Captions are available on this webinar.

To access them, you can click show subtitle in your Zoom menu bar.

We also have captions running at AI media. While the URL is a little bit too long to read, my colleague Sylena has shared it in the caption box, although Sylena I think you only shared it to hosts and panel ist s, just giving you the heads-up on that and Trish I'm going to have you turn off your video for me.

Thanks. Okay.

So Sylena just shared the link for the captions with everyone. AI media will allow you to enlarge the font and change the color and contrast of the captioning.

We also have ASL, American Sign Language interpreters present today. And they should always be visible as we're presenting gallery view. Please let us know in the chat or raise your hand if you're calling in you can press star 9 to raise your hand if you cannot see the interpreters or the captions for some reason. And as I kind of just hint ed to, you do not need to be on Zoom video to access this webinar. We will read all slide content outloud so that everything will be available to individuals calling in on the phone or who cannot see visual content.

We do have public chat turned off to keep distraction s to a minimum and Brian Peter s is not seeing the interpreters. They should be spot lit, Brian. Let me just see.

Okay. We're going to hold on one second to make sure we can see captions or see -- okay, Derrick I'm going to remove spotlight and add spotlight to you again.

Anything, Brian? Why don't -- can you swipe left, Brian. To get a different view.

I just want to make sure everybody can see everyone and we have a couple of people running late anyways so we're good.

Okay.

Why don't I do this, I am going to take my camera off the screen so that only the interpreter is available.

Okay.

Okay.

So everybody should still be able to hear me. And -- oh, great. And Brian can see the interpreter.

So I'm going to continue on.

As Brian so lovely pointed out, the public chat, we want to reserve for technical support so that we are able to answer any questions as they come in immediately.

So if you do have any trouble seeing interpreters or CART, just let us know that in the chat.

And so also as mentioned at the start, today is a time to hear from the candidates running for positions on the NCIL Board.

And this forum is only used for the candidates to give a short Position Statement to the NCIL membership prior to members voting.

And we will not have a Q&A Section as part of this webinar.

So thank you, everyone. For joining us today at the Candidates Forum.

Later on next week we are going to have another webinar on NCIL 's advocacy and policy briefing.

And then later on we'll have one more webinar as part of our preconference Webinar Series that's going to be a more fun get to know each other sort of webinar that our Executive Director Theo Braddy will be putting on.

Okay.

I think I've been talking enough.

So we're going to move on to today 's agenda.

We already did the welcome and introductions.

We're going to review the open positions.

Review the nominations received.

Have candidates give short two -minute speeches each. And that's going to start with the President. Move on to the treasurer. Move on to member-at-large. And then onto region representatives.

We have Regions 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 that are going to be giving speeches today.

So to review the open positions for election this year.

We have the President is up for election.

And we have the treasurer.

We have four member-at-large positions.

Three of these positions will be a two -year position and one will be a one -year position.

And then we have representatives of Regions 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9.

And just make a note that only the members of the regions -- of regions of these regions basically if you're from the region, you can vote for your respective region.

So now we're going to review nominations received.

For President we received one nomination for Kent Crenshaw.

For treasurer we received one nomination for Jeremy Morris.

We received four nominations for the four member-at-large positions.

The nominations received are for Brittany Chisholm. Kendra Burgess, sue sgran zan in a G a m e s and will a Tricia S e y e. Susanna.

L a Tricia.

For Region 1 representative, we received nominations for Steve Higgins.

For Region 3 representative we received one nomination for Tom Olin.

For Region 5 Representative we received two nominations for Deborah Gleason and John Herring.

For Region 7 Representative we received one nomination for Shelly os good for Region 9 Representative we received one nomination for Lisa Hayes.

So now we are going to get into some candidate speeches. And it looks like we do have Kent Crenshaw on the panel ist side.

So Kent I'm going to give you about two to three minutes to introduce yourself and give a little bit of background on why you want to run for President again. Do you mind unmuting yourself, Kent?

You are still muted, if you are there.

And I do know Kent was running a little bit late so we may have to pop back to him again. If he is not at his computer right now.

So it looks like Kent may not be at his computer right now so we are going to move on to -- I'm just going to move back one slide here, there we go, Jeremy Morris will be joining us late so we're going to move on to the member-at-large positions.

I'm going to stop my screen share so we can see both our interpreter and speaker at the same time so first up we will have Brittany Chisholm come on on.

>> BRITTANY BOYD-CHISHOLM: Hello. All right. I said I didn't want to be first but this always works out how it's supposed to hi I'm Brittany Chisholm. I am the current administrator for complete home care.

I am currently the administrator in our P A market however I am expanding into Ohio and looking at some other potential states.

I have been in the home care space for about 20 years.

I describe myself as a laid back transparent individual.

I am informal but also at ease sitting at a table having uncomfortable conversations and telling policymakers what I have seen firsthand in the community due to lack of education and funding. My favorite place to be is in the community.

I started in the home care space as a caregiver.

I graduated from Bo tech as a C N A. And my first experience was in a facility.

I decided maybe a week into it, hated it. And that led me to find home care at the Center for Independent Living of Central Pennsylvania.

So from the ages of 18 to 30 I had the pleasure of working for Mr. Theo Braddy actually. I always say that he started my career. I grew up with Theo.

He likes to joke and tell people that he beat the I L movement into me.

Once I was I was at the -- I did caregiving, I was Office Manager, quality assurance. Through that time the home care program had closed down through the critical and Theo agreed to allow me -- through the C I L. Theo agreed to allow me to have an opportunity to see how home care looks and I went went to liberty resources and got to hang out and see what consumer choice looked like and we replicated that program at C I L -C P I have continued on and continued my home care career but my I L roots are still very deep.

What else can I tell you about me?

I enjoy using my platform in the home care space. I'm on the Board of Directors for the home care Association of Pennsylvania. To sit and meet with legislators about increasing access. Increasing P A S rates. About giving more focus to the home care crisis.

I know that there has been a little bit of process -- progress, excuse me, made. But there's still so much more work to be done.

I'm excited to be involved with such a long -standing organization such as NCIL.

And I'm honored to even be considered for a NCIL Board position.

So I'm ready to put in some work. I'm ready to learn.

I don't have all the answers.

But I'm ready to serve and do whatever is needed of me. I thank you guys. And I hope to see everyone at the conference. Feel free to come say hi. Look forward to it.

>> JENNY SICHEL: I'm on mute.

Thank you so much, Brittany. That was great.

So next up we are going to have Kendra Burgess, Kendra, are you on at all?

I know that Kendra was going to potentially join.

But I do not see her on the call.

So we'll continue moving on.

And let's have.

>> LATRICIA SEYE: Lat -- let's have Latricia S e y e, are you able to pop in?

>> LATRICIA SEYE: Good afternoon, everyone, my name is Latricia S e y e.

I am currently the Director of independent living at Access Living where I've been at Access Living for two and a half years in the City of Chicago.

Prior to coming to Access Living, I was the Assistant Director of fair housing and non-discrimination 's ADA department for the Chicago Housing Authority.

I would say that I am a strong advocate of equity as my mom joking ly told me she should have named me Justice and have been a part of the NCIL Board as a member-at-large for the past few months.

And I'm excited and honored to be a -- to be able to be a part of it because it gives me the opportunity to amplify the message of equal rights and opportunity for people with disabilities.

I also have a background, my major was in African American Studies, which goes along with a lot of the equity work that I do.

But this particular opportunity that I've had with NCIL gives me an opportunity to use my experience in housing and ADA 50 4 compliance. And expanding the conversation about the barriers that exist for people with disabilities. And promoting an inclusive independent living culture.

I'm kurng on the S E S A regional Advisory Committee. I'm a Committee Member. It's a law that's designed to enhance the -- enhance the response to behavioral health crisis across the State of Illinois by ensuring those experiences mental or behavioral health crisis are divert ed for hospitalization or incarceration whenever possible. And are instead linked with available appropriate community services.

I'm also an Advisory Board member for our area 2 1 1 metro Chicago.

So those calls go instead of just going to an information hotline, calls go to that number to be sent out throughout the City of Chicago for additional services, whether mental health services, shelters, additional things that are needed within our city.

So I'm a member of that particular Advisory Board. I look forward to the continued work with NCIL. And I just thank you for the opportunity.

>> JENNY SICHEL: Thank you so much, Trish.

So next up we actually are going to hear from Susanna G a m e z. Susanna was unable to join us for the call today but she did send me a short bio to read on the call so I'm going to do my best to do her justice.

Here is what she wrote me.

Hello and good afternoon, everyone. My name is Susanna G a m e z and I'm the Executive Director of resources for independence Central Valley in California. I am a Mexican-American, 45 -year-old woman with long black hair and light brown skin.

I am appreciative of the opportunity to continue to serve on the NCIL Board as one of the members-at-large for Region 9.

With a strong new leadership and NCIL staff, it's exciting to be part of the policy discussions and decisions that work to build equity amongst issues that are all too often highlight barriers -- that all too often highlight barriers, inequalities, injustice. Just to name a few. That unfortunately affect persons with disabilities and racially marginalized people.

Locally I sit on the Board for California foundation for independent living sector s, I am working together with aging services and I L services to come together in our counties to serve persons with disabilities in a collaborative and more equitable way.

By building capacity around mental health to serve consumers in partnership with local mental health services.

We have to work together to make an impact. And that is why I am super excited and anxious to get more involved in other NCIL communities where advocacy issues are taken on with the ultimate goal and that change continues where people with disabilities feel a sense of equality, inclusion, respect, value, and are simply not forgotten.

Thank you. And sincerely, Susanna G a m e z.

Okay. Great.

So I saw that Kent Crenshaw is back. So our President nominee, Kent Crenshaw, do you mind coming on with your camera, if you want, or just voice is fine, as well. Kent?

>> KENT CRENSHAW: It's telling me that my host will not let me -- not let my camera come on.

>> JENNY SICHEL: Try that.

>> KENT CRENSHAW: Okay.

>> JENNY SICHEL: Yeah.

>> KENT CRENSHAW: Okay.

Thank you, all. And I apologize. I was in transit and something with that in Zoom. But anyway my name is Kent Crenshaw. I am located here in Montgomery, Alabama. I'm the Executive Director of independent rights and resources. Also, I'm the Vice Chair of Alabama S I L C so I play a dual role when it comes in that capacity.

I have been on the NCIL Board I think probably for about at least 8 years. I started out as a regional rep. In Region 4.

And also I participated in a lot of other committees and S I L C committee s. I've been on the Board now during the time when NCIL really have strive ed and made a big transition from what I see the way that the organization used to do business.

During my tenure, which is -- this will be my second tenure on the Board, we have hired two Executive Director s in my tenure. And also we went through a strategic planning, which really reorganized the organization to be more efficient in what we're trying to do and what the Strategic Plan that we put forth.

And that you all either have or you have the opportunity to finalize that as members of NCIL.

But that plan, like I said, would definitely make us more efficient in some of the things things that we're trying to do in our operation s and procedures and other items like that.

Since I became President and the things that we've been through, we really feel like we have made a difference in the new direction of NCIL.

I'm very excited about having the opportunity to serve as President of the Board for the second term.

Because we do have a lot of very important issues.

One of the most exciting things that I think we're doing is the 5 for 5. Which is the initiative that will try to increase the funding for the centers.

And which is one of the major things that I think we need to accomplish.

And another thing is that we also we reorganizing our committees and subcommittees so that they can be more efficient in in what their goals are. So those are two of the big things that I think we're going to put forth.

And we're looking for more ways that we can really do things that will benefit the centers and also the S I L C s. Because we want to become an organization or the organization when it comes to all of the centers and SILCs go to for different benefits and different needs of those two entities so I'm going to continue to work in that direction.

If I'm given the opportunity which at this moment I don't think I have a candidate running against me so I'm open to any suggestions or anything that the members think NCIL really needs to focus on because that's what we're here for. And I'll continue to do that and also I think hiring the new Director and the staff that we have, it's really going to reflect the changes that you're going to see at NCIL during my time.

So that's my campaign speech and I hope you all have a rest of a good day.

Thank you, Jenny, for putting this on and giving everyone the opportunity.

>> JENNY SICHEL: Absolutely and thanks, Kent, for joining us. And for your speech.

Okay.

So while Kent turns off his camera and mutes himself and Kent let me know if you want me to do that for you. Beautiful.

We are going to continue moving on to our regional representatives.

So up first we have our Region 1 Representative nominee. And that is Steve Higgins. Steve, do you mind joining us?

>> STEVE HIGGINS: Good afternoon, everyone.

I'm Steve Higgins. I've met many of you over the years, which has been really exciting.

I've been involved with NCIL for many, many years. I was introduced to NCIL by our Former President Paul Spooner many years ago.

And over the past probably close to 20 years have served on multiple committees at NCIL. And during much of that time have served as Co-Chair of the ADA and civil rights committee.

Which we're actually in transition right now. And looking to bring on a new Co-Chair, which is very, very exciting.

I became involved in the Board about 6 years ago. I served first as a member-at-large. And was then elected as the region rep for Region 1.

And the past two years I have served and been elected by the other 9 region reps to serve as the region rep Chair on the Executive Committee at NCIL.

Outside of NCIL I'm the Executive Director at Independence Associates, which is an Independent Living Center that is located just Southeast of Boston, Massachusetts. And we basically serve an area out to the tip of Cape Cod and the islands and down to Rhode Island.

Currently I am appointed as the Chair of the Massachusetts state -wide Independent Living Council by our Governor and we're in the process of doing some of our recert stuff this year there.

In addition to that, I serve on the Board with our local Regional Transit Authority. And I'm an active member in emergency preparedness planning at both T E M A and M E M A which are the local and the state Emergency Management planning but in particular I work on focus around the accessibility portal in the event of an emergency at the Plymouth nuclear power plant.

So it's exciting to be part of NCIL and to have the opportunity to serve once again.

And I gladly look forward to being part of the Board, if that is everyone 's choice.

So thanks once again for allowing me to share with you guys for a few moments. And I'm going to pass it back to Jenny.

>> JENNY SICHEL: Thank you so much, Steve.

Nice to see you again.

And stay cool just down south of me.

For those of you who -- oops, hold on, I'm going to -- there we go.

For those of you that don't know, I am a -- well, I'm Jersey originally but live in Boston now.

So anyways, we are going to stip around just a touch. Because we do have Shelly Osgood on the line. And Shelly is our Region 7 Representative nominee.

So Shelly, I'm going to have you take yourself off mute and turn your camera on.

And Shelly actually has to run to a meeting soon. So that is why I am having her join us now.

>> SHELLY OSGOOD: Thank you and thank you to everyone I cut ahead of briefly here I apologize. My name is Shelly. I am an Employment Specialist at the whole person here in Kansas City a Center for Independent Living. I have a daughter that has autism. Which is kind of what got me working in this field. But I'm very new to working for a Center for Independent Living and new to NCIL.

But I've been doing employment work now for about 5 years. So I'm directly in the field. As most of you are probably familiar with employment services hybrid case management and direct support. So I'm here, there, everywhere. I'm over 4 counties here.

In Kansas City.

I also serve on the Board of Comprehensive mental health in Independence, Missouri I'm a Committee Member of northwest autism project. So I saw we didn't have anyone running I felt like we needed a regional representative for the Midwest. And so I am here and happy to serve if the Board sees fit.

>> JENNY SICHEL: Thank you so much, Shelly. And I am going to turn your camera off, as well. And also your spotlight.

>> SHELLY OSGOOD: Thank you.

>> JENNY SICHEL: Definitely. Okay. So we'll kind of keep moving in order outside of Shelly 's order.

But next up we are going to go to our Region 3 Representative nominee, Tom Olin. All you, Tom.

>> TOM OLIN: Hello. And hello to all of you. Now I'm on the other side of the camera.

(Chuckles).

>> TOM OLIN: I guess I've known a lot of you through my taking photos of the movement. And of the CIL s my name is Tom Olin I'm a White looking male. I'm an elder in our Disability Community.

I live in the neurodiverse world of dyslexia and dysgraphia.

I've been working CIL s since '8 5 started up a CIL in '8 5 on the West Coast.

And have been working in different CILs and lived actually at a CIL at times with my big road to freedom bus which is kind of interesting because now I'm here in Pennsylvania. A CIL called Road to Freedom. So I guess I'm meant to be here.

So I saw a lot of you during my tours of the United States. I've at least been to one CIL in every state there is.

But it would be exciting to be a rep. And get to see even more CILs that I probably have not seen.

But the work is the work.

And I'm kind of excited that we are -- I'm not excited that we're in the crisis mode right now. And I really do believe from everything that we're all talking about, I've never seen our community to be in such a mode of crisis in housing and in care workers. Atlantic services. And so that's something that -- attendant services. So that's something that we all really -- this is a time when we all need to be together and talk together a lot. I'm really glad to be involved in the 5 of 5 services.

Services are what we are all about.

I mean that is what really defines us.

We deliver more services that are comprehensive and holistic in the community and yet we're probably the best kept secret. And I don't want that to be a best kept secret.

So I'm really excited to work with April and excited that we're working with other A C R I L with state -mentioned action s.

The community really needs to come together.

Some of my favorite issues are guardian ship. Working -- trying to figure out where we are with the M C O s. And negotiate with them. Of course diversion. Transition is definitely up my alley. And that goes to our equity. And our diversity. Because those who are incarcerated, if you think of incarceration, 8 0 % of people in incarceration are people with disabilities. I mean we as a community we just must focus on that and realize that there are people that need our help.

So I'll see you at conference, all of you. And if not, in my region I'll be around hopefully. Hopefully I'll get to see a lot of you. Okay. Thank you.

>> JENNY SICHEL: Thanks, Tom. See you at the conference.

Okay. So next up we are going to move on to our two nominees from Region 5. We are going to do these in alphabetical order.

So we are going to have Deborah Gleason join us first.

>> DEBORAH GLEASON: Hello, everyone.

My name is Deborah Gleason she/her pronouns I am a slightly pink female with long red hair. I was outside a little too much today.

And I'm pretty excited to be here. Right now I currently run my own business called the information tame er. You may have seen her while I was off camera.

She uses data analytics and processes to move businesses to the next level.

So I do a lot of project management. Change management. Analytics. And then I play a lot of liaison roles in between your technology I.T. people. And the business.

And I've kind of touched almost every industry there is from retail to banking to service to nonprofits.

With a slight passion for nonprofits. So that's kind of where that comes from.

I've kind of self-titled myself as a disability advocate in training.

So I've been doing a lot of work to really educate myself.

I took a stint with a company to learn website accessibility and the WCAG for for 6 months which was intriguing and I make sure I take at least two classes a month either through I L R U or NCIL or the arc of Minnesota and a couple of other places that I've found that have really interesting courses.

I currently serve as the Secretary on the Minnesota State -wide Independent Living Council.

And I serve on two national subcommittees related to disability advocacy.

Kind of what I think I could bring to this is curiosity, first of all. I am extremely curious. I ask questions all the time. I want to learn all the time.

I have clients who have said I ask the questions that they didn't know need to be asked.

I also think that I'm a super logical person. Not saying that any of you aren't. But I'm just a logic -built person. And I have this uncanny ability, it's almost as if you know how someone can play piano by ear, I have the ability to see the path from where we're at to where we're trying to go and what all the steps in between are.

And I just -- it's just built into me. And I love systems. And And all of that kind of stuff.

And then a little bit about just me -me, I am an avid freak about crime drama. And medical mysteries. And all of that kind of thing.

And I really love to do puzzles. And math -related things of course.

I'm a PlayStation gamer. It's my secret vice that I'm a PlayStation gamer. And then I make it a goal almost every day to see if I can sing louder than my Bluetooth singer to hopefully the delight of my neighbors.

Super excited to be here.

Just for the experience if nothing else.

And it's so exciting to see all of your faces and how your backgrounds really fit in.

So thank you for your time. I really appreciate the opportunity.

>> JENNY SICHEL: Thank you so much, Deborah, for joining us.

And it's a not so secret gamer now. Because you just put it out there.

(Chuckles).

>> JENNY SICHEL: I'm just joking.

So we are going to continue moving on. And our next representative from Region 5 our next nominee is John Herring.

John, do you want to join us?

>> JOHN HERRING: Good afternoon, everyone.

My name is John Herring. And I am currently the Region 5 rep.

With NCIL.

My pronouns are he/him. I'm an Afro-American male with glasses.

Very, very short hair. And I am at home working from home today.

I am the Executive Director of N C I L which is the Illinois network of Centers for Independent Living.

It's a network of 2 2 other CILs within the State of Illinois.

I am based out of Springfield, Illinois, which is the capital of Illinois.

I am ending my first two -year term as the Region 5 rep.

And I am happy to say that I've enjoyed every minute of it. Both meeting people here within the region and meeting people throughout the I L community. Throughout the nation.

One of the tasks that he that we completed over the two years is we developed a Leadership Team. And that Leadership Team consists of individuals from each of the states in the region.

The purpose of that Leadership Team is both to go upward and downward.

And by that I mean that we are here to take things from NCIL to our states. And we are also here to take things from our states to NCIL.

So that that communication will continue to flow both ways. I would love to continue having started here in Region 5. I am locally I'm involved with the Housing Action Illinois. Board.

I'm on the forefront Board. I'm on three Governance Commission dealings with persons with disabilities.

And other minorities. And underserved groups.

I'm looking forward to continuing to assist NCIL. Helping them to reach and assist them in reaching the underserved Disability Community throughout the world actually.

And then reach out to those that are not even being served at this point by the I L community.

So I am looking forward for those who are here in this region to elect me again, I'm looking forward to moving forward in what we've already began a foundation on.

As far as NCIL I'm involved in the DE&I Committee. The annual conference committee. And I know this name has changed and I cannot think of the changed name but it was the HR Committee. So I am involved with NCIL in a big way.

Looking forward to meeting all of you. And seeing and talking to all of you at the conference later on this month.

And again I thank you Jenny for setting up this forum so that we can put our positions out there. Thank you.

>> JENNY SICHEL: Thank you so much John. And we are going to keep moving on.

So we already heard from Shelly, who is the nominee for Region 7.

So we are going to move on to Region 9. And the nominee for Region 9 is Lisa Hayes. So Lisa, I'm going to have you give me one second before you start speaking so I can spotlight you.

And go.

>> LISA HAYES: Thank you so much Jenny and hello NCIL family, I hope everyone is doing well today. My name is Lisa Hayes my pronouns are she/her I'm a White female with Auburn colored hair I am a wheelchair user. And I wear glasses.

Today I am wearing a very pink and black and white multi-colored dress. And if you look close enough at my lanyard it says Dodgers because I am the major Dodge er fan in California.

So -- and I hope I don't offend anybody by that.

But I wear that proudly.

I am really excited to have this opportunity to be one of your nominees for Region 9 rep. I am currently the Executive Director for Rolling Start, this is the Center for Independent Living that serves San Bernardino, Inyo and mony know Counties.

And in California. -- M o n o Counties in California.

And I would really love the opportunity to learn a little bit about all of the areas. There's a lot of areas in Region 9 that I would really love to learn more about and would love to meet each and every one of you that attends NCIL. It would be really cool.

I also serve as the Chair of our State Independent Living Council. My service as Chair will term out this September. So I am really excited about the potential and possibility of serving as the Region 9 rep.

I've actually been a part of NCIL for a really long time but kind of tried to stay on the D L.

My personal passion is healthcare.

And long-term supports and services.

I've served on the L T S S healthcare subcommittee for probably nine years.

And just learning more about that. Before I was the Executive Director for Rolling Start, I actually worked in the managed care industry for 23 years.

So I do know a little bit about managed care plans and the challenges that many of you have faced trying to contract with them. But it is something that I think -- I always say in a lot of our meetings that I know healthcare is not as sexy as some of the other things that we talk about as far as disability justice. But it's critically important, especially now. And I think I heard Tom Olin talk about how important it is to engage with managed care. And the importance of figuring out those relationships. And I do believe that they are critical in order -- as part of our future.

Something that CILs have been doing forever, long-term supports and services, long before somebody gave it a name.

And now that it has a name and it has recognition in home and community -based services, we absolutely need to be at the table in a lot of these conversations.

And anything I can do to further that along I definitely want to be there and help with that.

I do also serve as Co-Chair of the healthcare L T S S subcommittee for NCIL.

And why I think -- I hope you vote for me, I'm a collaborator. I'm a very passionate believer in disability justice.

Especially as it relates to healthcare, long-term supports and services, transition s. Getting people what they need to stay independent in the community.

That's about all I can tell you about myself.

If you have any questions, obviously send them to Jenny and we would love -- I would love to answer. Just thank you so much for your time. So can you tell I'm nervous Jenny I'm sorry.

>> JENNY SICHEL: I actually could not at all until you said that then I was like oh it all made sense so you did fantastic, Lisa. It was awesome.

Good to go.

(Chuckles).

>> LISA HAYES: Thank you.

>> JENNY SICHEL: Thank you so much.

I'm going to have you turn off -- oh, you got it. Pro.

Okay.

So I do not see any of our other candidates on the line just yet. But we do have our current new -- I don't even know if new is still a term you could call Theo by but our Executive Director Theo Braddy who is going to say a few words. Theo, can you join us, please?

>> THEO BRADDY: Unmute me Jenny.

>> JENNY SICHEL: You're unmuted and I just asked you to start the video.

>> THEO BRADDY: You invite me and then block me.

>> JENNY SICHEL: Story of my life.

>> THEO BRADDY: That's all right. Thank you, general. -- thank you, Jenny. Just wanted to say a couple of words here I was looking at the list I asked Jenny for here to see if I knew everybody. And I think I do, if anyone here -- I'm not sure about Shelly Osgood. Did I meet you, Shelly?

>> JENNY SICHEL: So Shelly actually had to hop off.

>> THEO BRADDY: Okay, got you.

>> JENNY SICHEL: But I am happy to send more info on Shelly.

>> THEO BRADDY: No, it's okay. I just wanted to make sure I had an opportunity I'm trying to meet everybody. That's why I wanted to check and make sure. Thank you, all, again, for running for these positions and and I say this often and I'll say it to you all again. There are so many different organizations and Boards and agencies that are out there doing good work. I am so happy that you all decided to be a part of what NCIL was doing. You could do all of these other things but you are deciding I want to be a part of the National Council on Independent Living. I don't take that for granted. Jenny don't take that for granted. The Board of Directors don't take that for granted, I know I saw Kent on here earlier. He's still here.

We don't take that for granted.

We appreciate the fact that you all are the same I want to be of service to National Council on Independent Living. I like what they are doing. I like their mission. And I want to be a part of that.

So I am confident that you all will be a part of what we're doing.

And I'm looking forward to working with you to get to know you better.

Some of you all all don't know me very well yet. But some of you do. Brittany, how are you doing, Brittany. I missed her little comments. She's somebody I nominated. So she is a young person and I know she brings a lot of energy to what we're doing here at NCIL.

And I'm looking for all of you all. Continue to be a part of what we're doing.

We're doing some exciting stuff. Right?

Only this week I've been to the White House twice working on some different things. On Friday I'm going there working on the air access act in regard to the things that we're trying to improve to ensure that we can fly an airplane and not lose our chairs.

So hopefully we'll be able to work on that and get some other stuff. But there's a lot of other stuff we're doing. And I'm so glad, again, that you all are a part of that. So welcome. And as these election s unfold, you will be seeing a lot more of me and talking to me and the staff a lot more as well as the Board of Directors. Again, thank you.

>> JENNY SICHEL: Thank you, Theo. And well said.

I have to say that because you're my boss. No, I'm just kidding.

Okay. So thank you, everyone, for joining us, I don't think anybody else has popped on. So we are going to wrap it up. Please make sure that you go on to the member -- log into your member portal and vote, vote, vote.

That's all I got.

And have a great day, everyone, thanks. Bye.