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JENNY SICHEL:
Hello everyone. We are going to give this a second or two to let everybody in and then we will get started.

OK, great. Let's get going. We do have a pretty full docket today. So I am going to start by introducing myself. I am Jenny Sichel and I am the operations director with the national Council on independent living. I want to welcome you all to the first of our preconference webinars, are candidates for him.

The purpose of this forum is for all of our candidates running for the NCIL positions to give it statement on themselves and their reasons for running. There will not be time for questions during this you can email questions afterwards to my email, which is Jenny@ncil.org.

Giving you a brief on myself, I use she/her pronouns, I am a white female curly brown hair pulled back into a bun. Captions are available for this webinar. You can click show subtitle in your resume menubar to turn them on. We also have captions running at a Ai-Media and if you have not seen that link in the chat we will post it again to the chat if you need it.

ASL interpreters are available today. You should be able to see them at all times. If you cannot see them, please let me know as soon as possible in the chat, which will go directly to hosts and panelists only. You do not need to be on zoom video to access the webinar. We will read all of the slide content out loud. Public chat is turned off. You will be able to as I mentioned before, send chat messages to hosts and panelists. We ask you reserve this for technical issues and not necessarily any questions for our candidates.

So I just want to kind of wrap that part up and say thank you to everyone for joining us. And go over a little bit of the agenda. We are going to do our welcome and introductions. We are going to review the open positions. We are going to review the nominations received and go to the candidates and hear a little bit from them.

As soon as I get my computer to work for meâ€¦ Open positions. The open positions for this year's election are Vice President, Board Secretary, diversity equity accessibility and inclusion share or DEAI chair, three member at large positions, a youth member at large and representatives of regions two, four, six, eight and 10. Just as a note, only the members of these regions can vote in the election for their respective regions.

Now to go over some of the nominations received. For vice president, we received the nomination for Jeff Hughes. For Secretary, nominated was John Herring. For DEAI chair we have Vicki Landers. For members at large, remember there are three of these you can vote for, we received Jason Beloungy, Thomas Earle, Lillian Harrison and Amy Tweedle. For youth member at large you can vote for one of these. We have Andrew Brown and Michael Evola.

For region two representative we kept Aaron buyer who is unfortunately able to be here today. He had something sudden come up at work. We have region for representative Edward Mitchell, region six representative Greg Colvin, region eight representative and you can vote for one of these, we have Tami Hoar and Scott Lindbloom. And for region 10 representative we have Kimberly Meck.

We are going to go and that sort of similar speaking order to what I just announced with Jeff Hughes first, John Herring, Vicki Landers, our member at large, youth members at large, and then our regional representatives.

Messed that one up. Let's get started with the candidates. Enough for me. I am going to call up Jeff Hughs. Jeff, can you kind of turn on your camera here, give me a second at a spotlight, and the floor is yours.

JEFF HUGHES:
â€¦

THOMAS EARLE:
Are you controlling the camera or do we control it?

JENNY SICHEL:
You are controlling it.

THOMAS EARLE:
Minus not letting me turn it on. I cannot control my video. Wait, hold on.

JENNY SICHEL:
It is on now.

THOMAS EARLE:
OK thank you.

JENNY SICHEL:
Can I have you turn it off so you do not appear on the recording? Great, Jeff you are a.

JEFF HUGHES:
Thank you, I am happy to give Mr Earl the floor anytime. I am Jeff Hughes, I am the director of progressive independence in Oklahoma City. I have been here for 24 years. I have been engaged with the NCIL board committees, I think probably for about 20 years. And am excited to run again this term for vice president. I feel like we have come a long way. From where we were at just two or three or four years ago. I am very proud of everybody, doing such tremendous amazing hard work, looking forward to the conference, if you were there last year you remember how hard everybody worked to pull off such a wonderful conference, looking forward to that again.

As far as items and areas of concern, obviouslyâ€¦ Roles with subcommittees, most of them around funding for centers, reauthorization for centers. I'm hopeful that we can really get engaged over the next couple of years with Congress to increase appropriations, clearly that is one of the challenges that we have.

And although that we may not see a reauthorization of the rehab act, in particular this time around, it is so important, so vital to be engaged around the language, the efforts that are put in two centers for independent living, but are our regulatory challenges that we continue to experience as we move forward we have also heard a lot of concern around monitoring and reviews. We want to be sure to pay attention to all of those areas.

That is why I am running again. After these two years, we will see what happens. But I would jump in one more time and support our organization and our staff again. So I appreciate the opportunity to fill this seat again. Thank you very much. Looking forward to seeing everybody. Back to you Jenny.

JENNY SICHEL:
Thank you Jeff. Next up we have our nominee for secretary, John Herring. John if you could come on camera, give me one second to spotlight you.

JOHN HERRING:
Hi Jenny, my name is John Herring. My pronouns are he and him. I am a black male with a bald head, wearing glasses. Sitting in the office. I am the executive director of the network of centers for independent living. I have been involved with the independent living movement almost 5 years now. In those five year time I have served as regional rep for region 54 2 1/2 years. Just recently about three months ago I was asked to fill a vacancy until the time of secretary. I believe I have done that well. I am running for the title, rightfully so. I believe and think that we have great executive director and executive committee. And it just looking forward to serving at least two more years on the board in the position as secretary of the board. I appreciate your vote. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the conference. Thank you.

JENNY SICHEL:
Thank you so much John. Next up we have our candidate for DEAI chair, Vicki Landers. Vicki, can you come on camera please and let me spotlight. Beautiful, the floor is yours.

VICKI LANDERS:
Hi everyone. My name is Vicki Landers, I use she/they pronounce. I am a white person with purple glasses and purple hair. I am very excited to take on the journey of DE IA chair. It is something I am very passionate about. Something I have been doing, I believe in all of my work across the board for many, many years. I think that it is super important as we are looking, as NCIL is looking forward we are looking at everybody in our community and what all of those intersections look like.

I am the founder and director of disability pride Pennsylvania, an organization that believes that bringing people together makes better connections, and that those connections make stronger advocates. And push for a stronger voice. We do this through fun and engaging community events. I have a personal relationship with liberty resources in my area about 13 years ago they saved my life. And I have been a huge supporter of the CILs ever since. I look forward to diving into the work. And seeing how I can help move us forward. Thank you.

JENNY SICHEL:
Thank you Vicki. We will keep this moving with our members at large. In alphabetical order of last name. Jason Beloungy, can you come on down. The floor is yours.

JASON BELOUNGY:
Alright, thank you Jenny. Thank you to all NCIL staff. My name is Jason Beloungy, my pronouns are he and him. For a brief visual description I am a white man with short brown and gray hair wearing a blue shirt and sitting in my office.

First I want to thank NCIL for the opportunity to share a bit about myself, about my experience and why and I am running for another term on NCIL board as a member at large. First, I'm a person with lived experience of mental health and substance use disabilities. When I joined this movement 20 years ago as an independent living specialist in a rural branch office, I was in complete denial about my own disabilities despite years of struggle with getting an education and keeping a job.

It was through my own independent living journey which included peer support from my colleagues with disabilities, that I began to accept and embrace my disabilities. I know many of you have your own stories about joining this movement, and that is one of the amazing things about this movement. That is part of why I have been honored to serve on NCIL board the last two years and I hope you will elect me for another term.

As mentioned, 2024 marks 20 years since I joined the Independent living movement. Currently, I'm proud to serve as executive director of Access to Independence Center in Madison Wisconsin. Additionally I am finishing my fifth year as the board chair for the Wisconsin coalition of independent living centers. I have also recently finished serving as a center rep for the Wisconsin statewide Independent living Council.

And I have three primary reasons for seeking another term, for an at-large position on the insight IL board. The first is the results. That I am able to achieve and be a part of. I was elected to the NCIL board in 2020 US Secretary. In just my first year through the role of operational committeeâ€¦ To update its bylaws, personnel policies and was tasked by the NCIL board president to lead a task force to successfully develop new initiative statement.

BETH SHAW:
Mission statement. As I completed my first year on the board in that role I was asked by the NCIL board president to lead a new CIL capacity buildingâ€¦ (indiscernible) that required me to take on a new role on the board as a member at large.

In just that first year in that role, I have been able to support NCIL's policy director and advocacy committee members on our 545 efforts including new opportunities for centers through the older Americans act. As we look ahead to a future reauthorization of the rehab act, I would love to be able to use my knowledge and experience to improve the act and ensure more resources are allocated in a more equitable manner. I'm a former policy analyst for NCIL, I'm a current Co-Chair for statewide advocate committee in Wisconsin, and I'm cochair of NCIL advocacy committee along with the vice president. In that role of cochair of the advocacy and public policy committee, I've been able to support NCIL's advocacy and legislative priorities. Another reason I'm seeking another term is diversity, equity, excess ability, and inclusion. And Intersectionality as well.

I believe these need to remain a focus of NCIL, and at the center of everything we do including capacity building and advocacy. At my center here in Madison we spent considerable resources working with the local racial equity organization to develop and implement our own racial equity roadmap. As chair of our state coalition effort with our centers to engage in this work as well, I really believe the DEAI must continue to be a priority within NCIL, and NCIL should also be reporting and empoweringâ€¦ With that I think you for your vote and the ability to serve these last two years.

JENNY SICHEL:
Thank you so much Jason! Next up we have Thomas Earle give me one second Tom, I'm just going to spotlight you. Go ahead Tom.

THOMAS EARLE:
Good afternoon everyone, and thank you Jenny for the introduction. My name is Thomas Earle, I go by the pronouns of he/him, I am legally blind, and have mental health, behavioral health challenges. I am Mexican American dissent, with a dark complexion, and I'm wearing what I think is a blue polo shirt.

It is wonderful to meet with all of you today, and I think you for the opportunity to explain my background and commitment to the independent living movement. I've been involved with disability rights advocacy and activism, since 1992, or 32 years now. And have been involved with NCIL for the set past several years and most recently as a current member at large. I've also worked with the state independent of and counsel in Pennsylvania and served on the council for three terms. I am currently the treasurer of the pencil Vena Council on independent living which is a state wide Association of centers for independent living in Pennsylvania. I'm a licensed attorney and was involved in disability rights cases through the 1990s up through, most currently, involving title II litigation employment is termination under title I, and transportation cases under title II, accommodation cases under title III.

Filed one of the first cases involving text to voice Annunciation in ATM machines, Suzanne Waters national Federation of the blind versus (unknown name) bank. Also involved in voter rights, with similar technology challenges and polling place access, and making sure that voting machines have text to voice output for voters who are blind, visually impaired, or cognitively impaired.

Also involved with a lot of transportation advocacy and litigation, fixed route services, power transit, federal fair housing, cases involving people with disabilities, and have worked in a coalition approach, most recently in Pennsylvania, and specifically Philadelphia, to advance the increased development of accessible and affordable housing for people with disability.

Liberty resources is a large center, but very challenged, with the reality that we serve consumers in one of the poorest cities in the country. The vast majority of our consumers are low income people of color, with disabilities who are Medicaid and Medicare eligible, and we have fought hard to rebalance long-term care away from the institution bias in Pennsylvania. We were one of the worst states in the country in the early 90s, and we pride ourselves on the progress that we've made towards rebalancing long-term care towards a true community integration model consistent with homestead and (unknown term) decision.

Going forward, I believe in Intersectionality, and coalition building. An example of Intersectionality, on the advocacy front, is the unnecessary institutionalization of people with disabilities and nursing homes due to abusive guardianship determination. I've worked a lot on that issue in the last couple years, and have also worked on a lot of housing work housing trust funds, at the state level, and at the city level in Philadelphia.

Going forward, I seek your support in reelection to my position as a member at large and seek to build continued unity and focus for NCIL as we move forward to advance independent living and community integration consistent with the 25th anniversary of the Homestead decision. And trying to build unity both internally within organizations like NCIL and with external community partners were strategically advances our independent living commitment and mission.

So thank you very much for considering me, and I hope to have your vote.

JENNY SICHEL:
Thank you so much Tom, and I'm going to have you turn off your camera and meet yourself as well when you are able to.

And I just want to remind our attendees that we are not doing questions during this call, for any of the candidates, however you can email me with any questions at jenny@ncil.org.

We will put that to chat. If you do have any trouble shooting questions put them in the chat directed us and we will answer them as soon as possible. If you're not able to put them in the chat, feel free to email me the questions, and we will answer some raised hands as well if that is a troubleshooting question.

So, TInk I do see your hand is raised, you have a troubleshooting question? Am going to allow you to talk right now. You just unmute yourself if you do have a troubleshooting question.

You're still muted, I don't know if you're trying to speak, but we can also come back to you in a little bit. OK. We will come back to you in a little bit Tink if you do have a question.

So to can you moving on with our candidate forum, we have Lillian, oh, OK. Tink just put in the chat to us.

We have Lillian Harrison up next for a member at large position. Lillian do you want to come on camera? Great, you're right there, I love it. And you're good to go Lillian!

LILLIAN HARRISON:
Hi! My name is Lillian Harrison, I am an African-American woman, today I have big hair, and I am wearing a black shirt. My pronouns are she and her, and I am excited to meet everyone and ask for your support. I am currently the Executive Director for independent resources Inc., which is the largest center for independent living in Delaware. I have been with independent resources since 2014, I started out with them as, actually, a business coach for the launch based program which works with and assists individuals, entrepreneurs, with disabilities in starting creating and maintaining a business.

I have risen through IRI and at one particular point I was the president of our Board of Directors. So I still am very active, personal experiences, I didn't until recently, identify with the person with a disability. A physical disability.

I have been in the housing arena for, gosh, I guess I've been in the housing arena for over 15 years, so as far as my passions and what I do as ED, obviously as the largest CIL we operate several different programs across the state, but my involvement for advocacy for individuals with disabilities revolves around my passion for independent living, and to that end I have been appointed to the Governor's Council, the State Council for persons with disabilities, the governors state rehabilitation Council, and my passion continues with independent living around housing, and affordable housing especially. So to that end, and involving, obviously, our CIL, I'm also on housing alliance Delaware's continuing care Board, the Governor's council for housing as well, I am the chair for Sussex County's affordableâ€¦ Sussex economic developing committee and I the housing chair.

My own nonprofits, in addition to independent resources, focuses on individuals that are incarcerated, so now we are incorporating independent living and services for individuals with disabilities that are incarcerated. And I continuing my passion, or bringing into my passion for independent living, the housing arena as I do sit and operate on that on several boards, but as a realtor.

Also, as a developer and investor. We are currently developing 26â€¦ Well, no. 50 units of housing, 30 rental and 20 CIL houses in which a percentage of those will be designated for individuals with disabilities and also for those aging in place, and we are incorporating our partnerships, of course, with Delaware State University to bring in not just accessibility but assistive technology. So I huge on technology and incorporating that into the independent living arena for our consumers.

We are also working with (unknown term) and DVR as well to bring them into this arena in regards to aging in place and individual disabilities in the afford a housing arena. I'm excited about being a part of the national Council, one, it brings additional voices, I think I can be event of the -- I think I can be of benefit on the national level, as well as lived experiences in regards of working with individuals, with regards to being one. And certainly in the arena of housing, and as it is a national crisis for us, and especially for those that have challenges, I think we can do some innovative things around, again, not just accessibility, but assistive technology in the housing arena. And my work with affordability, I think, lends itself very well to what I hoping I can achieve and do on a national level, not just the local level.

And I think that's a little bit about me.

JENNY SICHEL:
Thank you so much Lillian.

LILLIAN HARRISON:
Thank you.

JENNY SICHEL:
So next up we have our last member at large candidate, so we have Amy Tweedle. Amy give me one second, once you turn in your camera. And you are Amy.

AMY TWEEDLE:
Thank you Jenny and thank you everyone. Hello! My name is Amy Tweedle. My pronouns are she/her, I am a white woman, I've got black hair pulled back in a headband, and a navy blue shirt on with a beige sweater.

I live in hot Springs Arkansas, I currently the coexecutive director at spot area independent living services are CIL here in hot Springs.

I have actually worked at this CAL since I was 19 years old, so for 18 years, and I've been involved with the independent living movement for as long as I can remember. I a person with mental health disabilities, I also a psychiatric survivor, my â€“ I currently serve on the NCIL board as a member at large and it's been such a great honor. I've learned so much, and I really hope to continue to learn more and work more with NCIL. Here at (unknown term) I started out as a receptionist and I've held every position we've had here. I have created programs, one of which I'm very proud of, and passionate about, is her health and wellness program.

I'm also certified health and wellness coach. We have also created a program for on house individuals with disabilities that we are so grateful to be able to offer here. We are able to meet some immediate needs such as accessible showers, individuals can come in and do laundry. And sort of meet those very immediate needs while we are working with them on their goals. Whether that be housing, employment, whatever that may be.

I am very passionate about working with the on housed individuals with disabilities and I really look forward to continuing my work with the NCIL board. I'm just so honored to be here with all of you. Thank you so much for giving me some space and time to tell you a little bit about myself.

JENNY SICHEL:
Thank you Amy. Now we're going to move on to the youth member at large position. You can vote for one of these candidates. First up by alphabetical last name order we have Andrew Brown. Andrew could you turn on your camera please? And I am going to pin you and then the floor is yours.

ANDREW BROWN:
Thank you for introducing me. My name is Andrew Brown. I currently live in the great state of Massachusetts where I serve on the Massachusetts Independent living Council. Alongside the Board of Directors at the independent living centerâ€¦ Massachusettsâ€¦ Where I currently sit as the board treasurer. At NCIL I am on the civil rights subcommittee and the region one leadership committee.

I have been an NCIL member since 2018. I have grown a lot with NCIL since I joined. Doing things from position papers with the ADA civil rights subcommittee and the region one leadership committeeâ€¦ I see myself to be fit for this position because I have done a lot of work on multiple different levels of advocacy. And I'm very passionate to be able to grow as a member at NCIL in the future because I feel like as a youth I have a lot more to offer to the board because I have self advocated for myself in many different capacities throughout my life.

Is one thing that I had to advocate for when I was much younger was the high school that I attended decided to not not longer allow me to take the special ed advantage school (?) because they thought, why would we want to pay for somebody who would really not benefit to beâ€¦ They thought it would be a smart idea to put me on the regular school bus. And my advocacy team, besides myself, thought it would be a very bad idea to decide to put me on the regular bus because of my disability and the trauma I had faced throughout my schooling. And that was part of the reason why I was on the van because I was prone to bullying and I had very bad anxiety.

So that is pretty much me in a nutshell. If anybody has any questions reach out to Jenny.

JENNY SICHEL:
Thank you so much Andrew. And I'm going to have you turn off your camera and meet yourself. Next up we have our second youth member at large, candidate, Michael Evola. I'm going to spotlight you and you are good to go.

MICHAEL EVOLA:
Hi, good afternoon everyone. My name is Michael Evola I am 26 years old and from the small town of Waxhaw North Carolina. I appreciate the opportunities to speak to all of you today and introduce myself to the NCIL membership. A little about myself, I am a committed community leader and passionate public servant. My service record includes working for and volunteering with local state government, nonprofit organizations. As one of the youngest appointed public officials throughout North Carolina I have served in roles that require strategic planning, advisement, community engagement, public policy and leadership skills.

I serve as a Governor appointed councilmember on the North Carolina Council for the deaf and hard of hearing and the North Carolina statewide Independent living Council. On these councils I advocate for the rights of an improvement of existing or creating new services for people with disabilities. I advanced the elimination of societal barriers, promote equity and inclusion and ensure North Carolina is accessible to people of all abilities.

I have served the people of my community, representing my generation will also simultaneously helping improve the community for all residents. Therefore I feel obligated to be in the room as an advocate and take what actions I can today to be a positive force for planned progress in my community for tomorrow. I want everyone in our community to have the opportunity not just to survive, but to thrive. And if we as a survivor -- society are precipitous will in laminating barriers integrating a more accessible world than people with disabilities can live as independently as those without.

If elected I would strive to do this, advocate for and provide my generation with experienced leadership and representation to ensure that these ideals are met. I may be a new member of the NCIL, but given my passion, experience and determination I feel obligated to step up and serve and help further the mission vision, values and goals of this organization and the independent living movement and bring more young people into it.

I hope I have articulated this to you pretty well and I humbly ask you for your vote. If you want to learn more about me and my experience please visit my LinkedIn page for more information. Thank you.

JENNY SICHEL:
Thank you so much Michael. Now we are going to move on to our regional representative candidates. I do just want to mention that we also do not have positions filled in regions five and seven, however we did not receive any nominations for those regions so therefore they are not on the ballot.

Our region to representative Aaron Byer was planning on joining, and then something suddenly came up at his work today, so he is unable to join. And he sends his regards to everyone.

We are going to move on into our region for representative candidate Edward Mitchell. Edward, when you get a chanceâ€¦ You got this. It is not letting me add you, give me one second Edward. OK, all you.

EDWARD MITCHELL:
Alright, good afternoon everyone. My name is Edward Mitchell, I am an individual with a disability a C5 C6 incomplete spinal cord injury from a hit and run accident back in 2003 when I was thrown into a cornfield. Since the end I have worked at higher Ed at HBC you college I have also worked in professional sports at the Jackie General Merlin's baseball team. During that time I served on the board for working as a frontline staff as an independent living specialist. Again, I have served on the SIL and I am currently the CIL director of Tennessee. I am here to just demonstrate that I am here to be streamlined, efficient and accessible.

If you want me as your region representative that is what you are going to get. I'm only going to contact you when it is necessary. I won't ask you to do anything that I wouldn't do. Upon being an CIL director M also enable account ambassadors are able NRC, I have testified before U.S. Congress on behalf of able accountsâ€¦ And I am just here to bring a nuke fresh, new wave to region for but also help any of the regions as possible. But again, I am here to bring technology into it. Let's work smarter not harder, let's make our tools that we have access at our fingertips work for us. But again, I am just here to be streamlined, efficient and let's move ahead with the independent living philosophy. Let's keep any past things in the past and put our best foot forward. Because we go far when we go together. Thank you.

JENNY SICHEL:
Thank you so much Edward. Next up we have our region six representative candidate, Greg Colvin. Greg, I'm going to have youâ€¦ There you go, you got it. Let me add a spotlight.

GREG COLVIN:
Hello. My name is Greg Colvin, I am from Oklahoma and I have been a member of NCIL for a couple of years. Right now I am volunteering at the Oklahoma library for the blind and physically handicapped by submitting audio recordings of a local newspaper each week. It is an honor to be the nominee for region six. I hope to give a voice to those that are looking for independence because that is my passion, as everyone should achieve the independence they all deserve. And I look forward to welcoming your vote if that is what happens. So thank you.

JENNY SICHEL:
Thank you so much Greg. We are going to move on to our region eight representative. We do have two candidates for this. You can vote for one of those candidates. Tami Hoar was unable to join us for this session. But she did write a quick bio that she wanted me to read to everyone. I am going to go through this. This is Tammy for region eight. "Through early volunteering, I have discovered my love for helping people which led me to a career in various roles advocating with and for people with disabilities. With over two decades of experience in independent living, I have demonstrated a high success in leading CIL teams, providing in-depth oversight, reporting and monitoring of programs, operations and staff performance for three of our four Montana CIL's. Building strong morale, team communication and conflict resolution are major strengths. I have also helped other CIOs navigate through challenging times and transition and find solid financial footing and processes. Eventually earning a Masters in human resource management, I gained extensive experience in applying human resource processes for a few years, while working for the largest corporation in Montana.

While investigating over 350 grievances and harassment complaints, and over 500 terminations, I also provided guidance on developing accommodations, regarding employee performance, writing job descriptions, administering FMLA, and assisted in writing policies and procedures. I also develop executed training to diverse groups. I enjoy helping employees grow and develop with professionalism. I am passionate about ensuring all individuals are given the tools and opportunities they need to be successful and live as integrated in their community as possible.

Currently, as the executive director I motivate employees to look future forward, value the work of each other, and remind that we are a community. We support each other and respect and honor each other's journey." That was Tami Hoar from region eight representative. We have another region eight representative candidate. Scott, I am going to allow you to talk on the phone. And you are just going to unmute yourself on the phone. I believe it is\*six, yeah.

SCOTT LINDBLOOM:
Can you guys hear me? My name is Scott Lindbloom, (indiscernible) I'm gonna talk about my background, I used to live in Nebraska, 2012 I was on a disability advisory committee and the Department of human service, I worked with Adrian Smith and John (unknown name), (indiscernible) then I moved to Arizona 2014. I was on Arizona CIL's 2014 to 2021, and I was a good advocacy of the (indiscernible) GDP planning Council and now I'm on Arizona (unknown term). (unknown name) was (indiscernible) self advocacy committee to build communities to work with independent living centers in our own community to work with disabilities.

(indiscernible) self advocacy (indiscernible) and they moved to Colorado in 2021, on the Colorado statewide Independent living Council. Now region eight I am on a nonprofit organization with (indiscernible) to hire people called (indiscernible) spectrum HDD, mental health disability, challenging, (indiscernible) promotion of independent living, (indiscernible). His son has disabilities, she started a nonprofit organization and, so, we are training for about three years. We work with independent living center. So without them the journey (indiscernible) and his son led him to start a nonprofit in 2017. So for region eight Ed like to be a good advocacy training people with disabilities how to be good advocacy, how can they get a good understanding of (indiscernible) rehab, independent living, with IPâ€¦ I'm on employment policy boards with (unknown name), and I'm on (indiscernible) with 1422, I'm on an advisory board with (unknown name).

My goal is to have region eight, how can we serve world populations, underserved populations. To get training. What resources can help the consumer? And how can we help with independent living (indiscernible) ADD, ADHD, and how can they (indiscernible) transportation on independent living (indiscernible) go to college.

My name is Scott Lindbloom, I was running (indiscernible) community. Self advocacy, I'm starting up an advocacy committee with employment training (?) and we are going to start up self advocacy working with people with disabilities beyond being involved with independent living skills.

If anybody has any questions about those nonprofit organizations, or volunteer doing it, I will think for the opportunity (indiscernible) and I would like to be a mentor. I'm hoping region eight (indiscernible) thank you, this is Scott Lindbloom, please vote for me. This is my second time applying for region eight, so please vote for me again. Thank you!

JENNY SICHEL:
Thank you so much Scott. I'm going to put you back on mute here. And we are going to move on. We have one more regional representative candidate, and that is for region 10. We have

KIMBERLY MECK:

JENNY SICHEL:
Grade hello you are here. Go ahead.

KIMBERLY MECK:
(static) enjoying the air conditioning

JENNY SICHEL:
Kimberly, I'm just gonna come on, your audio is pretty broken up.

KIMBERLY MECK:
(static) let me see what happens if I close Windows.

JENNY SICHEL:
Or maybe take your camera off? OK try that?

KIMBERLY MECK:
Is this better? (static)

JENNY SICHEL:
No. Do you want to try calling in? Or try speaking again?

KIMBERLY MECK:
I keep trying to speak but I pretty much guaranteed you that it's not going to work.

JENNY SICHEL:
That's kind of working now. Can really mac is it working?

JENNY SICHEL:
Now it's working. Can really mac OK! My computer is not fast enough to handle everything at once

KIMBERLY MECK:
Good afternoon every buddy, and thank you for joining us. I am a white sister and her female, -- cisgender female, and the photo is fairly representative of what I look like now, only 12 years older than that photo. (Laughs).

I'm the director of disability empowerment Center in Seattle Washington, and nearly 10 years ago it was my best 40th they gift I could ever give myself to become the director of the center, CIL, so all leave you to do the math on that one.

Through the years that I have been here at disability empowerment center we have gone through many ups and downs and challenges, the most recent thing that I am very proud of is two years ago our organization, our center, underwent an entire rebranding and name change. Originally we were called the Alliance of People with Disabilities and now we are the Disability Empowerment Center, and through that change we have garnered some increased recognition within our community.

I am just astonished by the number of people who are reaching out to us, just because of the recognition of our new brand. It has been absolutely amazing to do and go through the process and involve our community to help define what our new name should be. It really is an example of, you know, community building and bringing individuals who we serve to be a part of the conversation.

In addition to being the director at Disability Empowerment Center I'm currently the CIL chair of the Washington State Independent living Council. And I was also recently appointed to the disability Justice task force by the Washington state Supreme Court to examine the accessibility of all of the Washington state court systems. It's really exciting opportunity, and look for reports from us in the future about the accessibility challenges that we have.

I am also on the (unknown term), which is the Washington assistive technology act program advisory Council. And work with them in partnership on different activities.

Within NCIL, I am currently on the ABA and civil rights committee, as well as the advocacy and public policy committee. I am not as active as I'd like to be on the housing committee, but I considered a member of the housing committee. -- I considered a member of the housing committee. Just last year I was appointed by the other Regent representatives to be the chair of the regional representative committee, something I was really proud to be able to serve in that position.

Within region 10, we have been doing a lot of conversations towards working collaboratively, although not making it my own in any way shape or form but highly endorsed by me, at least here in Washington, we are actually having a first regional IL conference in region 10. It was all the doing of Oregon. I'm not going to take any credit for it at all, but I'm really excited because it's going to really open up some more opportunities for collaboration and conversation. Within the states, and our region.

It's definitely something we need to work on, and one of the skills I pride myself in is being a connector, and needing to do more work within a region to do some of that collaboration and the conversations that the members in region 10 are looking for.

I have also, within NCIL, been working on the 545 campaign -- 5 for 5 as well as working on different activities and I see in check, Brooks says, "thanks for the shout out for Oregon," no thank you, you're the one who is entirely responsible for the conference.

Anyhow, I've been serving as the region 10 rep for a number of years now and I would absolutely love to continue doing it. I have been with NCIL in a region rep position for several years now and we have gone through some amazing growth. I don't want to bring up the past, but some of the lowest times I think NCIL has had I had the fortunate opportunity to be guiding NCIL through that gloominess and out to the other side, we have made a lot of great strides, we have done a lot of things to move NCIL forward, but it's not nearly enough. And we need to continue to work together. We need to continue to uplift the voices of ultimately marginalized individuals. We need to invite more brown and black people to be a part of NCIL, we need to do more collaboration, and we need to foster communication. And I want to continue doing that process and the role of the region tenant rep, so I welcome your vote, and thank you very much. -- Region 10 wrap rep

JENNY SICHEL:
Thanks so much can really and thank you again to all of her attendees for joining, and are candidates for giving a little speech about themselves and why they are running. If you have questions, again, feel free to reach out to me, which is jenny@ncil.org, and as a reminder, we have our, "no before you go," which is happening July 17, same time, differ locationâ€¦ While it's going to be on zoom, just differently. And then we have our conference coming up and we can have, so hopefully we will see you all at the conference, and thanks everyone for joining. Have a good one.

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