



Measure 1: Support Public Safety and Public Transportation

Bismarck residents have the opportunity to support public safety and transportation with Measure #1 on the November general election ballot.

Supporters created an informative video on this measure you can view by scanning the QR code below, or by visiting <https://qrify.io/Vx0woGJ5s8>.

The video addresses details of the measure with the following:

"Are you a Bismarck resident who cares about your community's safety and security?

Do you believe in providing reliable public transportation for all residents, regardless of their income?

A new citizen-driven initiative is on the horizon, proposing a half-cent sales tax that will help fund public safety and public transportation needs."

The initiative was finally achieved and realized into Measure #1, and will be listed on the November general election ballot. The video goes on to explain:

"What does this mean for our vibrant community?

Three-tenths of a cent of this measure will be dedicated to public safety.

These funds will be used for the construction of police and fire stations, acquiring essential emergency vehicles, and covering the cost to continue utilizing the Burleigh/Morton Detention Center.

Investing in our facilities and fleet ensures that our first responders are equipped to maintain the safety of our expanding community.

Additionally, two-tenths of a cent will be allocated to public transportation needs.

This guarantees that everyone has the opportunity to live independently in their homes and thrive in our community.

In recent years, Bismarck has undergone significant economic development.

Every citizen, including your family and friends, deserves the opportunity to enjoy these improvements.

By allocating resources to public transportation, we



can support the elderly, disabled, and financially challenged.

Without access to public transportation, we can support the elderly, disabled, and financially challenged.

Without access to public transportation, these individuals face isolation or institution.

Your voice matters! By supporting this measure, you're investing in a safer future for our families and improving accessibility for all community members.

Join us in making a difference. Together, we can create a safer more connected community for everyone."



DCIL raises awareness and demonstrates AT devices

Riverwalk in Bismarck in July, Camp Grassick in July, the Veteran Stand Down event in August at the Bismarck AmVets Club, and the Washburn Health Fair in September.

This past couple of months, DCIL had a booth at the



Left: Kathy and Stephanie of DCIL at the Veterans Stand Down event August 22nd at Bismarck AmVets with a DCIL friend and veteran at the AT booth.

Right: Look who DCIL ran into while at Camp Grassick? Consumers Danny Freidt and Randee Sailer pose for a photo.

[illegible]

DCIL in the Community

Polling site assessments important

Everybody has the right to vote, in a safe, confidential and accessible space.

DCIL, Independence Inc.- Minot, Options Resource Center- E. Grand Forks, and Freedom Resource Center- Fargo collaborated with Protection and Advocacy to do select assessments of polling sites per the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

Areas looked at were parking, exterior route to the entrance, entrance, interior route to the polling site, and voting space.

Barriers like gaps in the sidewalks, ramps with a high slope, 1-inch lips into the doorway, stairs into the main

entrance, no power doors, and space to move around in all directions are just to name a few. Shockingly, accessible parking was the biggest barrier at these polling locations.

If corrections are needed, temporary measures need to be in place on the day of the election so everyone has easy access for voting.



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Independent Living Specialist, MFP/TDPP

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Independent Living Specialist, MFP

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Contributors made Walkers & Wheelies a success

Dakota Center for Independent Living (DCIL) held its first walk and health fair on Saturday, July 20th at the Bismarck AmVets Club.

The walk and health fair was held in conjunction with the anniversary

month signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

All funds raised through the event will go to support programs of DCIL.

DCIL is so grateful for the incredible support by sponsors and private

contributors. Funds raised during the event totalled \$3,450.

Thank you to everyone who came to the event and contributed, donated items for the silent auction, and sponsored our mission. We appreciate you!

Walk for Walkers & Wheelies

*All inclusive awareness walk for people with all abilities

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

We couldn't have done this without your support!



Thank You

DCIL would also like to thank all the private contributors, walkers, and exhibitors!





NOW HIRING!

NOW HIRING!

Dakota Center for Independent Living, a non-profit advocacy organization for people with disabilities, is currently seeking applicants for the following:

- Independent Living Advocate - Bismarck
- Independent Living Advocate - Dickinson
- Independent Living Specialist/
Money Follows the Person Transition Coordinator - Dickinson

— Advocates: Experience in the human services field is preferred. Must have experience working with individuals with disabilities. Exceptional interpersonal communication skills. Experience collaborating with local, state, and federal agencies and organizations preferred.

— Specialists: A degree in human services or a related field is preferred but not required. Experience working with disabilities is preferred. Travel and driver's license required.

Please check Indeed for full position details and information on how to apply.
Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.



Willows joins DCIL in April as IL Specialist

My name is McCallie Willows, and I am an Independent Living Specialist with DCIL. I started with DCIL in late April and hit the ground running with my cases. I am from Mandan, ND, graduated from Mandan High School, and I did one year at Bismarck State College where I was Head Stage Manager for their theater department.

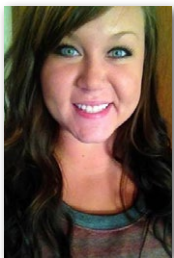
In high school I was a lifeguard and a swim teacher. I moved on to work at HIT Inc for four years as a Direct Support Professional in a home with individuals with seizure disorders and cerebral palsy. After working for HIT, I got my CNA License and began working for Missouri Slope Care Center. I was head CNA for their locked memory care unit for six years where I specialized in cares for those with Alzheimer's, Dementia, and Parkinsons. I spent a short time at Dakota Foot and Ankle as a CNA before coming to DCIL.

I spend my free time riding my motorcycle, fishing, painting/drawing, boating on the river, cooking, or with family and friends. I have a cat named Paisley and a dog named Sadie that are my world. My goal is to help as many people stay in their homes for as long as possible with the help of TDSPP.



Willows

DCIL hires Roecker for IL Specialist in July



Roecker

My name is Kianna Roecker, and I recently joined DCIL's team as an Independent Living Specialist with the MFP Program.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a specialization in Criminal Justice and Human Services which has enabled me to dedicate 16 years to the human service field. My professional experience includes forming and implementing individualized treatment plans for youth and adults, working with

emergency and transitional services, training and managing direct care staff, determining eligibility for economic assistance programs, and providing overall coordination of services to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

When I am not working, I enjoy spending quality time with family and friends, cooking, traveling, and music. I also love spending time outdoors—whether hiking with my two dogs, camping, foraging, fishing, or relaxing on the pontoon.

I am excited to bring my passion for helping others to our team and look forward to making a meaningful difference at Dakota Center for Independent Living.

Glaser comes to Dakota Center in August

Hello, my name is Girard Glaser and I am excited to start my position as an MFP Post Transition Coordinator. At a young age I always knew I wanted to help others in any way I could, so I decided to attend college after HS where I graduated with my A.A.S in Human Services. Since graduating, I have accumulated 16 years of experience working directly with people who have developmental and intellectual disabilities. In my spare time I like to spend time with my dog, Athena, ride the Harley with friends, or just relax at home with friends watching the latest football games.

July brings new IL advocate Scott to DCIL

My name is Stephanie Scott. I have a degree in Health and Human Services with over 15 years of experience working in the Health and Human Service field. I have a background in Geriatrics, Addiction, Developmental Disabilities, Alzheimer's/Dementia, Hospice, Autism, and Special Olympics.

I am a mom with a boyfriend named Jason Scott (no relation.....yet!) I have three children aged 19, 17, and 13.

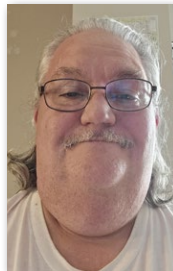
In my spare time I enjoy fishing, camping, Football and Baseball games, road trips, movies and cooking! I often find myself saying "Do what Jesus did."

What a blessing to have a career doing things I enjoy, advocating, and serving the community I am passionate about!



Scott

Bailly welcomed to NASW-ND Board



Bailly

Kevin Bailly was invited on the North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners (NASW-ND) as the Western Region Nominations Chair in July.

Bailly commented about this honor, "Now I can utilize this position to continue to spread the word about disability inclusion, mental health needs across North Dakota, veteran homelessness and the ongoing opioid crisis."

Oden elected as NASW Chair

She'Maine Oden was elected as the Southwest Region Chair for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in September.

"She'Maine will be a great addition to the Association with her strong advocacy and diplomacy skills for her ability to give a voice to those who are not able to do so. Her experience in social work will be a valuable asset to our team," remarked Kevin Bailly of DCIL.



Oden

Robinson honored by MVCHP in July



Robinson

Mary Robinson, former Program Director of DCIL, was honored with the first annual MVCHP Champion for Change Award.

Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People (MVCHP) is a regional nonprofit dedicated to helping ensure that housing and other basic human needs are within everyone's reach in an affordable and dignified manner.

Robinson retired in 2023 after 37 years at the Dakota Center for Independent Living in Bismarck. Congrats, Mary!

Kurtz speaks on panel at Project Ace in Dickinson in Sept.



Program Director Cody Kurtz of DCIL traveled to Dickinson to participate on an important panel at Project A.C.E. on September 10th.

Kurtz spoke on the Money Follows the Person program.

Project A.C.E. (Action, Commitment, Education) is a prevention and information collaboration in

Dickinson, North Dakota in association with Safe Communities. Project A.C.E. was started by a group of local professionals working together to promote positive choices and create a safe environment for Southwestern North Dakota's youth. The goal of Project A.C.E. is to educate youth and the public on the six issues facing our

region, which are Suicide, Violence, Alcohol, Gambling, Sex and Sexuality, Meth and other drugs, and Cyberbullying.

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*Cody Kurtz of DCIL at far right on the Panel of Agencies in the Community at Project Ace in September.*



# Consumers call DCIL to share gratitude for help

by Kevin Bailly, DCIL

Recently I received a couple of phone calls from consumers who I had worked with in the past. These consumers shared how they have been working with DCIL employees McCallie Willows and Dee Dee Nagel.

They called to express appreciation for the care and compassion they have been shown by our staff. Both individuals stated how they liked the way they were treated and how they were listened to.

This is true advocacy where we assist the

consumers in having a voice. "This is why we do what we do", as our Program Director Cody Kurtz would say.

Thank you McCallie and Dee Dee for the awesome work you do. Very happy to have you on our team.

## Susan now setting goals to buy her own home

by Kathy Temechack, DCIL

When first referred to DCIL, Susan was in financial debt with close to \$20,000 in credit cards, loans and bills due.

Susan never opened her mail since she had anxiety about having

no money to pay the bills, so they piled up.

Now years with her head above water, Susan with the assistance of DCIL, has learned how to manage money and pay bills. She was able to buy a car, doesn't have to worry

about rent and was able to buy her grandchildren birthday and Christmas presents that weren't out of a giveaway box.

Susan's future goal is to buy her own place so she has something she can call home.

## 'This is why we do what we do; we change lives.'

by Cody Kurtz, DCIL

TDPP administration has been conducting outreach to consumers who have been helped through the program and shared a great compliment for DCIL employee Kevin Bailly

and ND Housing employee Paige Walters while working with the consumer. Nice work guys!!! This is why we do what we do. We change lives.

"They were awesome, unbiased, advocates for us." Per Albert's wife,

Albert was not able to be social or connect with others prior to getting into their new apartment with the help of Kevin at DCIL and Paige of Housing. Albert is now able to be social and get around more easily."

## McCallie remained diligent to serve her consumer

by Cody Kurtz, DCIL

DCIL employee McCallie Willows has an individual she is working with through the NDTDPP program who needs some pretty extensive modifications to his home. He needs a ramp built and a bathroom modification so that he can access his shower.

McCallie got a quote for modifications from a contractor that was near \$32,000 and of course could not be approved by TDPP because of the amount. It was taken all the way to the ND Aging Services Director for approval, and it was denied due to the amount.

McCallie was not going to give up as she knows how important it is for

this consumer to remain in his own home and if the modifications were not completed, he would need to consider moving. McCallie worked for weeks with the consumer to apply for other grant programs to help with the cost of the modifications and also worked with the contractor to see if they could reduce the cost as well. She was able to get another grant approved for \$5000 and the contractor was willing to come down to around \$12,000 for both the deck and bathroom remodel. Even by reducing some of the items included in the remodel, the construction will still make the bathroom accessible.

McCallie submitted her funding re-

quest again to the state and it was again presented to the ND Aging Services Director and this time it was approved!! The consumer will get the modifications done that he needs to help him remain in his home for years to come!!

McCallie added, "I'm still in shock that I was finally able to get this approved. The consumer was so happy that he teared up because of how grateful he is for everything that has been done for him. I managed to get another 1k taken off the bathroom estimate this morning so now the final total is even lower! This consumer now gets a true chance at staying in his home for the rest of his life because of TDSPP."

### DCIL saw so many success stories this month that we weren't able to fit all the details!

- Compliment received for one of our IL Specialists, "I haven't even locked my doors since you saved my life and got me out of the bad place I was living. You changed my life!"
- Stephanie Scott and Kianna Roecker worked together by using their previous experiences with Medicaid applications and applying to other resources to ease a consumer's anxiety about filling out forms. Good job Stephanie Scott & Kianna Roecker!
- Kathy Temechack had a consumer in the office needing help with a social security issue. The consumer's worker stated how much this consumer trusted and appreciated all the work Kathy has done for him, as he doesn't trust anyone but her anymore. Kathy truly cares about her consumers and their well being, way to be there for them, Kathy!





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\* DCIL has a satellite office in Dickinson, ND.  
They can be reached at: 701-483-4363.

\* DCIL offices are fragrance free.

## What can we help you with?

### DCIL Core Services:

- Information & Referral
- Peer Support
- Advocacy
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Transitional Services



Scan the QR code above  
to be taken to our website, or find  
Dakota Center for Independent Living  
on Facebook, Instagram, & YouTube!



### Mission Statement

The Dakota Center for Independent Living believes in empowering people with disabilities by minimizing barriers, advocating for inclusion and promoting consumer choice.

*The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of HHSC or ACL, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. This newsletter is available in an alternative format - upon request.*

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