

Setting Sails



A Quarterly Publication For Friends And Consumers of San Antonio Independent Living Services

Fall 2016

San Antonio Independent Living Services Hosts 26th Annual ADA Celebration



Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke,
CEO/Development Officer of SAILS

On Saturday, July 23, 2016 San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) hosted the 26th Annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration. The celebration began at about 8:30a.m. with excited supporters who gathered at the downtown University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) campus for a pep rally. Over 50 exhibitors provided important community information and resources for all the attendees. SAILS extends appreciation to all our exhibitors who showed up in spite of the Texas heat.

The keynote speaker for this year's 26th ADA celebration was JoAnne Fluke who shared her inspiration and excitement and got everyone in the groove with some Zumba! SAILS also honored Senator Jose Menendez as Public Servant of the Year. In his first session as State Senator 38 bills were passed that benefited seniors, veterans, and San Antonio families. Thank you Senator Jose Menendez for your service.

SAILS needs the community to come together and help support the ADA celebration. Our friendly HEB stepped up again this year and provided free lunches for everyone to enjoy! Thanks HEB! SAILS extends deep appreciation to AmeriGroup RealSolutions and Partners in Primary Care for sponsoring the official ADA t-shirts. SAILS also extends gratitude to VIA Metropolitan Transit for their kind and generous sponsorship. Let's not forget to thank our many

volunteers, interpreters from Deaf Interpreters Services, Unicorn Steppers and staff who helped make this year's ADA celebration a great success!

Finally, this annual event celebrates the Americans with Disabilities Act and each year SAILS strives to encourage the entire community to join us in 'keeping the ADA alive!' I hope to see everyone again next year.

SAVE THE DATE!
Friday, November 4th, 2016
6:30pm - 10:00pm
2016 STARLIGHT
CASINO NIGHT BENEFIT



SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES
IS PLEASED TO PRESENT THE
2016 STARLIGHT
CASINO NIGHT BENEFIT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4TH, 2016 6:30PM - 10:00PM
FORMAL ATTIRE
THE ROSENBERG SKYROOM
INCARNATE WORD UNIVERSITY
HILDEBRAND AND BROADWAY, SAN ANTONIO

OUR 35TH ANNIVERSARY:
SINCE 1981, SAILS HAS WORKED TO MAKE SAN ANTONIO
AND THE 28 SURROUNDING COUNTIES
A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

OUR MISSION IS TO ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT OF THE PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES AND TO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES
TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN ORDER
TO INCREASE THEIR SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE.

FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT DR. KITTY BRIETZKE
210.264.3501 KBRIETZKE@SAILSDADVOCATES.ORG

SAILS Staff Attends 2016 NCIL Conference in Washington, D.C.

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D. & Rod Rodriguez

SAILS staff attended the Annual National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) Conference in Washington, D.C. at the beautiful Grand Hyatt Hotel on July 25-28, 2016. The NCIL Conference was held during the 26th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). There was much excitement around this important anniversary and the annual march to the US Capitol was awesome.

The theme for the conference this year was, SOLIDARITY Everybody In. The opening plenary was Monday, July 25, 2016. The Attorney General of the United States Loretta E. Lynch was invited to speak on the Department of Justice's efforts to stop disability discrimination and enforce the ADA. There were legislative updates, preparation for the Day on the Hill and many exhibitors sharing resources and demonstrations. Bob Williams, Deputy Commissioner of the Administration on Disabilities and Director of the Independent Living Administration on Disabilities addressed the NCIL members and energized everyone.

I attended the NCIL conference with IL/Volunteer Coordinator, Romeo (Rod) Rodriguez. We attended several workshops. One I particularly enjoyed was the workshop entitled the EQUIP Program from Able in South Carolina. Young adults run the program for youth with disabilities. I watched a video called, "The Same" that discussed advocacy, the independent living philosophy, self-esteem and goal setting. One youth member who was featured on the video was "Alejandro." He expressed that we in society must have an open mind about persons with disabilities.

Current SAILS events can always be viewed on our Facebook page:
<http://facebook.com/sailstx.org>
Click To Like Us!



Dr. Kitty Brietzke, CEO of SAILS
preparing for the march to the Capitol Hill, 2016 NCIL Conference



Rod Rodriguez, SAILS IL/Volunteer Coordinator
attends the 2016 NCIL Conference

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SAILS Is For Consumers



Welcome New S.A.I.L.S. Staff

Abel Zamora
Program Director



Abel Zamora is SAILS new Director of Programs and Resource Development. He is a graduate of Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at UT Austin. He has experience in case management, program management and certification management. He also has some development experience from his experience with a program that helped out immigrants and refugees.

Bill Borellis
Community Work Incentive Coordinator



Bill Borellis is SAILS new Work Incentive Coordinator. He has worked as a field representative with the U.S. Census. He also has experience as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Coordinator and has supervised and recruited for VITA also.

Corrina Hernandez
Independent Living Outreach Specialist



Corrina Hernandez is SAILS new IL Outreach Specialist. She has her Community Health certification and has experience in working with seniors with disabilities by providing activities of daily living. Corrina has also facilitated educational sessions to parents when she worked at Healthy Future of Texas.

Shelley McMullen
Independent Living Outreach Specialist



Shelley McMullen is SAILS new part-time IL Outreach Specialist. Shelley has experience as a Volunteer Coordinator at the Austin Goodwill. She also was a Personal and Social Awareness Instructor at Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center. She worked as a counselor in Little Rock, Arkansas and helped people adjust to their blindness through individual and group counseling.

SAILS Is For Consumers

26th ADA Anniversary Celebration

Photos by Frank San Miguel



Presentation of the colors



Keynote speaker representative, Mr. Tomas Larralde,
Chief of Staff for Senator Jose Menendez



Attendees of 2016 ADA



SAILS CEO and Board Members



Board Chair presents plaque to keynote speaker



Volunteers for inclusion

SAILS Is For Consumers



26th ADA Anniversary Celebration

Photos by Frank San Miguel



Attendees visit exhibitors



Volunteer coordinator Rod Rodriguez guides guests



Attendees visit exhibitors



ADA guests receive health screens



101 Mobility exhibit



PCSI exhibit

Calendar of Events: August, Sept, Oct

Calendar of Events

August 2016

- 2- Staff Meeting & Fish City Grill
- 5- Support Group with presenter from Workforce Solutions
- 6- National Federation for the Blind presentation
- 11- In-Service Training for Staff
- 18- Support Group with presenter Myra Rivero/ AACOG
- 24- SAILS CEO Presentation in Victoria/United Methodist
- 30- Staff Meeting

September 2016

- 1- CEO's 13th Anniversary at SAILS
- 2- Support Group with presenter from Mosaic
- 5- Labor Day Holiday
- 8- SAILS Open House and CEO's Birthday
- 9- Project Mend's Toast of the Town
- 13- Staff Meeting
- 14- SAILS Board of Director's Meeting
- 20- Goodwill's 71st Luncheon
- 22- Support Group at SAILS
- 24- Free to Soar Gala at Morgan's Wonderland
- 27- Staff Meeting

October 2016

- 7- Support Group at SAILS
- 10- Columbus Day Holiday
- 11- Staff Meeting & Boerne Resource Fair
- 14- SAILS In-Service Training
- 20-23 APRIL Conference
- 25- Staff Meeting
- 27- Support group at SAILS

(right)

Leila Alfar from Mosaic presentation at SAILS Support Group meeting

SAILS Support Group Learns About Mosaic Services

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

Laila Elfar, Community Relations Manager and Teresa Heining from Mosaic came to SAILS to meet with the Support Group and shared information about their services to persons with intellectual disabilities.

Linda Knolton sponsored sandwiches and light refreshments for SAILS Support Group.

Mosaic advocates for people with intellectual disabilities and provides opportunities for them to enjoy their lives fully. Attendees learned about the Mosaic at Home program and the benefits of being a provider. To learn more about being an independent contractor for Mosaic please visit www.mosaicathome.org.



A SAILS Support Group meeting
(standing) Linda Knolton, friend of SAILS,
and Corrina Hernandez, SAILS IL and Outreach Specialist



SAILS Is For Consumers



Board of Directors' Open House & CEO's 13th Anniversary & Birthday

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) Board of Directors hosted a wonderful Open House and celebration for Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D., Chief Executive Officer's 13th Anniversary and 60th birthday on Thursday, September 8, 2016. Board Chair Patty Byrd, Dennis Wolf, Vice Chair and Rodney Harris, Secretary, Carol Kelly, Emeritus board member attended with all staff.

Several friends of SAILS stopped by to meet and greet and congratulate Dr. Brietzke on her 13 years of successful leadership and of course, her birthday! Some special guests included Bryan Strickland from Documentation, Andrea Knight from Frost bank, John and Marilyn Weber from Deaf Interpreter Services, David Massey from Allstate, Tracy Ebarb from Guide Dogs of Texas, Jerri Ann Jones from VIA, Linda Knolton, Liz Swize, Cynthia Garcia, Hector Saenz and many more.

SAILS Board and staff wish to thank everyone for their support and well wishes! We hope to see everyone again next year!



Visitors at the 2016 Open House have opportunities to ask questions about services and programs that SAILS offers for people with disabilities

SAILS is a Part of Transition

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

Less than two weeks ago San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) began an important role in transitioning the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) consumers with significant disabilities who formerly received services under their independent living programs. Due to legislation passed during the 84th legislative session, the programs and services administered by DARS were transferred to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and the Health and Human Services (HHSC) as of September 1, 2016.

SAILS and all Texas Centers for Independent Living Services (CILS) are now the providers of a wide array of independent living services and complex rehabilitation technology services to consumers with significant disabilities such as persons who are blind or visually-impaired, persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and other significant disabilities. SAILS and all Texas CILS recently hired new staff who will be receiving training and technical assistance from a HHSC Liaison to properly administer the new contract. Technical training is expected to begin soon. SAILS is excited to begin serving our consumers soon. Staff has spoken with many consumers to date explaining our process and next steps. Please don't hesitate to call SAILS at 210-281-1878 for further information or any questions.



Guests enjoy the Open House and meet with SAILS staff

San Antonio Independent Living Services
1028 S. Alamo Street
San Antonio, TX 78210



OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS)

1028 S. Alamo Street, San Antonio, TX 78210
V/TDD (210) 281-1878 , Fax (210) 281-1759
(800) 474-0295 sailstx.org

SAILS Staff

Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D. CEO/Development Officer

Charles Villarreal	Chief Financial Officer
Frann Wright	Executive Adm. Assistant
Abel Zamora	Program Director
Corrina Hernandez	IL/Outreach Specialist
Bill Borellis	CWIC
Irma Medrano	CWIC
Shelley McMullen	IL/Outreach Specialist
Mary E. Blake	IL Skills Coordinator
Rod Rodriguez	IR/Volunteer Coordinator

SAILS Board of Directors

Patricia M. Byrd	Board Chair
Dennis S. Wolf	Vice Chair
Rodney Harris	Secretary
Miguel Castro	Board member
Donna McBee	Board member
James E. Hughes	Board Member

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