

IL-NET

CIL-NET · SILC-NET

Youth Transition: The Growing Role of Centers for Independent Living

How to Engage Parents and Foster Healthy Parent Involvement

**April 19, 2017
Denver, CO**

***Presenter:*
Kings Floyd**

Parents in Youth Transition

Recognizing the role parents play in
CILs and Youth Transition

But First, the Children...

- This presentation is meant to provide you with an added resource for youth with disabilities in IL.
- Doesn't mean reducing the power of youth.
- Parents are a resource, not a consumer.
- “Independent Living means that we demand the same choices and control in our every-day lives...”

Getting in the Door...

Parents provide

- Potential transportation for their child.
- Permission slips for CILs who are working with consumers in schools.
- Details about their child's strengths/weaknesses.

Parents do NOT provide

- A necessarily warm/supportive/accepting environment.
- Definitions of their children's disability or goals.
- A step-by-step instruction on how to make their child independent.

What parents might need to know . . .



- What is an IEP? What does it involve?
- What is IL? How can they support their child in the IL philosophy?
- What are other resources such as Vocational Rehab?
- How can I support my child as they transition out of school?
- What is disability pride? How can I encourage that?
- Internship programs/employment opportunities
- Adaptive driving programs/other transportation options
- Dignity of Risk/Loss

How To Reach Parents

Get in touch by...

- Talking to your schools about
 - Getting onto their website, uploading a permission slip/waivers, etc.
 - Getting in the newsletter, reaching parents of school aged youth
 - Speaking with the PTA
- Outside of Schools:
 - Contacting community centers with parent groups, YMCA, etc.
 - Reaching out to disability organizations CILs/SILCs have ties with

How to Support Parents...who in turn support their youth

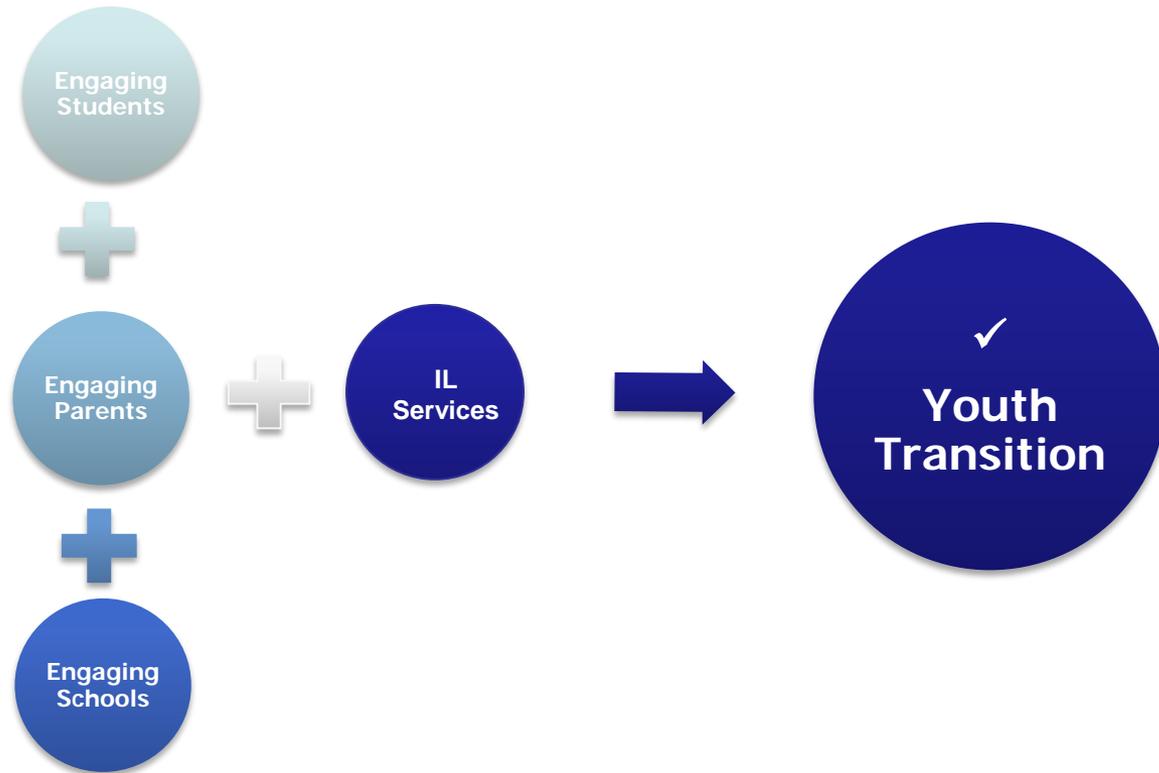


- Talk to them about the IL philosophy; many parents have concern for their child's success.
 - Remind them the growing & changing terminology.
- Create a parent, peer-to-peer support group, so that other parents with children with disabilities can be a resource to each other.
- The same way you reach out to consumers, tailor your style of communication to parents.
- Create a space where they feel their child is comfortable and getting help/resources.
- Refer them to school resources, such as guidance counselors, special ed. coordinators, local college programs & camps.

Resources for Parents...

- Offer peer support group for parents to learn from other parents.
 - Try to include the IL philosophy in these events vs. "special needs parents."
- Parent Engagement Centers/Family Engagement Centers
- Family Engagement News & Contributions Form (FACETS)
- Potential mentor with a similar disability in your CIL/SILC

Equation for Success



Questions?

Thank you!

CIL-NET Attribution

Support for development of this technical assistance information was provided by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living under grant number 90TT0001. No official endorsement of the Department of Health and Human Services should be inferred. Permission is granted for duplication of any portion of this information, providing that the following credit is given to the project: **Developed as part of the IL-NET, an ILRU/NCIL/APRIL National Training and Technical Assistance Program.**