**Strategic Partnerships and Relationships with Other Disability Organizations**

**Presented by Mike Bachhuber and Maureen Ryan on July 30, 2013**

(A CART provider is present and standing by.)   
  
>> OPERATOR: Good afternoon, ladies and   
gentlemen and thank you for joining the   
"Strategic Partnerships & Relationships with   
Other Disability Organizations"   
teleconference. I would now like to turn the   
conference over to our host for today,   
Mr. Tim Fuchs. Please go ahead, sir.   
>> TIM FUCHS: Good afternoon. Thank you,   
Patricia. I'm Tim Fuchs with the National   
Council On Independent Living. I want to   
welcome you all to SILC-Net webinar   
"Strategic Partnerships & Relationships with   
Other Disability Organizations." I want to   
thank all of you for your patience and for   
coming back and joining us again today. I   
really do appreciate that, and I'm excited   
that we will be holding the call.   
So today's call is being presented by the   
SILC-Net which is a program of the IL-NET   
training and technical assistance program for   
CILs and SILCs. It's separated through a   
partnership among ILRU, NCIL and APRIL with   
support provided by RSA at the US Department   
of Education.   
So as with all of our presentations, today's   
call is being recorded so that we can archive   
it on ILRU's website. So whether it's for   
you or one of your colleagues, you can go   
back within just about 48 hours you will be   
able to access the webinar as it happened   
with audio, captions and PowerPoint online.   
So that's a really nice feature and you are   
welcome to share that with others. You can   
get that through the archive, the on demand   
archives on ILRU's website.   
So we will break several times during today's   
call. We have three Q&A breaks, slide 10,   
slide 17 and slide 24. You can ask questions   
in the chat feature under the list of   
participants on the webinar. Of course, if   
you are on the phone, you will be able to ask   
your question live over the telephone.   
And if you are on the CART screen today, you   
can ask questions in the chat there. I don't   
see anyone logged in right now, but I am on   
there. So if you are using the captions on   
webinar platform, that's great. If you want   
to use the CC Products.com link that was sent   
to you, you can join the chat there and I   
will monitor those questions as well.   
So you will definitely want to follow along   
in our PowerPoint presentation today.   
If you are only on the telephone, and don't   
see the PowerPoint displayed on your screen,   
you will want to have that. It will help you   
follow today's content. That PowerPoint was   
sent to you in the confirmation email and if   
you don't have that handy, if you would like   
it for any reason, you can email me, my email   
is just Tim@NCIL.org and I will send it to   
you.   
So, again, if you don't have a PowerPoint   
displayed in front of you, say you are only   
on the telephone, you can email at   
Tim@NCIL.org. Also please don't forget to   
fill out our evaluation form today. It's   
very easy to complete. It's brief, but very,   
very important to us. So please do complete   
that. There's a live link in the PowerPoint   
or, again, you can access that in the   
confirmation email that was sent to you.   
Okay. Well, that's it for my announcements   
and housekeeping. I want to introduce our   
presenters for today, Mike Bachhuber and   
Maureen Ryan. Mike has been in the   
independent living movement since 1997. And   
he's been the executive director of the   
independent living council of Wisconsin since   
2007. Maureen Ryan is the executive director   
of the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent   
Living Centers for the past 14 years and   
prior to that, she was director of IL at one   
of Wisconsin CILs for nine years.   
Mike and Maureen are both -- they are   
outstanding advocates and they are adept   
coalition builders as well. I have really   
enjoyed putting the presentation together   
with them and they have put a lot of careful   
thought and a lot of experience into building   
this presentation, both what to do and what   
not to do. So I know you will enjoy hearing   
from them and with that, why don't we get   
started. So Mike, do you want to go ahead?   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: Sure, thanks, Tim.   
We thought in light of the title here, that   
we would start by talking about what kinds of   
partnerships are authorized under the Rehab   
Act and the regulations and then go into what   
would make it strategic. So I'm going to do   
the first part here and then you will have an   
opportunity to ask any questions.   
The Rehab Act has actually a fair amount to   
say about partners with respect to the SPIL   
and the SILC. Starting -- the starting point   
is probably who is on the SILC itself. The   
idea being that the SILC is supposed to be a   
place where partners can come together and   
have discussions related to the state plan   
for independent living and other issues   
related to IL programs.   
So, you know, one of the most important parts   
of the SILC composition is that the network   
of centers in each state gets to select an   
executive director of one of the centers to   
represent the network on the CIL. The DSU is   
also represented ex-officio on the SILC and   
as for states would have Native American   
vocational rehabilitation programs, a   
representative of the Section 121 project is   
also included on the SILC.   
In addition to a number of other people, the   
number of people will vary from state to   
state.   
One of the -- one of the things that you are   
probably going to want to consider is how is   
the SILC going to work with the folks who are   
on the SILC? Certainly in meetings, that   
will be determined by your agenda, but how   
are you going to build that relationship in   
between meetings? How are you going to get   
information and share the information that   
you need to share with agencies serving   
people with disabilities in between the   
meetings?   
We meet with the state agencies pretty   
regularly, and since one of the state   
agencies represented on our SILC is a huge   
state agency, we make sure that we meet with   
other folks within that department who may   
not be directly on the SILC but we want to   
share information with.   
We talked about the goals in the SILC that we   
have in common. We find out what their goals   
are and how that might relate to independent   
living and basically how their programs can   
serve consumers better.   
In the next part of the SILC statute -- can   
you move the slide to number three, please?   
The next part of the SILC statute is SILC   
duties. It's Section 705 (C) (3) of the   
Rehabilitation Act. It talks specifically   
about partnerships and what we might want to   
do with them. So it talks about coordinating   
activities with the state rehabilitation   
council, and other disability councils under   
federal law that work on -- with disability   
populations or issues.   
So every state is going to have a development   
disabilities council. Every state is going   
to have a mental health planning and advisory   
council. Every state is going to have an assistive technology council, and almost   
every state is going to have other councils.   
There's often an advisory council for the   
birth to 3 program in your state, and then   
you may have state disability councils as   
well. We have quite a number in Wisconsin.   
And I know some other states do too.   
We try to work with them in conjunction with   
the state plan objectives and how they can   
work with us, but the fact that the   
Rehabilitation Act sets this out as a duty   
under 705 (C) (3) means you can use your   
basic SILC funding to build and maintain   
these relationships.   
As do all the SILCs, we have a representative   
on the state rehabilitation council. We use   
that representative to interest the   
rehabilitation council in some of the   
objectives that also show up in their state   
plan. If you ever had an opportunity to look   
at the state plan for vocational   
rehabilitation, there's a section that talks   
about the rehabilitation needs of the   
consumers they serve.   
And oftentimes the designated state unit   
isn't doing a lot to address those needs and   
oftentimes those needs are showing up in our   
state plan for independent living as well.   
The developmental disabilities council, in   
all the states have a significant allotment   
of funds from the federal government that   
they can use to serve people with   
developmental disabilities. Everyone in our   
network ought to be aware that developmental   
disabilities under that law includes anyone   
with a significant disability, whether it's   
mental or physical in nature, that require --   
that's permanent or long term in duration,   
and requires a plan of support to address the   
significant disability needs.   
One piece I left off, if the disability had   
arisen before the 22nd birthday of the   
person with a disability. So there should be   
quite an overlap between the people at   
Centers for Independent Living are serving,   
that we're addressing under our state plan   
for independent living and what your state   
developmental disabilities council is doing   
and that provides an opportunity to maintain   
a dialogue with them and find out what we   
have in common and how we can work better,   
share our resources better.   
The mental health planning and advisory   
council has an obligation to do advocacy.   
That is going to differ a little bit from   
state to state in how much that happens, but   
I think it's important to recognize that they   
are out there, that there do have on some   
consumers on that council, although not a   
consumer majority, and there may be   
opportunities to work together with them.   
For centers that are involved with -- excuse   
me, for states where centers are involved   
where assistive technology, the assistive   
technology advisory council can be an   
important partner, and you may want to check   
in with them and determine how you can work   
with them.   
Next slide, please.   
Oh, well, I jumped ahead. The statewide   
assessment of the rehabilitation needs of   
individuals with disabilities is one part of   
the state vocational rehabilitation plan. If   
you haven't looked at that assessment for   
your state, you might want to do that because   
you will probably find that there are issues   
in there that you have in common. How does   
the state rehabilitation council address   
these rehabilitation needs? And that's where   
we might be able to provide some suggestions   
for how we can work together.   
And eventually, one of those things that we   
can often get out of this kind of partnership   
is funding for perhaps, at the state level,   
perhaps at the center level for projects that   
address the rehabilitation needs of the   
vocational rehabilitation consumers.   
Another issue that the state rehabilitation   
council and the SILC is going to want to look   
at is staffing. Two of the sources of income   
that can be used to fund the SILC are the   
I & E funds, innovation and expansion funds,   
under Title 1 of the Rehabilitation Act as   
well as Social Security reimbursement funds,   
both of which can be used to fund the SILC,.   
The Social Security reimbursement funds can   
also support projects under the state plan   
for independent living and the innovation and   
expansion funds can fund work of centers in   
areas that they want to expand into that have   
a relation to the vocational rehabilitation   
plan.   
Assistive technology, hopefully in most   
states, the assistive technology project   
works with IL centers, but that's certainly   
the kind of dialogue you want to have with   
the assistive technology advisory council.   
Slide 5, please.   
The developmental disability council in your   
state, all of them offer, operate under a   
five-year plan. You might want to seek their   
input when you are involved in the SPIL   
planning, as well as provide input when they   
are developing their plan, and work together   
on common goals.   
All the state DD councils are required to do   
systems level advocacy and, again, that   
provides opportunities for consumer   
empowerment and working together on advocacy   
issues.   
The state planning and advisory council   
operates off of a basic three-year plan with   
annual updates. That plan should identify   
community mental health services within the   
states, and that ends up oftentimes taking a   
great deal of the time and energy 69 mental   
health council, but they also do have a   
responsibility to engage in advocacy on   
behalf of mental health service needs within   
the state and to the extent possible, you   
want to make sure they're working on behalf   
of consumers in the mental health systems,   
and that you can coordinate your work to the   
extent possible.   
Slide 6, please.   
The requirements for the state plan for   
independent living are listed in Section 704   
of the Rehabilitation Act. You probably   
don't need to know that because when you fill   
out your SPIL, the issues that you are   
required to address in the SPIL are generally   
speaking the issues that are required under   
the statute and regulations. Both the   
statute and the regulations do make it clear   
that the state plan that will maximize the   
cooperation, the coordination and working   
relationships among the state independent   
living services program, that's the part B   
program, the SILC, and the Centers for   
Independent Living.   
And I have listed the regulation reference   
there as well, if you are interested. The   
steps should include descriptions of how   
funding for centers and IL services are   
coordinated within state and the state CIL   
funds. So if your state CIL funds go through   
a different state agency than the designated   
state unit, as they do in Wisconsin, that   
means we all have to have a dialogue with the   
state agency that's administering the state   
funds.   
The other working relationships are that have   
to be addressed in the SPIL are the DSU and   
other state agencies represented on the SILC,   
and other councils that address the needs of   
specific disability populations and issues.   
As well as other public and private and   
determined to be relevant. The councils that   
we can work with aren't limited to federally   
funded councils. It can also include state   
councils.   
Then it goes to other public and private   
entities determined to be appropriate by the   
SILC, and that leaves it pretty much open so   
that the SILC can be working with almost   
anyone that you determine to be an   
appropriate partner to help you achieve the   
goals that you have set out.   
The regulations also require that there's   
involvement from the Centers for Independent   
Living in development of the SPIL, the SILC   
and the DSU are required to consider the   
plans that the Centers for Independent Living   
have set out to address the needs in their   
service areas.   
It leaves open questions about at what level   
are these working relationships to happen, to   
what extent should they happen at the staff   
level? To what extent should they happen at   
the council or the board of directors level?   
To what extent should it involve volunteers   
or consumers.   
It also leaves open the question about how   
the relationship with DSU is developed over   
time and since we are going to talk a little   
bit more later about making the relationship   
strategic, I don't think we will say a lot   
more about that right now.   
Next slide, please, slide 7.   
The SPIL requirements also indicate that   
we're supposed to describe how independent   
living services will be coordinated with and   
compliment other services to avoid   
unnecessary duplication with other federal,   
state, and local programs, including the OIV   
program -- OIB program of Chapter 2 of   
Title VII of the Act. Oftentimes, you know,   
this provision and the one I just went   
through are Section 1.5 and 1.6 of the SPIL,   
oftentimes people fill those out without   
giving a whole lot of thought to it, and I   
would suggest that you might want to give   
more thought to it, especially in light of   
the kind of guidance that we have gotten from   
RSA in the last few years.   
RSA indicates that the use of our SILC   
resource plan funds is limited to the   
statutory duties and among the most important   
of the statutory duties are development of   
the state plan for independent living and   
reviewing the implementation of the state   
plan for independent living.   
Since these relationships with other agencies   
and entities are part of that state plan for   
independent living, describing that   
relationship and how you are going to make   
sure that they are working together with the   
independent living program to accomplish our   
goals to the maximum extent possible, as well   
as avoiding duplication of services, gives   
you an opportunity to have a regular   
dialogue.   
While advocacy is not one of the SILC duties,   
in the -- when you maintain a relationship   
with agencies that are serving people with   
disabilities, you are going to naturally be   
talking about the needs of the consumers we   
serve and that's something that so far RSA   
has encouraged.   
Slide 8, please. Another -- or part of that   
1.6 is describing how independent living   
services will be coordinated. The agency are   
including those that provide independent   
living or vocational rehabilitation-related   
services provided by state and local agencies   
administering special education and   
vocational education, developmental   
disability services, public health and mental   
health, housing and transportation, veterans   
programs and the programs authorized under   
titles XVIII through XX of the Social   
Security Act within the state. And since   
that's Greek to most of us or Roman to most   
of us who read those numerals, it's actually   
talking about Medicare, Medicaid, and the   
Social Security -- or excuse me, the social   
services block grant that each state gets.   
Note that the Rehabilitation Act talks about   
including those agencies not limiting you to talking about those agencies. So any agency   
that is providing independent living or   
vocational rehabilitation related services is   
one that you can describe in your state plan   
and maintain a relationship with.   
Slide 9, please.   
In this slide, I underline the fact that the   
regulations specifically say we can describe   
working relationships with other public and   
private entities, using broad language.   
Organizations that can be critical partners   
for SILCs in the IL network to strengthen   
services, and affect systems' change are the   
ones that you may want to develop   
partnerships with and that can include   
academic organizations. Maybe they can help   
you assess information about people with   
disabilities in the state, their needs, how   
centers serve them, et cetera.   
Business, how you can partner with businesses   
that might help fund the services that folks   
need, foundations for similar reasons, the   
protection and the advocacy system, which has   
admission for both system advocacy and can   
often be a great partner. A disability   
advocacy coalition. We have a great   
coalition in Wisconsin on which most of the   
major disability advocacy organizations   
serve. Your aging community. After all,   
they are serving a large number of people   
with disabilities over the age of 60 and   
include area agencies on aging or AAAs, the   
American association for retired people or   
AARP, or many other agencies within that   
community.   
That's it for slide 9. Move on to slide 10,   
please.   
Now we have an opportunity, if anyone has any   
questions, you have an opportunity to ask   
them and we can answer them. You can use the   
chat feature on the webinar or use the   
feature on the phone system.   
>> TIM FUCHS: Perfect. Thank you, Mike.   
That's all I was going to say. And I will   
just let you all know that you can press star   
pound if you have a question on the phone or   
if you want to type your question, on the   
chat features in the webinar or the closed   
captioning screen, you are welcome to do   
that.   
I don't see any questions yet on the webinar.   
So let me ask Patricia if there are any   
questions waiting on the telephone.   
>> OPERATOR: And there are no questions on   
the phone line at the moment.   
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. We will give you all   
just a moment in case you want to type out a   
question before we start again.   
Okay. Excuse me. Let me pick up my handset.   
First question comes from Karen, she asks,   
what do you do if the governor won't appoint   
the individual chosen by the CILs to   
represent them?   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: That's probably an RSA   
question. The language of the rehabilitation   
act is pretty clear that the CILs should be   
able to select their own representative, but   
RSA has traditionally said that all of the   
SILC members need to be appointed by the   
governor. So once the CILs have selected   
their representative, it should be a   
mechanical process to just have the governor   
appoint that person. If they don't, I don't   
know what the leverage is. He's not   
following the Rehabilitation Act and I think   
sometimes RSA has gotten involved -- in those   
issues. Do you have anything you want to   
add.   
>> TIM FUCHS: Good. Thank you, Mike.   
It looks like we might have another question   
coming. I am check with Patricia to see if   
anyone is waiting on the telephone.   
>> OPERATOR: There are no audio questions at   
the moment.   
>> TIM FUCHS: I see one of their participants   
is typing. I will just remind the rest of   
you that we do have a relatively small group   
today, so it's a good opportunity if you want   
to ask a question, please don't be shy.   
We've got plenty of time for our Q&A break   
and that's what the call is for.   
Okay. I wanted to wait. It looks like   
that's it for the questions in this Q&A   
break. We will break another two times at   
slide 17 and at the very end of the call. So   
let's go back to the presentation. We can go   
to slide 11.   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: Okay. I'm going to do the   
next few slides and then Maureen is going to   
join in and, of course, she can feel free to   
join in if she has anything to add.   
So once have defined who are the potential   
partners that you can work with, then you   
need to look at why you have partnerships.   
The first step might be to define and   
identify who is in your IL network in your   
state. Who do you feel are the core players   
in delivering independent living services and   
achieving the objectives in the state plan   
for independent living.   
I think in every state that should include   
the SILC. In every state, hopefully, that's   
including all of the Centers for Independent   
Living. The DSU is nominally included, but,   
again, this is a question of to what extent   
are they involved? To what extent do you   
want to change that? Or are they involved at   
the appropriate level for your state?   
For states that have an association of   
centers, they are going to be involved in   
your independent living network. That's   
probably the basic independent living network   
and if you kind of look at the world as a   
series of Russian dolls, where one fits   
inside the other, that would be the smallest   
Russian doll. The center of the network.   
If you think that other agencies within your   
state are going to work with you, are going   
to help ensure that consumers get the   
services we need and help achieve objectives   
in 9 state plans for independent living, you   
can go and have bigger and bigger Russian   
dolls, including more and more organizations   
and people around your state.   
You probably are going to want to consider to   
what extent any agency or person supports the   
independent living philosophy, and the   
mission of the independent living program.   
Slide 12.   
The importance of developing independent   
living networks into strong, cohesive   
partnerships that serve as a springboard to   
shared goals -- boy, that doesn't sound like   
I wrote that or maybe it does.   
The idea there is we really need to be   
thinking about what you want to get done and   
in each of your state plans for independent   
living, you are going to have a number of   
objectives. It's going to differ quite a bit   
from state to state. In Wisconsin, I think   
we have a dozen objectives. For each of   
those objectives, you should have defined in   
the process of developing that what   
organization, what partners you think can   
help you achieve that objective. And if you   
have gone through that process, as part of   
the development of your state plan, that   
gives you something to work with to develop   
this strategy around partnerships.   
We find that on some of our objectives, we   
have an objective around visibility.   
Independent living centers are key partners   
but so is our state council on physical   
disabilities. On other objectives, our   
partners might be more of state agencies   
providing services or maybe a developmental   
disabilities council. Who can help you   
achieve what you want to get done? What is   
success? You need to know and to learn what   
kinds of things are important to your   
partners for input to the SPIL. You need to   
know or learn what kinds of things are going   
on that could affect the implementation of   
the SPIL. And you ought to be considering to   
what extent pushing the goals of your SPIL   
are how you measure success or do people have   
something else in mind? If they do, you need   
to be real clear about that.   
Move on to slide 13, please.   
The key to having partnerships and developing   
strategy around partnerships is shared goals.   
How can we help them? How can they help us?   
So within the network of -- within the   
independent living network, narrowly defined,   
centers can do resource development. CILs   
are designed to be governed by local   
consumers identifying the use in their   
region, provide services to consumers. SILCs   
are designed to be statewide organizations,   
and identify patterns of need broader than   
service areas. We are not allowed to do   
resource development with our federal funds.   
Leave it for another webinar to talk about to   
what extent you can find other funds to -- to   
do things that you can't with your federal   
funds, but the point here is that sometimes   
you can work with the centers.   
If you have a mutual project you will work   
on, they might be able to do the resource   
development for that project. And the role   
of the SILC might be something else. SILCs   
and centers working closely together should   
result in higher quality and consistency of   
IL services and more accuracy 704 reporting,   
meet more SPIL objectives.   
That, we have in here as just a plain   
statement. Maureen will expand upon that a   
little bit. But one of the reasons that we   
want to be sure to put in -- to put that in,   
is for last several years, we came to realize   
that centers and the SILC put in a lot of   
time annually trying to compile information   
about all the services we deliver, all the   
people we are working with, and what our role   
is within the state. And, yet, there was a   
feeling that it just goes off to Washington   
and no one actually looks at that. So one of   
the things we have done as the SILC is go   
through all of the numerical data in the --   
all of the 704 reports and put together a   
compilation presented to all of the centers   
and to the SILC and, of course, the DSU is   
present at the meetings so they see it as   
well, and see this picture of the number of   
lives that are touched by independent living   
services within the state in a given year.   
That's giving an opportunity for the centers   
to talk more about how they report things on   
the 704 report, to make things more   
consistent and more accurate, and present a   
greater picture, capture more of what we are   
doing.   
It also allows us to look at the SPIL   
objectives on annual basis. We publish a   
report card on our website annually about our   
SPIL objectives and where we are with respect   
to achieving them after each year of the   
state plan. That also provides an   
opportunity so that when we do the plan   
development, people can see that they are   
talking about something concrete and sometime   
something actually happens positive with   
respect to the input that you are giving on   
the SPIL that becomes a SPIL and then   
actually defines some of the actions that   
happened and some of the results that occur.   
>> Next slide, please. This is Maureen.   
Thanks, like.   
>> MAUREEN RYAN: I want to talk a little bit   
more specifically about the way things are   
working as far as partnerships in Wisconsin.   
As Tim mentioned in the opening, we learned   
some things that turned out to be successes   
and we have tried some things that have   
turned out to be failures. This may be the   
same case in your state. So we want to share   
some of those because we are all in this   
together. Mike was talking about the IL   
network and that's what I'm referring to when   
we are talking about. In Wisconsin, we have   
decided to call it the WILN, which stands for   
the Wisconsin independent living network.   
When we talk about what the SILC does versus   
what the centers do and in Wisconsin we have   
a state coalition, that was very confusing,   
even internally to our members and definitely   
externally outside the IL world.   
So we decided to combine our efforts and call   
it the WILN network and that's what I will be   
referring to. SILC works really closely and   
is a really big part of our WILN network.   
Internally, there are key staff, key   
councilmembers, volunteers, their board, they   
are all a very intrinsic part of the WILN   
network and when we talk about the network   
externally, that would mean our WILN network   
going out to other partners and I will   
explain some examples of how we do both of   
those work together as a network in   
Wisconsin.   
Mike referred to some of the shared goals and   
one of the first goals we'll talk about is   
the higher quality of independent living   
services. Obviously that's a goal of SILCs   
and it's a goal of our whole WILN network.   
So some of the things we learned about   
obtaining a higher level of services, was   
that when we would get Part B contracts from   
the SILC, all the centers get a contract and   
so does the state association. And we would   
end in reports quarterly on our Part B   
activities and we weren't sure if everybody   
was reporting the same thing or they just   
weren't doing the activities or perhaps they   
were reporting it differently. So we decided   
we should dig deeper and look into that and,   
yes, we found a big difference in 9 way   
people were defining -- the way people were   
defining terms and the way they were   
interpreting different activities, wait they   
were doing -- the way that they were doing   
data collection and so we decided we really   
need to look at some consistency amongst our   
reporting.   
So we formed what was called a program   
committee that looked at things we do within   
the ILCs and within the state association   
and within our SILC. The SILC staff members   
are on our program committee. The CIL staff   
members are on the committee and so is the   
state association. And we meet every other   
month and we took a lot of time to determine   
how we are defining the activities when we   
would report on our Part B contracts. We   
would agree on what was best practice and   
language and then our data collection was   
consistent.   
In Wisconsin, we all use the same management   
information system which really helped for   
our consistency too. So when we would turn   
in our reports, SILC got to look at apples to   
apples and it really improved our overall   
quality of our services for a few reasons.   
One, when we were looking at defining terms   
and how we were all doing it, we got to share   
differences about the way we would capture   
things are about the way we would do   
activities which really led to some great   
discussion about best practice. So we would   
agree on how it was the best way to go   
forward with this, and that really helped the   
quality of services. It also led to more   
accurate reporting, when we looked at the   
consistency of defining terms and data   
collection and all consistently used the same   
information management system.   
So up with of the things Mike referred to was   
this report, and I'm not sure if any of the   
other SILCs do this but it's really helpful   
when the centers turn in all of their 704   
reports to the SILCs that the SILCs can put   
that all together in one annual report and it   
really looks at the demographics across the   
state. It looks at what we're doing. It   
looks at how we are doing it and, yes, there   
are differences and that can be okay, but,   
again, that made us take a look at how we are reporting on our Part C contracts also. And,   
again, we agreed on best practices and   
defining the terms and our data collection.   
And so we would put that into an annual   
report that the SILC would share with the   
SILC councilmembers, with all the independent   
living centers, and if we had something that   
seemed kind of rogue or way out there, an   
outlier, we would ask the center about that   
and there may be very good reasons why one   
center would have three times as many   
consumers that have CSR plans or three times   
as many INRs than others but they would   
explain that to us if that was the case.   
Otherwise, it was probably an issue about   
reporting.   
So we think this really, really helped, this   
whole effort where we worked together on   
everything and that lead to higher quality   
independent living services, and because we   
would do that, many more the SPIL objectives   
could be met and reported on accurately.   
All of these things led to more increased   
funding for the centers. And so if we can go   
to the next slide, we'll talk a little bit   
more about those.   
When we talk about ways to do more accurate   
reporting, that also really helped -- better   
ways to implement the CIL. We all went to   
outcome reporting and that was quite a leap   
for all of us to figure out ways to really   
try to capture what the CILs do and what the   
SILC does. We all know that the 704 report   
wasn't necessarily helpful to really be able   
to tell our story. So when we all worked   
together to gather our annual information, we   
wanted to share this annual information with   
other people that we work with and potential   
funders and policymakers and legislators.   
In order to do that, we had to make sure that   
we have this accurate data and we were all   
talking about the same thing.   
But what we noticed was when we talked about   
the number of INRs that we completed or the   
number of independent living skills training   
that occurred or the statewide number of peer   
support groups that have met, that didn't   
really resonate with legislators. It didn't   
really resonate with potential funders or   
policymakers.   
So we took those statistics and really   
changed it into a format that seemed to make   
sense to people, and we talked about more   
outcomes and we actually had products that we   
were talking about, things like the number of   
people who received assistance with locating   
housing or the number of people who we   
assisted accessing transportation. Those   
things really resonated with our potential   
funders and our legislators and told a better   
story about what the Independent Living   
Centers really do. And, again, we back those   
up with good, hard statistics and facts.   
So now we have quality and we have a product   
and we really utilize that to show that the   
centers were a great investment and the SILC   
would use that, the centers would utilize   
that and the state association would utilize   
that and it really has helped our funding and   
our quality of service and getting our   
message out to people who really don't   
understand the impact that centers have.   
One of the things that we realized -- another   
thing that we did that really was helpful to   
us was we have what's called the QUIL, which   
is the quality indicator for independent   
living services, this is a copyrighted   
product that Wisconsin developed with the   
help of SILC. We wanted to look beyond just   
compliance factors and really get down and   
drill into what was best practice and we did   
that again by addressing the standards and   
assurances and our SILC contributes every   
year to our state for some QIILs,   
experiences to be conducted. These are peer   
reviewed. They are done by peers for peers.   
It really helps improve the quality of   
independent living services, and SILC staff   
can be on QIILs peer reviewed team. You   
learn a lot and you give a lot back to   
centers. We think that's another way that we   
worked really well together on our goals to   
try to improve the services in Wisconsin.   
All of these have led to more funding.   
Because we have got a great way to back up   
our products and our message is great, and we   
are out there demonstrating that we are a   
good investment, we have received more   
funding and that's been very, very helpful.   
We have a lot of sources of funding in   
Wisconsin. Fee-for-services and diversified   
funding, all of this additional funding has helped us do better advocacy and helped us   
further meet the SPIL objectives. We use the   
additional funds that we got to train staff,   
and councilmembers and really work on some systems advocacy. So that was a great way   
that our partnership grew and developed and   
worked together. And I want to talk more   
about advocacy now on slide 15. If we could   
go to that.   
That's a big goal for our SILC, for our   
association and for our CILs and we are all   
working on this together. We've got a larger   
pool of people that want to work on it, but   
we have to have a unified message. So one of   
the things that we worked on was getting   
people together, to talk about our issues and   
developing a unified approach within the IL   
network first of all.   
So within SILC, they've had some recent   
interpretations from RSA that have somewhat   
put some restrictions on their hard and fast   
lobbying. So that's something that the state   
association of Wisconsin has been able to   
pick up. We have folks -- we don't have a   
full time. We have a lobbyist, which happens   
to be me, as part of my duties go ahead and   
be able to be a registered lobbyist in   
Wisconsin and lobbies just for the   
Independent Living Centers and people with   
disabilities in Wisconsin.   
We get unrestricted funds to pay for the   
lobbying expenses and we utilize a consumer   
advocacy survey within all the centers and   
any time a consumer comes in, they fill out   
an advocacy survey, this goes on all year   
long within the centers and then we collect   
that and with the SILC staff tabulates it and   
we use that as part of our guide that goes   
forward for our statewide systems advocacy   
plan.   
It also is really good input for the SPIL. I   
know a lot of the states will wait until   
right before the SPIL is to be developed and   
then they will do focus groups or have   
hearings where they will have people come in   
and talk about their crucial issues at that   
time. And we found out that if we use this   
continual advocacy, priority process and help   
that going as feedback, that the SILC   
actually has a better picture, when it comes   
time to do the SPIL and they are more   
familiar with the ongoing issues that seem to   
resonate all throughout the three years.   
So we developed the annual WILN system   
advocacy man. We utilized a consumer   
advocacy survey that I mentioned. We also   
use our work groups and our input that we   
hear throughout the year in the centers, with   
SILC councilmembers and with the state   
association.   
And on our system advocacy plan, we usually   
have five or six issues a year. Those issues   
tend to be the ones that are typically in the   
SPILs, have been in the SPILs for years.   
They usually are around housing,   
transportation, employment, mental health and   
long-term care. They always seem to pop up   
and rise towards the top as they always seem   
to be included in our SPIL.   
So we have SILC councilmembers and SILC staff   
that are on our systems advocacy commit. We   
have CIL staff and CIL board members and we   
have our state association staff. So that   
really keeps us all on the same page. We   
talk about a unified message and we make sure   
that everyone is familiar with that. So then   
when we go out externally from our IL   
network, we are talking in a unified voice.   
And I think this is really beneficial and I   
see a lot of states where this has not been   
able to happen yet, and you will get someone   
from one center talking about transportation   
and a way that another center is talking   
about it differently and it doesn't come   
across as a unified message.   
So this really helps to get us all on the   
same page. We meet every other month to go   
over those, and it's a big topic that comes   
up in between, we will have calls in between   
to discuss those issues. So it's been a   
really great thing to work on together. It   
keeps us all on the same page. It keeps us   
unified. We also really work on leadership   
development, which is always a SPIL   
objective, and an objective for our overall   
IL network. We can develop ways to get   
people used to being parts of committees, how   
to learn how to do advocacy and develop those   
leadership skills.   
So I think we are ready to go on to slide 16.   
And, again, that unified message will deal   
with state and national partnerships. The   
CILs themselves will address their local   
issues, but with the SILC and the national --   
but the SILC and the association will work on   
national issues. We look at agencies such as   
APRIL and NCIL and make sure we have   
representation on those. We also identify   
all the key committees that we would like to   
have representation on that we think are   
important to have an IL message there and we   
identify those and we prioritize those and,   
again, we try to get somebody on the majority   
of those committees and make sure to work on   
them, work with them as mentoring them   
before, during and after the meetings to make   
sure they are prepared with their unified   
voice, that they know the content of what's   
going to be covered in the meeting and that   
afterward, they can report back what happened   
at those crucial committee meetings and that   
information back helps keep our whole IL   
network informed. I'm sure most of you have   
heard the saying "if you are not at the   
table, you are on the menu." That comes from   
Senator Harkins. We are not here to find   
fault with what's going on, but it's our   
responsibility to provide recommendations and   
make solid partnerships. So that really   
helps with all of our work together, as a   
larger consumer base and a larger network   
that's unified. None of us have enough   
staff, and more people that work together,   
the more advocacy will get done.   
I think we are ready for questions and   
answers. If anybody has any, we are ready to   
take those at this time.   
>> TIM FUCHS: All right. Thank you, Maureen.   
Just to remind everybody, you can ask   
questions by pressing star pound if you are   
on the telephone, and you can also type them   
on the webinar or the CART chat. I see   
there's a lot of activity on the chat screen.   
That's great. That's what it's there for and   
I will go back and voice some of these   
questions out loud for you all. We will take   
a couple of questions and then check in on   
the telephone. If you want to ask a question   
over the phone, that star pound to get into   
the queue for the phone.   
Okay. So a couple of people, Maureen and   
Mike, on the chat have been talking about ways to empower SILC members, especially new   
SILC members to advocate, to speak for   
themselves and to really speak up and get   
involved and make a difference. So any tips   
there? I know you spoke of your leadership   
programs Maureen, but any specific tips for   
any SILC members?   
>> MAUREEN RYAN: Yes, this is Maureen. I   
think we will cover some more of that in the   
next section but we do work really diligently   
when a new SILC member comes on so they can   
identify with part of the IL network, that   
they know their local Independent Living   
Center and they are connected to them. And   
we'll go over some more suggestions specific   
to that in the next section.   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: Yeah, I think we are   
always excited when we have new blood and   
they want to jump in on some issues. And   
it's great when we have people who can help.   
So one of the problems Maureen talked about a   
unified voice and sometimes that kind of   
diffuses some of the energy that people have.   
So we do things through grass roots networks   
that we have set up at each 69 independent   
living cent -- each of the Independent Living   
Centers in Wisconsin and funded through the   
state plan.   
At the SILC meetings, we try as much as   
possible to cultivate a family atmosphere, to   
go to dinners together, and things like that.   
Even though we don't talk about SILC business   
at those more social things, people have a   
chance to talk about what is interesting to   
them, what's going on in their lives. Other   
people can share things that they are   
involved with and how to get plugged in. And   
so we really do try to encourage that   
supportive atmosphere.   
>> MAUREEN RYAN: And I will make one quick   
comment because I know we need to get moving   
on. We also can set up a mentorship for   
new -- a mentor for a new SILC member, just   
like we do for a new staff member in the   
CILs. So if a SILC member has a passion for   
advocacy but doesn't know how, we will   
certainly provide them with the skills and   
the training, but a lot of it is trying to   
get them motivated and empowered to do the   
advocacy and mentoring really seems to be a   
good tool for that too.   
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Thanks.   
All right, let's see, I'm going to jump out   
of the order here, but also in the questions,   
I see a question for you, Maureen, where do   
you get the unrestricted funds for lobbying.   
Can you talk about some of the ways you have   
leveraged funding and the distinction between   
the coalition and the SILC.   
>> MAUREEN RYAN: Sure. Excellent question.   
The majority of the fees for my lobbying   
expenses are obtained from the centers who   
are a part of the state association. So the   
state association, its membership is composed   
of the eight centers, the eight independent   
living centers in Wisconsin. So they pay   
membership dues to the state association   
every year, and a portion of the majority of   
the centers have unrestricted funds that they   
utilize to pay the dues. They have to   
designate every year with their membership   
fees what part of their funds are   
unrestricted and then I track that. So it   
gives me more than enough money to cover my   
lobbying dues. There are a couple of centers   
from time to time that don't have any   
unrestricted funds and they make sure they   
let me know that, but fortunately, we have   
some centers in Wisconsin that pull in quite   
a bit unrestricted funds through their   
foundations and their other work that always   
have more than enough to cover my lobbying   
duties.   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: So even though it might be   
difficult for SILCs to have unrestricted   
funds for lobbying, I think that as part of   
our role in developing the SPIL and   
monitoring the implementation of the SPIL, we   
need to monitor what's happening on policy at   
the state level and I think we cannot only   
then monitor that, but as staff, report that   
to the councilmembers on what we are seeing.   
And so while the SILC itself can't going to   
do lobbying, that feeds into what other   
people do. The reason that we do it is with   
respect to our development of the SPIL.   
>> TIM FUCHS: Good. Okay. Thanks. We've   
got a couple more questions here in the chat,   
but I want to check back in on the phone and   
see if anybody is in the queue there.   
Patricia anybody in line?   
>> OPERATOR: There are no questions in the   
queue at this time.   
>> TIM FUCHS: All right. Thank you.   
Let me see, someone else, let's see, Heidi   
was wondering if we could give some examples   
of what SILC members might look for in the   
704 report. I think you mentioned, that   
Maureen. What types of things are helpful to   
glean from that?   
>> MAUREEN RYAN: I'm sorry, I'm just reading   
the question. What kinds of things are   
helpful for the SILC members to glean from   
the 704.   
>> TIM FUCHS: Yes.   
>> MAUREEN RYAN: Okay. Mike can actually --   
SILC actually puts the report together for   
us. I know they do a great report on the   
demographics and SILC does a great job with   
the pie charts and as a matter of fact, Mike   
probably has a better handle on this since he   
does the actual report than I do. So --   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: So for anyone who has   
written or read a 704 report in depth, you   
are probably familiar with the fact that it's   
divided up into two parts, one for the state   
program and one part for the centers program   
and then each of the parts has several   
subparts within it. The first subpart deals   
with resources and I think everyone finds it   
interesting to see how much money is really   
available to support independent living   
through our network. And so we can just take   
the information that we get in the 704   
reports and compile it. We use an Excel   
spreadsheet for this, and the Excel   
spreadsheet has a tool that allows you to   
make really nice graphs real easily and then   
we generally compile it into a presentation,   
a slide show that we can use both for the   
council on for the centers.   
The second major subpart is the demographics   
which allows us to look at the age, the type   
of disability, the race and ethnic and other   
demographic features of the people that are   
being served. And that's something that   
centers and the council always find real   
interesting, not only just from the aspect of   
who are we serving, but also it helps us   
evaluate the outreach plan as part of the   
SPIL and it helps the centers evaluate how   
they are doing with respect to outreach.   
Then the next couple of sections of the 704   
report talk about the issues that consumers   
serve. We do an analysis of that for folks   
and the other part that we try to capture is the -- or it's issues or types of IL services   
and then the last part that we try to   
summarize is the community activities and   
just like the centers find that putting their   
community activities together into the table   
and their 704 reports is a very cumbersome   
process, we find summarizing that and putting   
charts together sometimes is difficult and it   
requires some judgment calls, but we have   
been able to show a picture that there are   
many different types of activities and many   
different types of issues being worked on,   
and that it -- excuse me -- and we can also   
show that all of the centers are   
participating in this too.   
And so that -- those kind of charts also tell   
a story that interests both the centers and   
the council.   
>> MAUREEN RYAN: And this is Maureen. I will   
just add one quick thing. I think it's   
really helpful when sometimes the   
councilmembers are from a specific disability   
population or specific age group and they   
always think that sometimes -- sometimes they   
could think that centers don't -- for   
example, centers don't work really well with   
aging folks. They usually work with people   
that are 40 years old or centers don't do   
much with people on mental illness and the   
charts don't generate a true picture but it   
does give a really good overview of the   
demographics and we compare that with the   
census statistics to have some good hard   
facts that demonstrate our under served,   
which will then trigger our outreach plan.   
So it's a good analysis.   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: One of the things that   
have come out in our analyses that I think a   
lot of people have found interesting. It's   
helped us work with the education folks, and   
that's transitioning age, people with   
disabilities are disproportionately served by   
centers. There are a lot of kids in that 14   
to 25 -- I think there's two different age   
groups in the 704 report. And that's been   
really helpful for everyone to know.   
>> TIM FUCHS: Good. Well, thanks so much.   
Those are helpful tips.   
And let me -- we're at ten minutes on the Q&A   
break. I want to get back to the   
presentation to make sure we have time to   
finish up here. I will turn it back over to   
you all. Thank you for the good answers and   
we'll go to slide 18.   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: Okay. Once you have   
figured out why you want a partnership, which   
should help you figure out with whom you are   
going to want to partner, the next step is to   
figure out what you are going to do, how you   
are going to do it. One of the things we   
realized early on is that we work together   
all the time. We work together between SILC   
and centers and coalition and we work   
together between all of us in the CSU and   
other state agencies and we work with other   
agencies serving people with disabilities.   
In essence, we are in partnerships whether we   
recognize it or not. So the real question is   
to figure out how we can make those   
partnerships effective.   
We focus on mutual goals. Our partners can   
provide more than we can do alone. In most   
states, the centers responsible for receiving   
the majority of the SPIL outcomes. That   
means that SILCs have to work closely with   
centers to find out how we can make that   
happen. Are there any barriers, if so, how   
can we address those barriers.   
I will turn it over to Maureen here for --   
>> MAUREEN RYAN: A few slides.   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: Yeah, there you go.   
>> MAUREEN RYAN: I think Mike kind of hit the   
nail on the head. One of the things is that centers, SILCs, and CILs come from different   
perspectives and it's all about IL and we   
need to respect each other. We are and   
should be automatic partners and if we don't   
get along internally, it doesn't bode well   
for us at all. And we have all definitely   
known what it was like to have the farmers   
get taken down by -- the dairy farmers   
fighting with the cash crop farmers. We   
don't want that in IL. We have to get   
unified. It doesn't mean that we always get   
along. We will really argue a point and not   
be afraid to do that, but do it respectively.   
We need to work on some positive things to   
go. We found some things that worked really   
well and some things that haven't worked   
really well. I will go through the next few slides and talk about some of the examples.   
One. Things that worked really well, Mike   
mentioned is at our SILC meetings the SILC   
meetings are held at the centers on location   
for the most part, almost in every center we   
have a room big enough to hold all the SILC   
councilmembers. And we use a part of that   
time for public hearings throughout the   
years, for the SILC if they need or want to   
have one. We have a time for people to come   
in and talk about anything that they want to,   
some public comment time. We use it for time   
that the SILC councilmembers can learn about   
that center, so the staff will come in and   
talk about a unique project or a program they   
are working on. They will get to meet face   
to face and learn -- learn who the people are   
from that center. They are part of our   
community. We think that's really important   
for people to at least meet each other and   
they can start the dialogue and get to know   
each other well.   
It also saves the SILC money to have the   
meetings at the centers, they can use their   
copier and resources there. We have think   
that's a good idea and that's worked really   
well to have a SILC council meeting at thecenters as space allowed.   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: Can I just add there that   
the CILs in Wisconsin have been very   
hospitable to us, and oftentimes they arrange   
for snacks and help us find places where we   
can get lunch at a reasonable cost and when   
compared to the cost of food at a hotel, the   
savings are huge!   
We used to have most of our meetings at   
hotels and it's amazing how much we have   
saved working with the CILs and that's really   
been a great partnership for us.   
>> MAUREEN RYAN: Other things we do are joint   
trainings. We will -- as today, Mike and I   
will do trainings together. Some of the CIL   
directors will do trainings with SILC staff.   
We also offer trainings up to SILC   
councilmembers whenever possible and SILC   
staff. If the centers are having a statewide   
training, we always try to invite the SILC   
staff and the SILC councilmembers and vice   
versa. It's an opportunity to get training   
in and it's also a face to face.   
We have done the SILC development a lot of   
different ways. We've had retreats. We've   
done it throughout the year. We've had   
committees. Whenever we have done it,   
partners are always involved. We usually   
have issue groups that is a composite of SILC   
members, state association, and ILCs. So   
we all work together on developing the SPIL   
and, again, as I mentioned before, with the   
advocacy priority surveys, the centers will   
do that all year. I mean, they are coming   
across thousands of people with disabilities   
all year long and they feed that into a   
database and SILC will compile that for us.   
So it keeps their finger on the pulse to be   
knowing what's going on throughout the year   
also.   
And then again, our -- our WILN advocacy   
groups that work on our annual advocacy plan   
is a cross group of SILC staff, board   
members, along with ILCs and state   
associations. So we are spending a lot of   
tile together, all throughout the year and I   
think that helps. Yes, we get frustrated.   
Yes, we fight. But, yes, we stick together   
and we keep at it.   
A couple -- let's go on to slide 20. And the   
other thing I want to mention is our   
branding. As I talked about before, people   
didn't really understand the difference of   
what Mike did at a SILC council versus what I   
do at a state association and how 9   
Independent Living Center -- the independent   
living centers all were a part of that. And   
this is just about our IL networks. So we   
worked hard to try to describe that all and   
also to try to take that message on the   
outside and we figured it was just   
complicated for what it was worth, that we   
knew what our roles and individual roles and   
responsibles were internally, but we wanted   
to just to present a united front to the   
world on the outside. So we decided to call   
it 9WILN which is the Wisconsin independent   
living network, and that has really helped   
for our branding. We utilize the same   
website, the SILC and the state association,   
and we have a section on there for the   
centers. I talked a little bit about our   
annual reports that we cowrite and share, and   
about 9 trainings that we do. We have a   
brochure that lists all the same ways. So   
the whole message about the IL network and it   
doesn't go into a lot of detail about the differences of what SILC does versus the   
state association, versus the centers.   
It talks about more about what we all do   
together and I think that has been a very   
successful branding.   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: I would just like to add,   
if I can, that this is something that started   
very early on, our involvement as a SILC   
because we tried to describe what we would   
put on a brochure, or a website to help   
people understand what a SILC is. When we   
are trying to get input for the state plan,   
there were a few people who knew what the   
SILC was or what we do or what the state plan   
for independent living was about, but not a   
lot and try to describe what the SILC is   
without also describing what the Centers for   
Independent Living are.   
So working with the coalition and the centers   
on this has been really helpful in presenting   
members of the public just a little bit of   
information. We have a theme to it. We   
serve people with awe disabilities and all   
ages and so it's really worked well to show   
that there are local organizations, the   
centers, and there are state organizations,   
the coalition and the CILs. And we have a   
similar message on both the website and the   
brochure that we use.   
>> MAUREEN RYAN: And a couple of the other   
things that we feel have been successful and   
helpful to us is, again, counting on at least   
twice a year we will have two events that   
overlap, and one of them is our annual   
meeting. The Independent Living Centers   
through the state association meet face to   
face every other month, and the SILC means   
quarterly. So once a year, we meet together   
and overlap meetings and it's usually in   
August. So we can plan for the upcoming new   
fiscal year, together on the same page and   
it's been a really helpful tool.   
The other thing that we do every year are our   
independent living days at the state capitol.   
And we usually come in early and do a   
training or the SILC has their board meeting   
and then we do a training for all of us and   
then we go to the capitol and meet with every   
one of our legislators and then we have the   
state association meeting. So we are up here   
all week, the second week of February every   
year together doing our annual IL days. And   
it's a great time for learning, training,   
socializing, and networking.   
  
The other thing we have done well is   
prioritizing our committee representations   
and work on mentoring people from our IL   
network to be on those. 9 state re -- the   
state rehab council is our priority and that   
has a lot to do with both of us and we work   
really diligently to make sure that the   
people on the rehab council can speak with a   
unified voice about independent living and,   
again, other councils where we will decide   
who, you know, should this be SILC staff that   
goes on this? Or SILC councilmembers? Is   
this ILC staff? Is this a state association   
staff?   
So, again, there's not enough of us to go   
around and we work diligently on prioritizing   
that and getting membership to work well with   
the unified voice amongst all the council.   
On to slide 21. I know we are running out of   
time. So I'm going to try to get through   
this next few pretty fast. Things that   
didn't work. That list is just as long,   
believe me. We continue to screw up every   
day. But we learn. And I think that's the   
big thing, to not get critical about it, to   
just learn from your mistakes, figure out   
what parts worked and what parts didn't and   
why. Some of the things that did work at the   
same time had difficulty. The committees   
that I was talking about, that are going on   
about people with disabilities all over the   
state, we can't always get people to them.   
And we can't always do mentoring, and we   
might just get a person that is up to speed   
to do all of those and then they leave the   
center or their staff turn over and we have   
to start all over.   
Or we might get somebody that just has a   
different opinion and they are not always on   
the same page as the unified voice or don't   
communicate what happened at the meetings   
back to us. There are pieces that do fall   
apart sometimes about that.   
Working with the DSU, as we all know can be   
challenging at times. And we are all   
somewhat equal in that, in the network   
sharing that role and that part. I don't   
think I will probably go into too much more   
detail about that.   
Logistics at the annual meeting, the   
overlapping meeting I talked about, sometimes   
we plan too much. Sometimes people just get   
too tired out. They can't -- they can't do a   
whole week of continual activities. So we   
have learned to try to keep the days shorter   
when planning events throughout that long of   
a time.   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: And just with the DSU, I wanted to make it clear that it's not that we   
don't like them or we don't work with them.   
We have a pretty good relationship with our   
DSU, but they administer this huge VR program   
with all of this funding and that captures   
their attention. We are consumers. We know   
IL. We love IL and to the extent that we can   
be the leaders of the IL program, that really   
help the program to develop.   
>> MAUREEN RYAN: I think we are ready for   
slide 22.   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: Yeah. So how can the   
impact of staffing and other issues be   
supported even when we can't afford a lot of   
staffing? We cooperate with partners. I   
think the SILCs can't do everything. At the   
beginning, I talked about you will aof the   
different agencies with whom you could   
partner, we can't do it all. And so working   
with coalition and the centers and sometimes   
working with the DSU and others, we can use   
our resources. Having councilmembers do some   
of this instead of just staff members doing   
this, also helps to the extent that we can do   
that. And we always need to ask what can be   
improved, how can we make it a little bit   
better the next time we do something?   
Slide 23. I think both of us were going to   
talk about this a little bit, but both of us   
believe that involvement in our national   
organization is important. It brings   
something very valuable to the SILC. It   
brings something very valuable to the network   
of centers. It gives us a context and a   
knowledge within which to develop a state   
plan for independent living that's meaningful   
and has a chance to be implemented.   
>> MAUREEN RYAN: I think the SILC with its   
members continually changing, you know, they   
have councilmembers that come and go. They   
turn over. I think we do a good job about   
even when they go off the SILC, to stay in   
contact with them and make sure they remain   
part of the IL network. Hopefully some day   
they will come back on the network. I think   
that's a good step and a good piece that we   
do. We don't want to lose track of those   
good folks and they volunteer in the centers.   
I think that's also very helpful. And we're   
always working on the SPIL. We don't just do   
that every three years. I think those are   
things that really help all of us. I think   
we'll --   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: That gives bus two seconds   
for questions and answers.   
>> TIM FUCHS: That's okay. We started a   
couple of minutes late, while we sent out the   
new link. So we'll continue for a couple of   
minutes more to make sure that we answer all   
the questions.   
So, again, you can press star pound if you   
have a question on the phone. And we can   
actually start there while I read a couple of   
these web questions. Patricia, anybody on   
the phone?   
>> OPERATOR: Not at the moment.   
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. All right. Well, one of   
our participants just now asked, what do you   
do as an executive when you want to assert   
yourself and let staff work it out? How do   
you know when to assert yourself and when to   
let staff work it out? Sorry.   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: Well, our SILC has a staff   
of two, including me. So --   
(Chuckles)   
It could be very different in an organization   
with more staff. We -- with a small staff,   
we tend to have to back each other up and be   
prepared to fill in for one another when   
necessary and that has lent itself to a much   
more cooperative, less hierarchical staffing   
model.   
When would I assert myself as an executive?   
I guess when I believe that the objectives or   
other policies set by the council is pretty   
clear or the IL philosophy leads to a   
specific result. I think that's when you   
need to assert yourself and make sure that   
the direction to staff is pretty clear.   
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Thanks, Mike. Let's   
check back in on the phone and see if any   
questions have come in there.   
>> OPERATOR: And not at the moment.   
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Well, let's see, I see   
one other question that we haven't addressed   
yet. Aerius was wondering, how did you get   
the IL network started and what were some of   
the obstacles that you worked through to   
coordinate that?   
>> MAUREEN RYAN: We started with U.S. our   
coalition members going. We happened to be   
in the city of our state capitol, which is   
Madison, for a board meeting when there were   
some potential cuts that were going to occur   
to personal care services and because we were   
in town, we took it upon ourselves. This is   
back in 1994, I think. We took it upon   
ourselves as -- in addition to our board   
meeting, we would go up to the capitol and   
raise some hell.   
And so we were pretty effective up there   
because a lot of the centers had a lot of   
knowledge about what it really takes to   
provide personal assistance services and so   
we felt pretty empowered coming back from   
that and thought, you know, when we have our   
regular meetings, we should do this at least   
once a year and let's just make sure we have   
a board meeting in Madison and tie it to a   
day at the capitol. And I think one of the   
lessons we learned about that was trying to   
get the consumer input as our message to the   
legislators was really difficult because on   
the day that we were there, there might be   
something that came up that was brand new on   
the legislator -- on the legislative platform   
and it might not have been particularly what   
the consumers had been providing as feedback.   
And meanwhile, throughout the year, there was   
no one really talking about independent   
living funding. So we combined the two and   
said, at a minimum, we are going to address   
the -- the good investments that Independent   
Living Centers are. We have to talk about it   
because all the centers get some state   
funding and we wanted to maintain that state   
funding and increase it. And in order to do   
that, we had to educate the legislators. So   
we took it upon ourselves as part of an   
annual event to be the ones to address our IL   
funding, somewhat similar to what NCIL does   
about the Rehab Act funding on the annual day   
on the Hill.   
We always incorporate independent living and   
then we would incorporate whatever our   
advocacy priority plan would be throughout   
the year and develop position papers on that.   
So the obstacles that we encounters were   
getting everybody trained on that, having it   
too large or too small, one of the -- the   
timing of it. We always do it the second   
week -- well, now we do it the second week of   
February because that works well whether we   
have a biennial budget coming out but it can   
also be terrible, terrible weather in   
Wisconsin. We had blizzards an snowstorms   
where the legislators have not even made it   
into the capitol. I think sometimes trying   
to do too much within that short period of   
time, have too much on our platform was a   
barrier. I think the weather was a barrier.   
I think coordinating the activity with SILC   
council, again, trying not to load too much   
up during that week, making sure everybody   
was on board with our issues. And then also   
we're consumer driven agencies and so that   
wasn't really a consumer message that day.   
That was an independent living network   
message which is a little bit different. So   
I think those were our three biggest   
barriers. Think we are doing fine overcoming   
those but it was a struggle.   
>> MIKE BACHHUBER: Yeah, and I just wanted to   
add that the council is less involved in the   
planning and the implementation of this today   
than it was ten years ago because the RSA   
guidance kind of suggested that we ought not   
be involved in a lot of the training   
activity. We ought not be involved in the   
advocacy but the council normally meets in   
the second week of months quarterly, and the   
network of centers normally meets the second   
week of months every other month, and so   
February just happens to be a time when both   
of us make sure we have it on our schedule to   
be in Madison. The council meeting ends up   
being a little bit shorter but then   
councilmembers can be involved with some of   
the training activities, to hear more about   
what the centers are doing and it helps   
council in developing and monitoring the   
implementation of the state plan. And then   
some people including sometimes   
councilmembers on a volunteer basis   
participate in the actual legislative visits.   
The council as a whole adjourned at the end   
of the day on Tuesday, but then the -- it is   
an opportunity and the councilmembers   
encourage each other to participate in the   
event.   
>> TIM FUCHS: All right. Well, thanks, Mike.   
That's really helpful.   
And we're going to go ahead and begin to wrap   
up here. I would like to thank you all, Mike   
and Maureen for staying on. I would like to   
thank our participants who stayed a little   
bit longer to get through anything. I see   
that we are flipping to slide 26. This is   
the evaluation link. So that's a live link,   
if you are on the webinar today. You can   
click that and go directly to the evaluation   
form. You will see, I was telling the truth,   
it's very brief. If you are looking at   
the -- a printed copy of the PowerPoint, you   
can access the evaluation link at the link   
that was sent to you. Please fill it out and   
we review them all and we discuss them as we   
always look to improve our programs.   
I also want to let you all know I was typing   
with Mike and Maureen during the   
presentation, and they will make the SILC   
survey available. So I want to thank them   
for being willing to share that. I will   
email all of that to you all, to all of our   
registered participants tomorrow along with a   
reminder about the evaluation forms. So be   
on the lookout for that.   
I want to thank you, Mike and Maureen. I   
want to congratulate you on the strength of   
the network you have built in Wisconsin and   
for being willing to share it with everyone   
today. And, again, to all of you, please   
remember that this webinar is fully archived.   
So by Thursday, it will be available on   
ILRU's website. You can go to the webinar's   
link and on demand trainings to access that.   
And I just want to thank you all for being   
with us today.   
If you all think of any additional questions,   
please feel free to send them to us. Mike   
and Maureen were generous enough to share   
their contact information on slide 24. But   
you can always email me and I will pass them   
along. My email is just Tim@NCIL.org.   
That's Tim@NCIL.org. So be in touch if you   
think any questions, whether it's in a few   
hours or a few weeks.   
All right. Thanks so much, everyone. Have a   
wonderful afternoon. We will talk to you   
soon. Bye-bye.   
(End of meeting)  
Event is not active

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