

*We create opportunities for independence for people with disabilities through research, education, and consultation*

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**Independent Living Research Utilization**

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# IL-NET

CIL-NET · SILC-NET

## Working Together – Building a Statewide IL Network through CIL and SILC Collaboration

*Presenters:*

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**August 14, 2018**

IL-NET is a project of Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) in partnership with the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL), and Utah State University Center for Persons with Disabilities (USU-CPD)

## Evaluation Survey & Presenter Contact Information

Your feedback on this webinar is important to us. At the end of the presentation you will have the opportunity to complete a brief evaluation survey.

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## What You Will Learn...

- Statutory requirements related to developing collaborative relationships between CILs and the SILC.
- Strategic processes for developing and maintaining a strong statewide network to advocate, collaborate on the SPIL, and deal with statewide issues as a team.
- Examples of common barriers and ongoing collaboration, projects, and advocacy solutions.

# Statutory Requirements

## Title VII. Sec. 701. PURPOSE.

- The purpose of this chapter is to promote a philosophy of independent living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy, in order to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society, by –

## Statutory Requirements, cont'd

- (1) providing financial assistance to States for providing, expanding, and improving the provision of IL services;
- (2) providing financial assistance to develop and support statewide networks of CILs; and
- (3) providing financial assistance to States for improving working relationships among State independent living rehabilitation service programs, CILs, SILCs..., State VR programs..., State programs of supported employment services..., ...programs funded under other titles of this Act, ...under other Federal law, and programs funded through non-federal sources....

## Statutory Requirements, cont'd 2

### Sec. 701A. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM.

- There is established within the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services, an Independent Living Administration [ILA]....
- [ILA] Director shall be an individual with substantial knowledge of IL services.
- ILA shall be the principal agency and the Director shall be the principal officer, to carry out this chapter [Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Rehab Act, as amended]....

## Statutory Requirements, cont'd 3

Sec. 705. STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL.

(b)(2) COMPOSITION—Council shall include:

(A) ...at least 1 director of a CIL chosen by the directors of the CILs within the State;

(B) ...for a State in which 1 or more CILs are run by, or in conjunction with, the governing bodies of American Indian tribes located on Federal or State reservations, at least 1 representative of the directors of such centers;....

(3) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS—may include:

(A) other representatives from CILs;....

## Statutory Requirements, cont'd 4

Sec. 705. STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL.

(b)(4) QUALIFICATIONS—

(A) In General.—The Council shall be composed of members—

...(iii) who are knowledgeable about CILs and IL services....

# Kansas IL Network History

- Challenges
- Audits
- Payback \$\$
- Common goals that came out of this challenge

# SPIIL Development

- ALL CILs involved.
- SILCK and CIL staff worked on sections.
- All CIL Directors were at day long meeting for draft SPIIL.
- Facilitator – highly recommend this.
- ALL CILs had public forums for SPIIL.

## SPIIL Development, cont'd.

- Worked on language for when new money comes in.
- What to do when a CIL closes.
- Made sure the SILCK and the CILs got to put in recommendations on these types of issues.
- This helps everyone feel equal.

# SPIIL Forums

- SPIIL Workgroups created.
- Each CIL has staff on each workgroup.
- Day long meeting all CILs get together to understand the SPIIL and next steps.

# SPIIL Workgroups Quickie

- Workgroups set their own goals and action steps.
- Facilitator of each group give updates at every SILCK meeting, then sent out to all CILs and DSE.

# SILCK and CIL Collaborations

- Department of Education
- Department of Transportation

## Personal Touch from the SILC

- Staff experience in multiple positions at 2 different CILs.
- Direct contact each CIL Director over difficult issues.
- Spread the love, no favorites.
- Develop SILC materials that are CIL user friendly.

# Questions & Discussion

# Ongoing Collaboration and Teamwork: SPIL Workgroups

The current and previous Kansas SPIL include four workgroups:

- Outreach
- Employment
- Housing
- Transportation

# Ongoing Collaboration and Teamwork: SPIL Workgroups, cont'd.

The workgroups included staff from every CIL to:

- Increase peer networking and strengthen the IL Network.
- Promote a coordinated way to meet goals in the SPIL.
- Increase opportunities for people with disabilities to obtain employment, housing, and transportation.

# Outreach Workgroup Successes

- Developed “Recognizing Disabilities /Emphasizing Possibilities” brand for all CILs to use, SILCK adopted as tag line.
- Kansas CIL’s PowerPoint and talking points on core services that each CIL can modify and use.
- CIL’s Public Service Announcement.

# SPIIL Employment Workgroup

- Developed “SPIIL Employment Resources” job search info, training, skills, employee and employer resources, disability friendly employers.
- Distributed an employment toolkit on flash drives to all CILs, to better assist consumers to find employment.
- Provided training on obtaining employment for consumers attending the Kansas Disability Caucus in August of 2015

## SPIIL Housing Workgroup

- Provided a statewide training for CIL staff who provide housing services.
- Shared resources to enhance understanding of Fair Housing rights, and ability to search and find affordable and accessible housing.
- Provided input into the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation's Consolidated Five Year Plan and each year's action plan.
- Included guest speakers who provided funding for accessibility modifications and housing repairs.

# SPIIL Transportation Workgroup

- Developed a survey CILs sent to transportation providers to assess current capacity and unmet needs.
- Workgroup efforts increased interaction with different transportation providers and coordination councils.
- Used APRIL's guiding principles and other resources to advocate for improved affordable and accessible transportation in rural areas, Regional Kansas Dept. of Transportation transit plans, and at the local transit meetings.

# Questions & Discussion

# Bringing the SILC and the CILs together

- Look for opportunities to utilize required functions to develop the relationship.
- Organizing and conducting SPIL Forums.

# IL Network Planning

- In Kansas - Required by DSE
  - Spent a lot of money
  - No “leader” – floundered – little follow-up
  - Positive things – training on super-circular & Social Enterprise
- Not great outcomes

## IL Network Planning, cont'd

- SILC brought us back together to work on on-going issues.
  - Reporting
  - Auditing
  - VR recommendations
  - Practical advice & peer sharing
  - Building relationship with new leadership at DSE

## Help with New SILC Authorities

- Kansas SILC asked CIL staff to participate in the planning and action steps for two of the new SILC authorities.

# Systems Advocacy

- SILCK Director and CIL Director met with the Kansas Special Education Director.
- A significant beginning to expand capacity to reach school administrators and teachers of transition age youth across the state.

# Resource Development

- This committee has surveyed the CILs to establish what the funding needs are for the IL Network.
- CIL Director is on this committee and gives the CIL perspective.

# Common Problems

- Mixed Messages to Legislators
- Relationship with DSE
- Recognizing & Valuing Differences in style

# Challenges

What happens when we all don't get along?

- Lose state money.
- Things take a lot longer to get done.

The SPIL can be the tool to bring everyone together even when there are different agendas.

# Final Questions and Evaluation Survey

Any final questions?

Directly following the webinar, you will see a short evaluation survey to complete on your screen. We appreciate your feedback!

[https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cGDByxuvLpHdUa1](https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cGDByxuvLpHdUa1)

## SILC-NET Attribution

This project is supported by grant number 90ISTA0001 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.