

# 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***

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***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

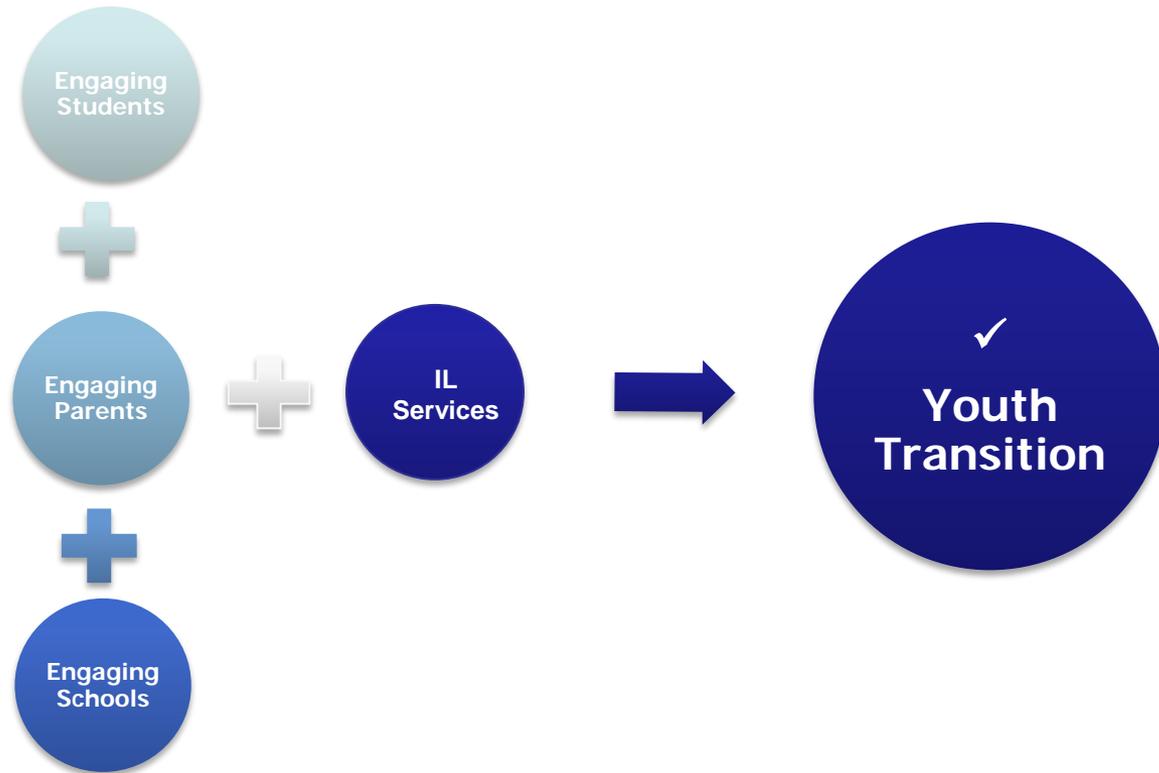


- Talk to them about the IL philosophy; many parents have concern for their child's success.
  - Remind them the growing & changing terminology.
- Create a parent, peer-to-peer support group, so that other parents with children with disabilities can be a resource to each other.
- The same way you reach 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

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