



**Oregon
Independent
Living**



*News from the Oregon State Independent Living Council (SILC)
Issue # 29 ~ November 2006*

What is the SILC? What is Independent Living Philosophy?

The State Independent Living Council (SILC) is a disability advocacy council that promotes Independent Living (IL) services and IL philosophy ~ the life philosophy that all people have the right and opportunity to make decisions about their lives and pursue activities of their choosing, with the associated responsibilities and consequences. The SILC works to ensure that people with disabilities are not denied these basic human rights.

IL philosophy promotes informed choice, equal access, and full inclusion ~ all contributing to increasing the independence of people with disabilities, and ensuring that people with disabilities can actively participate in families, communities, careers, and recreation... as peers.

The SILC partners with Centers for Independent Living (CILs) ~ non-profit organizations, run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities. Every CIL provides four core Independent Living Services: 1) individual and systems advocacy, 2) information and referral, 3) independent living skills training, and 4) peer counseling. Oregon has nine Centers for Independent Living.

SILC Contact Information

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Newsletter Subscription Info

The SILC OIL News is a quarterly publication of the Oregon State Independent Living Council. For a free on-line subscription send a request with your email address to: oregon.silc@state.or.us.

If you receive this newsletter in print format and would like to receive it via e-mail or alternate format, please let us know. We encourage people to consider the on-line option, since it reduces printing/mailing costs.

Executive Director Update ~ Tina Treasure

With the beginning of a new fiscal year, and new projects, this quarter has been exceptionally busy. Staff implemented multiple funding and project contracts with Oregon CILs. After significant delays, we ultimately hired project staff for the Home Care Commission Consumer Training Project. We are working to get staff up to speed quickly to move forward with project activities. We'll share a project update in the next OIL issue.

Staff provided extensive technical assistance to CILs this quarter ~ helping several CILs work through management transitions; working with one CIL on sensitive financial and personnel issues; and conducting an on-site review of one CIL to assess compliance with federal CIL requirements. It has been challenging times for several CILs, the SILC, and for many individuals personally ~ thus, the theme of this newsletter ~ facing challenges and adversity. Wishing each of you patience, grace, growth, and wisdom from whatever challenges life brings to you... Tina

Oregon IL Highlights

- **Home Care Commission Project** ~ This state-wide training project will teach employer skills to consumers that utilize homecare workers through programs including the Client-Employed program, Oregon project Independence, and the Spousal Support program. Training will include recruiting, interviewing, hiring, managing, and providing a safe working environment for in-home service providers. After a delayed start, staff has been hired for this project and they are getting up to speed and moving forward on project activities. Meanwhile, curriculum research and development has progressed, and a consumer needs survey has been drafted and pilot tested. The final curriculum will include best practices of other states, as well as Oregon-specific needs based on input received via the survey process and much consultation with various consumers, the HCC, SPD, AAAs and others.
- **SILC/CIL/OVRS contracts and projects** ~ CIL contracts have been developed and implemented October 1 for base funding, as well as funding for a project where each OVRS branch office will receive \$10,000 to be used exclusively to purchase IL services from Oregon CILs. Additionally, we're in the planning stage of a state-wide project where CILs will house Benefits Planners and Information Specialists, who will work together with the MIG2 grant staff, and Oregon Advocacy Center's WIPA project, to form the basis of a benefits Planning Network that provides consumers with information about employment options and resources.
- **IL funding** ~ For the first time ever, the DHS budget includes \$1.3M state IL funds, with narrative outlining the need for, value of, and cost savings of IL services. The DHS budget goes to the Governor next. Meanwhile, CILs, SILC staff, and committees are working to gather personal stories and cost savings estimates to educate legislators about the value of IL funding. We'll track the status of the IL funds and share updates along the way.
- **CIL Consultant** ~ This OVRS/SILC/CIL project will provide an organizational snapshot of CILs and in-depth mentoring and training to each CIL based on their specific needs. The project contractor ~ APRIL, has collected CIL materials and data via phone and email, and they have recently started CIL site visits, all of which will lead to assessing CIL development levels, identifying training needs, developing improvement plans, and providing individualized mentoring. The project activities are designed to increase CIL professionalism, credibility, and sustainability ~ to strengthen Oregon's CIL network.
- **SPOKES review** ~ RSA conducted a federal review of SPOKES in September. A SILC member ~ Sharon Ely, joined a SILC staffperson to serve on the RSA review panel. The review was a valuable opportunity to learn about RSA, other CILs, federal requirements, the review process, and about SPOKES, the services they offer, and to hear directly from consumers about how SPOKES has changed their lives by increasing independence. Thanks to all SPOKES staff, board members, and consumers who opened their doors and their hearts to share piles of paperwork, as well as stories, enthusiasm, and passion. RSA will prepare and share a review report with SPOKES and the SILC.
- **CIL management transitions** ~ Several CILs are working through management changes. Change is inevitable, and often good, but the path to get there can be hard. The new Directors each have a big workload, limited staff and financial resources, and at times, there are prior issues to resolve that make the transition more challenging. The SILC welcomes and thanks each new Director and their boards, with special thanks to UVDN's board, and their new Interim Director

~ John De Groot, for addressing previous financial misappropriation issues so quickly, effectively, and responsibly, all of which is helping to get UVND back on solid ground, and to demonstrate its viability and accountability to its community, as well as to fellow CILs and funders.

- **DASIL review** ~ Based on diverse input expressing concerns about DASIL operations, the SILC was asked by OVRs to conduct an on-site review of DASIL to assess compliance with federal Standards and Assurances, and with OVRs/SILC contracts. The review team found DASIL to be out of compliance of both, and therefore DASIL cannot legally be considered to be a CIL. As a result, DASIL will be removed from Oregon's "Network of CILs", and will not be eligible for SILC/OVRs funding after November 30, 2006.

It is important to recognize that an organization might provide beneficial services, yet not meet the legal standards to be a "CIL". This seems to be the case with DASIL ~ they fill a niche in their community, providing valuable services to underserved individuals. We wish DASIL success with the services they provide, and in garnering appropriate funds for those services.

SILC Members

Name	Location/Representing
1. Jack Benson	St. Helens
2. Charlotte Buxton	Ontario
3. Jan Campbell ~ Chair	Portland
4. Brad Collins	Eugene
5. Chuck Davis	Portland
6. Sharon Ely	White City
7. Kristi Laney	Baker City
8. Angel Hale	Salem
9. Wendy Howard	CIL-Klamath Falls
10. Martha Simpson	Florence
11. Frank Synoground	Ex-officio ~ OCB
12. Stephaine Parrish-Taylor	Ex-officio ~ OVRs
13. Glenn Van Cise	CIL-Bend
14. Dean Westwood	Portland
15. Ulee Yanok	Huntington

Announcements

SILC News

- Martha Simpson was elected to serve as the new SILC Vice Chair.
- Sharon Ely was elected to serve as a member-at-large on the SILC Executive Committee.
- Brad Collins joined the SILC Executive Committee in a six month training position.
- Gloria McDougal and Teresa Barnes join the SILC as the Home Care Project Coordinator and support staff, respectively.

Congratulations, and WELCOME! to all of you in your new SILC and/or committee positions!

SILC Resignations

- John Dziennik ~ SILC Vice Chair, and long time SILC, IL, and CIL advocate
- Roger Gednalske ~ long time IL advocate
- James Naegele ~ long time IL and CIL advocate

Thanks to each of you for years of service and contributions!

It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves. ~ Sir Edmund Hillary

CIL Accomplishments!

- Jeanne Marie of LILA received the Pioneer Award for LILA's work on accessible voting!
- LILA signed a contract to provide mental health services to OHP clients through 2006.
- Casey Martin ~ golfer of Supreme Court fame and now U of O head golf coach, joined LILA's board. Welcome Casey!
- ILR made the news and raised accessibility awareness when hundreds of people turned out for Portland's first annual "A Roll in the Park" Wheel-A-Thon. Portland Mayor Tom Potter attended the festivities, and he also announced the members of the new Disability Advisory Board. That group will be a liaison between the disabled community and city officials to help make Portland more inclusive.

State IL News ~ New State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) in planning stage

SPIL Planning ~ All SILCs are required to develop and implement a three year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), with their partner agencies ~ CILs, OVRs, and OCB. Among other things, the SPIL includes SILC and IL statistics, education and outreach plans, IL service information, budget for the three year period, goals and objectives, public input and how it was addressed, and an evaluation plan ~ to assess progress and status of SPIL goals during the course of the SPIL.

Developing a new SPIL is a challenging task that requires a lot of planning and communication ~ via discussions, partner input, email surveys, and coordination of public forums so we gather diverse input from across the state for consideration for the new SPIL. The email surveys and public forums are excellent input and advocacy opportunities ~ we want to hear your views about what goals and objectives are important to you.

As a disability advocacy council, advocacy is an ongoing activity and goal, but with so many worthy advocacy issues, we need to determine an advocacy focus so that we develop measurable goals where it is feasible to make a positive difference. As the State *Independent Living* Council, maintaining and growing Independent Living services and spreading IL philosophy are ongoing priorities. As such, IL funding, and education and outreach activities have been included in past SPILs, and many aspects of SILC and CIL daily activities further those priorities.

The SILC held a Retreat in September to begin planning, and SILC members provided vision and direction for many aspects of the next SPIL. More detailed planning will be done at the December SILC meeting.

SPIL Planning Calendar

- October/November 2006 ~ Develop planning ideas and materials
- December 2006 ~ SPIL planning meeting
- January/February 2007 ~ Draft SPIL based on input from December SPIL planning
- March 2007 ~ Share draft with OVRs, OCB, CILs and SILC members for comment and input; revise draft as needed.
- March/April 2007 ~ Disseminate draft SPIL widely and solicit input, via email, public forums, etc.
- May 10, 2007 ~ Deadline for input on draft SPIL.
- May 11-20, 2007 Compile and discuss input; respond or incorporate applicable input into SPIL.
- May 25, 2007 ~ Share revised draft SPIL with OVRs, OCB, CILs, and SILC members for final review and input.
- June 2007 ~ SILC and partners approve and sign final SPIL
- July 1, 2007 ~ Submit signed SPIL to RSA
- September 2007 ~ SILC Retreat to plan implementation of new SPIL.
- October 1, 2007 ~ New 2007-2010 SPIL goes into effect

Other State IL News

- Kevin Stockton ~ the inventor and founder of Blind Signs, Inc. (www.blindsigns.com) was killed instantly in September when he was hit by a van while taking an evening walk. Our thoughts go out to Kevin's family and friends.
- Oregon has created what may be the first truly accessible ballot for the blind. It is HTML based and requires a web browser and access technology, but it does not require an internet connection. We'll look forward to hearing about how well the ballots worked.

Find a purpose in life so big it will challenge every capacity to be at your best. ~ David McKay

In every difficult situation is potential value. Believe this, then begin looking for it. ~ Norman Peale

National IL News

- **Accessible Radio Technology grant** ~ National Public Radio (NPR) received a Department of Education Grant to develop accessible radio technology for deaf, hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired communities. The one year grant provides \$150,000 that will help fund an anticipated three-year research and development project to prototype, field test, and assess cutting-edge radio technologies to serve the needs of people with sensory disabilities. After the study period, design criteria will be turned over to receiver manufacturers as best operating practice. The Department of Education grant covers 65% of the project costs for the first year, and NPR funds the remaining 35%. Additional federal funding after the first year depends on congressional appropriations.
- **Workforce Investment Act (WIA) status** ~ This bill contains the Rehab Act amendments, including changes to the Part C funding formula and addition of the fifth core service. A Conference Committee needs to be named to resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of WIA before the end of 2006, or the bill will expire. Congress is currently adjourned until after the elections, and no one knows if the differences will be reconciled in time. Some disability advocates are writing to legislators to push for approval of WIA amendments this session, while others feel it would be best to work to improve the bill language and details and try for reauthorization next session.
- **IL Outcomes** ~ NCIL's task force continues work to develop outcome measures that demonstrate the effectiveness of IL programs. Review and input about draft outcome measures occurred in October, and training workshops were conducted at the APRIL Conference and are planned at the SILC Congress, NCIL conference, and regional conferences upon request.
- **Money Follows the Person** ~ November 1 was the deadline for proposals for federal funding of projects that move significantly impaired individuals from institutions to community settings. In Oregon, DHS/SPD submitted a proposal and the SILC submitted a support letter and agreed to serve on a project planning committee if the proposal is approved for funding. We look forward to hearing funding decisions!
- **HAVA** ~ 2006 marks the first year of full implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Among other things, HAVA guarantees all Americans the right to a private and independent vote. The federal Dept. of Justice set up a special hotline and website to collect information and complaints on barriers people run into while trying to vote. This includes access issues for people with disabilities. We'll look forward to hearing how things went, celebrating successes, and planning for improvements based on input from voters during this election.

If you're going through hell, keep going. ~ Winston Churchill

**Hear Ye, Hear Ye... Get Involved!
Share Your Story!**

Now announcing an exciting opportunity for promoting Independent Living (IL)! We want to hear your unique and compelling story. By relating your experience of how you have retained/developed/regained your ability to live independently, you may be able to assist others in obtaining more independence and improving their quality of life. Are you ready to make a difference? If so, please share your personal experiences so that others will also be inspired and compelled to live and advocate as IL champions. Together we can make a difference. Contact SILC staff for a list of questions, or for more info, or to schedule an interview: 503-370-8157; email: lynellex@comcast.net

IL Resources, Information, and Websites

- **Free NFB Newslines** ~ NFB Newslines makes The Oregonian and the Salem Statesman-Journal accessible via touch-tone phone to eligible individuals, including seniors who are experiencing decreases in eyesight and physical dexterity. For info or to sign up, contact the State Library's Talking Book and Braille Services: 800-452-0292, or visit www.tbabs.org. Free demo: 1-888-882-1629 ~ access code 000 999 ~ security code 9999
- **deafCensus** ~ Extensive database of deaf and hearing loss resources, including 440 interpreting agencies, 2 deaf scuba diving schools, 14 travel agencies that cater to deaf clientele, 9 online dating services, and more. <http://www.deafcensus.net/home.php>
- **Oregon Parent Training Information Center** ~ Educates and supports parents, families, and professionals to meet the needs of children and youth with disabilities, by offering programs, services, and trainings throughout the state. <http://www.orpti.org/>

SILC Meetings ~ General Information

GUESTS ~ Guests are welcome to attend SILC meetings. You may speak or share materials during the Public Input part of the meeting; materials must be available in alternate formats.

ACCOMMODATIONS ~ Accommodations, including provision of interpreters, assistive listening devices and materials in alternate formats, are available upon request. Although efforts will be made to arrange accommodations with 48 hours notice, the SILC requests 2 weeks notice to ensure accommodations.

INCLUSION ~ In support of the SILC mission of inclusion, we request that people refrain from wearing perfumes or other scents at the meetings so that people with chemical sensitivities may attend and participate comfortably. All service and companion animals must be in control throughout the meetings. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

He who finds diamonds must grapple in mud and mire because diamonds are not found in polished stones. They are made. ~ Henry B. Wilson

It was high counsel that I once heard given to a young person: Always do what you are afraid to do. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

SILC STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Individuals interested in attending committee meetings must contact staff in advance to confirm meeting time and to coordinate logistics, if applicable. SILC committee meetings are via conference call unless indicated otherwise, and are all subject to change based on the availability of committee members.

CIL Support/Mentoring Committee (CSMC)
~ October 26, 2006 ~ 2:00 p.m.

Advocacy Committee (AC) ~ 3rd Tuesday of each non-SILC meeting month ~ 10:00 a.m.

Education, Outreach, Leadership Development Committee (EOLDC) ~ 4th Monday each month ~ 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Executive Committee (EC) ~ 4th Friday each month ~ 1:30 p.m. 1st Thursday each quarter, 4:00 p.m. (in-person meeting)

Membership, Development and Training Committee (MDTC) ~ 3rd Friday of non-SILC meeting months at 10:00 a.m. 1st Thursday each quarter 1:30 ~ 3:30 p.m. (in-person meeting)

4TH QUARTER SILC MEETINGS

Red Lion Hotel ~ 3301 Market Street, NE ~
Salem, OR ~ 503-370-7888

Thursday, November 30, 2006

1:30 p.m. ~ Membership, Development, and Training Committee meeting

4:00-5:30p.m. ~ Executive Committee/CIL Director joint dinner meeting

5:30-7:00 ~ Executive Committee meeting

Friday December 1, 2006

8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. ~ Quarterly SILC meeting

SILC QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA

8:30	WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS	10:15	BREAK
8:40	SILC APPLICANT INTRODUCTIONS	10:30	SPIL PLANNING
8:50	AGENDA REVIEW	12:15	WORKING LUNCH/NETWORKING
8:55	HOUSEKEEPING	1:15	SPIL PLANNING
9:00	CIL PRESENTATION ~ ILR	2:30	BREAK
9:15	SILC ACTION ITEMS	2:45	SPIL PLANNING
9:30	PUBLIC COMMENT	3:30	SPIL WRAP UP/NEXT STEPS
9:45	REPORTS	3:50	ADJOURN

Oregon Centers for Independent Living

Centers for Independent Living are non-profit organizations, run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities. CILs serve all ages and all disability groups. Every CIL provides four core Independent Living Services: 1) individual and systems advocacy, 2) information and referral, 3) independent living skills training, and 4) peer counseling. Oregon has nine Centers for Independent Living.

CORIL (Central Oregon Resources for Independent Living) ~ Bend ~ 541-388-8103 ~ www.coril.org
Service Area: Deschutes, Crook & Jefferson Counties

EOCIL (Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living) ~ Ontario ~ 541-889-3119 (voice/TTY) ~ www.eocil.org
Service Area: Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Wheeler Counties

EOCIL Pendleton Satellite Office
541-276-0883

HASL (Independent Abilities Center) ~ Grants Pass ~ 541-479-4275 (voice) ~ hasl1@qwest.net ~ <http://haslonline.org/index.php>
Service Area: Josephine and Jackson Counties

ILR (Independent Living Resources) ~ Portland 503-232-7411 ~ 503-232-8408 ~ ilrpx@qwest.net ~ www.ilr.org
Service Area: Multnomah, Washington & Clackamas Counties

LILA (Lane Independent Living Alliance) ~ Eugene ~ 541-607-7020 ~ 541-284-9474 (Message) ~ lila@lilaoregon.org ~ www.lilaoregon.org
Service Area: Lane County

Progressive Options ~ Newport ~ 541-574-0384 ~ progop541@yahoo.com ~ www.progressive-options.org
Service Area: Lincoln County

SCILS (South Coast Independent Living Services) ~ Brookings ~ 541-469-5306 x303 or 800-481-5777 ~ scils06@yahoo.com
Service Area: Coos & Curry Counties

SPOKES Unlimited ~ Klamath Falls 541-883-7547
Service Area: Klamath & Lake Counties

UVDN (Umpqua Valley disAbilities Network) ~ Roseburg ~ 541-672-6336 ~ 541-440-2882 (TTY)
Service Area: Douglas County

The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones. ~ Faulkner

The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination.

~ Tommy Lasorda

Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors. ~ African Proverb

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When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.*

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