



**Oregon
Independent
Living**



*News from the Oregon State Independent Living Council (SILC)
Issue # 32 ~ November 2007*

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 eight Centers for Independent Living.

Executive Director Update ~ Tina Treasure

This quarter marks the end of our fiscal year, and the beginning of a new State Plan for Independent Living ~ SPIL period.

What is a SPIL? ~ In order to receive federal funding under Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, each state's SILC is required to develop and implement a three year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), with their partner agencies. In Oregon, our partner agencies are Office of

Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVRs), and Oregon Commission for the Blind (OCB). The SPIL is primarily a three-year strategic plan with goals and objectives, a design for the expansion of the state's CILs and provision of IL services, CIL funding priorities, and CIL and SILC outreach plans. The SPIL also includes SILC and IL statistics, IL service information, a budget for the three year period, and an evaluation plan that identifies how the SILC will assess progress and status of SPIL goals.

The new SPIL will be in effect from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2010. SILC committees and partners are developing work plans to achieve the SPIL goals and objectives.

The SILC is in transition in other ways as well ~ 3 months ago, we hired a new STEPS Project Coordinator; our Executive Assistant ~ Shelly Emery was promoted to a new Operations Coordinator position; all SILC staff positions are being restructured for more efficiency; new CIL contracts and some partner agreements have been recently implemented; we're working with CILs and DHS to implement a statewide Work Incentives Project (WIN) to deliver benefits planning; we've had our SILC Chair and ED appointed to the reorganized Oregon Disabilities Commission. With all these transitions and associated activities, staff is even busier than usual. As a result, this will be a condensed newsletter, with a focus on the new SPIL and legislative updates.

Wishing everyone well on their journeys through life and the many transitions along the way. Tina

Turbulence is life force. It is opportunity. Let's love turbulence and use it for change. ~ Ramsay Clark

The Mission of the SILC is to promote choice, equal access, and full inclusion of people with disabilities, throughout the State of Oregon.

STATE AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING NEWS

NATIONAL

- **National Disability Awareness month** ~ October featured nationwide events in celebration of National Disability Awareness Month. One disability oriented website featured "Disability 101" info and quizzes to educate about disabilities in a fun and interactive style. Try some! <http://www.bobbydodd.com/NDEAM/disability.aspx>
- **SSI Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)** ~ The Social Security Administration announced a 2.3% COLA for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries in 2008. SSA website: www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice/factsheets/colafacts2008.htm.
- **Mental Health Parity** ~ The Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007 (H.R. 1424) passed in the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and is expected to move to the House floor soon. The Senate passed a similar version of the bill. The purpose of this bill is to require health insurance plans to provide comparable benefits for mental health and addiction services to those they provide for medical services.
- **ADA Restoration** ~ The ADA Restoration Act (H.R. 3195) designed to restore the original intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), continues to win support in the House. Advocates will continue to meet with House staff and disability and civil rights groups to maintain momentum in the House and coordinate a similar campaign in the Senate.
- **Pathways to Independence Act of 2007 (S. 1730)** ~ This Act was introduced in response to problems arising from changes to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. It is estimated that over 40% of persons enrolled in the TANF program have a disability or are caring for an individual with a disability. Therefore, changes to the TANF program have a disproportionate impact on people with disabilities. S. 1730 would provide states greater flexibility to address the needs of these individuals as they move into the workforce. Senate sponsors are needed for this legislation.
- **Disability Benchmarking System** ~ AAPD introduced a Disability Benchmarking System (DBS) that was developed as a result of businesses requesting a tool to assess their efforts in this often overlooked area of corporate social responsibility. The prototype DBS will be pilot tested soon.

It had long since come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things. ~ Elinor Smith

STATE

- **Disability Mentoring Day** ~ Oregon CILs coordinated a variety of Disability Mentoring Day events to celebrate National Disability Awareness Month.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) ~ Effective November 1, 2007, the Division of Medical Assistance Programs (DMAP) implemented the fee-for-service DMEPOS fee schedule reductions to 83.1% of the January 2006 Medicare fee schedule. These severe reductions resulted due to cuts made during the 2007 Legislative session for DME. The SILC is advocating for reversal of the DME reduction. Through a survey of Providers, DMAP is currently evaluating alternatives to lessen the impact on providers and Oregon Health Plan clients.

- **APRIL appointment** ~ Kirt Toombs, Executive Director of EOCIL in Ontario, was re-elected to a serve a 2 year term on the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) Board of Directors. This is one avenue for Oregon to have input into a national program and also reap knowledge to benefit all Oregon CILs that serve rural communities. Thank you for your involvement Kirt!
- **Oregon MegaConference** ~ The SILC will be a sponsor of a disability MegaConference that will be held on May 30-31, 2008 at The Riverhouse Resort in Bend. The conference is a coalition of disability related organizations coming together to provide a forum to educate, empower, inspire, and connect a diverse array of people and groups involved in the field of disabilities. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

OREGON SPIL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES ~ 2008-2010

The 2008-2010 SPIL goals and objectives were developed with the intent to further the SILC mission of promoting choice, equal access, and full inclusion of people with disabilities, throughout the state of Oregon.

GOAL A: Advocate ~ Expand awareness and implementation of IL philosophy.

Advocacy Objectives ~ Target advocacy efforts on the following issues:

- **Deinstitutionalization** ~ Increase inclusion and independence of people with disabilities by advocating for information to be shared and choices to be offered for least restrictive environment, with associated supports to enable successful transition from institutions. ~ *focus for FY2007-2008*
- **ADA** ~ Increase inclusion of people with disabilities by advocating for increased implementation of the ADA. ~ *focus for FY2008-2009*
- **Oregon Conference on Disabilities (OCOD)** ~ Increase education and awareness about IL services, IL philosophy, disability issues, resources, training, technology, and supports by advocating for funding, planning, and coordination among various groups of an Oregon Conference on Disabilities. ~ *focus for FY2008-2010*
- **Disaster Preparedness** ~ Increase awareness about and ensure that disability specific needs are identified and included in local, community, and state-wide disaster preparedness planning; that people with various disabilities and/or their advocates are educated about the personal responsibility they have and the planning they must conduct to ensure the highest level of personal safety, while working to assure those two efforts work well together. ~ *focus for FY2008-2010*

GOAL B: Develop IL leaders ~ Develop IL leaders to help spread the word and keep the IL movement active and effective.

Develop IL Leaders Objectives:

- Identify and recruit **18 individuals for leadership development** ~ Identify and recruit 18 new leaders in the IL movement who possess a firm understanding of and commitment to IL philosophy, with demonstrated ability to communicate that philosophy with others. ~ *ongoing*
- Encourage and mentor **grass root IL leaders** ~ Encourage and mentor grass root IL leaders, including those from underserved populations, to grow in and evolve around IL philosophy. ~ *ongoing*

GOAL C: Educate/Outreach ~ Educate Oregonians about IL services and philosophy.

Education/Outreach Objectives:

- **Health care providers** ~ Target health care providers to educate about IL and its benefits to consumers via the internet and other media. ~ *focus in FY2009-2010*
- **Recruiting and training youth** ~ Recruit and train 5 youth for peer-to-peer outreach/mentoring (age and similar disability is ideal, but either/or is acceptable) ~ *focus in FY2008-2009*

GOAL D: IL funding ~ Support Oregon's provision of IL services.

IL Funding Objectives:

- Expand and share IL resources and funding opportunities ~ *ongoing*
- Assist Oregon's Network of CILs in educating about the benefits and cost savings of IL services ~ *ongoing, with high focus biannually, to prepare for the legislative session*

GOAL E: IL support ~ Greater understanding and implementation of the IL philosophy in CILs, grass root IL groups, partner and other agencies, and in the personal lives of Oregonians with disabilities.

IL Support Objectives:

- Through education, outreach and systems advocacy, increase all Oregonian's knowledge about disability, IL, the philosophy of self-direction, and the value of and benefit to people with disabilities, their families and friends, and society in general that the highest level of independence possible brings. ~ *ongoing*
- To share information and resources and offer technical assistance to improve and expand implementation of IL philosophy in CILs, grass root IL groups, partner and other agencies, and in the personal lives of Oregonians. ~ *ongoing*

GOAL F: Standards and Assurances ~ Attain and maintain full compliance with SILC Standards and Assurances.

Standards and Assurances Objective:

- Develop SILC knowledge, processes, and capacity to become compliant with the SILC Standards and Assurance.

SILC Members

Name	Location/Representing
Charlotte Buxton	Ontario
Brad Collins	Eugene
Sharon Coverstone	Salem
Chuck Davis	Portland
Sharon Ely	White City
Kristi Laney	Baker City
Angel Hale	Salem
Wendy Howard	CIL-Klamath Falls
Dodie McKenzie	Section 121 program
Martha Simpson ~ Chair	Portland
Frank Synoground	Ex-officio ~ OCB
Stephaine Parrish-Taylor	Ex-officio ~ OVRs
Glenn Van Cise	CIL-Bend
Dean Westwood	Portland
Ulee Yanok	Huntington

Hear Ye, Hear Ye...! Share Your Story!

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 to obtain more independence and improve 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 the SILC for info or a list of questions, or to schedule an interview: 503-370-8157; email: lynelllex@comcast.net



OREGON SPIL CIL NETWORK DESIGN ~ 2008-2010

Oregon's Network of CILs is comprised of eight Centers for Independent Living, serving people across the state. There are currently twelve counties in Oregon that are not served by a CIL, and even where there is a CIL, the need for services often exceeds the CIL capacity.

The SILC believes that effective CIL development must be grounded in IL leadership evolving from local consumer grass root efforts. Based on this belief, CIL funding priorities are designed in steps that support the stabilization of established CILs first, and then newer CILs, with the intent that all Oregon CILs can ultimately be funded at the \$200,000 base funding goal.

CIL Network Funding Priorities

The SILC's top funding priority is to allocate funds to cover the SILC's budget and some savings to ensure that the SILC maintains the financial capacity to fulfill the legal responsibilities of a SILC. Remaining SILC funds, new federal Part C funds, and/or additional SILC funds that are specifically allocated to the base funding of CILs, will be distributed to Oregon's Network of CILs in the priority order noted below, with CIL eligibility contingent on maintaining compliance with the Rehab Act's Section 725 Standards and Assurances.

1. Maintain \$200,000 funding goal for CORIL, SPOKES, HASL, and UVDN.
2. Fund EOCIL to \$63,000.
3. Balance of funds, up to \$48,000, divided equally between other groups verified by the DSU/SILC as meeting Section 725 Standards and Assurances prior to the 2008-2010 SPIL submission.
4. Fund EOCIL to \$100,000.
5. Bring other groups verified by the DSU/SILC as meeting Section 725 Standards and Assurances prior to the 2008-2010 SPIL submission to \$100,000 each.
6. Fund EOCIL to \$200,000.
7. Outreach to underserved/unserved areas ~ up to \$50,000 for this activity.
8. Bring other groups verified by the DSU/SILC as meeting Section 725 Standards and Assurances prior to the 2008-2010 SPIL submission to \$200,000 each.

Advocacy Success!

Although the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) did not include the DHS Policy Option Package (POP) that would have increased state IL state funds to the desired \$1.3 million level we hoped for, the SILC worked closely with OVRS, CILs, and other partners to educate the legislature about the need for and benefit of IL services. The SILC developed an IL booklet with information on the history of IL, description of CILs and IL services, and crucial information about the cost savings of IL services. As a result of these collaborative advocacy efforts, the legislature approved \$720,000 state IL funding for the 2007-2009 biennium. The SILC will allocate IL funds to CIL base funding in accordance with the SPIL CIL funding priorities as listed above. Thank you to all our partners, advocates, and legislators who made this possible!



1st QUARTER SILC MEETINGS
Keizer Renaissance Inn (formerly Wittenberg Inn)
5188 Wittenberg Lane North ~ Keizer, OR phone: 503-390-4733

- **Thursday December 6, 2007**
1:30 p.m. ~ Membership, Development, and Training Committee meeting
4:00-7:00 p.m. ~ Executive Committee meeting
- **Friday December 7, 2007**
8:30-4:00 p.m. ~ Quarterly SILC meeting

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.

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.

- **Advocacy Committee (AC)** ~ 2nd Monday of each month ~ 9:00 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 9:00 a.m. 1st Thursday each quarter 1:30 ~ 3:30 p.m. (in-person meeting)



SILC QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA ~ Friday, December 7, 2007

8:30	WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS	11:45	CONFERENCE REPORTS
8:50	AGENDA REVIEW/HOUSEKEEPING	12:00	LUNCH
9:00	PRESENTATIONS	1:00	SILC APPOINTMENTS
9:45	SILC ACTION ITEMS	1:15	PROJECTS/ACTIVITY UPDATES
10:00	PUBLIC COMMENT	2:15	BREAK
10:15	BREAK	2:30	PROJECTS/ACTIVITY UPDATES
10:30	STAFF AND AGENCY REPORTS	3:30	NEXT MEETING ~ Friday March 7, 2008
11:15	REVIEW/APPROVE SPIL WORK PLANS	3:45	WRAP UP/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 eight 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 ~ EOCIL Pendleton Satellite Office ~ 541-276-0883

Service Area: Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wheeler Counties

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

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

OREGON SILC

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We are not in a position in which we have nothing to work with. We have capacities, talents, direction, missions, callings. ~ Abraham Maslow

Newsletter Subscription Info ~ OIL News is a quarterly publication of the Oregon SILC. 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 ~ it reduces printing/mailing costs.

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