



Oregon Independent Living



News from the Oregon State Independent Living Council (SILC)
Issue # 34 ~ May 2008

What is the SILC? What is Independent Living Philosophy?

The State Independent Living Council (SILC) is established by Executive Order of the Governor and consists of up to twenty-one voting members, the majority of whom are persons with disabilities. Along with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and Oregon Commission for the Blind, the SILC develops and monitors implementation of a 3-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

The SPIL establishes priorities for services, collaborations, networking, systems and policy change, and funding levels for the state's network of Centers for Independent Living (CILs). To help guide this plan, the SILC solicits public feedback on the effectiveness of independent living services and the changing needs of people with disabilities in communities throughout Oregon, coordinates information and activities with other disability related organizations, and fosters a collaborative focus on increasing the opportunities for Oregonians with disabilities to live independently.

Independent Living 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.

One of the SILC's primary partners are 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 second quarter of our new SPIL. Progress on SPIL activities and other work has been rocky due to staff turnover, heavy workloads, competing priority tasks, and catching up after making time for a federal Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) review of Oregon's Independent Living Program. These challenges have sometimes felt like we take two steps backwards for each step forward. Although we know that perseverance pays off in the end, we can use a reminder of that fact, so perseverance is the theme of this newsletter!

Highlights of this quarter include the following activities:

- Follow-up from the federal RSA review
- Planning aspects of Oregon's disability Mega Conference ~ May 29-31 in Bend
- Coordinating work on SPIL activities with associated SPIL tracking/reporting
- Advocating against state and federal program rule changes that have negative impacts to people with disabilities
- Advocating for increased IL funding
- Hiring and training new staff
- Continuing involvement in various statewide projects, committees, and conferences to promote and spread information about IL services and philosophy
- Developing a project proposal, budget, funding structures, and contracts for the new STEPS contract year

Although we're working through transitions, we're hoping to settle into a more consistent routine soon! Tina Treasure

Fall seven times; stand up eight.
Japanese Proverb

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STATE AND FEDERAL INDEPENDENT LIVING NEWS

OREGON ON THE MOVE ~ The SILC and CILs look forward to a new statewide project ~ "On the Move in Oregon" ~ a Money Follows the Person (MFP) de-institutionalization project that will demonstrate that individuals with long-term institutionalization history and complex medical and long-term care needs can reside in less restrictive settings through community-based housing options and appropriate support and service packages. Visit www.oregon.gov/dhs/spd/mfp to learn more about this exciting project and to stay in the loop about its progress.



The project funding will be available from the second quarter of 2008 through September 2011. The project expects to move 1,000 individuals from institutions to community based settings:

- 40 children with developmental disabilities, currently in pediatric nursing facilities
- 260 seniors with ADL and other needs, currently in nursing facilities
- 500 adults with physical disabilities, currently in nursing facilities
- 200 adults with developmental disabilities, currently in nursing and intermediate care facilities



OREGON'S 2008 BUDGET REVISIONS ~ Legislative budget leaders announced February 2008 budget revisions that will address some critical needs for the remainder of the biennium and leave a \$32 million ending fund balance. Highlights of the budget include:

- \$12.2 million for senior citizen programs including adult foster care, assisted living centers, and stabilizing Oregon Project Independence
- \$7.3 million for additional child welfare workers to address the foster care crisis in Oregon
- \$6.6 million for the Oregon State Hospital
- \$3.9 million for Measure 49 implementation
- \$2.5 million for water supply, including a recovery assessment of the Umatilla basin regional aquifer and statewide grants for local water planning studies
- \$2 million to protect affordable housing for vulnerable Oregonians;
- \$1.6 million for debt restructuring at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry
- \$500,000 to help local governments and counties pay the interest on federal disaster recovery loans
- \$485,000 for 24/7 state trooper coverage
- \$275,000 to ensure that the state's early childhood programs are child-centered

MEDICARE ~ When Congress passed the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, one of the ways it paid for the new prescription drug program was to require a competitive bidding program for Medicaid-covered wheelchairs, oxygen, and other durable medical equipment (DME). The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) agency recently initiated a provider bidding process in 10 metropolitan areas across the country. Although Oregon isn't affected by the first round of bids; a second round of bids is upcoming in 70 additional metropolitan areas.

Selected providers will be the ONLY source for people to obtain Medicare-covered wheelchairs, oxygen, and other DME as of July 1 in the first 10 areas, and January 2009 in the second set of areas. Many disability advocates are concerned about this process ~ companies may submit bids based on the lowest cost they believe they can provide services and supplies; some of the winning bids received in the first 10 areas were from companies that have never provided wheelchairs, oxygen, or other DME; companies may be unaware of DME ancillary services and associated costs.

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Many disability advocates believe those factors will result in people with disabilities who use DME having limited access to quality medical devices and technologies, longer waits for service, and diminished relationships with non-contract winners. Supporters of the bidding process state that it is an effective way to reduce some DME costs and those concerns have not occurred in a previous provider-bidding demonstration project. Opponents are sharing information, encouraging people to learn more, and coordinating educational seminars and phone calls to legislators. The SILC continues to share resources and updates.



MAJOR PROGRESS ON ADA RESTORATION ~ Disability and business communities have been in negotiations for thirteen weeks over language in the ADA Restoration Bill. A proposed deal has finally emerged that gives people with a wide range of disabilities more tools for asserting their civil rights protections than they have under current law. Contingent on support of the proposed language by the disability and business communities, leaders in both groups will work closely with Congressional champions to pass the revised legislation, with a goal to have the legislation passed by this Congress and signed by President Bush before October 2008. Visit www.aapd-dc.org/News/adainthe/indexada_restore.php for AAPD news and ADA Restoration updates.

ADA Restoration History ~ Almost 18 years ago, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) passed, promising freedom and equality for people with disabilities in public transportation, businesses, public programs and services, and the workplace. The ADA used Section 504 of the Rehab Act to define "disability" ~ an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, an individual with a history of such an impairment, or an individual who is regarded or perceived as having such an impairment.

Since then, courts have decided that use of medication, prosthetics, hearing aids, auxiliary devices, etc. must be considered to determine if someone is protected under the ADA. As a result, individuals with disabilities who have achieved employment and/or greater independence because of medical and assistive technology and devices are often not protected under the ADA because courts view their limitations as not substantial "enough." In 2004, the National Council on Disability (NCD), proposed legislative language to remedy problems resulting from court interpretations of "disability" in the ADA. ADA Restoration Acts were proposed in 2006 and 2007, with NCD's proposed language.

While most disability advocates support the ADA Restoration Act, business community members were voicing concerns that it goes too far and would hurt businesses. In the interest of a collaborative approach, key disability and business leaders have been meeting since February 2008 with the goal of finding mutually-agreeable language so that an ADA Restoration Act might pass in the House and Senate during 2008. The business and disability leaders agreed that if a deal is reached, both sides will support and defend the bill with any minor clarifications or amendments that may be put forth during the legislative process. Highlights of proposed ADA Restoration Act language changes:

- Requires that the definition of disability be interpreted broadly; rejects Supreme Court cases that applied a narrow definition of "disability"
- Prohibits courts from considering effects of medication, prosthetics, hearing aids, etc. to determine whether a person meets the ADA's definition of disability
- Defines "disability" as any actual, past, or perceived physical or mental impairment that "substantially limits a major life activity" and then defines this phrase to mean "materially restricts a major life activity"
- Includes a list of major life activities and "major bodily functions"
- Includes a broad "regarded as" prong that will provide civil rights protection to anyone who is adversely treated based on a physical or mental impairment
- Clarifies that in cases where a disability is episodic or in remission, ADA protection eligibility should be determined based on when their disabilities are active

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Oregon Mega Conference - This conference is a collaborative effort of disability related organizations joining to create a forum to educate, empower, inspire and connect people involved in the field of disabilities to learn from each other and encourage a statewide dialogue on shared issues. National and local speakers will present on a variety of topics! **When: May 29-31, 2008;** Where: Riverhouse Resort; Bend, Oregon. Visit: info@oregonmegaconference.org

SILC Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location/Representing</u>
Brad Collins	Eugene
Sharon Coverstone	Salem
Chuck Davis	Portland
Sharon Ely	White City
Angel Hale	Salem
Wendy Howard	CIL-Klamath Falls
Dodie McKenzie	Section 121 program
Jack Oliver	White City
Randy Samuelson	CIL-Grants Pass
Tracy Schaffer	Portland
Martha Simpson ~ Chair	Portland
Frank Synoground	Ex-officio ~ OCB
Stephaine Taylor	Ex-officio ~ OVRs
Kristi Tester	Baker City
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! 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: lynellx@comcast.net

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- **Tactile maps**
www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=19115820
- **Tactile astronomy book**
www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=18137734
- **ReadThisToMe** ~ is a new free service where individuals who have low vision or blindness fax documents to ReadThisToMe with their name and phone number, and a volunteer reader returns the call and reads the document. For more information, call 1-877-333-8847 or visit: www.ReadThisToMe.org
- **Movies for the Blind** ~ This company takes public-domain movies and adds audio description, making them available for free listening or download: moviesfortheblind.com/
- **Legislative tracking** ~ Visit this site and/or consider subscribing to their email list that tracks legislative bills, updates you on how your legislators voted, and provides other legislative info with easy ways for you to let your legislators know your views about upcoming bills: www.congress.org/congressorg/megavote
- **Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities** ~ Initiates and reviews legislation regarding seniors and people with disabilities, with a goal to promote individual empowerment and independence. Annual individual dues are \$5; agency dues vary, but no one is turned away based on inability to submit dues. Members receive regular email updates including legislative updates and action alerts, and have the opportunity to submit input to create a strong unified voice to build a better future for Oregon seniors and people with disabilities. Contact Bill Olson, Disabilities Co-Chair, to learn more or to join: 503-316-9844 fwolson@comcast.net

*It's not that I'm so smart,
it's just that I stay with problems longer.*
Albert Einstein

3RD QUARTER SILC MEETINGS
Renaissance Inn ~ 5188 Wittenberg Lane ~ Keizer, OR ~ 503-390-4733

- **Thursday June 5, 2008**
4:30-6:00 p.m. ~ Executive Committee meeting
- **Friday June 6, 2008**
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. In person meetings quarterly, if needed.

SILC QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA ~ Friday, June 6, 2008

8:30 WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS	12:00 LUNCH
8:45 AGENDA REVIEW	1:00 STEPS PROJECT UPDATE
8:55 HOUSEKEEPING	1:15 PRESENTATION
9:00 PRESENTATIONS	2:00 PROJECT/ACTIVITY UPDATES
10:15 BREAK	2:30 BREAK
10:30 PUBLIC COMMENT	2:45 CONFERENCE REPORTS
10:45 SILC ACTION ITEMS	3:00 SEPTEMBER RETREAT PLANNING
11:00 SPIL PROGRESS REPORTS	3:40 NEXT MEETING ~ Friday, September 5
11:30 AGENCY REPORTS	3:45 WRAP UP/ADJOURN

Look at a stone cutter hammering away at his rock, perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred-and-first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not the last blow that did it, but all that had gone before.

Jacob A. Riis

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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 • 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 • www.haslonline.org

Service Area: Josephine and Jackson Counties

ILR (Independent Living Resources)

Portland • 503-232-7411(V); 503-232-8408(TTY) • www.ilr.org

Service Area: Multnomah, Washington & Clackamas Counties

LILA (Lane Independent Living Alliance)

Eugene • 541-607-7020; 541-284-9474 (Message) • www.lilaoregon.org

Service Area: Lane County

SCILS (South Coast Independent Living Services)

Brookings • 541-469-8887 (V)

Service Area: Coos & Curry Counties

SPOKES Unlimited

Klamath Falls • 541-883-7547 • www.spokesunlimited.org

Service Area: Klamath & Lake Counties

UVDN (Umpqua Valley disAbilities Network)

Roseburg • 541-672-6336(V); 541-440-2882 (TTY)

Service Area: Douglas County



*Don't let the fear of the time it will take to accomplish something stand in the way of your doing it.
The time will pass anyway; we might just as well put that passing time to the best possible use.*

Earl Nightingale

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