



Oregon Independent Living



News from the Oregon State Independent Living Council (SILC)
Issue # 35 ~ August 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 Services 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 input about independent living services and the changing needs of people with disabilities throughout Oregon. SPIL work is done via collaboration with other disability related organizations whenever possible, with a focus on increasing opportunities for Oregonians with disabilities to live independently.

Independent Living (IL) philosophy promotes informed choice, equal access, and full inclusion ~ contributing to increasing independence of people with disabilities, and ensuring that they 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. CILs provides four core IL 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.

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

Executive Director Update ~ Tina Treasure

This quarter marks the third quarter of our new SPIL. Our September meeting will focus on reviewing SPIL progress to date and upcoming work, and planning ways to proceed to maximize cooperation and partner collaboration – identifying activities where we might support others who are doing similar work. Thus, the theme of this newsletter is partnership.

The shift from implementing SPIL activities towards facilitating activities comes about partially as a result of the February 2008 federal Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) review of Oregon's Independent Living Program. RSA interprets federal law about the role of the SILC more narrowly than many SILCs do and have done for many years.

Although this is a current area of controversy at the national level, it is also an opportunity to build on our history of establishing successful collaborations even further – to partner with agencies doing similar work, thus maximizing and enhancing the resources and skills of each agency as we work together to accomplish mutual goals.

As we begin thinking along these lines and planning ways to increase our partnerships, we've seen some surprising new partnerships develop at state and national levels that are resulting in mutually beneficial outcomes. Serendipitous coincidence?

Wishing each of you beneficial partnerships in your love, friendships, work, lives... Tina

As long as we play the "us and them" game, we don't evolve as people, as a nation, as a planet. ~ Oprah Winfrey

STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING NEWS

OREGON ON THE MOVE ~ This statewide Money Follows the Person (MFP) de-institutionalization project has already moved some individuals with long-term institutionalization history and complex medical and long-term care needs to less restrictive settings through community-based housing options and appropriate support and service packages. During the course of the project, 1,000 individuals are projected to move from institutions to community-based settings during this project:

- 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

This project involves extensive partnering with institutions and other facilities making referrals, housing agencies and construction companies providing resources, accommodations, and community residences, and Centers for Independent Living and other agencies offering skills training, peer mentoring, information and referral, advocacy, and other supports and services to enable successful transition for project participants so they may live as independently as possible. Visit www.oregon.gov/dhs/spd/mfp to learn more about this exciting project and to stay in the loop about its progress.

OREGON BALLOT MEASURES ~ A summary of November 2008 ballot measures is listed below.

Detailed information is available at www.sos.state.or.us/elections/nov42008/meas.html

- **Measure 54** amends constitution: standardizes voting eligibility for school board elections with other state and local elections
- **Measure 55** amends constitution: changes operative date of redistricting plans; allows affected legislators to finish term in original district
- Measure 56 amends constitution: provides that May and November property tax elections are decided by majority of voters voting
- **Measure 57** increases sentences for drug trafficking, theft against elderly and specified repeat property and identity theft crimes; requires addiction treatment for certain offenders
- Measure 58 prohibits teaching public school student in language other than English for more than two years
- **Measure 59** creates an unlimited deduction for federal income taxes on individual taxpayers' Oregon income-tax returns
- **Measure 60** teacher "classroom performance," not seniority, determines pay raises; "most qualified" teachers retained, regardless of seniority
- **Measure 61** creates mandatory minimum prison sentences for certain theft, identity theft, forgery, drug, and burglary crimes
- **Measure 62** amends constitution: allocates 15% of lottery proceeds to public safety fund for crime prevention, investigation, prosecution
- **Measure 63** exempts specified property owners from building permit requirements for improvements valued at/under 35,000 dollars
- **Measure 64** penalizes person, entity for using funds collected with "public resource" (defined) for "political purpose" (defined)
- **Measure 65** changes general election nomination processes for major/minor party, independent candidates for most partisan offices

Vote as if your life depends on it, because it DOES! ~ Justin Dart

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OREGON'S 2008 BUDGET ~ In early July, DHS shared their needs-based budget for 2009-2011 and solicited and compiled input from stakeholders, partners, state leaders, advocacy group representatives, and consumers across the state via community forums, a videoconference, email, and mail. Input was instrumental in developing a series of policy option packages (POPs), which are proposed additions to the DHS base budget. One POP would increase IL funding from its current \$720,000 a biennium to the \$1.3M level, which was approved in 2001 but then reduced due to revenue shortfalls that same biennium. DHS budget and POPs info: www.oregon.gov/DHS/aboutdhs/budget/09-11budget/index.shtml#draft

NATIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING NEWS

NEW NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP! ~ At the July 2008 national Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSVAR) meeting, NCIL's Executive Director, John Lancaster, attended to discuss issues of mutual interest between the two organizations including NCIL's work on employment, transition and social security initiatives. Meeting outcomes included the following:

- A decision for both agencies to work together to help resolve conflicts that may arise between state VR agencies and Centers for Independent Living
- CSAVR voted to support NCIL's Legislative Agenda
- Agreement for the leaders of both organizations to meet periodically to discuss common issues and to identify opportunities for the two organizations to collaborate.

ADA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008 ~ As a result of hard work and weeks of collaboration between disability and business leaders, ADA Restoration Act language was developed, vetted, and approved by many disability and business advocates. The jointly-approved language gives people with a wide range of disabilities more tools for asserting their civil rights protections than they have under current law. In July, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (SB3406) was introduced in the Senate with 56 original co-sponsors. This bill builds on the ADA Amendments Act that was approved by the House in June, with a 402-17 vote. NCIL and disability advocates across the country are contacting legislators to solicit their support of SB3406 and to thank legislators who have already co-sponsored the Bill. The goal is to have the legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Bush before October 2008.

- AAPD news and ADA Restoration updates: www.aapd-dc.org/News/adainthe/indexada_restore.php
- Find your Senator and contact information: www.senate.gov

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PROPOSES ADA REVISIONS ~ Meanwhile... the Department of Justice issued major proposed revisions to ADA Title II and III implementation regulations. Features of the proposed revisions include adoption of the 2004 ADAAG, stronger hotel reservation and ticketing provisions, recognition of psychiatric service animals, additional companion seating in theaters and stadiums, and stronger provisions for effective communication for people with hearing, visual, and speech disabilities. However, other proposed changes are perceived by some to reduce the rights of people with disabilities. The Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) website has detailed information about this topic: www.dredf.org/DOJ_NPRM/

INDEPENDENT LIVING LEGISLATION ~ NCIL supports two pieces of legislation relating to people with disabilities receiving services in the community: the Community Choice Act and the Community Living Assistance, Services, and Supports (CLASS) Act. For more information on where the two main presidential candidates stand on disability and other issues, visit the candidates' campaign websites: www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues and www.barackobama.com/issues

SILC ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS QUARTER

Highlights of this quarter include the following activities:

- Follow-up from the federal RSA review; advocating with peers to pursue clarification of SILC role according to the Rehab Act
- Coordinating September 2008 Annual Retreat focusing in SPIL strategic planning
- Education about state and federal program rule changes that have negative impacts to people with disabilities
- Collaborating for increased IL funding
- Continuing involvement in various statewide projects, committees, and conferences to promote and spread information about IL services, IL philosophy, and the benefits and cost savings of each
- Developing a 2008-09 budget and applicable contracts for the new fiscal year

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Building Futures Conference - This statewide conference offers information and resources for students with disabilities, their families, and professionals. **When: October 27-29, 2008;** Where: Embassy Suites; Tigard, Oregon. Visit: <http://www.orpti.org/events.htm>

SILC Members

Name	Location/Representing
1) Brad Collins	Eugene
2) Sharon Coverstone	Salem
3) Sharon Ely	White City
4) Angel Hale	Salem
5) Wendy Howard	CIL-Klamath Falls
6) Dodie McKenzie	Section 121
7) Jack Oliver	White City
8) Randy Samuelson	CIL-Grants Pass
9) Tracy Schaffer	Portland
10) Martha Simpson ~ Chair	Portland
11) Frank Synoground	Ex-officio ~ OCB
12) Stephaine Taylor	Ex-officio ~ OVRs
13) Glenn Van Cise	CIL-Bend
14) Dean Westwood	Portland
15) 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: lynellex@comcast.net

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- **Cell phone info** ~ This site compares cell phone manufacturers, carriers, and software for people who are blind or have low vision: www.accessiblephones.com
- 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

Problems can become opportunities when the right people come together.
~ Robert South

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Are you **READY** To Make a Difference in **OREGON**?

If YES...

Find out more about the Independent Living Movement!

The Independent Living Movement works to insure that people with disabilities have equal opportunities as people without disabilities to: control decisions about their lives, pursue activities of their choosing, assume full citizenship and inclusion, and have all the responsibilities and risks that come with these rights.

The State Independent Living Council (SILC) promotes Independent Living (IL) in Oregon. The SILC partners with Centers for Independent Living (CILs) ~ organizations run BY people with disabilities, FOR people with disabilities, each providing Independent Living services that empower individuals to increase their independence.

Will you become involved in the Independent Living Movement to promote the **INDEPENDENCE, CHOICE & DIGNITY** Of People with Disabilities?

Contact the SILC to get involved in any of these ways:

- ★ **SILC MEMBERSHIP** ~ Inquire about joining the SILC
- ★ **EMAIL LIST** ~ Join our email list to receive disability info and news
- ★ **COMMITTEES** ~ Inquire about involvement in our Advocacy or Education, Outreach, Leadership Development committees
- ★ **STATE DISABILITY ISSUES** ~ Learn about the Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities to keep up with state disability issues
- ★ **YOUNG ADULT IL ADVISORY GROUP** ~ If you are a young adult with a disability between the ages of 18 to 26, inquire about eligibility for leadership opportunities
- ★ **IL SERVICES** ~ Find out about IL services that might be available in your area
- ★ **"STEPS"** ~ Inquire about free training on "being an employer of a Homecare Worker" for eligible individuals who use in-home personal services
- ★ **WEBSITE** ~ Visit our website for additional info, resources, and links to national disability organizations • www.orsilc.org

SILC CONTACT INFO

Phone: 503-945-6204 • TTY: 866-813-3526

E-mail: Oregon.silc@state.or.us

NEW ARRIVAL ~ STEPS WEBSITE!

STEPS is a TEPS is a statewide training program that teaches employer skills to people who receive in-home services through the Client-Employed program, Oregon Project Independence, State Plan Personal Care (people with physical disabilities), and the Spousal Pay program. The training is FREE and includes topics such as how to recruit, interview, hire, manage, and provide a safe working environment for Home Care Workers.

As of June 30, 2008, CILs have provided 1,655 STEPS training "events" ~ training interactions with participants, via workshops, one-on-one, or guide-on-the-side trainings. For more information about the STEPS program or to find your closest CIL, contact the SILC • phone: 503-945-6204 • TTY: 1-866-813-3526 • Email: oregon.silc@state.or.us • or **visit the new STEPS website** at: www.orsteps.org

4th QUARTER SILC MEETINGS

Renaissance Inn ~ 5188 Wittenberg Lane ~ Keizer, OR ~ 503-390-4733

- **Thursday September 4, 2008**
4:30 to 6:00 p.m. ~ Executive Committee meeting
- **Friday September 5, 2008**
8:30 to 10:15 a.m. ~ Quarterly SILC meeting • 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ~ Annual SILC Retreat

SILC MEETINGS ~ GENERAL INFORMATION

The SILC meets quarterly, on the first Friday in March, June, September, and December, with occasional shifts to avoid holidays. SILC meetings are usually from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except in September where the meeting day is divided to accommodate a short SILC meeting and an Annual SILC Retreat.

GUESTS ~ Guests are welcome to attend SILC meetings. You may speak or share materials during the Public Input section 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, 4:30 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.

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SILC QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA Friday, September 5, 2008

8:30 WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS
 8:40 HOUSEKEEPING
 8:45 PUBLIC COMMENT
 9:00 SILC ACTION ITEMS
 9:30 NCIL CONFERENCE REPORTS
 9:35 UPDATES: AGENCY AND STAFF REPORTS
 9:45 MEGA CONFERENCE PLANNING
 10:15 ADJOURN SILC MEETING

SILC ANNUAL RETREAT AGENDA Friday, September 5, 2008

10:30 RETREAT OVERVIEW
 10:35 DISCUSSION: SILC ROLES
 11:00 NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES
 11:30 SPIL REVIEW • PAST YEAR
 12:00 LUNCH
 1:00 DISCUSSION: SPD LONG RANGE PLAN
 1:30 SPIL PLANNING • NEXT YEAR
 2:00 BREAK
 2:15 SPIL PLANNING (continued)
 3:45 SPIL AMENDMENT NEEDS
 4:00 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 • 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

It is amazing how much you can accomplish when it doesn't matter who gets the credit.

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OREGON SILC

500 Summer Street NE E-87
Salem, OR 97301-1120

*Working together, ordinary people can perform extraordinary feats.
They can push things that come into their hands a little higher up,
a little further on towards the heights of excellence.*

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 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 as a way to reduce printing/mailing costs.

SILC Contact Information

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