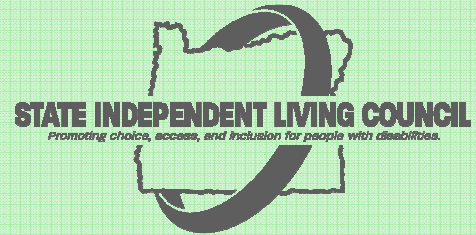


Oregon Independent Living



Issue #38 – May 2009

WHAT IS THE SILC?

The State Independent Living Council (SILC) is a council of up to twenty-one Governor-appointed disability advocates who are passionate about furthering the **SILC mission of promoting informed choice, equal access, and full inclusion of people with disabilities throughout the state of Oregon.**

One of the SILC's main responsibilities is to work with partners, other disability agencies, and consumers across the state to develop a 3-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), and to track and monitor implementation of the SPIL. The SPIL establishes goals and priorities for IL services, collaborations, systems and policy change, and identifies funding levels for the state's network of Centers for Independent Living (CILs).

CILs are non-profit organizations, run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities. Each CIL provides four core IL Services: 1) individual and systems advocacy, 2) information and referral, 3) independent living skills training, and 4) peer counseling. CIL services are provided with the **Independent Living (IL) philosophy of informed choice, personal responsibility, self-determination, equal access, full inclusion** ~ all contributing to increasing opportunities and independence of people with disabilities, and ensuring that they can actively participate in their families, communities, careers, and recreation as peers.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE ~ TINA TREASURE



This quarter was even busier than usual! Our focus this period was on legislative issues, working with various partners on the State Plan on Aging, the annual Mega Conference and many activities required to amend our State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Since the SILC rescheduled the March SILC meeting to April, with an additional day for SPIL review and planning, a newsletter was disseminated in early April. Thus, this issue is a short version, while we continue work on many time-critical activities in progress.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Since legislative news changes so quickly, and since this newsletter is a short update, the following links and resources enable you to learn more about legislative issues as you wish.



- **FREE Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD) weekly legislative conference calls** • Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. • Phone: 1-888-422-7117 • Participant code: 926400.
- **SPD Legislative Information website** • www.oregon.gov/DHS/spd/leg/index.shtml
- **Bill hearings, agendas, updates** • http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/
- **Join the Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities** • call: 503-316-9844; email: fwolson@comcast.net; or subscribe online: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SandDAAdvocacyCoalition/join>
- **Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Disabilities & Aging (O4AD)** • www.o4ad.org/
- **National legislative news sources** • <http://thomas.loc.gov/> • www.ncil.org • www.aapd-dc.org/

SILC CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone: 503-945-6204 • FAX: 503-945-8991 • Email: oregon.silc@state.or.us • Website: www.orsilc.org

SPIL AMENDMENT IN THE WORKS!

A federal review this year noted two best practices for Oregon's IL program and added them to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) website as exemplary practices: 1) development of SPIL monitoring tools; 2) excellent partner collaboration/cooperation. Like many states across the country, it was suggested that Oregon provide greater definition in the State Plan regarding alignment of IL partner duties with their specific legal roles. Revising our current SPIL to better reflect the legal roles of SPIL partners provided a timely opportunity to consider ways to improve other SPIL areas. A SPIL Review/Planning session was held on April 16th. SPIL partners planned ways to build on collaboration and cooperation achievements, and reworked SPIL goals, objectives, and activities to identify clear time lines, lead person or agency, and measurable outcomes.

Those changes, combined with funding source and budget structure revisions, were drafted into a SPIL Amendment, and shared for public input via email and via a public hearing on May 15th. The SILC, the Oregon Commission for the Blind, and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services will review the final draft, and hopefully approve it at the June 5th SILC meeting. It will become official upon RSA approval.

PLACES TO GO, RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT!

- ◆ **Mega Conference** • Statewide cross-disability event • Portland, June 25-27 • Portland Sheraton Hotel • www.oregonmegaconference.org
- ◆ **Oregon Centers for Independent Living** • http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/vr/silc/index.shtml#cil_directory
- ◆ **Deaf/Hard of Hearing Resources** • www.pepnet.org
- ◆ **National Youth Leadership Network** • www.nylrn.org

SILC PUBLIC MEETINGS

SILC quarterly meetings: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. • Public comment: 10:30 a.m.

- June 5, 2009 • Keizer Renaissance Inn • Keizer, OR
- September 11, 2009 • Pendleton, OR
- December 4, 2009 • Location to be determined
- For Committee Schedules, call 503-945-6204