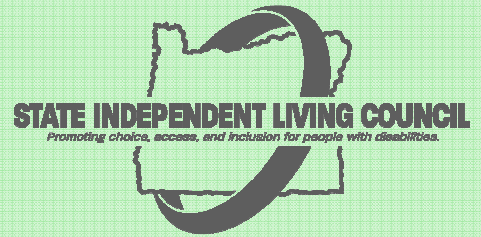


# Oregon Independent Living



Issue #40 – November 2009

## ***What is the SILC?***

The Oregon State Independent Living Council (SILC) is a council of up to 23 Governor-appointed disability advocates, most of whom have disabilities. Oregon's SILC was established in 1992 based on Rehabilitation Act amendments that made funds available to states that create a SILC.

The SILC's legal responsibilities include the following main functions:

- ♦ Work with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Oregon Commission for the Blind to develop, sign, and implement the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) - a 3 year plan that sets goals and priorities for IL services, funding, and systems change.
- ♦ Monitor, review, and evaluate implementation of the SPIL.
- ♦ Submit required reports to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) – the federal agency that oversees national IL programs.
- ♦ Coordinate activities with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and councils that address needs of specific disability populations and issues.
- ♦ Conduct public SILC meetings with sufficient advance notice provided.

The SILC partners with Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and other agencies to further our mission and to support independence of Oregonians with disabilities.



## ***Executive Director Update*** **• Tina Treasure**

This newsletter marks another busy quarter, with some significant accomplishments. We seem to be turning the corner from previous delays and obstacles. Thus, the dual theme of this newsletter is progress & accomplishments.

We're addressing heavy workloads by starting the process to fill vacant staff positions.

We've revised our Amended State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) and scheduled a public hearing to gather input before finalizing and submitting the amended document for federal approval.

SILC committees developed work plan drafts during our Annual Retreat as the first step in implementing new structure to tackle SPIL tasks more effectively. Each committee is now moving forward with their streamlined work plan activities.

Our new SPIL Committee drafted a process and timeline for conducting a Needs Assessment and developing the SPIL for the 2011-2013 period. Many current SPIL goals and objectives will carry forward into the new SPIL, so we have a head start!

This newsletter includes details about some of these activities. Overall, each of these accomplishments and steps will enable us to continue moving forward to achieve our many goals. **We're making progress!**

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

# OREGON IL NEWS

**Oregon Deinstitutionalization Milestone!** More than 100 years of institutionalizing people with disabilities came to an end in Oregon when the Eastern Oregon Training Center (EOTC) in Pendleton shut its doors on October 31.

This milestone shows how far we have come as a society. Common belief used to be that individuals with developmental disabilities could not function in the community. Now we know that people with disabilities can thrive in community settings as long as they have appropriate support.

Several EOTC staff members opted to become licensed as foster care providers so that they could continue supporting their friends/clients in a community based setting. All EOTC staff worked closely with residents to identify and prioritize clients' preferences, proximity to family, and appropriateness of the new setting and care providers in order to insure successful transition to community residences. Many thanks to EOTC's residents and staff!

This marks a national milestone as well - with EOTC's closure, Oregon became the first state in the nation to have no "Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded" (ICFs/MR) and no citizens residing in ICFs/MR in other states. Oregon is now operating 100% under the community waiver!



*Studies indicate that the one quality all successful people have is persistence. They're willing to spend more time accomplishing a task and to persevere in the face of many difficult odds. There's a very positive relationship between people's ability to accomplish any task and the time they're willing to spend on it. ~Dr. Joyce Brothers*

**Oregon Legislative News** • Legislative news is so fluid that sharing timely updates is a challenge! However, legislative updates are discussed, tracked, and reported by various agencies. Some agency contacts are listed below. Get involved!

- ♦ Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Disabilities & Aging (O4AD) website • <http://capwiz.com/o4ad/home/>
- ♦ SPD Legislative Information website • [www.oregon.gov/DHS/spd/leg/index.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/spd/leg/index.shtml)
- ♦ Bill hearings, agendas, updates • [http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills\\_laws/](http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/)

**Connecting Communities 2009 marks the start of a new disability coalition!** On October 16, 2009 nearly 500 people gathered in Portland Oregon for the inaugural event of Connecting Communities. Attendees included individuals with disabilities, senators, state representatives, county and city commissioners, and business leaders.

The successful event marked the beginning of a strong, diverse, effective coalition - the Connecting Communities Coalition (CCC). Over 80 people have signed up to be part of the CCC. Their November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting in Portland will focus on setting goals and identifying strategies to tackle issues that impact people with disabilities. To find out more or to get involved, visit <http://connectingcommunities.wordpress.com>

## OREGON IL NEWS continued

**Oregon's Warm Line** • Oregon's statewide mental health information line recently expanded its service hours and changed its name to the David Romprey Oregon Warm Line in honor of a Salem mental health activist who died this past year.

The warm line is for individuals with mental illness who want to talk about anything in confidence with a peer, without judgment or criticism. The warm line may reduce mental health costs by decreasing doctor visits, crisis calls to mental health programs, emergency room visits, and involvement with law enforcement.

The line initially operated five hours a week from an office in Fossil. The line is now open five hours each day. Oregon Warm Line: 800-698-2392. Hours:

- ♦ Mondays: 3:00 to 8:00p.m.
- ♦ Tuesdays: 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.
- ♦ Wednesdays: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- ♦ Thursdays: 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- ♦ Fridays: 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- ♦ Saturdays/Sundays: 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.



*The greatest accomplishment is not in never falling, but in rising again after you fall. ~ Vince Lombardi*



**Oregon's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) IL funds** ~ The federal agency responsible for administering Rehab Act IL dollars and monitoring IL programs, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), approved our proposal for Oregon's ARRA IL funds! This was after a lengthy negotiation period, but perhaps it resulted in us being assured we had indeed taken the correct approach for Oregon's IL movement.

Oregon will be distributing ARRA Title VII Part C funds to the 5 Centers for Independent Living that already receive various levels of Title VII Part C dollars as part of their general operating funds. That ARRA fund allocation frees up other IL funds to be allocated to the 2 Oregon CILs that do not receive federal IL funding, resulting in a higher level of base operating funds for all 7 Oregon CILs during the ARRA fund period. RSA is working to have these ARRA funds available for allocation by January 2010, but for many states, including Oregon it all depends on when their SPIL Amendment can be approved.

*We are the creative force of our life, and through our own decisions rather than our conditions, if we carefully learn to do certain things, we can accomplish our goals. ~ Stephen Covey*

## NATIONAL IL NEWS



**Lynnae Rutledge to be the next RSA Commissioner!** Lynnae Rutledge has been nominated to be the next RSA Commissioner. Lynnae is the Director of the Washington Department of Social and Health Service (DSHS), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation since 2005. Lynnae also serves as an ex-officio member of the State Rehabilitation Council and the State Independent Living Council and represents DSHS on the Workforce Training Board. She has received numerous recognitions and awards including the 2007 Washington Governor's Award for Leadership in Management.

As a person with a disability, Lynnae was served by the Michigan Vocational Rehabilitation program via assistance with completing her Bachelor's degree in education. Her extensive work history in the disability field includes serving as Project Director for a *Projects with Industry* grant, Executive Director of a Center for Independent Living, Disabled Student Services Coordinator at a community college, Director of the Northwest ADA & IT Center.

Prior to her Director position at Washington DSHS, Lynnae served in leadership positions at the Oregon Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for over 25 years as the IL Rehabilitation Program Coordinator and then Assistant Administrator. Lynnae is a great disability and IL advocate and her diverse skills will be of tremendous use in her new responsibilities. Congratulations, Lynnae!

*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. ~ Leonardo da Vinci*

**National Legislative Updates** • Similar to state-level legislative news, national legislative news is also constantly shifting. In an effort to balance sharing timely national news on IL and disability issues, and keeping our newsletter length manageable, some national links are listed below for your use in staying informed. Each site has a section for legislative updates, current issues, and/or advocacy issues.

- ♦ National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) • <http://www.ncil.org/>
- ♦ National Council on Disability (NCD) • <http://www.ncd.gov>
- ♦ American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) • [www.aapd.com](http://www.aapd.com)
- ♦ Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) • federal transportation updates  
• <http://web1.ctaa.org/>

### **Resources!**

- ♦ **Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities** • <http://ocdd.org/>
- ♦ **United We Ride** • Share YOUR views about ways to improve and expand affordable, accessible transportation: <http://www.uwrdialogue.org/>
- ♦ **National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability** • Connecting youth with disabilities to employment • <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/>
- ♦ **PEPNet** • Advances educational opportunities for people who are deaf or hard of hearing  
• <http://www.pepnet.org/>

## STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING AMENDMENT

The 2008-2010 SPIL amendments were developed to reflect RSA's review input relating to the legal roles of the SILC, CILs, and the Designated State Unit, which in Oregon, is OVRs. During the course of identifying changes related to legal roles, we took the opportunity to also develop and streamline SPIL Goals and Objectives to incorporate the transition work that is necessary to reflect consistency with the legal roles, and we drafted or revised language to reflect more specific desired outcomes for SPIL goals and objectives.

A version of a SPIL Amendment that contained these changes was approved in June of this year, but submission to RSA was delayed pending possible additional changes needed to address Oregon's ARRA fund allocations. With RSA's recent agreement with Oregon's ARRA recommendations, additional SPIL Amendment revisions were drafted. As required by law, we are now following the process for public input, SPIL partner approval, etc..

The revised SPIL Amendment will be disseminated widely for input and a public hearing is scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup> (see below). The SILC will review the final draft, including any changes appropriate in light of public input, and vote on the revised SPIL Amendment at their December 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting. The approved SPIL Amendment should be submitted to RSA on or before mid-December, and would be in effect through September 30, 2010. A new 2011-2013 SPIL will be developed in the meantime for the next SPIL period that begins 10/1/2010 and ends 9/30/2013.

### OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INPUT ON OREGON'S STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING AMENDMENT

**Notice of Public Hearing** • The SILC, the Oregon Commission for the Blind (OCB), and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVRs) will co-host a public hearing to solicit input on a draft amendment to the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

**When** • Monday, November 30, 2009, from 1:00-2:00 p.m.

**Where** • Marion/Polk OVRs Office at 1701 Liberty Street SE

**Accommodations/RSVP** • Interpreter services and other accommodations are available with advance notice by noon on Monday, November 16, 2009. Contact Joette Williams if you plan to attend so that we may plan for enough seating, and so that we have adequate time to coordinate accommodations and/or interpreters as needed. Joette's contact info ~ e-mail: [oregon.silc@state.or.us](mailto:oregon.silc@state.or.us) • phone: 503-945-7015 • fax: 503-945-8991

**Public input options** • Input may be submitted to Joette Williams in the following formats: Mail: Oregon SILC - 500 Summer Street NE E-87 - Salem, OR 97301-1120 • Phone, e-mail, or fax, as listed above.

**Deadline for public input** • Monday, November 30, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

## ***Centers for Independent Living (CILs)***

Centers for Independent Living (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. Oregon has 7 CILs.

**CORIL** • phone: 541-388-8103 • e-mail: coril@coril.org • website: www.coril.org  
Serving Deschutes, Crook & Jefferson Counties

**EOCIL** • phone: 541-889-3119 • e-mail: eocil@eocil.org • website: www.eocil.org  
EOCIL Pendleton Office • phone: 541-235-2224

Serving Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wheeler Counties

**HASL** • phone: 541-479-4275 • e-mail: haslstaff@yahoo.com • website: www.haslonline.org  
Serving Josephine and Jackson Counties

**ILR** • phone: 503-232-7411(Voice); 503-232-8408(TTY) • e-mail: info@ilr.org • website: www.ilr.org • Serving Multnomah, Washington & Clackamas Counties

**LILA** • phone: 541-607-7020 • e-mail: lila@lilaoregon.org • website: www.lilaoregon.org  
Serving Lane County

**SPOKES Unlimited** • phone: 541-883-7547 • e-mail: wendy.howard@spokesunlimited.org • website: [www.spokesunlimited.org](http://www.spokesunlimited.org) • Serving Klamath & Lake Counties

**UVdN** • phone: 541-672-6336(Voice); 541-440-2882 (TTY) • e-mail: uvdn@uvdn.org • website: [www.uvdn.org](http://www.uvdn.org) • Serving Douglas County

*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. ~ Leonardo da Vinci*

## ***Unique Presentation Opportunity!***

**Kathie Snow of Disability is Natural** will be a presenter at Oregon Partners in Policymaking on February 12-13 in Salem, Oregon. The mission of Kathie's Disability is Natural website is to encourage new ways of thinking about developmental disabilities, with the belief that changing our attitudes and actions can help create a society where all children and adults with developmental disabilities have opportunities to live the lives of their dreams, and be included in all areas of life.

As a parent, author, presenter, and trainer, Kathie challenges conventional wisdom and promotes new attitudes, new actions, and common sense in the disability arena. Website: [www.disabilityisnatural.com](http://www.disabilityisnatural.com). For more info about Kathie's Salem presentation, contact Roberta Dunn at [Roberta@factororegon.org](mailto:Roberta@factororegon.org).

## ***December SILC Meeting!***

The SILC generally meets on the first Friday of every third month: March, June, September, and December, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The December SILC meeting will be held **Friday, December 4, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Where:** Renaissance Inn • 5188 Wittenberg Lane North • Keizer, OR • Phone: 503-390-4733 or 1-800-299-7221.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS/INCLUSION**

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

We ask that people refrain from wearing perfumes or other scents, so that people with chemical sensitivities may participate comfortably. Service and companion animals must be in control throughout the meetings.

**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.

## ***SILC Committee Meetings***

Individuals interested in attending committee meetings must contact staff in advance to confirm the meeting and coordinate logistics. SILC committee meetings are conducted via conference call unless otherwise noted and are subject to change.

- ♦ **Collaboration Committee** • Second Tuesday each month; 10:00 a.m.
- ♦ **Executive Committee** • Conference call on the fourth Wednesday each month; 1:30 p.m. • in-person meeting at 4:30 p.m. the night before quarterly SILC meetings.
- ♦ **Membership Development Committee** • Third Wednesday each month; 8:30 a.m.
- ♦ **SPIL Committee** • Third Wednesday each month; 3:00 p.m.

## ***December 4, 2009 SILC Meeting Agenda!***

8:30	<b>Opening Announcements, Introductions</b>
8:40	<b>Agenda Review</b>
8:45	<b>CIL Presentation</b>
9:00	<b>SILC General Action Items</b>
9:15	<b>SPIL Amendment Items</b>
9:45	<b>IL Review/IL Transition Update</b>
10:00	<b>OVRS IL Program Update</b>
10:15	<b>BREAK</b>
10:30	<b>Public Input</b>
10:45	<b>2011-2013 SPIL Planning</b>
11:30	<b>2008-2010 SPIL Reports</b>
11:45	<b>Agency Reports</b>
12:00	<b>LUNCH</b>
1:00	<b>IL Activity Updates</b>
1:30	<b>Community Partner Updates</b>
2:45	<b>SILC Meeting Planning</b>
3:00	<b>Adjourn</b>