



**Washington
Statewide
Independent
Living Council**

Washington Statewide Independent Living Council

April 2026

Quarterly Meeting

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**Washington
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Accessibility Statement

We are working to make our WASILC Quarterly Meeting accessible in the following ways: ASL interpreting; screen readable agenda and director's report; presentation slides with high color contrast; non serif fonts size 14 and larger; line spacing size 1.5 and larger; reading aloud of all content appearing on the screen, including image and table descriptions; and ten to fifteen minute breaks, for every 2 hours of meeting time. We will not go faster to get through materials and agenda items, and we will not rely solely on the chat for all group communication. We will invite cameras on and off as needed for accessibility. We will check in with the group about accessibility practices as we go along. We truly welcome all feedback about accessible WASILC events and materials!



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Declaración de Accesibilidad

Estamos trabajando para hacer que nuestra reunión trimestral de WASILC sea accesible de las siguientes maneras: interpretación en ASL; agenda y informe del director legibles en pantalla; diapositivas de presentación con alto contraste de color; fuentes sin serifas de tamaño 14 o mayor; interlineado de tamaño 1.5 o mayor; lectura en voz alta de todo el contenido que aparezca en la pantalla, incluyendo descripciones de imágenes y tablas; y pausas de diez a quince minutos, por cada 2 horas de tiempo de reunión. No aceleraremos el paso para completar los materiales y los temas de la agenda, y no dependeremos únicamente del chat para toda la comunicación grupal. Invitaremos a encender y apagar las cámaras según sea necesario para la accesibilidad.

Consultaremos con el grupo sobre las prácticas de accesibilidad a medida que avancemos. ¡Realmente damos la bienvenida a todos los comentarios sobre eventos y materiales accesibles de WASILC!



**Washington
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WASILC April 2026 Quarterly Meeting

Meeting Agenda:

Thursday, April 16th, 2026

9a.m. – 4p.m.

8:30 to 9:00am Coffee & Water cooler Talk – Refreshments & Socializing

9:00 to 10:00am

- Welcome & Statement on Accessibility- Kimberly Meck
- Roll Call- Courtney Williams
- Agenda Approval- Kimberly Meck
- Approval of July 2025 meeting minutes – Kimberly Meck
- Financials - Courtney
 - Budget
 - Year end
- Executive Director report – Courtney Williams

10:00 to 10:15am Public Comment

10:15 to 10:30am Break

10:30 to 11:30am Standing Committee Report Out

- Executive Committee- Kimberly Meck, Chair
 1. Thank you to Dr. Summers
 2. Council Appointments
 3. Executive Committee Positions Open
- SPIL – Kimberly Meck
- Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP) -Jim House
- Legislative and Advocacy Committee- Kimberly Meck and Tony Hester
- Education and Outreach Committee- Dion Grahm and Hannah
- Youth Committee- Josie Garcia

11:30am to 12:30pm- Lunch

12:30 to 1:15pm Partner Updates

- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation- Dana Phelps
- Department of Services for the Blind- Tricia Eyerly
- Washington State Rehabilitation Council- Shelby Satko
- Washington State Governors Council on Disabilities- Elizabeth Gordon

1:15 to 1:45 CIL Updates

- Mark Leeper, Executive Director, Disability Action Center (DAC)
- Erin Farrier, Program Director, Disability Action Center North East (DAC NEW)
- Faith Brown, Executive Director, Center for Independence (CFI)
- Mayra Colazo, Executive Director, Central Washington Disability Resources (CWDR)
- Kimberly Meck, Executive Director, Disability Empowerment Center (DEC)

1:45- to 2:30pm Mark Leeper History of the Independent Living Movement in Washington

2:30 to 2:45pm Break

2:45 to 3:45- The Independence Network

See here for an exercise- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-Kk2bcw9PmZ-68VQ4vWafNmW4dCyrHuiNQeA3LHHgYg/edit?usp=sharing>

3:45 to 4:00- Good for the order

4:00pm Adjourn



Washington
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WASILC January Quarterly Meeting

January 8th, 2026

9am To 4pm

Council Members Present:

Dion Graham, Advocate of and for Individuals with Disabilities, Seattle

Kimberly Meck, Center Director Representative, Seattle

Tony Hester, Advocate of and for Individuals with Disabilities, Puyallup

Sue Pniewski, Advocate of and for Individuals with Disabilities, Seattle

Council Staff Present:

Courtney Williams, Executive Director, Washington Statewide Independent Living Council (WASILC)

Jim House, Disability/AFN Integration Manager, Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP)

Guest Presenters:

Shelby Satko, Executive Director, Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC)

Tricia Eyerly, Assistant Director, Department of Services for the Blind (DSB)

Kim Canaan, University of Washington

Elizabeth Gordon, Executive Director, Washington State Governors Council on Disabilities (GCDE)

Faith Brown, Executive Director, Center for Independence (CFI)

Mayra Colazo, Executive Director, Central Washington Disability Resources (CWDR)

Mark Leeper, Executive Director, Disability Action Center (DAC)

Erin Ferrier, Program Manager, Disability Action Center Northeast Washington (DACNeW)

Approval of January 2026 Agenda

Motion: I would like to make a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

First: Dion Graham

Second: Sue Pniewski

Vote: Favor: All

Opposed: None

APPROVED

Introducing Newly Appointed Council Members

- Sue Pniewski
- Amin “Tony” Hester

Approval of October 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion: I would like to make a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

First: Dion Graham

Second: Tony Hester

Vote: Favor: All Opposed: None APPROVED

WASILC Budget – Courtney Williams

- On track with finances, being intentional with spending
- More for travel to keep everyone engaged
- Budget includes all line items

Approval of Financials

Motion: I would like to make a motion to approve financials as presented.

First: Tony Hester Second: Dion Graham

Vote: Favor: All Opposed: None APPROVED

Executive Director report – Courtney Williams

- Independent living is more than a legal term; it embodies the fundamental belief that every individual, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, has the inherent right to live with dignity, autonomy, and the freedom to make choices.
- It strives to create an inclusive world devoid of barriers, ensuring access to supportive services that empower people to take control of their lives and pursue their aspirations
- In Washington State, the Statewide Independent Living Council (WASILC) plays a pivotal role in advocating for policies that enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities
- Rebecca will be pursuing certification in project management to enhance our committee management capabilities.

- Excited to report that over 20 participants have expressed interest in our upcoming panel discussion
 - Diverse Perspectives
 - Intersectionality
 - Shared Solutions
 - Increased Awareness
 - Advocacy and Empowerment
 - Building Community
 - Policy Influence
 - Education and Training
- A cross-disability panel discussion is essential for fostering understanding, collaboration, and advocacy, aligning with WASILC's mission to empower individuals with disabilities
- Gov Delivery: We are transitioning away from traditional distribution lists.
- Q90: There will be SILC Connector Administrative Training on January 5, 2026, at 1:00 PM.
- Our social media channels are gaining significant attention
- Committed to enhancing our outreach efforts by collaborating with ASL experts in the coming months
- Upcoming Goals
 - Establish an Inclusive Dialogue
 - Creating a Collaborative Space
 - Educational Outreach
 - Feedback Mechanism
 - Strengthening Partnerships

- Plan for Emergency Management Education

Public Comment

- **Tammy Woodrich, NIVRP VRC:** I would like to say that I am so glad WASILC is working on emergency management issues. These recent emergency/disasters show us the importance of accessibility. Being a part of the emergency ready home, I received the 6-pack of emergency blankets.
- **Leslie:** Looking into the council aspect, the panel across the state, who can represent people with disabilities. My daughter is 15 years old and she has cross disabilities and its been a really difficult season of life to keep the correct services for her in our area, I live in Ellensburg, Washington. We tapped into a lot of things, but my daughter was diagnosed with Autism about 4 months ago, she has been spiraling for a couple years and we couldn't figure out why. We reached out across the US for places that could take her in and take care of her as we struggled to keep her safe as she was struggling with mental health issues. I'm really happy to be here. I'm excited about what you guys are doing. Since my daughter is 15, she is older and we are starting to look at driving, joining the workforce, also working on training our own service dog. She has joined 4-H and we are getting a bunch of other groups involved. Very excited about her dog and the process of dog training. She's looking at it for a career as well. I had reached out to Courtney about some resources for speakers about cross disabilities because of the place my daughter

stayed I created a relationship with them in Utah. All this to say I'm really happy to be here and excited about the work you are doing. Never realized this was going to be a path for our family but it is. I'm excited to hear about what is happening at state level for care as well.

- **Phillip:** Welcome Tony and his communication skills. Thanks to everyone amplifying that housing accessibility must include creative housing affordability solutions.

Standing Committee Report Out

Executive Committee- Kimberly Meck, Chair

- On boarding new Executive Director, Courtney Williams
- Working on aligning the committees
- Sent a letter to Governor Ferguson relating to no ASL in any alerts or broadcasts about the flooding, requesting full accessibility for the disability community, next day there was interpretation
- Drafting Program Performance Report (PPR), due Jan 31
- Creating inclusive dialog, collaborative spaces, creating feedback mechanisms

Education & Outreach – Dion Graham & Hannah Adira

- Focused on developing a comprehensive presentation that WASILC will use to promote its mission statewide.
- Committee's goal is to streamline our messaging to reduce confusion regarding WASILC's functions and how they support the work of our CILs
- Working recruitment council and committees

- Helping facilitate the Cross Disability panel discussion
- Identified barriers in communication, technology, and transportation in Central and Eastern Washington, very rural and might not have the ability to attend or stream events, connecting with community leaders to help connect

Youth & Young Adult – Courtney Williams & Josie Garcia

- One significant barrier is their availability
- Collaborating with organizations aligned with our mission
 - Transitions Collaborative
- Working with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to engage with Educational Service Districts (ESDs) statewide, facilitating access to students.

Legislative & Policy Committee – Kimberly Meck & Tony Hester

- The Legislative Committee has been diligently meeting each month to strategize for the upcoming session
- Working on CILs advocacy day in 2027
- Mapping out centers that legislators should be engaging with, important to have consumers in those meetings
- Governor's budget did not include a line item for Community Independent Living (CIL) centers
- In collaboration with CIL lobbyist Eric Pettigrew, will engage with selected legislators to advocate for the inclusion of this funding in both the House and Senate budgets

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) – Kimbelry Meck, Chair

- Currently assessing its structure and direction
- As we near the end of this SPIL cycle, we will work collaboratively with the Council and the SPIL committee to establish parameters through a strategic plan
- This plan will aim to identify ways to meet the monitoring needs of WASILC without encroaching upon the essential work of CILs.
- Discussion antimony, if there are changes needed, a proposal will be presented council by next meeting in April

Program Reports

Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP) – Jim House

- Accessible Emergency Preparedness Community Training in Spokane on November 8th drew about 45 people from the community
- Participants were deaf or hard of hearing, with one blind, and one deafblind
- Hosted a table at the Washington State Association of the Deaf / Washington State Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Conference
- After two years of developing a State Plan, we tested out the Standard Operating Procedures by having a Functional Exercise at the Doubletree Hotel in SeaTac near the airport
- Department of Health hosted an Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (DOH IPPW) to identify statewide public health and

healthcare preparedness priorities and collaboration opportunities for the next five years.

- WASILC will create a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for managing emergencies. While Jim's program will handle the work within our SPIL, organizing and tracking our support for emergency management is critical. We will engage with relevant parties who have data on community members with disabilities to better understand state needs. From there, we will develop a WASILC-specific SOP that can be shared with other organizations.

Department of Services for the Blind – Kim Canaan & Tricia Eyerly

- Two separate programs collectively make up the DSB IL Program
 - Participants under age 55 – DVR contracts with DSB to provide IL services to adults 54 and younger with Part B funds.
 - Participants 55 and older – Older Individuals who are Blind federal funding
- DSB contracts with UW to manage and implement the IL Program
 - UW subcontracts with community service providers around the state. UW currently has contracts with 12 entities, with 17 individuals providing direct services for most of Washington. Not all of these individuals are full time providers
- Our participants have lost or are losing vision and are experiencing difficulties performing customary life activities
- Provide up to eight hours of direct service for participants, in their own homes, working towards IL goals.

- Learning new skills like reading with a magnifier, cooking techniques, managing medication and appointments, and/or walking with a long cane.
- Learning how to use assistive technology like tactile stickers for identifying buttons on kitchen appliances to handheld digital magnifiers for reading prescription bottles.
- The goal is usually to regain what was lost, like the ability to:
 - call a friend on the phone, read the latest New York Time's bestseller, heat up leftovers in the microwave, know what time it is to get to a doctor's appointment on time, look at pictures of loved ones, or take a walk in the fresh air.
- If a participant needs more help, they are always welcome to return
- Approximately 900 participants served annually across the state. About 10% of these participants are Part B participants.
- One of our most popular programs is our CCTV or Desktop Video Magnifier Lending Program
- Some geographic territories have waitlists; some do not.
 - Most providers have a 2 to 4 week turn-around time to start services with new participants.
 - Parts of the I-5 corridor currently have a 6-month (or longer) waitlist for new participants.
- Why is it happening
 - Difficult to find (and retain) qualified service providers. (The provider serving the I-5 corridor between Skagit and King County is currently understaffed.)
 - Limited funding for the current fiscal year

Partner Updates

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation- Dana Phelps

- Yael Herbstman and Jacki King have joined DVR as ASL Access Managers.
- DVR is closing all categories effective December 8, 2025
- DVR's Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment contractor work is complete and has been reviewed by DVR's leadership team. Results are being incorporated into the updated state plan.
- DVR is currently finalizing updates to the State Plan. A public meeting on the plan updates will be held on January 21, 2026.

Department of Services for the Blind- Tricia Eyerly

- November 2025 monthly report is DSB's Birth through 13 (B-13) program, also known as the DSB Explorers. DSB Explorers provides parent education and support and opportunities for youth under the age of 14.
- The program is in its first full year of programming and currently serves 79 customers.
- The B-13 program continues to build and strengthen partnerships around the state to expand access to services and to support already established programs. In the past few months the team partnered with WSSB
- (Washington State School for the Blind) to support the Abacus Bee and "Day of Code", supported the NFB BELL (National Federation of the Blind Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning) Academy to build literacy skills, orientation and mobility skills, daily living skills and

advocacy, and has also begun to collaborate with the DeafBlind Project at WSSB to provide more support for the DeafBlind community

- Programs like self-defense and blind tennis provide opportunities for confidence building and opportunities to set and reach goals.
- Many in-person programs provide a chance to try new things such as blind tennis, but the ultimate goals for the youth include things such as learning advocacy skills
- The first Family Jam Retreat kicked off in June 2025

Washington State Rehabilitation Council- Shelby Satko

- Currently recruiting a dynamic representative to be the “voice of business” on the council as a Business or Labor Representative
- Washington State Transition Map
 - One-page summary to help individuals and families learn about, compare, and connect to key job transition services that students may be eligible for as they prepare to leave high school
- Highlights key transition programs provided by DSHS’ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Developmental Disabilities Administration, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Department of Services for the Blind
 - Program eligibility
 - Services included
 - How it will help individuals to get or maintain employment and continued education and training, and
 - How to apply

- Next quarterly meeting will be February 12-13th, 2026 via Zoom

Washington State Governors Council on Disabilities-

Elizabeth Gordon

CIL Updates

Mark Leeper, Executive Director, Disability Action Center (DAC)

Erin Farrier, Program Director, Disability Action Center North East (DAC NEW)

- Shaping Spokane City Ordinance is scheduled for City Council vote in March for all new and remodel multifamily homes have 10% ADA dwellings
- DAC NEW staff has been maintaining an active virtual D&D gaming peer group using Roll20 as a platform. Several of the participants of the gaming peer group are part of the St. Lukes Rehabilitation program
- Added the Parkinson's Disease peer group that serves people in both Washington and Idaho
- Getting Washington State students involved with advocacy
- Trying to salvage the failed public transportation services in Whitman county
- DAC NEW staff is meeting with Manzanita House in Spokane in the coming weeks to discuss forming a Drop-In Peer Group for marginalized community members

- One of the challenges that the DAC NEW staff face is the large area that we cover. We cover the northeast corner of the state consisting of five counties (Spokane, Stevens, Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Lincoln). We have one large urban center surrounded with a very large area of scattered rural communities
- For staff, driving takes time. HWY 395 is the main road going north out of Spokane. It takes an hour and a half driving from the Spokane office location north to the Colville office location. HWY 395 highway is dangerous in the winter months. Hwy 395 is notorious for its high concentration of serious crashes
- The Spokane office's longest consumer is Hannah Adira. She started out in Youth Transition at the age of 20 when the Spokane office only had Part B funds and it would be another nine months before we were awarded Part C funds, officially opening our doors in October 2021

**Faith Brown, Executive Director, Center for Independence
(CFI)**

**Mayra Colazo, Executive Director, Central Washington
Disability Resources (CWDR)**

**Kimberly Meck, Executive Director, Disability Empowerment
Center (DEC)**

**Preparing for Strategic Planning/State Plan
Review**

Adjourn 3:33 pm

WASILC October Quarterly Meeting Day 2

Council Member Orientation



Washington
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Executive Director Report

WASILC April 2026 Quarterly meeting

National Updates: SILC Congress

This quarter, a significant focus has been our engagement with **SILC Congress**. For those new to our space, SILC Congress is the national gathering of Statewide Independent Living Councils. It serves as a vital platform for sharing best practices, navigating federal compliance, and aligning our statewide efforts with national trends.

For **WASILC**, this means staying at the forefront of policy changes and bringing home innovative strategies to better serve Washingtonians. Our participation ensures that Washington's voice is heard in national dialogues regarding autonomy and consumer control.

Council Development & Governance

As we welcome several new members, I want to emphasize the importance of our collective "Expertise in Action." To ensure we are operating with maximum impact, I believe a comprehensive **training on the roles and responsibilities** of our council—and the SILC network as a whole—is timely and necessary.

- **Training Objective:** To clarify the distinction between our governor-appointed council duties and the direct service roles of our partners.

- **Council Support:** This initiative is fully supported by the council. Our goal is to establish **ongoing training** that is accessible on your own time or through collaborative sessions, ensuring we remain in strict alignment with our **foundational standards**.

Strategic Planning: The SPIL & Beyond

We are officially entering the preparation phase for our next **State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)**. While the SPIL is our mandated three-year roadmap, I also want to discuss the development of a broader **Strategic Plan** for the council itself.

- **The Goal:** A strategic plan would provide organizational continuity beyond the SPIL cycle. It allows us to look at our internal health—governance, membership diversity, and staff support—ensuring WASILC remains a robust and sustainable organization.
- **The Discussion:** Today, I want to open the floor to discuss what this process could look like. Should we form a task force? Do we want to focus on a 3-year or 5-year outlook? My goal is to ensure this plan reflects our shared vision for the future.

Committees & Community Impact

Our committees are currently activated and working to ensure our goals are measurable and community-driven. We are intentionally working to "make our mark" within the **cross-disability community**, ensuring that our advocacy is inclusive of all lived experiences and geographical regions across the state and tribal lands.

The Independent Living Movement in Washington

A critical part of our mission is understanding the historical and operational "how" of the Independent Living movement in Washington. While WASILC works collaboratively with **Centers for Independent Living (CILs)**, it is vital that we all have a clear, shared understanding of how these partnerships function.

To facilitate this, I am honored to have **Mark Leeper** presenting today. Mark's deep history and leadership will help us bridge the gap between policy and practice. Understanding the exact mechanics of our collaboration with CILs will empower us to be more effective partners and advocates.



Washington
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Executive Committee Report

WASILC April 2026 Quarterly meeting

Chair: Kimberly Meck

1. Welcome Our New Members!

We are excited to share that the Governor has officially appointed new members to our Council!

- **Who they are:** [Optional: Briefly list names or regions, e.g., "We have new voices from Eastern Washington and the Olympic Peninsula."]
- **Why this matters:** Having a full Council means more perspectives and more lived experience to help us make better decisions for all Washingtonians with disabilities.
- **Next Step:** Please take a moment to introduce yourself and make our new teammates feel welcome.

2. Help Wanted: Leadership Roles

To keep our Council running smoothly, we need two people to step up into leadership roles. These are great ways to grow your skills and help the community:

- **Treasurer:** You'll help us keep an eye on the budget to make sure our money is helping people live independently.

- **Secretary:** You'll help us keep clear records of our meetings so the public always knows what we're working on.

Is this you? If you have an interest in these roles, please let us know today!

3. Discussion: Trying Something New (Pilot Project)

We have an idea for a "Pilot Project"—which is just a fancy way of saying we want to test a new idea on a small scale before making it permanent.

- **The Goal:** [Insert 1-sentence goal, e.g., "To make our meetings more accessible for youth."]
- **The Talk:** We want to hear your thoughts. Is this a good idea? What are we missing?
- **The Vote:** After we talk it through, we will ask the Council to vote on whether we should try this out for a few months.

4. What We Need From You Today:

1. **Say hello** to our new members.
2. **Think about** if you can help as Treasurer or Secretary.
3. **Share your voice** during the pilot project discussion so we can vote.



Washington
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State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

WASILC April 2026 Quarterly meeting

Chair: Kimberly Meck

I. Strategic Progress

Our focus this quarter has been on **structural integrity**. We aren't just filling out a form; we are rebuilding the roadmap for disability services in Washington.

- **Precision Planning:** We have overhauled our operational timeline to ensure every federal milestone is met with quality, not just speed.
- **Governance Rebalancing:** We are actively shifting the committee composition to ensure a power-balance between staff and Council members, fostering true peer-led oversight.
- **The Pulse of the State:** We have finalized a **Stakeholder Survey** designed to capture the lived experiences of Washingtonians, moving beyond "check-the-box" data.

II. Community Impact & Equity

Everything we do centers on the question: *Who are we missing?*

- **Beyond the I-5 Corridor:** Our survey strategy specifically targets rural and Tribal communities to ensure the SPIL isn't just a "big city" plan.
- **Cultural Relevance:** By auditing our outreach, we are ensuring that Independent Living (IL) philosophy is accessible to diverse linguistic and cultural groups across the state.

III. Current Deep Dive (The "Why")

We are currently in a "Look Back to Look Forward" phase. We are analyzing historical SPIL documents to understand the evolution of our current goals. This prevents us from repeating past mistakes and ensures our new goals are rooted in proven needs.

IV. Council Call to Action

To succeed, the SPIL Committee requires active Council investment:

1. **Representation:** We need one dedicated Council member to join our bi-weekly strategy sessions.
2. **Expert Review:** Please review the current SPIL and provide feedback—your field perspective is our best "reality check."
3. **Ambassadorship:** We need you to leverage your networks to help us distribute the Stakeholder Survey once it launches.



Coalition on Inclusive
Emergency Planning
(CIEP)



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CIEP QM Report 03242026

Dear Council Members

Most of my work this quarter has been spent on weekly calls and developing this report.

AFN CMIST Review After-Action Report

CIEP continued to host AFN Review Calls. The calls were daily during the first part of January and then went on a weekly basis since the beginning of February. Below is the introductory paragraph.

*This **AFN CMIST Review After-Action Report (AAR)** encapsulates our findings covering [Access and Functional Needs \(AFN\)](#) best practices and unmet needs. These findings were gathered from a series of “AFN Review” daily and weekly calls from December 15, 2025 until the completion of this AAR in [March/April] 2026. The findings were organized into five distinct subject areas, under the [CMIST framework](#). CMIST stands for Communications, Maintaining Health, Independence, Safety/Support Services, and Transportation. Each section begins with a narrative that highlights relevant issues that came to the attention of the Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP) and the Washington Statewide Independent Living Council (WASILC), and our partners. We follow up with our responses, and include resources, recommendations, and end each chapter with a checklist of*

best AFN practices. This report will be available on the WASILC website to all emergency management agencies and partners around the state of Washington and our partners throughout the country.

Here is the link to the draft document:

[WCI EP AFN CMIST Review from Dec 2025 to Jan 2026 – DRAFT V4.0.docx](#)

If you have any comments or suggestions, feel free to email me. Let me know if you want to edit or comment on the document so I can keep track of changes.

Other events

In between drafts, I was able to represent CIEP and WASILC at these events.

Sound Transit Tabletop Exercise – I was invited to be a virtual observer at this Tabletop Exercise discussing how to work with people who have disabilities and other Access and Functional Needs during a disaster.

DOH Disability/AFN Community Collaborative – I was a panelist with Tony Hester, Todd Holloway, Angela Theriault, and Jesse Gilpatrick at the University of Washington’s Master’s Program in Public Health. Below are a few comments by the students.



PHI514_Summary_StudentFeedback_Ma

- I want to thank the panel for sharing with us today. Everything they shared will make us better health advocates and change makers. From Tony, I’m taking the reminder to see and center humanity first. From Jim, the importance of a sense of humor and humility (his colleagues' reverence for him was so special to witness). From Angela, the reminder that we are tactile creatures, and touch is all we really need to connect. From Todd, the importance of praising the work and successes of your collaborators. And from Liz, the modeling of how to moderate a fully inclusive space. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

- During the Disability and Health panel, one key takeaway was the importance of integrating disability inclusion into all aspects of public health planning, particularly in emergency preparedness. Speakers highlighted that individuals with disabilities are often disproportionately affected during emergencies when communication, transportation, and shelter systems are not designed with accessibility in mind. In my future public health practice, I will apply this perspective by prioritizing accessible communication, inclusive planning processes, and collaboration with disability advocates to ensure programs and policies are designed with, not just for, people with disabilities.
- I have so much respect and appreciation for our panelists, who took the time to educate and empower us to be more inclusive and thoughtful public health practitioners. Jim said something particularly impactful to me: “All you have to do is ask: ‘How can I best communicate with you?’” when talking to someone with a disability. Although this feels (and is) simple in practice, I think it speaks to the humility with which we should always approach our interactions, in and outside of public health. We do not always know what is best, but we can learn from those who do. Thank you to the teaching team and to the panelists for today’s session!

There is more in the attached Word File.

National AFN Conference with Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (virtual) that I attend each year. Hope to go in person some time.



Washington
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Legislative Committee

WASILC April 2026 Quarterly meeting

Co-Chairs: Kimberly Meck & Tony Hester

I. The 2027 Long-Session Vision

We are officially initiating the roadmap for **Independent Living Advocacy Day 2027**.

- **Why 2027?** As a "long session" year, 2027 is when the biennial budget is built. This is our most significant opportunity to influence the next two years of funding and policy for the IL network.
- **The Model:** We are committed to a **Hybrid + In-Person** approach. This ensures that advocates from Spokane to the Olympic Peninsula can be heard in the halls of the Capitol without the barrier of travel, while maintaining a powerful physical presence in Olympia.

II. Strategic Funding: Why Part B?

We are asking the Council to support the allocation of **Part B funds** to build the infrastructure for this day.

- **The Compliance "Why":** Under the Rehabilitation Act, Part B funds are specifically designed for "Innovation and Expansion" and "Systems Advocacy." By law, these funds can be used to support the Council's role in educating the public and legislators about the IL philosophy and systemic barriers to independence.
- **The Investment:** Using Part B funds for Advocacy Day isn't just an "event expense"; it is a direct investment in the Council's federal mandate to conduct systems-change advocacy.

III. Advocacy 101: Building the "Citizen-Expert"

We aren't just asking people to show up; we are training them to lead. We are launching **Advocacy 101**, a curriculum designed to:

- Teach consumers how to navigate the legislative website and track bills.
- Train advocates on the "Art of the Three-Minute Testimony."
- Demystify the "Who's Who" at the Capitol so advocates feel like peers to their representatives, not just visitors.

IV. Call for Community Mobilization

To make 2027 a success, we need the "boots on the ground" now:

- **Storytelling:** We are seeking consumers willing to share their lived experiences regarding housing, transportation, and healthcare. Personal stories are the only currency that truly moves a legislator's vote.
- **Local Engagement:** We need CILs and local communities to begin identifying the specific "asks" they want to bring to the Capitol in 2027.

V. Request for Council Action

1. **Financial Commitment:** Formal approval to designate a portion of Part B funds for 2027 Advocacy Day planning (venue, technology for hybrid access, and materials).
2. **Timeline Endorsement:** Approval of our multi-month engagement timeline to ensure we are "Legislature-Ready" by January 2027.



Washington
Statewide
Independent
Living Council

Education and Outreach Committee Report

WASILC April 2026 Quarterly meeting

Co-Chairs: Dion Graham and Hannah Adira

1. What have we done?

Continued work in preparation for a virtual panel hosted by the committee. We selected and introduced panel members to the committee and worked through the program along with the panel questions. Our panel members are diverse and have individual messages to be shared. Our sessions have gone well and it was great to get to know the participants.

2. How does this help our community?

This virtual panel will provide opportunities for leaders from across Washington to address existing barriers that go undiscovered and prevent forward progress towards independence for many.

3. What is next?

Cross Disability Virtual Panel - April 22nd from 4pm-6pm



Washington
Statewide
Independent
Living Council

Youth and Young Adult Committee Report

WASILC April 2026 Quarterly meeting

Chair: Josie Garcia

1. What have we done?

Talked to the EDS, made connection with them.

2. How does this help our community?

Getting youth and others involved is key to getting the word out.

3. What are we stuck on?

Getting more support from others to make our committee stronger.

4. What do we need from the Council?

Fresh ideas would be helpful.

5. What is next?

Getting some youth going to the committee.

DVR Program Updates – April 2026

Staffing Update:

No staffing changes to report.

Order of Selection Update:

All DVR service categories continue to be closed. No individuals have been released from the waitlist.

DVR Updated State Plan:

DVR submitted its updated state plan to RSA on March 3.

Changes in the updated state plan focused on updates to the priorities and strategies as well as accomplishments that occurred during the first two years of the plan.

Results of the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment have been incorporated in to the updated state plan.

DVR Federal Funding

Congress passed the 2026 budget for Vocational Rehabilitation. It was fully funded and included the cost of living increase. Congress also provided funding for Supported Employment grants and the Client Assistance Program.



Update for the Statewide Independent Living Council April 2026

Next quarterly meeting will be May 14th & 15th, 2026

- Hybrid meeting held at DVR State Office in Lacey
- Meeting agenda will available [website](#) on our 2-3 weeks prior to the meeting.
- Please reach out to [Jolie Ramsey](#) if you have any questions.

Transition Collaborative Listening Sessions

The Transition Collaborative is engaging the community to fulfill requirements of Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5253 ([E2SSB 5253](#)). This legislation directs Office of Superintendent for Public Instruction, Dept of Social and Health Services, Department of Services for the Blind, and partner transition agencies to collaboratively update the state's transition implementation plan.

Registration is open for the following listening sessions -

- Students, families, and advocates - Wednesday, April 22nd 6:00-7:30pm [Registration](#)
- Educators - Thursday, April 23rd 3:30 – 5pm [Registration](#)

Information is also available at [Transition Collaborative Project](#)

Council Recruitment –

We are currently recruiting a dynamic representative to be the “*voice of business*” on the council as a Business or Labor Representative. We are looking for a business owner, executive, supervisor, or employee who can provide perspective on opportunities to strengthen coordination around workforce opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

If you are interested in learning more about the opportunity to serve or know someone who may be interested, please go to the "[Become a Council Member](#)" page and reach out to [council staff](#).



Central Washington Disability Resources

Central Washington Disability Resources (CWDR)

Region: Kittitas, Yakima, Grant, Chelan, and Douglas Counties

April 2026 Quarterly Meeting report

1. The Pulse of Our Community

What is the current reality for people with disabilities in your specific neck of the woods?

Top-of-Mind Issues:

Across rural Central Washington, people with disabilities face persistent barriers related to transportation, housing accessibility, and limited access to healthcare providers. Many communities lack reliable public transit options, making it difficult for individuals to attend medical appointments, maintain employment, or participate in community life. In rural areas, broadband access and transportation limitations also impact access to telehealth, education, and employment opportunities.

The “Gap” We’re Filling:

Many rural communities in our region lack disability-focused advocacy and navigation services. CWDR serves as a critical resource hub, helping individuals understand their rights, navigate complex systems such as housing and healthcare, and connect with local supports. We also frequently act as a bridge between individuals with disabilities and local governments, schools, and service providers to ensure accessibility and inclusion are considered in community planning.

2. Our Role as a Systems Navigator

Seat at the Table:

CWDR staff actively participate in regional collaborations and advisory groups including local housing coalitions, school district transition planning teams, emergency preparedness planning efforts, and community service networks. These partnerships allow us to ensure disability perspectives are represented in decisions impacting housing, healthcare access, and community infrastructure.

Shifting the Landscape:

Because CWDR exists, individuals with disabilities in Central Washington have stronger access to advocacy and independent living supports. Our team works directly with landlords, service providers, and community partners to educate them on accessibility, disability rights, and reasonable accommodations. This advocacy helps individuals remain housed, gain employment, and access essential services while reducing reliance on more costly institutional systems.

3. Cultivating Peer Leadership

Movement Building:

CWDR prioritizes peer-led services and leadership development. Through peer support, youth transition services, and independent living skills training, we empower individuals with disabilities to advocate for themselves and take leadership roles in their communities. Youth and young adults are increasingly participating in conversations about education access, employment, and community inclusion.

Consumer Voice:

Consumer input guides our programs and priorities. Individuals with disabilities regularly provide feedback through peer networks, direct service engagement, and community outreach efforts. This feedback informs our advocacy priorities, program development, and outreach strategies—ensuring the disability community drives the direction of our work.

4. Strategic Partnerships & Local Synergy

Primary Allies:

CWDR collaborates with local school districts, community health providers, housing organizations, workforce development programs, and other community-based nonprofits to ensure services are accessible and inclusive for individuals with disabilities.

New Connections:

We continue to strengthen partnerships with local educational institutions, community organizations, and regional coalitions to expand awareness of independent living services and increase access to resources for individuals who may not traditionally reach disability service organizations.

5. High-Level Impact Statement

Our Regional Identity:

In Central Washington, CWDR acts as a **resource hub, advocate, and bridge** connecting individuals with disabilities to the tools, knowledge, and opportunities needed to live independently. This quarter, our presence ensured that disability perspectives remained part of community conversations around housing access, service coordination, and community inclusion—helping ensure that the **1 in 4 people living with a disability in our region are not left out of local decision-making.**



Disability Action Center – NW, including DAC-North Idaho and Disability Action Center Northeast Washington (DAC NEW)

Region: Whitman, Asotin, Garfield under DAC-ID and Spokane, Stevens, Ferry, Pend Oreille and Lincoln for DAC-NEW

April 2026 Quarterly Meeting report

1. The Pulse of Our Community

What is the current reality for people with disabilities in your specific neck of the woods?

- **Top-of-Mind Issues:**
 - Eastern Washington faces significant service gaps, especially in **rural areas**, with major challenges in affordable housing, public transportation, mental/behavioral health providers, in-home caregivers, and general access to social services due to distance, workforce shortages, and lack of digital equity.
 - SE WA remains very underserved. The rural transportation company just collapsed and efforts are underway to resurrect something. The area is

notable in having a very elderly population assumedly with a high rate of disability. Employment opportunities are limited. Housing process are high.

- **The "Gap" We're Filling:**
 - **Spokane Area:** Shows lower disability rates compared to some rural areas but still faces major barriers, with strong local advocacy and community events like disability pride.
 - **Rural East:** Faces greater digital divide and transportation issues, affecting access to information and services.
 - **Overall Impact:** Despite significant efforts and strong advocacy, people with disabilities in Eastern Washington still navigate complex systemic barriers to achieve full economic, social, and civic inclusion, with ongoing needs for better technology, transport, and integrated support systems. DAC NEW helps fill these gaps through consistent ongoing grassroots level work focusing on our five core areas.
 - **SE WA:** DAC staff serve the area from the Lewiston and Moscow, ID offices. Information and referral is the largest service, but there is often not much to refer to. Staff have been active in advocating for increased housing opportunities.

2. Our Role as a Systems Navigator

Highlight how you are influencing the "big machines" (Healthcare, Housing, Transit) in your area.

- **Seat at the Table:**

1. Accessible Web Content and Mobile Apps Working Group
2. APRIL - Advocacy Committee Meeting
3. APRIL - Emergency Planning Committee
4. APRIL - Transportation Advocacy Committee
5. APRIL - Youth Coordinators Connect
6. Champion Generosity
Nonprofit Monthly Gathering
7. Coffee with SPS
8. Community Voices Council
9. Cross Disability Advocacy Network (CDAN)
10. Diversity, Equity, and Global Awareness (DEGA) Committee
11. Disability Access and Functional Needs (DAFN) - Spokane County
12. Disability-Access and Functional Needs Planning (Statewide)
13. Eastern WA CHW Networking meetings (Better Health Together)
14. Emergency CIEP meetings (Washington)
15. Greater Valley Support Network
16. HB 1477 Lived Experience Collaborative
17. HMIS Committee
18. Human Growth & Development Citizen Advisory Committee (Spokane
Public Schools - SPS)
19. Later in Life/Vulnerable Adult Task Force
20. NE FYSPRT - Northeast Family Youth System Partner Round Table
21. Prevent Suicide Spokane Coalition
22. Shaping Spokane Together
23. Spinal Cord Injury Peer Support Group
24. Spokane Behavioral Health Forum (OBHA)
25. Spokane Homeless Coalition
26. Spokane Housing Committee
27. Spokane Outreach Networking Group (S.O.N.G.)
28. Spokane Valley Homeless Housing Task Force
29. Stevens County Coalition (Rural Resources)

30. Stevens County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
31. Stevens County Homeless Housing Taskforce (SCHHTF)
32. Washington State DOH Collaborative
33. Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC)
34. West Spokane Wellness Coalition

Staff in SE WA are involved with local housing and mental health groups in the “valley”. Connections are maintained with WSU service learning, the City of Pullman, and Council on Aging and Human Services in Whitman county.

- **Shifting the Landscape:** DAC NEW functions as an informal resource hub as well as a bridge between needed service providers and community members. People in need are getting access to services and equipment through our efforts of connecting a person to a provider. We also teach people their rights and how to advocate for themselves. We provide the needed training and peer support for people to take ownership of their own lives.
- The same is true for SE WA.

3. Cultivating Peer Leadership

This demonstrates your role in building "Disability Power" rather than just "helping" people.

- **Movement Building:** DAC NEW serves a large urban center that is surrounded by an expansive historically underserved rural area. Our Fishing Peer Group has opened the outdoors to those with disabilities. Our D&D Gaming peer group has brought together individuals with disabilities in a social online setting where they create their own story telling while learning how to interact and connect with others.
- **SE WA:** Efforts have been made to develop more robust peer groups with considerable attention on youth and young adults. Partnerships with public school programs help with connections.

- **Consumer Voice:** The Eastern Washington region does not feel heard. This sentiment is a well-documented and is a long-standing issue rooted in the significant cultural, economic, and political divide between the eastern and western portions of the state. Consumer voice is brought to the table through the long list of system advocacy meetings. Major points of contention include policies related to issues such as firearms, taxes, environmental regulations, housing, and homelessness, where systemic belief systems and worldviews widely differ across the Cascade Mountains. This is true for many states with rural and urban populations geographically separated. Each region has significant barriers for people with a disability. The areas with the greatest population tend to receive the most attention.

4. Strategic Partnerships & Local Synergy

Who is looking to the CIL as an expert?

- **Primary Allies:** We are working closely with ALTCEW, Arc of Spokane, Odyssey Youth Movement, Futurewise, Spokane Public Schools, Rural Resources, Spokane Transit Authority, Special Mobility Services, NEW Alliance, DVR, DDCCS (formally DDA), CDAN, DAFN, CVC, Spokane OBHA, NE-FYSPRT.
- **SE WA:** DAC inclusive of SE and NE WA is the go-to for ADA questions, operating the NW ADA Center – Idaho *(which can also serve into eastern WA). Entities also turn to us for information on disability awareness, fair housing, etc. We get calls from area governmental entities, universities, area businesses, etc.
- **New Connections:** Staff have recently began attending Coffee with SPS (Spokane Public Schools). This once a month gathering provides an opportunity for All community members to meet with district leaders in an informal environment. This allows DAC NEW staff to provide the second largest school district in the state an opportunity to share areas of need as well as ways that DAC NEW can provide support for youth transition. In SE WA, DAC staff are

connecting with a potential new transportation provider that will hopefully take over the services of the former provider.

5. High-Level Impact Statement

Our Regional Identity: "In the northeast corner of Washington State, DAC NEW works together with community partners to raise the voices of the disability community including those most marginalized – rural residents, BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, immigrants, refugees, and those experiencing poverty. As an organization run by people with disabilities for people with disabilities, DAC NEW provides peer counseling, skills training, support and mentoring. We are focused on providing a bridge between rural and urban areas of Eastern Washington. We serve five northeastern counties: Spokane, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, Ferry, and Stevens.

SE Washington is served by offices located in Idaho with funding from the Idaho Part C IL grant and other funds that DAC generates through other services. The geographical area encompasses "the Palouse" and the Valley", both areas that tend to cross state boundaries. The twin cities of Moscow, ID and Pullman, WA share the rolling hills of Palouse farmland, along with numerous smaller towns on both sides of the border. They include the University of Idaho and Washington State University, just 8 miles apart. The Valley includes the cities of Lewiston, ID and Clarkston, WA with only the Snake River in between.



Appendix

PHI 514 Student Comments

Disability and Health Panel, 3/10/26

- This was extremely insightful and I learned so much about diverse ways of communicating and what adjustments are needed to make tasks accessible. We talk about access a lot in the field of Public Health, but rarely do we hear directly from community experience.
- After the panel, I will apply the communication strategies shared by the panelists, such as asking about preferences rather than assuming, to ensure my public health practice centers the dignity and autonomy of people with disabilities. I am really thankful that we had the opportunity to hear them talk about their work and their experiences.
- One thing that stood out to me from the Disability and Health panel was hearing panelists discuss how systems often make decisions about accessibility and services without meaningfully including people with disabilities. The example shared about students protesting the appointment of a non-deaf president highlighted how strongly representation and community voice matter in decision making. In my future public health practice, I will prioritize engaging with diverse lived experiences to ensure interventions reflect the needs of the communities they serve.
- In my future public health practice, I will advocate for guide strips, brail, closed captions, and other small changes that can be made in my work building in order to improve inclusion and accessibility.
- I really enjoyed the panel talk because I was able to learn about how a disability may affect someone's life in a more practical way than just reading a textbook. The diverse experiences of the panel members was very engaging! This gave me insight into specific areas for policy improvement in public health.

- I appreciated hearing about how we can best support those who have a disability, as there have been times where I have met someone who was deaf and did not know how to best approach and support them. Again, thank you for sharing your experience and taking the time to meet with us!!
- Today's panel was amazing. I feel so privileged to have been able to hear from such a diverse group of disabled folks and people who work within accessibility services at the DOH. Today really opened my eyes to accessible communication, especially when Angela and Tony were talking about being handed a stack of papers to fill out at a doctor's office.
- This was an incredibly impactful panel. In previous roles, when I had thought about accessibility, I had thought about it in terms of physical mobility and hadn't thought about language accessibility for people who are deaf and/or blind. Just seeing how the panelists interacted with one another and introduced themselves with physical descriptions of themselves and where they were Zooming in from broadened my understanding of inclusive workspaces. It challenged me to think of how I can expand my understanding of the disability community and relationships with people within them.
- Ultimately, I learned that It's not about difficulty from the disability, but instead difficulty navigating a disability in a world that isn't very supportive or inclusive. Through public health work, I hope to push the needle to continue to create a more inclusive and accessible world.
- I really appreciate the organizing efforts that went into today and that the panel members took the time to come speak with us and share their wisdom. I wish we had so much more time as I would have loved to hear more from the panel members on the social model of disability that was brought up in a few responses. Today really emphasized how we as public health students and humans should be intentionally working towards equitable access for all.

- I thought that the Disability and Health Panel was a truly invaluable experience. As a member of the disability community, it felt healing to see people with visible disabilities represented in public health and advocating for others. I also really enjoyed seeing the extent of the collaboration between panelists, moderators, and interpreters; it is truly heartwarming to see a team working so well together to support one another. I think the most important thing I learned is that representation and advocacy are so incredibly important, especially in public health. Without the involvement of people with disabilities and/or advocates, it is easy for the needs of an entire, particularly vulnerable community to be ignored and forgotten.
- I thought the disability panel was one of the most impactful panels I have attended so far in my MPH.... I thought it was refreshing and just cool to see people crack jokes and laugh all together even when talking about disability. It was also cool to learn what the tactile interpretation of laughter was! I think laughter and remaining joyful is incredibly important, especially in public health work...
- As someone interested in public health preparedness, the discussion on the importance of accessible emergency communication made me think about how we can work to make things more accessible to all audiences. I really appreciated the panel today!
- The panel was very informative and highlighted how widespread accessibility challenges are in our society. As a future public health professional, I hope to ensure that my work is accessible to everyone, and that begins with learning from panels like this one. After the session, I asked one of the panelists how we can make sure that people with disabilities are included in our work and future interventions. He emphasized the importance of always advocating for people with disabilities to be present in the spaces where decisions, such as program design and intervention planning, are made.
- I want to thank the panel for sharing with us today. Everything they shared will make us better health advocates and change makers. From Tony, I'm taking the reminder to see and center humanity first. From Jim, the importance of a sense of humor and

humility (his colleagues' reverence for him was so special to witness). From Angela, the reminder that we are tactile creatures, and touch is all we really need to connect. From Todd, the importance of praising the work and successes of your collaborators. And from Liz, the modeling of how to moderate a fully inclusive space. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

- I really appreciated how they emphasized not assuming the right way to provide accessibility and pushing back against giving disabled people unsolicited advice. As I've navigated my own neurological disability, it often feels so frustrating having people offer up "cures" or "have you tried this" when we are the ones living with our disability every moment of every day. While my disability affects me differently than the panelists, every single person benefits when we respect individuals as experts on their own conditions. I felt so seen when the panelists spoke about how frustrating it can be when people assume what will help you rather than simply asking you, disability can rob you of autonomy in so many ways that are unavoidable but just by asking a person their preferences you restore some of that autonomy.
- I took away a deeper understanding of how often health systems unintentionally exclude people with disabilities, not because of malice, but because accessibility isn't built into routine practice. Hearing real examples from the panel reinforced that accessibility must be treated as a core public health competency, not an optional addition. In my future work, I'll be more intentional about designing programs, spaces, and communication methods that assume diverse abilities from the start rather than adapting after the fact.
- During the Disability and Health panel, one key takeaway was the importance of integrating disability inclusion into all aspects of public health planning, particularly in emergency preparedness. Speakers highlighted that individuals with disabilities are often disproportionately affected during emergencies when communication, transportation, and shelter systems are not designed with accessibility in mind. In my future public health practice, I will apply this perspective by prioritizing accessible communication, inclusive planning processes, and collaboration with disability advocates to ensure programs and policies are designed with, not just for, people with disabilities.

- I learned a lot during this Disability and Health panel just about how the disabled community operates through the digital space and with communication. I learned zoom etiquette with participants who have disabilities, such as not using the blur screen as it cuts off signing, heavily monitoring the chat, and saying your name each time you speak. I'll be applying these practices in my future public health practice when being in a zoom meeting with individuals with disabilities.
- Today's disability panel was incredibly moving as it was an important reminder of how many forms of experience there are in this world. It was an incredible example of community, and how understanding the world and movement through the world is so varied and that diversity is beautiful and important to recognize. There is no one normal. The way the panel was executed itself, the interplay of different forms of communication and language, was really powerful.
- I have so much respect and appreciation for our panelists, who took the time to educate and empower us to be more inclusive and thoughtful public health practitioners. Jim said something particularly impactful to me: "All you have to do is ask: 'How can I best communicate with you?'" when talking to someone with a disability. Although this feels (and is) simple in practice, I think it speaks to the humility with which we should always approach our interactions, in and outside of public health. We do not always know what is best, but we can learn from those who do. Thank you to the teaching team and to the panelists for today's session!
- The panel made me realize how far behind my country is when it comes to accessibility. I always thought that I was aware of my privilege, but now I realize that I have never asked myself how do disabled people from Senegal navigate their daily lives. What barriers do they face daily? We often forget to think about the experiences of people that are different from us. In Senegal, disabilities are often seen as being this fatality that will prevent people from living a good life. Disabled people are robbed from education and shunt from society. Many efforts have been made throughout the years, but it is still insufficient as I realize that I have never seen a sign language interpret in general conferences or classrooms.

- The disability and health panel was my favorite session of the entire quarter because it was informative, gave power and humanity to people with disabilities telling their own stories, grounded in community and lived experience, and gave us a golden exemplar of how to navigate communication and empathy among people with disabilities as a public health professional. I will take with me the minute skills of the ways to identify myself when speaking through different avenues and in mixed ability settings (e.g., say “this is Marin” before I talk, describe what I look like, using a slower cadence for clear sign language interpretation), and the bigger picture of always centering people – public health has to be people first, always.
- With this session, I want to learn American Sign Language now, to be better prepared for public health roles and to comprehensively serve all populations, regardless of language.

The Independence Network: Why We Are Here

The Core Values:

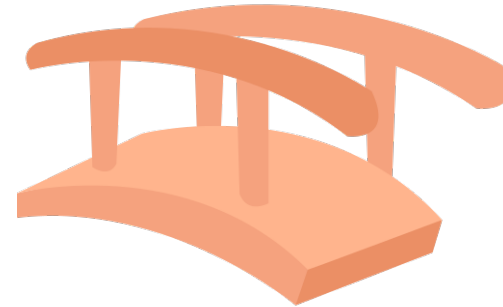
- Consumer Control & Autonomy
- Peer Support & Lived Experience
- Cross-Disability Inclusion



“In one word, what represents your commitment to Independent Living today?”

Expertise in Action: Linking Values to Change

- Bridging policy (WASILC) with practice (CILs).
- Recognizing our council as the experts on our own needs.



“How do our personal 'whys' protect our Foundational Standards?”

Shaping the Future: Our 2027 Strategic Vision

- Integrating training into our ongoing council culture.
- Strengthening our cross-disability presence across state and tribal lands.



“If we succeed, what is one barrier that will no longer exist in Washington by 2027?”

Independent Living Philosophy

CILS,
SILCs,
And Friends!



It's "time" to make some things happen!

Washington Experience

- 1980s to very early 1990s
- Multiple CIL Programs – performance based programs

COHO, Good Samaritan in Puyallup, Tacoma Mental Health Center, Community Service Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, WCCD, ILC Northwest, Ellensburg.

1992 – Something New!

1992 amendments of rehab act brought significant changes.

Consumer control of CILs complete with staff and Board both required.

New standards that must be met.

New CIL definition.

Creation of Statewide Independent Living Councils.

WA IL

SILC created in 1993 – Exec. Order 93-04

CILs become direct funded from US Dept. of ED (changed to DHHS in 2016)

VR created SILC and maintained control; DSB Controlled its Part B

Something Newer!

July 22, 2014 Workforce Innovations
and Opportunities Act

Clarified DSE role and clearly put the
planning power into the hands of the
SILC and CILs

CIL Definition

(1) CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING- The term center for independent living' means a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agency that--

(A) is designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities; and

(B) provides an array of independent living services.

(2) CONSUMER CONTROL- The term `consumer control' means, with respect to a center for independent living, that the center vests power and authority in individuals with disabilities.

CILs

- Primary grant funding, rules, etc. come directly from federal government.
- Other funding may come from various sources.
- Must practice IL philosophy of consumer control and empowerment!
- Run by and for people with a disability.

Core Services

- Information and Referral
- IL Skills Training
- Peer Counseling
- Individual and Systems Advocacy
- Transition Services – Youth, Institutions, Diversion

New Targeted Services

- Transition Services –

1. Transition from institutions to the community;
2. Help keep people with significant disabilities from having to go into institutions; and
3. Help transition youth with disabilities that were eligible for IEPs and are out of school to post-secondary life.

SILCs????

We get a seat at the “official” table, and now the fun begins!

How do SILCs get started, what do they do, how are they funded?



Forming a SILC

Governor appoints according to federal requirements.

Different states have different processes and different results.



2014 – Big Changes!

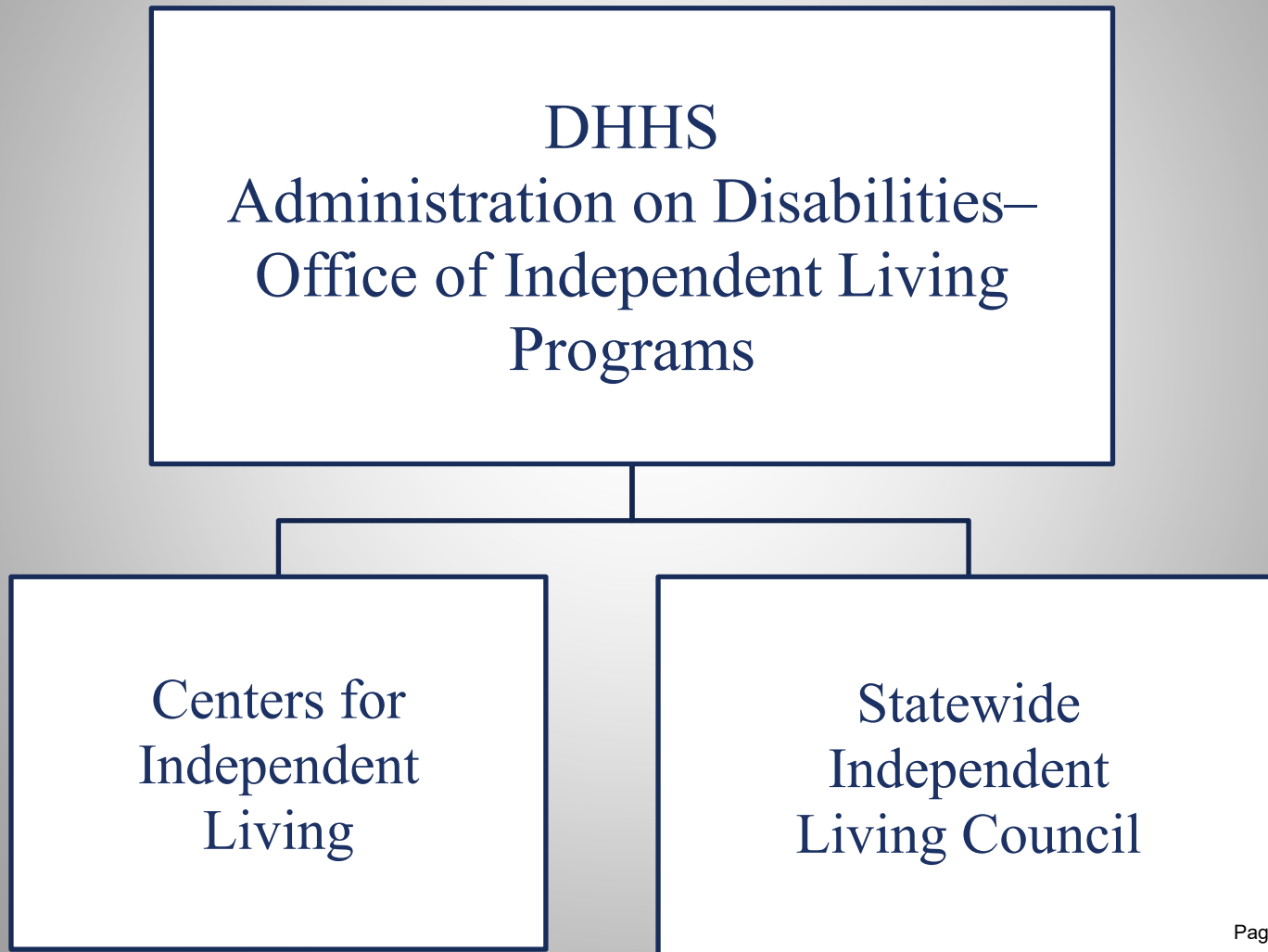
Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act – WIOA

Another mouthful!

One of the most critical pieces is that CILs and SILCs
MUST be effective partners as independent entities
that come together to plan for the state!



Where do CILs & SILCs Fit?



SILC Functions, etc.

Just what is it that SILCs are supposed to do?????



SILC Duties

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

The plan shall be jointly—
developed by the chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council, and the directors of the centers for independent living in the State, after receiving public input from individuals with disabilities and other stakeholders throughout the State; and signed by—

- (i) the chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council, acting on behalf of and at the direction of the Council;**
- (ii) the director of the designated State entity... and**
- (iii) not less than 51 percent of the directors of the centers for independent living in the State.**

Additional Important Items!

The plan shall provide for the review and revision, not less than once every 3 years, to ensure the existence of appropriate planning, financial support and coordination, and other assistance to appropriately address needs in the State for working relationships **and collaboration** between-

- (i) centers for independent living; and
- (ii)(I) **entities carrying out programs that provide independent living services, including those serving older individuals;**
- (II) **other community-based organizations that provide or coordinate the provision of housing, transportation, employment, information and referral assistance, services, and supports for individuals with significant disabilities; and**
- (III) **entities carrying out other programs providing services for individuals with disabilities.**

SILC and CIL Relationships; oh, and the DSE, etc.

Aren't we all sort of on the same team????



Money! Uh-oh!!!



Monitoring?

That means fun, right?



SILC, CILs, and DSE Roles

from ILRU

DSE	SILC	CILs
1. Serve as the “grantee” for Part B \$.	1. With CILs, jointly Develop the SPIL.	1. Provide the Core IL Services.
2. Account to SILC for \$ and disbursement \$ per SPIL.	2. Monitor, review, & evaluate the implementation of the SPIL.	2. Provide other IL services consistent with Federal and State Law.
3. Provide administrative support for IL Program.	3. Meet regularly – open meetings.	3. Comply with CIL Standards & Indicators.
4. Keep records.	4. Submit reports including 704 report SPIL fulfillment portion of 704 report Part I.	4. Develop SPIL with SILC.
5. Submit required reports/information.	5. Coordinate activities with other entities.	5. Implement SPIL.
6. Retain not more than 5% of Part B for DSE administrative costs. The DSE cannot hold funds.	6. Conduct Authorities as described in the law and outlined in SPIL.	6. Conduct Resource Development activities.
7. Sign the SPIL agreeing to serve as the DSE.	7. Shall NOT provide or manage IL services.	7. More than 50% of CIL Directors must sign the SPIL to approve content.
	8. Sign the SPIL to approve content.	

Office of Independent Living Programs

OILP manages the [Centers for Independent Living](#) (CILs) and [Independent Living Services](#) (ILS) programs under the Rehabilitation Act, as amended. The CIL program funds 352 awards to community-based organizations that provide direct services to individuals with disabilities. The ILS program funds 56 states and territories to sustain, expand, and improve independent living services in each state.

Together these programs promote the independent living of individuals with disabilities to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into American society by:

- Enhancing Consumer Control:
- Increasing use of peer support, self-help, and self-determination;
- Ensuring equal access; and
- Supporting Individual and System Advocacy.

OILP, in partnership with the IL programs, promotes the independent living philosophy and provides leadership to the federal and non-federal partners to advance the independent living philosophy.

Web Sites

Independent Living Resources

<https://ilttacenter.org> – IL T&TA Training and Tech. Assist

<http://www.ncil.org> - National Council on IL

<http://www.april-rural.org/> - Assoc. of Programs for Rural IL