

WASILC Report

Washington State Independent Living Council

May 2010
Volume 2, Issue 1

SILC hosts Public Forums

The State Independent Living Council is in the midst of holding public forums to gather input for the 2011-2013 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

As part of the SILC's federal mandate, the Council listens to public testimony about issues that affect the lives of persons with disabilities in Washington and incorporates these into the SPIL.

For the [2008-2010 SPIL](#), goals and objectives centered around the following topics:

- Housing
 - Transportation
 - Transition
 - Deinstitutionalization
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Assistive Technology
 - Marketing, Outreach and Education to underserved and unserved minority, ethnic and disability groups, and
 - Expansion of CIL network in the state
- The next SPIL (2011-2013) will

likely cover many of the aforementioned topics, but are open to new ideas. The SILC encourages you to attend public forums to voice your opinion on what should be included in the SPIL.

Four Public Forums were held between April 1st and 22nd :
-Seattle: April 1st and 22nd
-Tacoma: April 21st, and
- Bellingham: April 22nd.

The [remaining schedule](#) looks like this:

- May 11th: Vancouver
- May 12th: Ellensburg
- May 13th: Pasco
- May 14th: Spokane

Details are in the link provided under "remaining schedule."

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

If you are unable to attend in person, please contact us to provide input. See contact information on page four.

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Centers for Independent Living Receive "Stimulus" funding

As part of the historical American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) signed into law by President Obama, the five Washington Centers for Independent Living recently received their notification of ARRA Part C funding.

The five CILs will receive \$269,422 each while the Redmond branch of the Alliance for People with Disabilities will receive \$202,067.

The funding will be used over a two-year period and will be used for things such as:

- infrastructure upgrades
- hiring and training benefits planners
- staff and board training and development, and
- marketing and outreach, services.

In addition to the Part C ARRA funding (those funds that come directly from RSA to the CILs.), each of the

CILs received Part B ARRA funding through a contract with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. This contract period runs from July 2009 and covers such activities as employee hires (Benefits Planners and Roads to Community Living Advocate) and equipment upgrades.

SILC Changes

The SILC itself has been remarkably stable in terms of its membership. The only change in membership was that Lynnae Ruttledge left WA DVR for RSA (see below).

Andrès Aguirre, the interim director of DVR, took over as the ex-officio member of the SILC.

A new slate of officers was elected at the November meeting. Romel Mackelprang (Spokane) was re-elected as the Council Chair. Jana Finkbonner (Bellingham) was elected as the

Vice Chair and Sandra Carr (Spokane) was elected as member-at-large. All of them will serve their terms until the Fall 2010 Meeting.

SILC Members:

- Romel Mackelprang, Chair (Spokane)
- Jana Finkbonner, Vice Chair (Bellingham)
- Sandra Carr, At-Large Representative (Spokane)
- Linda McClain, ACIL-WA Representative (Spokane)
- Andrès Aguirre, DSU/DVR Representative (Olympia)
- Debbie Cook, DSU/Department Services for the Blind (Seattle)
- Al Neely (Yakima)
- Gilbert Garza (Toppenish)
- Trina Forest (Lakewood)
- Devin Beach (Ellensburg)
- Diane Hansen (Elk)

Lynnae Ruttledge goes to the Other "Washington"

"I continue to feel humbled by the opportunity to serve in this Administration. This is truly a chance of a lifetime to make a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities and the systems that support them." **Lynnae Ruttledge, RSA Commissioner**

Lynnae Ruttledge, former director of the state Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and SILC member, moved to Washington DC to become the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

Ruttledge was nominated by President Obama last fall, confirmed by the U.S. Senate on December 24th, and officially appointed on December 30. After that bit of a whirlwind, she left our WA and arrived in DC to begin work on January 4th.

She lives in the Capitol Hill area of DC and is often seen walking to work in her trademark orange jacket.

RSA is responsible for: basic state and formula grant programs in the following areas:

- independent living centers,
- service projects,
- rehabilitation training discretionary grant programs,
- Randolph-Sheppard

- vending facilities and Helen Keller National Center programs.

Since arriving in DC, Ruttledge and longtime colleagues and partners have reached out to her. She has already had several meetings with the National Council on Independent Living, the National Rehabilitation Association, and the Council of State Administrators for Vocational Rehabilitation.

News from the Center for Independence- Lakewood

Center for Independence (CFI) serves South King, Pierce, and Thurston Counties.

The Youth transition support group met on April 29, and played mini golf. It was a great success. Young people with disabilities interested in youth transition services or participating in our youth support group should call Leah Thomas at our office to set up an appointment.

CFIs Out & About Support group meetings are held on the

second Thursdays of the month from 2PM to 4PM. Anyone interested in attending should contact us at 253-582-1253 (V/TTY) to RSVP. The group has grown too big to have these meetings at our office. If anyone with a disability wants to join us for our Out & About activities they must come to at least one meeting for orientation.

The CFI annual picnic will be Friday, July 30th. CFI will also be celebrating the 20th

Anniversary of the ADA at that picnic. Call us to RSVP.

Submitted by Trina Forest, Executive Director and SILC member

CFI is located at 10828 Gravelly Lake DR SW (#112) in Lakewood.

Phone: 253.582.1253

TTY: 253.584.4374

Fax: 253.584.4374

<http://www.centerforindependence.org/>

Coalition of Responsible Disabled (CORD) - Spokane

CORD will be hosting a BBQ on May 14th from 3PM- 5PM in front of the CORD office at 612 N. Maple in Spokane.

CORD will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the ADA at Mirabeau Park (location: 1100 North Sullivan Road) in Spokane Valley on July 26, 2010 from 10AM to 2 PM. If you are in the Spokane area, please try to attend to celebrate 20 years of the United States' most significant civil rights laws for persons with disabilities. It will be fun and educational!

CORD will also be sponsoring Summer Youth Workshop again in 2010. Stay tuned for more information.

CORD serves six counties in Eastern Washington: Spokane, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, and Whitman.

Contact Information:

Linda McClain, Executive Director/ SILC Member

*612 N. Maple
Spokane, WA 99201*

Phone: 509-326-6355

<http://www.cordwa.info>

Upcoming Fundraiser at disAbility Resources of Southwest Washington - Vancouver

Disability Resources of Southwest Washington is holding a Silent Auction Fundraiser for their successful Youth Transition Program. This event will be held Saturday, May 22, 2010 from 2pm TO 5pm at the Marshall House on Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. Tickets for the event are \$15, and included with that are three tastings of premium Northwest white and

blush wines and samples of world famous Moonstruck Chocolates.

There will be more than 50 items offered, including an autographed basketball by the Portland Trailblazers, a hand-stitched quilt, Pendleton blanket, gift certificates and much more! Proceeds of the event will go to support the Youth Transition Program.

*Contact Information: Jim Baker, Executive Director
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Web site:
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The Alliance Of People with disAbilities

Save the Date! ADA Celebration **July 26, 2010**

King County's premier ADA Celebration, in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act will be held July 26th at the Woodland Park Zoo. Sponsoring agencies include the Alliance of People with disAbilities and the Woodland Park Zoo.

The event features a commemoration of ADA passage with short speeches by notable Washington Leaders, exciting entertainment by disability groups, light celebratory refreshment, and discounted admission to the zoo.

The event is 10 to 2 pm on July 26th. For more information on the event, and how to participate, call the Alliance!

Scholarship Opportunity! As part of the ADA celebration, we will be awarding a \$500 scholarship to a youth with a disability that is a high school senior or college freshman. Those interested would submit an essay on the impact they feel the ADA has had on their life. Essays should be no more than 1000 words. Additional details will be posted soon on Alliance's website: www.disabilitypride.org.

Annual Meeting: Theme: "Play for LIFE"

Saturday, May 22, 1 to 3 p.m.

The Alliance of People with disAbilities Annual Meeting is Saturday, May 22nd, starting at 1PM. The Community in King County and beyond is invited to attend. There will be several recreational programs demonstrating adaptive sports, Vote on Alliance Board Members, learn and have input on what Alliance is accomplishing in the community. Socialize with other community members. Light food and beverages will be available. The event will be held at the 2100 Building, 24th Ave. S., in Seattle.

Take this opportunity to become a member of the Alliance of People with disabilities.

Summer Youth Forum Monday-Wednesday, July 26-28

If you are between the ages of 14 and 21, and live in King County, come to Alliance's Summer Youth Forum! The event is three days of learning and fun surrounding what disability topics, what transition means to you, and meeting new friends that live in King County. More details will be provided upon registration. Call or send an email to the Alliance co-facilitators, Charity Marie (charity@disabilitypride.org) or Messerat (messerat@disabilitypride.org).

Phone: 206.545.7055 TTY: 206.632.3456 Fax: 206.545.7059

The SILC consists of an eleven-person governor-appointed board, an executive director and a part-time executive assistant. The SILC is presently housed in the state's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Office in Lacey. Most of the individuals on the Council are citizens with disabilities.

As laid out in section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, the duties of the SILC are to:

- (1) jointly develop and sign (in conjunction with the designated State unit) the State plan required in section 704;
- (2) monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State plan;
- (3) coordinate activities with the State Rehabilitation Council established under section 105, if the State has such a Council, or the commission described in section 101(a)(21)(A), if the State has such a commission, and councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues under other Federal law;
- (4) ensure that all regularly scheduled meetings of the Statewide Independent Living Council are open to the public and sufficient advance notice is provided; and
- (5) submit to the Commissioner such periodic reports as the Commissioner may reasonably request, and keep such records, and afford such access to such records, as the Commissioner finds necessary to verify such reports.