**When a CIL Close SILCS Role Transcript**

0:03

hi i'm susan tenacic uh pronouns are she and her i am a white woman with curly

0:10

blonde hair and i'm wearing a green shirt background is a tan wall and you might

0:16

be able to see a little bit of a black tray with painted flowers on it thanks

0:25

thanks susan uh hi i'm matt seeley i'm the director of the statewide independent living council in pennsylvania

0:31

uh i guess my pronouns are he and him although i'd rather you just call me matt

0:37

um i've been the director here i think going on six or seven years geez time

0:43

flies so fast um i am a white man with really thin hair don't point at me

0:51

um i have a blurred background as well so really nothing to describe there i'm wearing a black t-shirt though

0:56

so uh this session we're talking about what happens when it still closes we really uh susan uh kathy and i really

1:03

want this to be an interactive session uh so if you have any questions i uh you know they gave you the instructions

1:08

there a minute ago but feel free to you know pop your hand up at any point when you have a question uh we want to

1:14

bring things to the table but we also looking forward to taking things away ways that we can improve situations in

1:20

our states um so please ask questions whenever you want um and from there kathy i think

1:27

you're going to start off or no we're starting off so pennsylvania

1:36

okay we're going to first talk about how the pennsylvania network is set up do you want to take that susan

1:44

so the pennsylvania isle network is the silk

1:51

and we have 17 centers for independent living some of them are federally funded

1:56

some of them are part b funded and one is dually funded

2:02

and our dse is our office of vocational rehabilitation

2:09

so we do try to include other organizations in the state such as the db council and

2:16

a few others and we encourage any kind of uh state

2:24

representation from the government from the different offices that affect people with

2:30

disabilities to uh come to our quarterly meetings

2:36

just one clarification we have basically half of our centers are federal and half of them are state funded we have

2:42

separate state legislation that sets up direct funding for our state funded centers it passes through vr

2:49

but it's not technically part b

2:56

so next slide all right so the kansas silk um or the kansas

3:03

network um kansas is a minimally funded state when it comes

3:09

to part b we have 10 centers six of those are part c centers and four

3:14

of those are part b or state general funds funded

3:21

we do have uh quite a bit of funding that can well quite a bit i mean i don't know if it's ever quite a bit if we have

3:27

some additional funding that's probably a better way to say it in kansas where they use um

3:33

extra state general funds social security reimbursement um and that kind of things and and that

3:39

helps fund those other four centers as well as co-fund the other six part c

3:44

centers except for one um our aisle network what we consider the aisle network is

3:51

the um the silk and the 10 centers

3:57

we do have meetings with our dsc which is the vocational rehabilitation office

4:02

but we do have what we call isle network meetings where it's just the directors of the centers and myself

4:08

and we meet probably three to four times a year and we talk about

4:13

all the different things that we need to be a unified voice on for the state um our centers don't all agree on

4:20

everything they certainly don't serve all the same types of communities but we do see the benefit in coming together

4:27

like this especially for things like trying to get legislative line item funding um a formula we've developed

4:34

that you'll see later on in the presentation some of our language from our spill but we actually came together

4:40

and all um decided upon how to

4:46

fund or how to come up with a formula when additional money comes in so

4:52

that's pretty much how the kansas network is set up probably ready for slide four

5:02

okay um so our current state in pennsylvania our current state plan language is on the slide we've had a

5:09

number of centers um i mean off the top my head i believe four or five

5:15

that have either closed or been restructured in some way where we had to eventually um put language in our state

5:23

plan um and again our situation is a little bit different because we have both

5:28

state-funded and federally funded centers uh with with different um

5:33

well the federal centers don't have a designated state entity similar to like a vr uh but we have to work very closely with

5:40

vr when dealing with the state-funded centers where we wouldn't you know the acl with the federal centers

5:47

but it hasn't existed

5:56

so basically um in the event i'm just going to paraphrase if a part c

6:02

federally funded sill can no longer provide

6:07

its services and statutory applications um they are required according to our

6:13

spill to notify acl and we are to be notified as

6:18

well and we will work with them

6:24

to try to come to some agreement in which the uh

6:31

consumers will not lose any of their services or

6:36

be in any way harmed by this we'll do whatever we can to make sure

6:41

there's no interruption services [Music] expectation of privacy is observed by

6:48

all um there's going to have to be a reasonable sampling of some of the consumer files

6:57

for review for in-person monitoring but we're here to act as

7:05

the advocate on behalf of the consumers that language there the reasonable

7:11

sampling of consumer files is for the state-funded centers and i would note

7:16

that uh i mean pennsylvania is not progress or not proactive

7:22

we didn't have this language this situation happened a number of times like i said um and the most recent time a federal

7:30

center um went basically bankrupt and acl came to where we went to acl what do we do

7:35

what do we do and they said well what does your bill say hence now now this is what our still

7:42

says uh next slide

7:49

so you mean the uh the first paragraph still deals with part c funded federal centers and then that last paragraph

7:55

would deal with our state funded centers so if the funding in the part c center is relinquished or terminated um because

8:03

they're not living up to their uh up to the law that's what will happen and then the

8:09

state funded center basically the silk has more to say in it and the state law

8:14

has more to say in it but the essence is the same we're trying to prevent

8:19

uh centers from closing but if a center does close like susan said we're trying

8:24

to minimize the impact on consumers to the best of our ability um

8:30

next slide

8:36

okay so in kansas um we've um we've had four centers close i think in the last

8:43

15 years and as i'm thinking back on those none of them have been part c centers so

8:49

that's that's a good thing but it does show you the volatility of

8:56

the part b funded centers um and i'll and i'll kind of go into like

9:01

what we dealt with and some of the things that happened um here's some of our spill language it's

9:07

you know it's the very general type of language about maintaining continuity of services

9:14

offering the supports minimizing the disruption of services to people to be served

9:20

it says if the part c still either relinquishes or has its award terminated

9:26

that they will collaborate with acl the first priority will be guaranteed continuation of services

9:33

um and the the redistribution of funds relinquished

9:40

by the terminated or the termination of still we'll follow the guidelines and then we go on so the

9:45

next slide i think it's number seven please so this is where we get into kind of the

9:52

nitty-gritty of when a center closes or

9:57

when additional funding comes in for whatever reason and i think it's important to have this kind of stuff in

10:03

here this is mostly like the federal money if um if long term and we we made

10:10

that um distinction because you know we all got the aura money and that was nice to get

10:15

money but what a pain in the butt it turned out to be and it actually hurts some centers so we

10:22

put the distinction in their long-term part c funds up to 50 000 and then we've got long-term funds greater than 50 000

10:28

and we go into all of them and you'll notice that in in all of our language we have in there

10:35

that the centers and the silk will collaborate we've got the network listed in there that they we've developed a

10:42

formula for distribution of any additional funds um and then we go into if there's long-term funds greater than

10:49

570 thousand dollars and i'm sure most of you all know that number recognized it april did the big study we've taken

10:55

it directly from the research and the findings that they came up with and that's actually what we have in our

11:01

spill as as what we would like as base funding and anytime we talk to our dsc about additional funding or when a

11:08

center closes or the thought of a new center we always talk about that 570

11:13

number um so we have that in here and then let's go to slide number eight

11:21

please so this is the just the rest of our

11:26

language um and again like i said we haven't had a part c center close in at least 15

11:33

years and quite honestly i'm trying to think back if we ever had a part c center close and and nothing comes to

11:40

uh mind i've been i've been in il in kansas for she's

11:45

well over 20 years and and i cannot remember a part c center closing so um

11:51

but we have experienced the part what we call part b funds or part b centers i'm

11:56

sorry closing and so we wrote in quite a bit of language in our spill about that

12:03

and um it came in handy because like i said we've had four centers closed in the last

12:10

15 years and the last center that closed was probably within the last

12:17

four years four or five years and um you know our dsc even though we have

12:23

this language in the spill about what they're supposed to do that they're supposed to identify how much money is

12:29

left uh what type of money is left for that center and then they're supposed to

12:37

take our recommendation the network's recommendation they're supposed to come together with the silk and the centers

12:43

and and make sure what's the most effective way

12:48

to uh continue to serve people kansas has 105 counties and all 105

12:54

counties are covered by a center with services that's that's pretty amazing if you think about it

13:01

but what happened was in this last center it closed actually when it

13:06

they closed themselves they decided that the model wasn't working for them that they wanted to do something different

13:13

and they closed the center and another center which happened to be a part c center

13:19

came in and took over that area they had three counties in kansas and they're pretty

13:25

metropolitan area it's the kansas city kansas area of kansas and they took that over

13:31

but unfortunately what didn't happen in the beginning was the dse just said oh

13:36

well the sill is closing it's so great that they've notified us and that they have a

13:42

solution already for us but they hadn't reached out to the rest of the network

13:47

and so um we had to stop them i had to literally go to the governor's office and say now

13:53

wait a minute we've got to follow the spill and we need to at least be able to get together as a network and come up with

14:01

effective ideas and so they stopped the process and they kind of rewound

14:08

and we did that we all met and we met with the dsc and we

14:13

talked about a lot of different things and they put out an rfp for it and um

14:20

we went that way and it it you know honestly it ended up getting to the same center that was originally going to take

14:25

it but this way the network felt um that they had done the due

14:31

diligence and that and then we learned from that too because then we had the next spill come up we learned from that

14:37

and we put some more language in there about that this is why it's important this is what we want to happen

14:43

and so i guarantee you our dse is much more familiar with our spill language now than they were three years ago um

14:52

and just a little more history on the four centers that closed um all four of them basically were

14:58

absorbed by another center so we have centers for independent living in kansas

15:04

cover 38 counties and that's a huge territory um but that's we've never had another sill

15:11

just be able to come in and open and stay open for more than probably

15:17

uh two years two to three years it's it's a tough process to to have happen and i think that's why it's important to

15:23

have the network behind it so i know i've just talked a whole lot so again if you guys have questions or want

15:30

to jump in please do that i should say um we've got a lot of language in here that

15:36

people may be interested in or maybe want to avoid whatever the case may be uh our emails are at the end of the

15:42

presentation feel free to reach out to us and we can shoot you a copy of our spill or the or the section you're

15:48

interested in and similar to kathy's area i said we had you know five or six

15:53

centers closed in recent memory uh i think only one of them actually closed and acl rebid that

16:01

out to another still that was in the area and it remained a part it remained a

16:06

part c funded area but other the other centers

16:11

which was a mix of them all were what ended up happening was another

16:17

still came in and kind of rehabbed them back to health with mickey whether whether it be a new

16:23

director or whatever that still needed um they were kind of fixed

16:29

uh if you catch my meeting matt this is mellie sorry to interrupt but we do have a question and that is if

16:36

you could um share what the difference between a part b and a part c center is

16:44

that was for me absolutely

16:49

part b is the funding that goes to the state usually for projects and whatnot um it can go to the funding of a center

16:55

for independent living part c is the part the is the funding that goes directly to federally funded centers

17:01

right from you know congress to acl to the centers

17:07

if i'm off on that feel free to correct me either susan or kathy

17:13

probably just add that the biggest distinction is the part b money goes directly to the state and so

17:18

that's why we have the designated state entities uh that usually contract that money out with the silk and the centers

17:25

or for whatever other um things that that state is doing with the il so that's probably

17:31

the biggest thing yeah it's our experience that the

17:38

the federal centers are independent living the part c funded centers really don't care about the designated state entity at all

17:45

there's really no connection for them at least in pennsylvania

17:51

um do we go to the next slide or does that

17:56

answer the question

18:03

i'm thinking so fair enough

18:08

uh what are we on slide nine so i can i can kind of take this one

18:15

originally kim connors from the washington silk was going to be on this presentation with us as well but

18:21

unfortunately she wasn't able to but she did uh send us some of the stuff from

18:27

the washington silk uh just to give a whole another perspective a different another state perspective

18:32

and so um what she sent us was that while silk or washington silk i'm sorry wrote a spill amendment addressing the

18:39

closure in some detail and to keep the funding in the area with the closed sill

18:44

to identify a sill that will take on part c funding to develop and spin off a new sill within three years

18:51

um and develop outreach strategies to include but include bipac and other marginalized communities within service

18:58

areas to take part in the role of the development of the new center and then she listed some outcomes that

19:05

they worked with oilp the aisle network and outreach to community by park and

19:10

public hearings so their spill amendment was not approved uh the reason per consultation with acl

19:18

lawyers was the il network cannot direct acl on who they should be contracting with

19:25

and then acl has to conduct a fair um notice of funding opportunity process

19:32

and i think this is a good point because you know we talk about all this stuff in our spill and in in

19:38

kansas and i'm sure in pennsylvania and i'm sure in every other state we get super detailed um because we learned that we learned

19:45

our lesson from our we've learned our lesson from getting some of these additional federal funds and so we got

19:52

super detailed and we said if this happens then we want this this and this

19:57

but here acl's kind of saying that well you know you don't get to make that

20:02

decision on some stuff we still do and again this is

20:08

not to open a whole another can of worms but with the whole redistribution of part c funding discussion that has been

20:14

happening over the last year or so um you know this is kind of what we're seeing happening is that acl has to

20:20

figure out well you know they're the contracting agent how do they still do it so it's just a just a

20:28

a reminder on that kind of stuff um questions from the president

20:33

how will state aisle networks redistribute part c funds if they do not have the autonomy nor ability to direct

20:39

acl oil p on um on how they should contract with

20:44

if states redirect then to be fair does that mean there would be a notice um

20:52

a funding opportunity process for every new still redistricting and what other areas will

20:59

they this affect so just some good things from washington silk and we appreciate that she was able to uh at

21:04

least give us another perspective from there so uh hopefully this kind of

21:10

opens up people's um minds and maybe they have some questions

21:15

again the question and answer or the chat or raise your hand and we'd love to hear from some other people on what

21:22

they've come up against with or what they've done in their state as well yeah again i think we're trying we're

21:28

learning here as well like kathy said this is an evolving process so there's always going to be things that we come

21:35

up against that haven't dealt with before so we can learn from you and you can learn from us that's what we're trying to accomplish

21:44

so this is mellie again if you can uh put a question in the q and a which is on the on your menu bar

21:52

and or uh raise your hand then sierra will open up your microphone so that you can share questions or comments

22:21

do you want to talk about some sales that have closed or have been restructured susan well i was going to say we could go into

22:27

a little bit more depth explanation of how we i guess rehabilitated a couple of the

22:34

cells um in the first case this was still when

22:41

rsa was our uh overriding agency

22:46

um we had a federal still that was failing and

22:53

it had to do with administration and they weren't meeting consumers needs and they weren't

22:59

fulfilling their duties and rsa came

23:05

to one of the executive directors of another federally funded cell in our

23:11

state and asked him if he would be willing to go in to this other sill

23:17

basically clean house and start from scratch so

23:22

uh he and his still agreed to do that they went in it was a two-year process

23:30

they pretty much fired the executive director they dismissed

23:36

the their board of directors they did extensive training with the

23:42

staff hired a new executive director they were able to put together a new

23:49

board of directors that completely understood the independent living philosophy

23:56

really took over every aspect of the running of their

24:01

sill as they identified and hired or promoted

24:07

staff into positions they were trained specifically for

24:12

that job and when the end of the two years arrived

24:17

that cell was successfully able to carry on and the uh still that was doing the

24:24

training went back to their own and that still is still

24:30

running well and has not suffered in least from having that

24:35

experience so we are currently right now we have a

24:41

center that is rehabilitating it is a state-funded center so acl

24:46

really has no involvement in it so it's more um uh on a state level but

24:53

that state or that center i should say realized itself that they had problems after a lot of prompting uh i don't want

25:00

to say we weren't involved we were involved but the the end result came upon uh it came

25:06

about by the actions of their own board in firing their director and bringing in

25:11

another center to help rehabilitate them just to find out what problems they really had because

25:18

they didn't even know but that process is still ongoing

25:23

as we speak thank you we do have one question and

25:28

that is what does the acronym oilp stand for

25:33

uh office of independent living programs i believe yes

25:39

i believe that the underneath the acl umbrella

25:44

administration for community living

25:57

so another kind of point of view sometimes when we when we talk about sills closing some people might be

26:03

thinking well what does a silk have to do with that um and there's lots of different areas where the silk can be very

26:10

helpful in the still closing from a network

26:15

perspective and i'm thinking about some of the things that have happened in kansas and

26:22

like i mentioned earlier when our centers have closed they haven't necessarily had a brand new center start

26:28

up but what's happened is another center has absorbed uh that territory

26:35

and um things that can happen when when another

26:40

center absorbs a territory it's important to know

26:46

the the funding source the money how much money was there because what we

26:52

have found that has happened in kansas over the past 15 or so years is that a center

26:58

uh might have been receiving so much money from the state i'm just this is just a total

27:03

random number 300 000 that's let's just use that and then when the new center absorbed it

27:11

we find out later that only 200 000 was used uh for the continuation of that

27:19

territory coverage so i think that's where silk can come in to play here is

27:24

to understand how the funding for the statewide network is set up how much is

27:31

out there how much is being used i'm constantly looking at and asking for

27:37

information on what is the total amount that the state is spending um you need that for the

27:43

spill anyway you've got that fiscal piece of the spill and i used that and i asked just

27:49

recently like the dsc i said can you tell me how much each center has received in their grants

27:57

from the state because like i said we have 10 uh nine of the ten centers do receive

28:02

some type of funding from our state and when i added it all up we were twenty thousand dollars short which

28:08

isn't a huge chunk of change but it is something and so i've asked the dsc for that

28:15

information where's that twenty thousand dollars um and that's important because

28:21

you know when you start looking at that you think well it's twenty thousand this year what is it over the last ten years and

28:27

so then i went back and i added up or i looked at how much we had received

28:33

um since 2005 from our spills and it turns out that we were

28:40

four hundred thousand dollars short as a network as a network um from what

28:45

we had been receiving in 2008 so that's a handy thing to know that when centers

28:50

close not all the money gets reused and if you know that it's easy to go to the dsc and say hey

28:56

here's where we're at what can we do um i was going to add something and i

29:02

noticed the question about the distance which i can kind of address indirectly

29:08

we do have we had another center um it didn't necessarily close

29:15

but the director was leaving and um and the so

29:20

this is on western pennsylvania not necessarily pittsburgh but erie if anybody's familiar with erie

29:26

pennsylvania you know fury lake and all that um the great lake and uh southwestern pennsylvania i don't

29:32

know it's probably 300 miles between them um and when the director maybe some of you know her kathleen kleinman she was

29:39

retiring you know i mean best wishes to you kathleen um

29:45

when she retired sean aiken who maybe some of you also know who is the

29:50

director in the erie area they the plan was for them to take over this hill and be

29:55

managed both still uh they were gonna have they were going to um

30:00

try to do that from a distance and they have now for i don't know it's probably been two years uh that they've been running that

30:06

and it's worked out really well the only problem i kind of saw in it was

30:12

they the grant had to stay separate because they were receiving one grant from acl

30:18

and the other grant from the state so even though they're considered the

30:23

same entity they have two grants uh but that that's working for them

30:29

but i could see how that could work in a situation where one of them closed is i guess my point

30:36

thanks matt this is melly i just want to remind the panelists of the question uh what if there are no nearby centers

30:43

to redirect consumers to do they have to go without assistance so just wanted to see if someone wanted

30:49

to jump in and provide a little bit more explanation about that

30:57

well this is kathy again i think this is you know it all depends on how your state is set up i know that not all

31:04

states have all their counties or territories covered by

31:10

centers so kansas is fortunate to be able to say all 105 counties but when you really look at that

31:17

you know we can say they're covered but they're definitely underserved um so if a center closes and there's not

31:26

a close uh other center to to just absorb it if it's not easy if it's you know hundreds

31:32

of miles away to the nearest center what do you do well i mean yeah sometimes they're going to

31:38

go without assistance and but that's why i think that really

31:44

having a solid network um coming together the silks and the sills and having a plan to determine

31:50

how what are you gonna do if that happens how are you gonna serve those people what's the plan that's exactly

31:56

what we did in kansas and and you can do it any state can do it and i know that not all states not all the centers get

32:01

along some are the silks and the centers don't get along you know i get it it's it can be tumultuous

32:08

but if your goal truly is you know how can we serve people how can we make sure

32:13

that people have the services they need then you put that stuff aside and you come together and you say what's our

32:20

plan what are we gonna do and sometimes it means one still has 38 counties and they cover um

32:28

a great uh distance of land for your state so it's going to

32:34

be different for every i don't know what do you guys do in pennsylvania

32:41

we're absolutely in the same boat uh we have one center that covers 10 counties we don't exactly have we have 67

32:49

not not quite 105 but we have one center that covers 10

32:54

counties we have another center that covers one so it's a mixed bag uh obviously that

33:00

one county is well not obviously uh that's our philadelphia center for independent living obviously there's a

33:05

lot more population in that one county than possibly all ten of those counties but every county is covered

33:20

no more questions

33:28

this is mellie just as a reminder you can raise your hand on the um bottom menu bar

33:34

and we can open up your microphone if you'd like to ask your question live or you can use the q a feature on the menu

33:40

bar and ask it that way or make comments

34:04

this is mellie one thing that um i will say i will put my video on for a moment here um i

34:10

i didn't say this in my introduction as the moderator for this session but um i'm the state administrator for the

34:16

arizona statewide independent living council and um this last go round of

34:23

spill development um because the new tool was also a lot more specific in

34:28

making sure that these sorts of issues were were addressed

34:33

we spend a lot of time it with our ielts network and talking through all of

34:39

all of this and sort of um trying to to think about what this is like and we

34:44

only have five centers they do claim all of our 15 counties of course our

34:50

counties in arizona are ginormous because we are a large land mass state um

34:56

but we just don't have a lot of counties they are covered but as others have

35:02

mentioned not necessarily covered well but in thinking it about it we were sort

35:08

of like oh it's never gonna happen to us but let's just make sure that we do it and then um this year we had a long time

35:14

director who left their position kind of left one of our smaller centers a little

35:20

bit shaky um it's all worked out but um it just

35:25

really is really critical and i think it's interesting and if there are and i know that there are because i've seen

35:32

the list of attendees you know silks um people who are serving on silk or who

35:37

are uh working for a silk here you know um i found it really valuable to kind of

35:43

go to the websites of other statewide independent living councils pull up their still take a look at what they're

35:49

doing and kind of thinking through it because you know you think it might not ever

35:54

happen to you but it happens so um i just wanted to throw that out there

36:00

and i see another question have any of you had a federally funded sale close since acl became the

36:07

administrator of il funding if so was acl easier to work with on this than rsa

36:17

pennsylvania did it was our

36:23

center in pittsburgh and the

36:28

process was different than with rsa i

36:34

i don't know if i would say it was simpler they

36:40

needed a whole lot of information from us and they wanted things very specific

36:48

to the you know every t-cross every i dotted uh we had to amend our spill

36:57

i just feel like they were a whole lot more involved the acl group than rsa ever was

37:05

i would say that's prob that's probably one of the main takeaways here is that um if the silk wants to have input into

37:12

that process it's got to be in the state plan um i mean again ours isn't perfect i

37:18

mean i'm reading kathy's and i'm like oh wow we need some of that um

37:23

but if you don't have anything acl is going to do what they think is best

37:29

rather than what silk and arguably well pa silk and arguably what pennsylvania

37:34

would think is best if you follow my logic there

37:40

great we have a couple of questions the first one is one thing that was suggested to us when

37:45

writing the spill was to ensure that our plan to cover a closed sale until decisions were

37:52

finalized did not give any one sale a leg up should they decide to put in

37:58

when the rfp opened thoughts on that

38:05

well i think that's a good way to do it uh quite honestly because what happened in kansas again when the

38:13

center when the two centers and the dsc just tried to work it out themselves while it

38:18

did work out me in there were some there were some tensions that happened because the rest of the

38:24

network was not involved in it and that's what we had all agreed upon so i think it's a good idea especially if you

38:30

want your network to work together which ultimately you do like i said not every center has to

38:36

agree on the same types of things or um you know or whatever but

38:42

the basic goal is that you're serving as many people as you possibly can so i

38:47

think that's a good idea thanks kathy another question here is um

38:56

can we discuss possible supports available through silks and or acl for a still who is in

39:03

danger of closing uh that's a great question and i love that question because i i would rather

39:09

deal with it before it happens than after the fact in kansas the silk i i personally will

39:17

reach out to every single center director and work with them and and we have a new center director that has just

39:22

started and taken over a center and um you know a lot of times they

39:27

you know it's just human nature i think for people to not want to feel like they don't know everything and so

39:34

i'm kind of that easier person to go to um and and ask all those questions and

39:40

give the resources um i have tried to help struggling center directors out and

39:45

and help them with different aspects of it i've worked at a couple of centers before i ever came to the silk so i do

39:52

understand um il and and centers and and pretty much have done every job you can do in a

39:57

center so uh i think that's helpful but yeah i'm i always open myself up as a resource to

40:04

centers for independent living i think we do the same

40:10

i was just gonna say when when uh when our center in pittsburgh closed they hadn't told anyone so

40:17

we didn't know it was going to happen so now with the language we've inserted

40:23

into our spill if your center is in any kind of

40:28

difficult circumstances uh shaky ground you have to notify

40:36

acl and we need to be part of that discussion as well so go ahead matt

40:42

uh in addition to that i mean it's not always the director or the staff sometimes it's the board

40:47

um some boards are particularly hard to work with or for the director to work with and we we've heard that a lot

40:53

lately uh sometimes the board needs some education silk will help out i mean i've been in contact with a lot of members of

41:00

boards you know how can you help us through this uh the board i was just referring to earlier the state funded

41:05

one um and some have reached out to susan directly um but yeah we're we're

41:11

trying to we want services to continue i believe that's like the ultimate goal we don't

41:16

want any consumer to go without go without a service that that they need um so that that's our ultimate objective

41:23

um and we've we've tried to do that pennsylvania i'm not sure how many other states have this we also have a

41:28

membership organization for the center for independent living like like a trade association so sills

41:35

can pay a fee and be a part of that uh and that's peer support you know they

41:40

can reach out to other directors they can also do that through the silk uh for the the the still directors and members

41:47

that are members of our board but they can also go to that body as well

41:54

excellent thank you so much the next question is for kathy this person knows that um kansas has the

42:02

kansas youth empowerment academy and the question is have you ever collaborated

42:07

with a kansas youth empowerment academy to support youth in a cell service area

42:13

if that's captioning still closed

42:28

silk board meeting and we would want to hear from them on what they were doing

42:34

in the programs and all that we had a section in our spill because we actually gave them some of the part b money at

42:40

one time so we had a section in our spill that talked about um collaborating with the

42:46

youth empowerment academy and all the centers and that we would come together again as a network and um

42:53

talk about what um how to best serve the youth in those

42:58

areas so that would have that would have been for a closing sill as well um you know

43:06

programs change things happen uh we no longer have that in our spill

43:12

and we no longer have them on our agenda um i think that they just took a different direction and

43:18

you know we kind of went with that so at this point no i would not say that we directly work with them um for

43:27

for youth services i will say that pretty much every center for independent

43:32

living in kansas has its own youth program as well so i think that's probably more where

43:38

our efforts are focused great um

43:44

next is a comment uh rsa did not find a suitable group to take over the sill

43:50

that posed in our state our stills and silk wanted rsa to split

43:55

the money evenly between all sales for one year and do another call for proposals rsa refused to do this the

44:03

sales were willing to use the money for one year and then give it up the following year to restart the still in

44:09

the area where we had a still close it was very frustrating

44:17

any follow-up comments from the panelists i just wonder how they would have responded if you had amended your state

44:23

plan to say that i mean it's not an easy process but

44:30

i i don't know i did not personally deal with rsa so

44:39

rsa was historically difficult to deal with in pretty much any capacity

44:48

i would say the only protection you would have had would have been if you had

44:54

foreknowledge and were able to have put that into your spill but if you had amended your spill i would be very

45:02

curious if they would have had the leg to stand on once you

45:07

had a spill amendment but they also have to sign off on that spell amendment so

45:12

uh let's just say it's been a completely different experience

45:19

working with acl as opposed to the difficulties with rsa

45:25

thanks susan um the person followed up and said we did agree to amend our state plan to do this and rsa said

45:32

did not matter and they would not let us do it anyway or do it that way

45:43

that's really really unfortunate um it was my experience

45:50

and i should probably mention um i've been either an employee or

45:56

am currently the chair of the pennsylvania silk and that goes back to 1999.

46:02

so yes i'm that old um rsa we often dealt with people who

46:10

had a very we'll just say a very high opinion of themselves and

46:17

the amount of power they could throw around um

46:23

and you know the bottom line is we're all trying to make sure that our consumers are being served and i

46:29

don't i don't know how that relationship ever worked well i it didn't in

46:36

pennsylvania and i just i'm glad there's acl now that we don't

46:41

have to deal with all that rsa has been in the past

46:46

no offense to any former rsa employees on the call

46:53

and this is mellie we have about 10 minutes left so any final

46:58

questions or comments and or final words from the panelists

47:11

well this is kathy again i i think my final thoughts would be just don't be afraid to push back on the dsc when

47:17

they're not following the spill um because truly you put so much time and

47:22

effort into developing that spill and and having everybody agree on it um

47:29

so yeah don't be afraid to push back

47:36

i would probably say the same we've been getting more and more resistance not necessarily with this issue from our dse and

47:44

we've been pushing back more and more um and you know this isn't the way it's done

47:51

you know we're kind of i think in pennsylvania we're tired of hearing that um so we're trying to do what's best for

47:58

the population that we serve not necessarily what's best for the state or the feds or whatever

48:07

as long as who's going to prove uh yeah just i if you don't have

48:15

language in your spill i would strongly suggest that uh you start working on it now and

48:22

make sure that it does make it into your spell it's it is essential that you do

48:28

that yeah that's the huge takeaway if you if you don't put something in there they're going to do what they want to do whoever

48:34

they is and this is mellie i just wanted to let

48:40

everyone know that i did put the survey link in the chat for the evaluation so

48:45

please feel free to copy that over and you can also find it on our wonderful platform

48:51

and um there are a couple of comments here this is a great discussion thank you um

48:58

any final comments or questions this is the time oh wait here we go

49:04

is there is there a way to find out if my state spill has any language about

49:09

when sales close i mean we put ours on our web page and

49:14

it's open to anyone to look at it's a public document uh so you should be able to see

49:21

it if your silk doesn't put it on the web page or have it available in some way they should

49:27

and if they don't i believe there's a way to look it up on the acl website but i personally have not done that

49:43

another question where would you suggest suggest silks start on this if no sill has closed to

49:49

spark the discussion so they've never had that experience

49:55

where would you suggest they start discussing what you know how they should move

50:00

forward well this is kathy and uh i would say take a look at kansas or pennsylvania

50:06

like matt said we'll share any of our stuff with you uh just because it hasn't happened it probably will happen but

50:13

there's lots of other things to think about in that and those spills get a little bit ridiculous in the fact that we have to like pre-plan for everything

50:20

and try and think of everything but this is probably a very important one to do some

50:27

pre-planning on and take a look um regardless of whether a center completely closes um you can have

50:33

language in there about what to do if the center is in trouble if nothing else

50:38

or or if funding gets cut in one way or another whether it be federal money or state money or if there's an increase in

50:45

money you really need to have those important pieces covered and again uh i feel very confident in in the kansas um

50:53

spill in those areas not maybe not in everything but at least in those areas we put a lot of thought into that and

50:59

i'm more than happy to share yeah like kathy said we're happy to share um but in the end you know there's

51:06

always the all-knowing and always helpful uh anne from west virginia uh who is

51:12

i i i can't you know thank her enough for all that she's helped us with so uh you know

51:18

even though i know she's phasing out and don't leave me

51:24

um someone mentioned in the chat that spills are not yet uploaded to acl's

51:29

website but um to contact your silk to request a copy of their spill

51:35

if it is not readily available on their website

52:03

can we put our uh emails up there because we we've just said over and over hey emails yet they don't have that so

52:10

can you make the last slide of the presentation throw the last slide up there melly or sierra or whoever's doing it

52:16

and while sierra's putting that up we do have uh one question how could one prepare for pushback when planning this

52:26

i mean put it in there that you expect that part of part of the plan is that

52:32

your network gets to have some type of of feedback in this now

52:37

in kansas you know the part in our part b stuff we know that the state is the grantee and we

52:43

know that the the state gets a say in how the rfp is and all that kind of stuff but we have specifically put in

52:50

there that they have to collaborate with us and consider our recommendations before anything can

52:57

happen now if they don't take those recommendations well there's not a lot we can do other

53:02

than than you know raise a fuss about it but it's at least in there that they have to

53:08

collaborate with us it cannot be done in a silo i would also say though that

53:13

no one ever thinks this is going to happen to them and i mean hopefully it doesn't but you know everyone everyone's got ego

53:20

and whatever so you never think your still is going to close so when we did this we didn't get a lot of uh backlash

53:27

or you know uh resistance because you know there's there's the skills probably in

53:33

everyone's network that people you know that's still in trouble or that may that still may have trouble or whatever but

53:38

everyone else feels like everything's great so they're they were all willing to sign on and and really we're not we didn't

53:44

ask a lot of them if you're going to have problems if you see something coming down the road just bring it to us

53:50

bring it to the the membership organization bring it to the dse and let us help you through it that's that's

53:55

really the the objective of that it's not you know we're not looking for them to close we don't want any phil to close

54:01

because that's going to affect consumers in the end which we don't want to happen

54:12

all right with that i think we will go ahead and thank our presenters uh kathy

54:18

matt and susan for their time and expertise today uh we appreciate that we want to also

54:24

recognize the hard work of our asl interpreters and our cart operator and of course sierra

54:31

for hosting this today and we hope that we will see you back this afternoon and throughout the rest of the week for the

54:37

wonderful 2021 april conference thank you