

# What is a SILC and why should I Care?

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It has nothing to do with this...



# SILC stands for

- **S**tatewide
- **I**ndependent
- **L**iving
- **C**ouncil

# The Council Part is Really Important

- Council members are appointed by the Governor
- SILCs work, partner, and collaborate with other boards, councils, and commissions
- SILCs are frequently in contact with both state and federal government entities

# Another thing to remember about SILCs

Even though it isn't part of the acronym, SILCs are their own thing. Autonomy is really important for a SILC to be effective

- SILCs work with the government but are not part of the government
- SILCs work with CILs but are not an extension of the CILs

# There are 56 SILCs

- All 50 states, 5 permanently inhabited territories of the United States, and the District of Columbia have a SILC
- Each SILC functions a little differently, but they all have the same goal
- SILCs are authorized by the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, as Amended in 2015 by Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act (WIOA, pronounced “we-owe-a”)

Who would ever want to be on the SILC?

# Consumer direction is the most important thing

- IL is all about consumer control
  - Remember: Nothing about us without us!
- A majority (at least 51%) of the SILC members must be persons with disabilities



# SILCs don't want too much interference

- A majority (at least 51%) of the council must be persons who do not work for a state agency
- A majority (at least 51%) of the council cannot work at a CIL
- The Governor appoints new SILC members, but they have to get recommendations from their SILC
  - Mileage may vary depending on state

# Statewideness is also a thing

- Seriously, that is the word we use.
- We try to get people from all over the state to join up, including:
  - Folks from TINYTOWN, pop. 1
  - Folks from GIANTBERG, pop. 1,000,000
  - Folks from MIDDLEPLACE, pop. 50,000
  - Folks from the middle of nowhere
  - Folks from the middle of everything

# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion are a big deal, too

- We need as many voices to be heard as possible; that means we want to hear from literally everyone...
  - This includes different socioeconomic backgrounds, education levels, employment, racial identity, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, education level, age...
  - We also want as many disabilities represented as possible
- ...because everyone needs something a little different, and we want to make sure we make our states accessible for as many people as possible.

... and we don't want things to get stale

- SILC members can only serve 2 consecutive 3-year terms, and then they have to take a break from the council

On top of all that, all of this is required by the Rehab act...

...and there might be state laws that we have to think about too

# Keeping track of all this is a lot of work

- Most SILCs have at least one staff person. Making sure the council has the right people, keeping them well-trained, and active is a big part of what they do

# All that being said...

... we love it when CIL leadership, staff, and board members are a part of our team. It makes the SILC stronger and lets us know what's going on at the centers.

So what does a SILC actually do?



# SILCs have two primary responsibilities

- Writing the SPIL with the help of the CILs
- Making sure that everything in the SPIL gets accomplished, or making changes when they can't be

# They also have to:

- Have regular meetings
  - Meetings have to be open to the public
  - People have to know about meetings before they happen
- Submit reports
  - and keep records that verify the information in the reports
- Work with other groups that provide IL services or similar services

# SILCs can choose to do other stuff too

- “Work with CILs to coordinate with public and private entities to improve services”
  - Read: work with others to make sure persons with disabilities get what they need
- “Conduct resource development activities”
  - Read: get more money for the SILC
- Anything else, as long as it helps improve Independent Living in their state

# SILCs are not allowed to do some things

- They can't help consumers directly
- They can't tell persons that work with consumers how to do their job

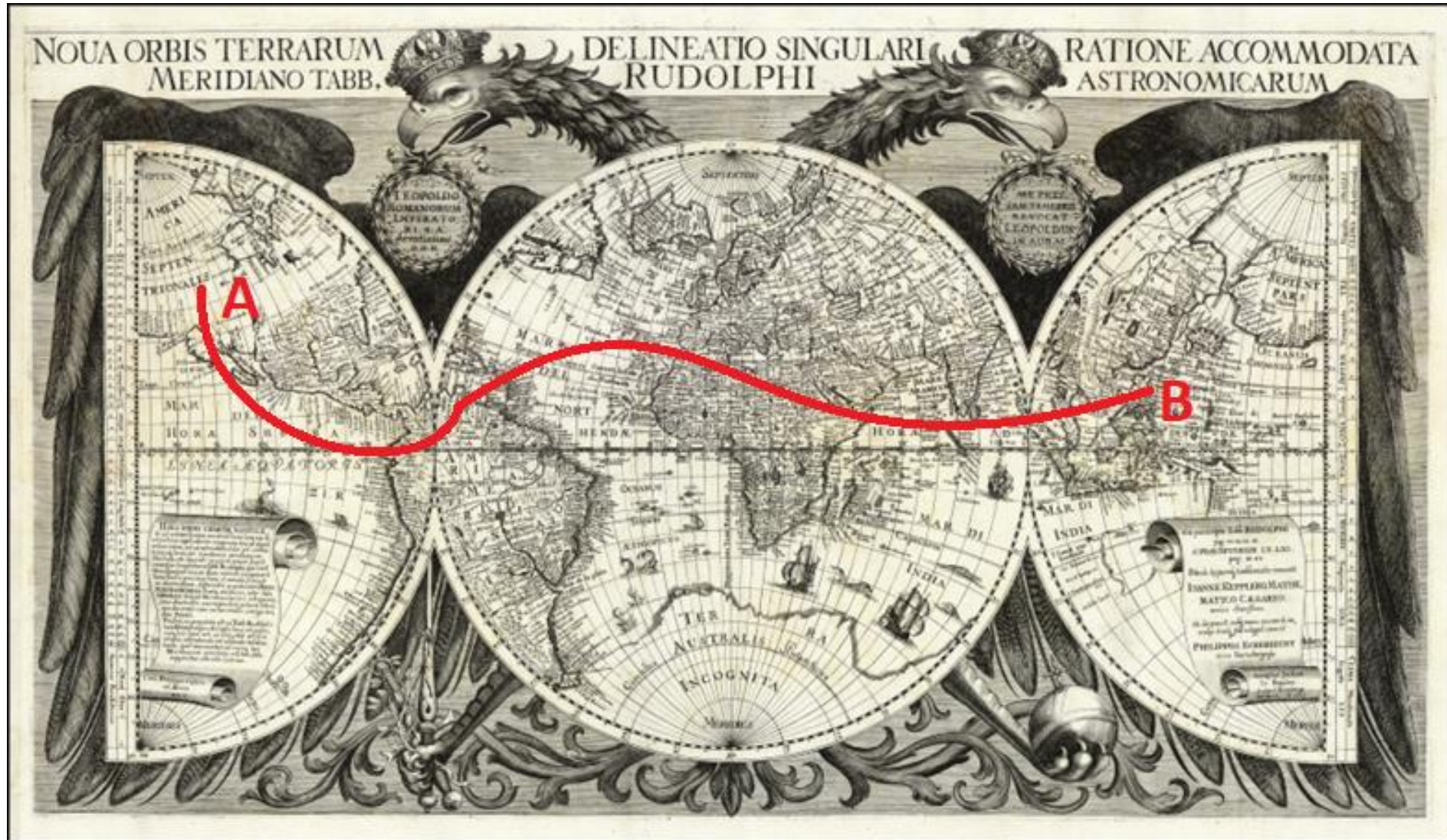
What is this SPIL thing about anyways?

It has nothing to do with this:





The SPIL is kind of like a road map...



# The SPIL helps guide IL in your state by:

- Figuring out CIL service areas
- Making sure as many persons as possible have access to a CIL
- Deciding how to spend Part B funding
- Setting goals to help persons with disabilities be independent as possible



# The SPIL is a 3-year Plan

- We are currently in the 2020-2023 SPIL Cycle
  - There was an extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- SILCs are busy working on the 2024-2026 SPIL as we speak
  - The new SPIL is due to ACL June 30, 2023

# There are 9 Major Sections

- Section 1: Goals, Objectives, and Activities
- Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangement of Services
- Section 3: Network of Centers
- Section 4: Designated State Entity (DSE) Responsibilities
- Section 5: SILC
- Section 6: Legal Basis and Certifications
- Section 7: DSE Assurances
- Section 8: SILC Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance
- Section 9: Signatures

# Why is there a whole section for signatures?

- There are a bunch of people that have to approve the SPIL before ACL will even look at it:
  - The SILC Chair, after the council has given them approval to do so
  - At least 51% of the state's CIL directors; depending on the state, this could be a lot of people
  - The DSE

# Okay, but who is in charge then?

- The short answer is: nobody
  - IL should work as a network, not a hierarchy
    - CILs do the work of making sure people get what they need
    - The DSE makes sure the money goes where it needs to go
    - The SILC designs the SPIL and makes sure the state meets its goals

Needless to say, it's a huge task.

Now it's time for the soap boxy bit...

# So... why should I care?

- The SPIL guides how we make IL stronger in its state
- Without everyone's perspective, we can never hope to see from everyone's point of view
- Even if you don't notice it, everything we do is guided by or influences our SPILs and our SILCs

Most importantly, the more people we get involved, the stronger we can be.



# Okay, so what can I do?

- Read the SPIL
  - At the very least, read the goals and objectives
  - Ask questions if you don't understand
- Provide public comment and feedback
  - The more people we hear from, the more we can make sure we are doing the right things for our state
- Get to know your SILC members and staff
  - We are nice people; we don't bite.
- Help with SPIL development; see if there is a place for you on the SPIL team
- Join your SILC or work with one of the SILC committees



# Not tired of us yet? Give us a holler!

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