What is a SILC and why should I care?

# Slide 1 – What is a SILC and why should I Care?

* Dr. FranSha’ Anderson – Arkansas State Independent Living Council
* Tyler Wilcox – Independent Living Council of Wisconsin

# Slide 2 – It has nothing to do with this…

Image: Three Bombyx mori surrounded by silkworm cocoons.

Image: Bolts of colorful silk fabric bundles stacked on a counter.

# Slide 3 – SILC stands for

* Statewide
* Independent
* Living
* Council

# Slide 4 - 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

# Slide 5 – 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

# Slide 6 – 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”)

# Slide 7 – Who would ever want to be on the SILC?

# Slide 8 – 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

# Slide 9 – 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

# Slide 10 – 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

# Slide 11 – 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…(ellipsis)
  + This includes different socioeconomic backgrounds, education levels, employment, racial identity, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, education level, age…(ellipsis)
  + We also want as many disabilities represented as possible
* …(ellipsis) because everyone needs something a little different, and we want to make sure we make our states accessible for as many people as possible.

# Slide 12 – …(ellipsis) 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

# Slide 13 – On top of all that, all of this is required by the Rehab act…(ellipsis)

…(ellipsis) and there might be state laws that we have to think about too

# Slide 14 – 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

# Slide 15 – All that being said…(ellipsis)

…(ellipsis) 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.

# Slide 16 – So what does a SILC actually do?

# Slide 17 – 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

# Slide 18 – 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

# Slide 19 – 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
* Slide 20 – Anything else, as long as it helps improve Independent Living in their state

# Slide 20 – 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

# Slide 21 – What is this SPIL thing about anyways?

# Slide 22 – It has nothing to do with this:

Image: Milk spilled on a grocery store floor.

Image: A bottle of water spilled on the ground.

# Slide 23 – The SPIL is kind of like a road map…(ellipsis)

Image: A map of the world from the 17th century with a wavy red line connecting A and B.

# Slide 24 - 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

# Slide 25 – 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

# Slide 26 – 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

# Slide 27 – 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

# Slide 28 – 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

# Slide 29 – Needless to say, it’s a huge task.

Now it’s time for the soap boxy bit…(ellipsis)

# Slide 30 – So…(ellipsis) 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

# Slide 31 – Most importantly, the more people we get involved, the stronger we can be.

Image: 300 Amish men moving a huge barn without any machinery.

# Slide 32 – 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

# Slide 33 -Not tired of us yet? Give us a holler!

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