

Centers for Independent Living 101

How the CILs can be partners in advancing community
integration and support services

What Is Independent Living?

- ▶ The independent living philosophy is one of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and systems advocacy in order to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of society.

How it started

- ▶ Ed Roberts enrolled in the University of California, Berkeley in 1962
- ▶ He was housed in the Student Health Service infirmary (Cowell Hospital)
- ▶ Disabled Student Services &
- ▶ The Rolling Quads
- ▶ Access on Campus and in Berkeley



The Center for Independent Living

- ▶ The Center for Independent Living (the first in the world) established in Berkeley, CA by Ed Roberts and the “Rolling Quads” in 1972.



Centers for Independent Living

- ▶ non-residential
- ▶ private, non-profit
- ▶ consumer-controlled
- ▶ community-based
- ▶ provide services and advocacy by and for people with all types of disabilities
- ▶ Goal is for people with disabilities to live, work, and participate in their communities

Core Services

- ▶ Information and Referral
- ▶ Independent Living Skills Training
- ▶ Peer Support
- ▶ Advocacy
- ▶ Youth Transition
- ▶ Diversion
- ▶ Nursing Home Transition

Statewide Independent Living Council

- ▶ SILCs required by 1992 amendments to the Rehab Act in every State and Territory
- ▶ Ohio SILC Formed in 1993 under Executive Order of the Governor
- ▶ Responsibility of jointly developing the State Plan for Independent Living
- ▶ Responsible for coordinating activities with other entities that provide similar services to IL

Who Is the SILC?

- ▶ 14 Appointed Voting Members
- ▶ 5 Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members
- ▶ SILC must remain autonomous from state government and not exist within another State Agency

State Plan for Independent Living

- ▶ An approved State Plan for Independent Living is required for a state to receive federal IL funding
- ▶ The SILC and a majority of the CILs in the State must sign to approve the Plan
- ▶ Plan lasts up to 3 years
- ▶ Gives common direction for CILs and SILC to work toward

Current State Plan Goals

- ▶ Goal 1: Increase advocacy efforts to create a more inclusive community
- ▶ Goal 2: Increase Independent Living and Community Integration with increased Independent Living Services
- ▶ Goal 3: Increase community awareness and outreach
- ▶ Goal 4: Increase Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Satisfactions of IL Services

Populations Served

- ▶ CIL's serve individuals of all ages and disabilities
- ▶ We serve some of the same individuals as the AAA's

People 60+ with acquired disabilities

Individuals who are aging into the new systems

Aging parents with children with disabilities

Child/spouse of person 60+ with a disability

Common Issues

- ▶ Access to affordable, accessible and safe housing
- ▶ Access to affordable, accessible and safe transportation
- ▶ Access to health care
- ▶ Access to long-term services and supports
- ▶ Food insecurity
- ▶ Financial insecurity
- ▶ Opioid crisis
- ▶ Identity or perceived identity
- ▶ Both under ACL

Differences

- ▶ Service and case management model vs/ social justice and civil rights model
- ▶ Risk management/Dignity of risk
- ▶ Funder requirements
- ▶ Statewide coverage/covering more than 80% of population for core services



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- ▶ Funding
- ▶ ADRN
- ▶ Perceptions

Strengths



AAA

Caring Staff

Service model

Statewide Coverage

Case management

Care Transitions

Addressing food insecurity

Family/Caregiver supports

Long-term Options counseling

Health Promotion and Prevention

Community perception

CIL

Caring Staff

Service model

Covers over 80% of the population

Broad service delivery based on need

Peer support/mentor/guide

Consistent core services

Break down barriers

Consumer-directed supports

Nursing home and youth transition

Nimble

Working Together



Working Together

- ▶ Recognize strengths
- ▶ Where do each of us fit in the consumer/client's life journey
- ▶ Who does what...when...where and how
- ▶ Cross train
- ▶ Committees, boards and coalitions
- ▶ Individual advocacy and systems change

Questions? Thoughts?



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- ▶ How are you collaborating in your local area?
- ▶ What would an ideal collaboration/relationship between AAA and CIL's look like?
- ▶ What are the barriers?
- ▶ How can they be overcome?

Contact Information

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