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THE IL EDGE
 SUMMER 2019 - WVSILC - PO Box 625 - Institute, WV 25112

SILC UPDATE

Summer is coming to a close and the new school year is starting across the state. Students and parents need to remind their schools that the 3rd week in October is Disability History Week in WV and all schools are required to provide instruction in disability history. The CILs are great partners for helping the schools with this requirement and are listed in this newsletter. Many resources can be found by searching "disability history" on the Internet – take time to find and share resources with your local school!

The Special Session of the WV Legislature resulted in the passage of several bills (see update on page 8). Bills of note include HB 206 Relating to public education and HB 160 Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Act. The text of these bills, and all the other bills considered during the Special Session, can be found at www.wvlegislature.gov

The new template and instructions for the State Plan for Independent Living were finally released for public comment August 12th. The comment period is 60 days and ends on October 11th. You can find the documents to review and prepare your comments at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/08/12/2019-17172/agency-information-collection-activities-proposed-collection-public-comment-request-state-plan-for>

MISSION

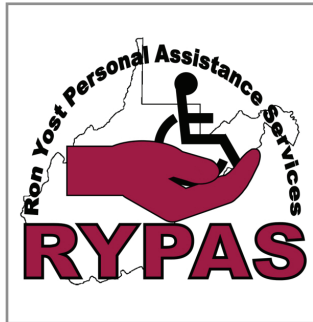
"To ensure persons who have disabilities have access to community-based resources that promote personal choice and facilitate the achievement of their independent living goals."

From the desk of:



Ann McDaniel
 Executive Director

IN THIS EDITION:



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WV Centers for Independent Living

Appalachian CIL
 Elk Office Center
 4710 Chimney Dr.
 Charleston, WV 25302
 1-800-642-3003

Northern WV CIL
 601-603 East Brockway Ave.
 Suite A & B
 Morgantown, WV 26505
 1-800-834-6408

109 Randolph Ave.
 Elkins, WV 26241
 304-636-0143

Mountain State CIL
 821 Fourth Ave.
 Huntington, WV 25701
 1-866-687-8245

329 Prince St.
 Beckley, WV 25801
 304-255-0122





2019 Interim Committee Dates

- September 23-24
- November 18-19
- December 16-17

For more information on the 2019 Interim Committee Dates, visit the WV State Legislature website at: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us>. ■

WVSILC Honors Carissa Davis

By: Beverley Jones

After serving 10 years as Program Assistant at WVSILC, and moving on to a new job, Carissa Davis returned as a Council member to continue advocating for independent living. She has served the maximum of six years chairing the Action Committee a portion of that time, and also serving as Secretary of the WVSILC, playing an important role on the Executive Committee. She has been a valued Council Member and we plan to continue working with Carissa as the newly appointed WV Olmstead Coordinator. ■



Beverley Jones presenting Carissa Davis with award of appreciation.

Charleston Sled Hockey

Charleston Sled Hockey will begin its 5th season on September 30, 2019 at the South Charleston Memorial Ice Arena, located near Target on Corridor G.

Sled Hockey is regular hockey adapted for youth and adults with a physical disability. All ages are welcome. The first year is free and Charleston Sled Hockey provides all equipment. The team practices from 5:45 - 6:45 on Monday evenings from September 30 to mid-March. If you are interested in participating, come early on September 30 to register and be fitted with equipment.

Charleston Sled Hockey is sponsored by grants from the Pittsburgh Penguin Foundation and The Brady Steps Foundation (Huntington, WV), as well as several area businesses, civic groups and individuals.

Put your disability on ice. For more information, please contact the team at CharlestonWVSledHockey@gmail.com or call Linda Streets at 304-342-1459. ■



Charleston sled hockey team.



Charleston sled hockey team member being assisted.

WVSILC Solicits Nominations for the RYPAS Board

The West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is recruiting individuals with disabilities to fill vacancies on the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Board. The Council is mandated by §18-10L of the West Virginia Code to maintain a standing committee to serve as the consumer-controlled board to direct the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services in the implementation of this program. The Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Program (RYPAS) is a State funded program provided through the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services as a part of the State Plan for Independent Living.

Legislatively, the board is required to meet at least quarterly, but usually meets monthly to review applications for eligibility and to address policy and other governing issues for the program. Board members will be reimbursed for allowable expenses incurred as a result of active participation on the board. Individuals nominated must have a severe disability (a physical, mental, or sensory impairment that affects one or more major life activity), be dedicated to the development and growth of the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Program (RYPAS), and be committed to attending meetings and actively participate on the board.



You may wish to nominate yourself or another person (with their permission) for membership on this board. More information about RYPAS is available at <http://www.wvsilc.org/rypas.htm>. The form to nominate RYPAS Board members is on page 10 and available at <http://www.wvsilc.org/docs/RYPAS%20Board%20Nomination%20Form.pdf>. Learn more about WVSILC and its work at <http://www.wvsilc.org>.

Please feel free to share with as many individuals as you wish. If you have questions or need further information or assistance, please contact WVSILC at (304) 766-4624 or toll free at (855) 855-9743 (voice/TDD). ■



Ron Yost sustained a spinal cord injury when he was 20 that resulted in quadriplegia. He was an active advocate for people with disabilities, and he fully understood how much difference having an attendant or personal assistant can make in the level of independence and quality of life for a person with a disability.

He helped develop the long-term attendant care program for people who work, which is administered by the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services. He also was involved in the initial discussions to create a program to provide personal assistance for people who could not get services through any existing program.

Although Ron died before the program was established in 1999, it was named in his honor by the legislators who sponsored the bill. Ron had a great impact on the disability community of Huntington and throughout West Virginia.

Tee Shirts For Sale

Fair Shake Network tee shirts are now available for sale at the cost of \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members. The cost of shipping is \$3 if you need the shirt to be mailed to you. The shirts are available in 3XL, 2XL, XL, M, L and S. They are red and have the FSN logo in the center of the shirt. You can go online and order at www.fairshake.org or call 304-766-0061. ■





Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living



The Northern WV Center for Independent Living will be hosting its 14th Annual "Different Voices and Common Experiences" (DVCE) art exhibit.

DVCE is an exhibit featuring artists who have been affected by mental health issues. DVCE supports positive mental health awareness, community wellness, and inclusivity.

The exhibit will run from August 9th to August 30th, 2019 at the Monongalia Arts Center in Morgantown, WV. For more information, please contact Paulette Southerly at 1-844-212-3464 or psoutherly@nwvcil.org. ■



New Olmstead Coordinator

By Jerry Boyko with excerpts from: the [Olmstead Council](#)

We would like to congratulate Carissa Davis, for being named the new West Virginia Olmstead Coordinator. Prior to this position, Carissa has been the Administrative Assistant for Take Me Home WV at the Bureau of Medical Services, the Program Assistant for the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (WVSILC) as well as a WVSILC Council Member.



On June 22, 1999, the United States Supreme Court ruled that unnecessary institutionalization of people with disabilities was a form of discrimination based on disability that was prohibited by Title II of the ADA. This landmark decision led to the federal government issuing guidance, policy directives, statutory and regulatory changes, and numerous funding and grant opportunities to assist states in achieving full compliance with Title II of the ADA.

Olmstead v. L.C. is a landmark decision upholding the civil rights of people with disabilities to receive services and supports in the most integrated setting in the community. The case was filed on behalf of two women with developmental and mental health disabilities who were residing in a state-operated institution in Georgia. The lawsuit alleged that the state's failure to provide community-based supports was a form of discrimination prohibited by Title II of the ADA.

The ADA is a civil rights law enacted to "provide a clear and comprehensive prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability." Title II of the ADA establishes the requirements for public entities, including state governments and health care services which are funded and administered by state agencies.

On August 13, 2003, the Olmstead Office was established through a directive by then-Governor Bob Wise to the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR). The directive was to create a position for a full-time Olmstead Coordinator to develop, implement, and monitor West Virginia Olmstead activities for compliance with Title II of the ADA.

WVSILC looks forward to continuing to work with Carissa and we wish her well in her new position. ■

Olmstead Council

The first action taken by the Olmstead Office was to establish a WV Olmstead Council with the following responsibilities:

- Advise the Olmstead Office concerning the implementation of the statewide Olmstead Plan
- Review the activities of the Olmstead Office
- Provide recommendations for the long-term care support system
- Identify systemic issues and make recommendations for change
- Monitor, revise and update the Olmstead Plan

The Olmstead Council is comprised of members with disabilities and/or immediate family members of a person with a disability, advocacy and disability organizations, providers and/or knowledgeable representation of home and community services and supports, state Agencies and at-large members.

Back-to-School: Tips for Parents of Children with Special Needs

Source: ReadingRockets.org

A new school year means a new grade, new teachers, new goals, and maybe even a new school! In order to help you and your child with special needs be as successful as you can be, we've put together a list of eight helpful back-to-school tips that we hope will make the transition into a new school year a little easier for you and your child.

Organize all that paperwork

In the world of special education, there are lots of meetings, paperwork, and documentation to keep track of. Try to keep a family calendar of school events, special education meetings, conferences, etc. Setting up a binder or folder to keep your child's special education documentation, meeting notices, and IEPs in sequential order can also help you stay organized.

Start a communication log

Keeping track of all phone calls, e-mails, notes home, meetings, and conferences is important. Create a "communication log" for yourself in a notebook that is easily accessible. Be sure to note the dates, times, and nature of the communications you have.

Review your child's current IEP

IEP is the cornerstone of your child's educational program, so it's important that you have a clear understanding of it. Note when the IEP expires and if your child is up for reevaluation this year. Most importantly, be sure that this IEP still "ts" your child's needs! If you're unsure, contact the school about holding an IEP review meeting.

Relieve back-to-school jitters

Just talking about the upcoming year and changes can help reduce some of that back-to-school anxiety! Talk to your child about exciting new classes, activities, and events that they can participate in during the new school year. If attending a new school, try to schedule a visit before the first day. With older students, it is sometimes helpful to explain the services and accommodations in their IEP so that they know what to expect when school begins.

Keep everyone informed

It's important that you and the school communicate early and often! If there is anything (concerns, changes, questions about the IEP) that you feel is important to share with the staff working with your child before school starts, or during the year, don't hesitate to contact them! The more proactive and honest you are, the better the school staff will be able to meet your child's needs.

Establish before and after school routines

Discuss and plan the changes in you and your child's daily routine that will happen once school starts. You can even begin practicing your new schedule, focusing on morning and evening routines, and begin implementing them well in advance of the first day of school.

(Back-to-School continued from previous column)

Stay up-to-date on special education news

Being knowledgeable about your child's IEP and their disability can help you become a better advocate for your child. Try to keep up-to-date on new special education legislation, news, and events. The more you know, the more prepared you will be to navigate the world of special education and successfully advocate for your child!

Attend school events

Take advantage of Open House, Back-to-School Night, and parent-teacher conferences to help you and your child get a feel for the school and meet the teachers, other staff, students, and families. Share the positives about working with your child, and let the teacher know about changes, events, or IEP concerns that should be considered for children in special education.

For more information about starting the year off right, visit Reading Rockets' back to school section: <http://www.readingrockets.org/calendar/backtoschool> ■

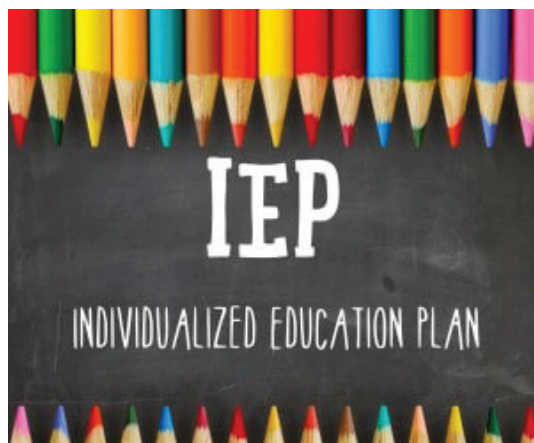
Other resources from the West Virginia Department of Education.

The IEP and Section 504

http://www.pathwayswv.org/docs/WVDE_IEP-504_GuidanceBook.pdf

Hand in Hand: Guidance for West Virginia Parents

http://wvde.state.wv.us/osp/hand_in_hand%20sept%202015.pdf





Corey Rowley National Advocacy Award

The Employables: Stream It Or Skip It?

Source: Decider.com

Ann McDaniel, WV SILC Executive Director, was the recipient of the 2019 Corey Rowley National Advocacy Award presented by the



National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) at the Annual Conference July 23, 2019 in Washington, DC.

Sarah Lauderdale, Vice-President of

NCIL and Executive Director of the Vermont CIL, presented the award to Ann at the Awards Luncheon with the following remarks:

The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals and groups for outstanding systems advocacy efforts consistent with independent living goals and philosophy on a national level. This work exemplified the life of Corey Rowley, who was also a VP of NCIL, and a proud woman with a disability that lived and breathed policy and advocacy.

The award is selected by the members of NCIL's Legislative & Advocacy Committee, which is made up of all of the chairs and co-chairs of NCIL's legislative subcommittees. This award is a very big deal and I'm thrilled to share this year's winner with you all.

Ann McDaniel is the Executive Director of the West Virginia SILC with both a Master's and Bachelor's Degree from Marshall University in Huntington, WV. Ann has worked in independent living since 1985, eleven years at a CIL followed by her current position. She has helped develop seven SPILs and a few SPIL amendments and has served as a peer mentor to eight other SILCs. Ann has provided national, state, and regional training on the history and philosophy of independent living, the roles and functions of SILCs, SPIL development, strategic planning, measuring consumer satisfaction, the legislative process, advocacy, parliamentary procedure, the Rehabilitation Act, and a variety of other disability and independent living topics.

Please join me in congratulating this year's Corey Rowley National Advocacy Award Winner: Ann McDaniel. ■

Over the past few years, companies — especially ones in the tech sector — are promoting “neurodiversity in the workplace” initiatives, because they're learning how to tap into a pool of candidates that have a unique and valuable way of thinking and organizing tasks. People with autism are the biggest group being hired in these initiatives, but other neuro-diverse people are being considered, too. But employers have needed to adjust calcified interviewing and on-boarding procedures. A&E's new docuseries *The Employables* documents how candidates and employers both need to change their mindsets during the job search process.

The Gist: *The Employables* is a docuseries that, in each episode, follows two neuro-diverse people who have had problems finding work.



People with autism or other neuro-diverse conditions like Tourette Syndrome have problems finding work because, despite having a worldview and skills that neurotypical people may not have, just can't get past the interview process and — in many cases — try to hide the fact that they don't communicate the same as others.

In the first episode, we follow a Tennessee man named James, who's 36 and hasn't had a full-time job in 7 years. His Tourette's can be severe at times, with head twitches and loud verbal ticks that include going “meow” and “mwahahaha!” He's a smart guy; before he got diagnosed in college, he was a double-major who wanted to go to med school. He also wants to work, feeling guilty that his wife supports the two of them. But when he goes to apply for jobs, he uses methods to suppress his tics, which just leads the tics to flow out like a clogged faucet when he's done. Stressful situations also make the tics more frequent.

We also follow a California man named Jeff, 30, who lives with his parents. He has autism spectrum disorder, and his big problem is that he has a rough time getting his thoughts together in order to speak. He speaks slowly and deliberately, with a bit of a stutter. He's never held a meaningful job, but loves horror and sci fi movies, and is a very talented artist.

Both men meet experts; James is told that his ability to communicate verbally is off the charts, and that if he talks about his Tourette's to potential employers up front, they should be able to make accommodations for it. Jeff demonstrates in his session that he can put thoughts together in writing and even read those thoughts quickly; he's told to be confident in that ability and not think he'll be pitied because he has autism. “I see it less as a sympathy card and more of a tool to help people understand the unique and fantastic way your mind works,” he tells Jeff.

Both men go for interviews arranged by the producers: Jeff interviews at a film studio, James interviews to be a tour guide at a museum. In their trials, accommodations are made for them, like when Jeff is given overnight to create a test storyboard. Both do very well and are hired.

(See *Employables* p7)

(Employables continued from p6)

Our Take: In the past few years there has been a small but significant movement to get employers to consider neuro-diverse candidates for open job positions. The thinking is that, with employers always looking for people who think outside the box or are highly detail-oriented, they're doing themselves a disservice in bypassing neuro-diverse candidates. But, accommodations do need to be made, both during the interview phase and even after the candidates are brought on board.



But what *The Employables* does a good job of showing is that accommodations need to be made on both sides. It shows employers willing to talk to neuro-diverse candidates and adjust their interview process in order to get to the unique ways of thinking that many of these candidates have. But the experts the two men we follow go to also let them know that they need to let potential employers know about their talents and not hide anything from them. If they're up front, many employers will make the adjustments necessary, at least ones that are worth working for.

And, another factor that this docuseries shows; just like with neurotypical people, not all jobs are great fits. When James has a trial day at an emergency veterinarian clinic, he's able to hold a dog getting a shot, but the stress of a stray coming in with traumatic injuries stresses him out and makes his tics more frequent. So the candidates knowing their limitations is always a good thing, and the fact that the producers send the candidates to try out for jobs that take some skill and knowledge help them realize that.

What's refreshing about this show is that, unlike programs like *Afflicted*, which appear to exploit suffering people for entertainment purposes, *The Employables* emphasizes their subjects' talents and abilities and really roots for them to find work. That by itself is fascinating to us: A cable reality series that treats the people it films with respect! Imagine that!

Sex and Skin: One of James' less socially-acceptable tics is yelling out the word "Boobies!" But sometimes he does what his wife calls "Spooky Boobies," where he goes "Boooooobies" like a ghost. It's great to see that James and his wife have a good sense of humor about his condition.

Parting Shot: Both men are shown telling their loved ones that they got hired, and both are smiling, knowing that they're now making their contribution to their families and society in general.

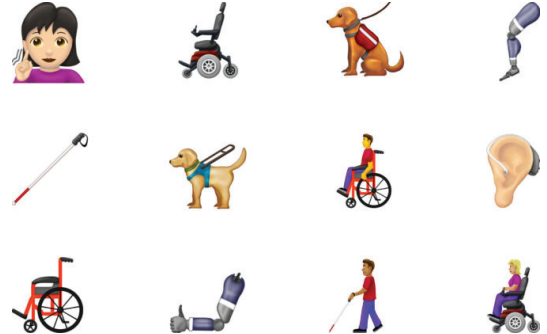
Sleeper Star: Dr. James McPartland, the Yale autism expert that advises Jeff, has a pretty boss ponytail that we don't see at first.

Most Pilot-y Line: Reality producers just can't help themselves with their edits going into commercial breaks. They try to build suspense with Jeff's interview when he comes back with the storyboard illustrations he made over night. We see cuts to furrowed brows among the interviewers, even though we all know that, when the commercial is over, they're going to say they love the work.

Our Call: STREAM IT. *The Employables* isn't just a feel-good docuseries; it helps viewers learn that neurodiversity in the workplace is good for both employer and employee. ■

Apple, Google Adding Disability Emoji

by [Disability Scoop](#)



A slew of new icons representing everything from wheelchairs to service animals are coming to smartphones soon.

Apple said it will add 59 emoji including many representing the disability experience to iPhones and other devices as part of a software update this fall.

Google indicated that the new disability-related symbols will be among 65 emoji released later this year with its Android Q operating system.

The additional icons were released by the Unicode Consortium in February. The organization is responsible for standardizing the emoji that device makers include in their keyboard selections.

Apple proposed the new disability-related icons in 2018 in an effort to "provide a wider array of options to represent basic categories for people with disabilities," the company said at the time.

The icons depict people using manual and power wheelchairs, a service dog, a hearing aid and prosthetics, among other special needs. Some of the emoji have male and female versions and variants for skin tone.

Apple said the adoption of the new icons will "help fill a significant gap in the emoji keyboard." ■



Special Session Update

By Ann McDaniel

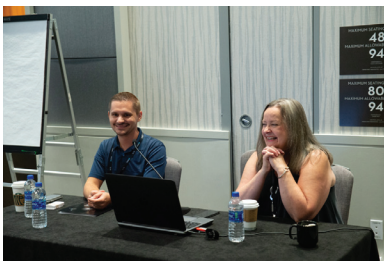
SILC Update 8-12-19 - First Special Session 2019 (Bills that passed)		
Bill	Title	Notes
HB 117	Relating to reduced rates for low-income residential customers of privately owned sewer and combined water and sewer utilities	Provides for reduced rates for low-income residential customers (including individuals on SSDI) of privately owned sewer and combined water and sewer utilities and authorizing certain tax credits for cost of using reduced rates <i>Passed 5-20-19, Effective 90 Days from Passage</i>
HB 206	Relating to public education	Allows for 3 pilot Charter Schools by 2023 and three more every three years after that. Charter schools may be established as segregated schools for students with disabilities or other at risk students. <i>Passed 6-24-19, Effective from Passage</i>
SB 1009	Establishing health professionals student loan programs	Similar to HB 110 which Establishes a student loan repayment program for mental health providers who work in a underserved area for up to 3 years providing them with \$10,000 per year to repay their student loans. Also establishes a program for nonresident medical students to pay in-state tuition providing they practice in a medically underserved area of WV as a primary care physician, or a specialist in a field for which there is a shortage of physicians, for one year for each year they were allowed to pay in-state tuition. Two students will be selected per year from each of the medical schools in WV to participate in this program. <i>Passed 5-20-19, Effective from Passage</i>
SB 1012	Creating voluntary certification of recovery residences	Similar to HB 108 which Relates to the (voluntary) certification and operation of "recovery residences" for substance abuse recovery. <i>Passed 5-20-19, Effective from Passage</i>
SB 1013	Permitting certain trained professionals to provide counseling in medication-assisted treatment program	Similar to HB 109 which Permits trained nurses, nurse practitioners, and specially trained physician assistants to provide mental health services in a medication-assisted treatment program. <i>Passed 5-20-19, Effective from Passage</i>
SB 1020	Supplementing and amending Chapter 31, Acts of the Legislature, 2019, known as Budget Bill	Similar to HB 123 Provides a \$53 million increase to DHHR for Medical Services (Medicaid). <i>Passed 6-18-19, Effective from Passage</i>
SB 1025	Supplemental appropriation to DHHR, Division of Human Services for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019	Similar to HB 125 which Provides a \$1.5 million increase for the IDD Waiver dedicated to provider staff compensation. <i>Passed 6-18-19, Effective from Passage</i>
SB 1027	Adding new items and increasing existing items to various accounts	Includes an increase for newborn screening and testing and an increase for both the Department of Education and DHHR for Jim's Dream. <i>Passed 6-24-19, Effective from Passage</i>
SB 1037	Relating generally to medical cannabis	Similar to HB 105 which Makes additional updates to the medical cannabis code. <i>Passed 5-20-19, Effective from Passage</i>

Click on Bill number to view details of entire Bill.

IGNITE

2019 Annual Conference on Independent Living

West Virginia at the National Council on Independent Living





RON YOST PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Nomination for Governing Board

The Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Act, signed by the Governor on April 1, 1999, chapter eighteen, article 10L of the West Virginia Code, requires the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council to establish a standing committee to function as the consumer board to direct the Division of Rehabilitation Services in the implementation of the program.

The law requires that the board be composed of:

- individuals with severe disabilities (a physical, mental, or sensory impairment that affects one or more major life activity)
- one member of the WVSILC with a disability

No member of the board may receive personal assistance services through this program.

NAME:			
ADDRESS:			
CITY:	COUNTY:	STATE:	ZIP:
DAY PHONE:	EVENING PHONE:	FAX:	
E-MAIL:	*BIRTH DATE:	*SEX:	*RACE:

DISABILITY: (Please explain)

** This information is voluntary and is requested only to assist the Council in ensuring diversity on this board.*

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Program is to provide funding for individuals with severe disabilities to receive assistance to live in a living arrangement of their choice. Recipients have the right to make decisions regarding the control and provision of their personal assistance services. This includes, but is not limited to, hiring, training, managing, paying, and terminating an assistant's employment.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD:

- Determine eligibility, need for, and amount of personal assistance services for applicants based on the functional assessments.
- Provide direction to the Division of Rehabilitation Services in the implementation of the program.
- Address Policy and other governing issues.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Board members will be expected to:

- Attend and participate in all board meetings
- Declare any conflict of interest on decisions to be made by the board
- Refrain from applying for services provided by the program while serving on the board

Board members will be compensated for allowable expenses incurred as a result of active participation on the board.

PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR INTEREST IN SERVING ON THE BOARD AND YOUR EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS. ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NEEDED.

THREE PEOPLE WHO WOULD RECOMMEND ME FOR A POSITION ON THIS BOARD ARE:

NAME:	ADDRESS/ORGANIZATION:	DAYTIME PHONE:

Questions regarding the board or the application process may be directed to:

**Ann McDaniel, Executive Director
WV Statewide Independent Living Council
PO Box 625
Institute, WV 25112-0625**

**Telephone:
(304) 766-4624 (voice or TDD)
1-855-855-9743
Fax: (304) 766-4721**

I certify that the information I have given in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I understand and agree to meet my responsibilities as a board member should I be selected to serve.

Signature of Nominee

Date

WVSILC
P.O. Box 625
Institute, WV 25112-0625

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