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THE IL EDGE
 WINTER 2018 - WVSILC - PO Box 625 - Institute, WV 25112

SILC UPDATE

The State Legislative Session is in full swing and we are watching closely to see what bills, good and bad, will affect people with disabilities. The budget doesn't cut any of the major programs for people with disabilities because revenue projections are good – and we have to hope projections become realities! Things are not so secure at the Federal level. While there is a “continuing budget resolution” in place to keep the government operating, no resolution has been reached to agree on a budget bill for fiscal year 2018 – and we are already 4 months into the year!

Make sure you reach out to your legislators to let them know who you are and why you care about disability issues. Be a resource to them as they consider bills that could affect the lives of people with disabilities – share what you know – share your personal experiences – let them know how to get more information – they need you! And if you are not a member of the Fair Shake Network (FSN) – you should be! FSN is the unified voice of the disability community at the Legislature and they need your support – go to www.fairshake.org today and join!

If there was ever a time to make our voices heard and join together to protect the programs vital to independence, health, and well-being for people with disabilities and for ALL Americans – it is now!

From the desk of:

Ann McDaniel
Executive Director

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.”

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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
 1-844-212-3464

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

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2018 Legislative Calendar

First Day - January 10, 2018: First day of session. (*WV Const. Art. VI, §18*)

Twentieth Day - January 28, 2018: Submission of Legislative Rule-Making Review bills due. (*WV Code §29A-3-12*)


Thirty-fifth Day - February 13, 2018: Last day to introduce bills in the House. *House Rule 91a* does not apply to originating or supplementary appropriation bills, and does not apply to Senate or House resolutions or concurrent resolutions.

Forty-first Day - February 19, 2018: Last day to introduce bills in the Senate. *Senate Rule 14* does not apply to originating or supplementary appropriation bills, and does not apply to Senate or House resolutions or concurrent resolutions.

Forty-seventh Day - February 25, 2018: Bills due out of committees in house of origin to ensure three full days for readings.

Fiftieth Day - February 28, 2018: Last day to consider bill on third reading in house of origin. Does not include budget or supplementary appropriation bills. (*Joint Rule 5, paragraph b*)

Sixtieth Day - March 10, 2018: Adjournment at Midnight. (*WV Const. Art. VI, §22*)

For more information on the 2018 WV Legislative Session, see full calendar on page 11 or visit the WV State Legislature website at: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us>. 

10 Assistive Tech for People With Disabilities

Source: [Hongkiat](#)

Technology has always lent a helping hand for people with disabilities such as visual impairment, speech impairment, people with motion disabilities or disorders etc. There are a lot of apps and gadgets that can help ease the difficulties people with disability face on a daily basis, and in this post you will be seeing 10 apps and/or gadgets that can do so.

From providing help with reading despite a visual impairment, to keeping the deaf included in a group conversation, to helping patients with shaky hands have a meal independently, here are 10 assistive technologies that are helping the disabled get assistance when and where they need it.

Dot

Dot is a wearable that is also the world's first Braille smartwatch. Dot is a practical solution that is more affordable than regular e-Braille devices which may cost thousands, yet still works well for the blind. Dot helps the blind access messages, tweets, even books anywhere and at any time.



Technically, this tool functions with six dots on four cells found on the surface of the smartwatch. These dots will rise or lower to form 4 letters in Braille at any time. It can connect via Bluetooth to any smartphone then retrieve and translate the text (from an email or messaging app) into Braille for its owner.

Talkitt

Talkitt is an innovative application to help people with speech and language disorders to communicate with someone else. It will translate unintelligible pronunciation into understandable speech so we can understand what they meant to say, despite the speech impediment.

Talkitt works in any language: it works by learning the user's pattern speech first, creating a personal speech dictionary; then Talkitt will identify and recognize the unintelligible pronunciation and translate them into speech we can understand.

Sesame Phone

Mobile phone may have become a common need for everyone, including persons with disabilities. But regular phones are not equipped for the needs of people with limited mobility and who find it difficult to operate a normal phone. Introducing Sesame Phone, a touch-free smartphone designed for people with disabilities.

This phone is designed to be used with small head movements, tracked by its front-facing camera. So you can access all the features of a smartphone, without even touching this device. Gestures are recognized as if you were using a finger to operate it: swipe, browse, play and more. Voice control is also added to provide a real hands-free experience on the phones.

(World continued from previous column)

World Report on Disability

Source: [World Health Organization](#)

About 15% of the world's population lives with some form of disability, of whom 2-4% experience significant difficulties in functioning. The global disability prevalence is higher than previous World Health Organization estimates, which date from the 1970s and suggested a figure of around 10%. This global estimate for disability is on the rise due to population ageing and the rapid spread of chronic diseases, as well as improvements in the methodologies used to measure disability.

The first ever WHO/World Bank World report on disability reviews evidence about the situation of people with disabilities around the world. Following chapters on understanding disability and measuring disability, the report contains topic-specific chapters on health; rehabilitation; assistance and support; enabling environments; education; and employment. Within each chapter, there is a discussion of the barriers confronted, and case studies showing how countries have succeeded in addressing these by promoting good practice. In its final chapter, the report offers nine concrete recommendations for policy and practice which if put in place could lead to real improvements in the lives of people with disability.

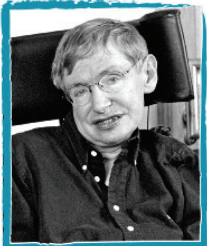
Summary Versions

The summary of the report contains the main messages and recommendations. The summary report is available in easy-to-read, audio, and screen reader compatible formats. Braille versions (English, Spanish and French) can be ordered by contacting mackenzier@who.int. A PDF in English can be found

World Report on Disability Forward

by Professor Stephen W Hawking

Disability need not be an obstacle to success. I have had motor neurone disease for practically all my adult life. Yet it has not prevented me from having a prominent career in astrophysics and a happy family life.



Reading the *World report on disability*, I find much of relevance to my own experience. I have benefitted from access to first class medical care. I rely on a team of personal assistants who make it possible for me to live and work in comfort and dignity. My house and my workplace have been made accessible for me. Computer experts have supported me with an assisted communication system and a speech synthesizer which allow me to compose lectures and papers, and to communicate with different audiences.

But I realize that I am very lucky, in many ways. My success in theoretical physics has ensured that I am supported to live a worthwhile life. It is very clear that the majority of people with disabilities in the world have an extremely difficult time with everyday survival, let alone productive employment and personal fulfilment.

I welcome this first *World report on disability*. This report makes a major contribution to our understanding of disability and its impact on individuals and society. It highlights the different barriers that people with disabilities face

contribution to our understanding of disability and its impact on individuals and society. It highlights the different barriers that people with disabilities face – attitudinal, physical, and financial. Addressing these barriers is within our reach.

In fact we have a moral duty to remove the barriers to participation, and to invest sufficient funding and expertise to unlock the vast potential of people with disabilities. Governments throughout the world can no longer overlook the hundreds of millions of people with disabilities who are denied access to health, rehabilitation, support, education and employment, and never get the chance to shine.

The report makes recommendations for action at the local, national and international levels. It will thus be an invaluable tool for policy-makers, researchers, practitioners, advocates and volunteers involved in disability. It is my hope that, beginning with the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, and now with the publication of the *World report on disability*, this century will mark a turning point for inclusion of people with disabilities in the lives of their societies. 🌐



(See World next column)



Kelly Elkins Appointed to Beckley Human Rights Commission

Source: [MTSTCIL](http://MTSTCIL.org)




Kelly Elkins

Kelly Elkins of Mountain State Centers for Independent Living Appointed to the Beckley Human Rights Commission by Mayor Robert R. Rappold.

In a memo to Kelly, the Mayor writes:

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for agreeing to be appointed to the Beckley Human Rights Commission. Your civic pride and dedication are to be commended. The interest you have in our City is deeply appreciated by me and the members of Common Council.”

We, at the CIL are so proud of you Kelly Elkins! We can't wait to see what you do next.

Kelly can be reached at 304-255-0122 or by email at kelkins@mtstcil.org. 

(Tech continued from p2)

UNI

UNI is a two-way communication tool for the deaf using gesture and speech technology. This tool works by detecting hand and finger gestures with its specialized camera algorithm, then converting it to the text in very short time to provide meaning of a given sign language.

Also equipped is a voice recognition software that will convert speech into text for two-way communication. UNI also enables you to create your own sign language with it's sign builder, so it is easy to add custom language to the dictionaries. It is a subscription-based app with two versions, one that requires a data connection and another that doesn't.

Finger Reader

Finger Reader is a wearable tool to help read text. It has two functions: to help the visually impaired read printed text on a book or on an electronic device, and also to be used as a language translation tool. A user can wear this device on a finger, then point it on a body of text, one line at a time.



The small camera on the Finger Reader will scan the text and give real-time audio feedback of the words it detects. It also notifies the reader via vibrations when it is at the start of a line, end of a line, moving to a new line or when the user is moving too far away from the text baseline.

Be My Eyes

By My Eyes is a super-cool application that helps blind people “see” the world. It works by making a network that connects the blind with volunteers from around the world. It is an easy way to ask for help for simple tasks like checking on the expiry date on a milk carton.

Volunteers will receive notifications or requests for help, and if they are too busy, the app can find someone else to step in and help. Each request will trigger a video call to volunteers so they can help the user.

AXS Map

For people without disabilities, wheelchair ramps and wheelchair-accessible restrooms are not things they notice. Many public sites are also not equipped with these facilities. This is a source of inconvenience to those who require a wheelchair to move around.

AXS Map is a crowdsourced map that carries information about wheelchair-accessible ramps and restrooms in public places such as restaurants, hotels, shopping malls and more. The map also carries information about how well-designed these facilities are with the help of star ratings.

Transcence

The deaf can communicate via one-on-one conversations using sign language or lip-reading, but about when a group conversation arises? Transcence offers a great solution that can still keep the deaf in group conversations.

In a conversation, with the use of each participant's smartphone's microphone,

What Your Nonprofit Needs to Know about Facebook's New Algorithm

Source: [Techsoup](#)

If one of your favorite pastimes is mindlessly scrolling through viral videos on Facebook, your days of doing so are numbered. On January 11, the global social media giant [announced some sweeping changes](#) to its most central product — the News Feed.

In the coming months, Facebook will be granting less priority to Pages from businesses and publications and begin favoring posts its ranking algorithm finds to be more engaging — namely those that spark debate and discussion among a user's friends and family.

Although this is a noble cause, it potentially leaves nonprofits and other mission-driven organizations in a tight spot, because they are considered businesses in the eyes of Facebook.

What Do We Know?

Truthfully, we don't know a whole lot. In his post announcing the change, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said the new policy will take months before users will see the full effects. However, early indications show that, in general, Pages (like the one you may have set up for your organization with Facebook's encouragement) will be affected. They will not be given the same amount of priority as things like pictures from your vacation or an open question to your group of friends.

Zuckerberg writes:

"As we roll this out, you'll see less public content like posts from businesses, brands, and media. And the public content you see more will be held to the same standard — it should encourage meaningful interactions between people. For example, there are many tight-knit communities around TV shows and sports teams. We've seen people interact way more around live videos than regular ones. Some news helps start conversations on important issues. But too often today, watching video, reading news, or getting a page update is just a passive experience."

Although this is something that the more than 1.5 million nonprofits (including TechSoup) on Facebook should be taking into account, we still don't know how everything will happen. Also, it should be noted that users will still have the option to prioritize Pages in their newsfeed if they want to see frequent updates from their favorite businesses, publications, and nonprofits.

What You Can Do

Again, it's a little early to give direct advice on how to adapt to these changes. An easy thing to do is to encourage your followers to adjust their News Feed settings to make sure they never miss one of your posts. However, there are a few other best practices you should consider.

Create Live Videos (and Just Videos in General)

Facebook sees live videos as highly engaging content and claims they receive

(See [Facebook p9](#))



Centers for
Independent
Living



Valentines Gifts Bazaar
Beckley Mountain State CIL Office
Saturday, February 3, 2018
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Last year's Valentines Gifts Bazaar was such a blast, we are doing it again!


We had 20 vendors with every perfect Valentine's Day gift from bath salts to gooey chocolate brownies. We also had several of the Beckley area's finest artists with handmade wooden crafted gifts, stained glass, beautiful jewelry, clothing, and more.

Some of you may know about our Global Independent Living fundraiser to cover the loss of over \$130,000 due to federal and state funding cuts. We currently have over 250 people with disabilities in the Beckley area alone waiting for services so that they may be able to live independently.

One of these is Derryl, born, raised and lives in Oak Hill. Derryl was born deaf. He learned sign language at the age of four and received his first hearing aids at the age of five. He attended Romney School for the deaf and blind, and later integrated into the Fayette County public schools. Derryl was the first deaf student to attend and graduate Oak Hill High. The hearing aids he has no longer work.

Come on out to our Valentine's Gift Bazaar to buy Valentine's day gifts for your loved ones and make a good will donation for hearing aids for Derryl.

You can always donate online [here](#).

Save the Date and plan to come out February 3, 2018. 



(Tech continued from p4)

the app catches what they are saying then converts it into text in real time. Each speaker has its corresponding text bubble, differentiated by color, just like what you would find in a regular group messaging chat room.

assist-Mi

assist-Mi is an assistance application that helps disabled people to get assistance in real-time. It is basically an app that connects service providers and caregivers with the disabled who may need their assistance at a moment's notice. Services include help in getting to work, to go shopping for essentials or for travel.

It has a feature called Mi-Profile which provides a user's needs so the service provider know what to do when assistance is requested. The app also has two-way communication and GPS for better location info.

Liftware

Liftware is a self-stabilizing handle on which you can attach an eating utensil like a fork or spoon. It is very helpful for patients who suffer from Parkinson's disease or other forms of motion disorders that causes hand tremors. Liftware stabilizes up to 70% of the disruption and helps reduce the spilling of contents from the utensil before food reaches the patient's mouth.

Each liftware comes with the stabilizing handle, a charger and three utensils, a spoon, fork and soup spoon. Each charge can last for several meals and the handle can be wiped down while the spoons and fork can be washed like a normal utensil.



A Full Access Story of Putnam County Valley Park All-Inclusive Playground

Source: Tri-Counties Finest

From Putnam County Parks and Recreation
Executive Director Jarrod Dean

304-633-6814 | jarrod@putnamcountyparks.com

Putnam County Parks and Recreation Executive Director, Dean says, "This is the first playground like this in the Great State of West Virginia and we are happy to be the example for the state".



Dean says. We are excited to present to you the new Valley Park all Inclusive Playground Design we will have at Putnam County Valley Park. Our new playground will be a center piece in our park

that will attract kids from all over. Being all inclusive allows opportunities for children with disabilities or special needs to have the same recreation experience as any other child.

Schools and parks & recreation programs can foster inclusive friendships by intentionally offering inclusive play programming in which children of all abilities are taught the skills to play together successfully. Children will come to understand and appreciate each other's strengths and challenges, and they will feel nurtured, encouraged, respected, and active, both physically and socially during play. Essentially they are building their own community.

Putnam County Parks and Recreation is aiming towards the mark of creating the ambience of an all Inclusive Community here at Putnam County Valley Park. We want to create awareness, break down barriers, and foster friendship and good family fun. Parks can often build character and create a whole new personality for our visitors. We want to build a child's and adult's character through our programming and events and teach the fundamentals of effective recreation.

We researched some testimonials from some children who had access to an all inclusive playground

"Play is fun, everyone needs it, and it should be available to all people everywhere." - Jordan Thomas

"I can do the same things all my friends can do, I just do it a little bit different - that's all." - Sam

Play is fundamental to child development and building a healthy, happy society. that is our goal and mission here at Putnam County Parks and Recreation.



“Dance Through Adversity”


How do you want to walk along your path?
Do you want to tell the tale of a soul with a reason?
Or simply tell a story of someone whose joy lasts only for a season?
Will you cave under the pressure and give into society?
Or live as your clumsy self, and dance through adversity?

Are you someone who will always be shy, or are you going to be loud?
The tale of a survivor's spirit weary, but still be proud
A life that's present, alive, with faith shining bright
A future that sets before you, so hold on tight
How do you want to walk along your path?
Will you cave under the pressure and give into society?
Or will you follow your dreams, and dance through adversity?

The choice is yours, with plenty of tries there is no failing
Live a life worth living, and tell a story worth telling
What kind of story are you writing?
Will you cave under the pressure and give into society?
Or will you do your best, and dance through adversity?

Clumsy. One word I use to describe the essence of myself; another word that would make my description complete is simply tired. I am finding though, that the world and I are a lot alike. Everyone has their own set of challenges and at times those said challenges can become so big that they seem as if they are a little much for us to handle. Trials effect us all in so many different ways. Living with cerebral palsy presents my biggest dose of adversity and that is severe fatigue. I am continuously adapting to a body that seems to be prematurely aging just a bit, and as with anything else I've come against I will work to overcome it. I recently purchased a treadmill, and I have to admit that walking until my body can't take anymore is actually fun; making myself feel better gives me something else to be proud of, besides my work life. I made a commitment to get myself healthy; and so far, I am succeeding.

In life, you really only have one choice. One monumental choice. A choice that will work to slowly make you or quickly break you. You have to decide whether you want to sit back and let life and your body destroy your determination and ambition. You have to work at setting your mind on the right goals and dreams. Don't forget where you are going. Push through. Dance through your adversity. Embrace it.

What kind of message do you want to spread in the world? I know that I choose to stand tall and fight my body, and take a swing at all the curve balls it throws me. I am pushing through with a smile on my face. Cerebral palsy is no match for me. I'm tiny, but I'm full of fire. I'm a writer whose inspiration comes from living strong and trusting in my strength. My disability will never win me over because I choose to dance through adversity. 

~written by [Molly Spence](#)



First Conference


by [Molly Spence](#)

The 23rd APRIL Conference was held in Spokane, Washington on October 20th-23rd 2017; this being my first ever conference, I stayed so excited the whole time just to be a part of the adventure along with three fellow WVSILC members.

I found APRIL to be a very empowering experience; as a new council member, I took away so much knowledge in addition to discovering my confident side. A lot of exciting things happened for the WVSILC during this conference. Emily Robinson brought home the Linda Gonzales Award for Outstanding Rural Youth. Way to go Emily!

We each attended workshops that I think helped everyone to learn and grow as council members and advocates. Many different topics and subjects related to disability rights and the independent living movement were covered; the youth conference in itself was amazing.

Emily and I had an opportunity to present a workshop on how to get college accommodations; we had quite a turnout and it was a great success! She and I will also get to kickoff 2018 as the new Co-Chairs of the APRIL Youth Steering Committee! I know we both feel so blessed and excited to help plan next year's conference which will be held on October 5th-October 8th, 2018 in Denver, Colorado!

A lot of information is learned here and you meet so many people who really enrich your life. My goal for "Molly's Zone" is to not only inspire others, but to get them just as excited about the independent living movement as I am! Come be involved! You never know how much of a difference you can make. 



Victoria Says Goodbye



The last 5 months have been amazing, to be able to work for the Fair Shake Network. It has opened my eyes even more to this community of amazing people. This opportunity has allowed me to learn so much more about what needs to be fixed and regulated to help people with disabilities.

To be able to go and help at the yard sale or going to set up displays to make sure people understand what the Fair Shake Network does. It was such a pleasure working with Paul Smith and the things that he has taught me have been amazing, it was a true blessing getting the job, no one will understand that more than I do.

It is hard to find a job where you truly like to get up and go to work in the morning, because of what you do. The people in the office Ann, Kathi, Jerry, and most importantly Paul made the days at the office enjoyable, and to be able to see people work with such passion for something that is so important to this community and state.

I am very sad to leave, but I am hopeful to see everyone again and still be able to be a part of the Fair Shake Network. Again, I have to thank Paul Smith and the board for this amazing opportunity and hope to continue to see you all out advocating.



Drug-Overdose Suicides May be Going Undetected

Cheryl Platzman Weinstock
Source: [Reuters Health](#)

(Reuters Health) - - Deaths by drug overdose are more likely to be classified as accidental or of undetermined cause, compared to deaths by gunshot or hanging, say U.S. researchers who conclude that drug suicides may be underestimated.

With drug overdoses, there are often few clues to suggest suicide, such as a suicide note, according to the first large study of U.S. death investigations and inherent biases in determining the manner of death.

“The opioid epidemic is killing more people every year at a higher rate,” said lead author Ian Rockett, a professor of epidemiology at the West Virginia University School of Public Health in Morgantown. “Death investigation systems are highly stressed. It’s going to make it very difficult to do the kind of assessments we need to do about their intentionality.”

He believes the 32 percent rise in the national suicide rate from 2000 to 2015 is a “serious underestimate,” but it’s impossible to know how many drug intoxication deaths have been written off as accidents.

“The problem with inaccurate suicide accounting is that it impedes our understanding and prevention of suicide and drug deaths,” Rockett said in a telephone interview.

The researchers scrutinized 36,190 suicides and 4,391 undetermined deaths among people 15 years of age and older, using data from 17 states in the U.S. National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) from 2011 to 2013.

They looked at the demographics, precipitating circumstances and investigation characteristics of each case. They also explored whether information about a suicide note, knowledge of a prior suicide attempt or a psychiatric history of depression or bipolar disorder increased the odds that a death would be classified as a suicide.

This kind of corroborative evidence was much more important for helping medical examiners and coroners detect drug intoxication suicides than it was in for deaths by shooting or hanging, the study found.

The existence of a suicide note increased the odds 45-fold that a drug overdose death would be classified as a suicide, whereas a note only raised the odds of classifying gunshot or hanging deaths as suicides by eight-fold, the researchers report in PLoS ONE.

“The bigger story here is not that death investigations are a really important way we understand how people die,” said Margaret Warner, an injury epidemiologist at the National Center for Health Statistics, a division of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“The impact of this work is that it points out the inconsistencies in how deaths are certified,” Warner, who wasn’t involved in the study, said in a phone

(Facebook continued from p5)

six times more interaction than regular videos do. That said, all video content performs better than its text-only counterpart.

Start a Facebook Group

Because people in groups tend to interact more around specific pieces of public content, creating a group will likely increase the engagement factor of your posts. A group can also be a more personal way to engage people interested in your cause.

Focus on Instagram

As of right now, it doesn't appear that the Instagram algorithm will be making these changes. Provided that remains the case, perhaps it's time to start working on that Instagram account once and for all.

Create More Engaging Content


This sounds like common sense, but it's arguably the best way to stay ahead of the curve. All of these changes are being done in the name of promoting users' well-being and promoting more meaningful social interactions. If that's the case, why not commit yourself to creating more engaging content that will authentically spark conversation and organic sharing?

One thing to definitely avoid is "engagement bait," content that consists of calls to action like "Share if you agree!" or "Tag someone who cares." This is really spammy stuff, and the new algorithm just isn't having it.

A Few Considerations ...

Facebook was long overdue for an overhaul addressing the deluge of impersonal content clogging up News Feeds across the globe. Its desire to get back to its roots as a tool for humans to directly connect with one another is a positive thing.

However, some nonprofits have expressed concerns that they will be negatively affected by these changes. The South Suburban Humane Society in Chicago Heights, Illinois, has spoken out directly. In an open letter to Mark Zuckerberg, CEO Emily Klehm made a direct appeal for nonprofit Pages to be exempt from the upcoming changes. She stated that "in this isolated world ... nonprofits are the glue that's holding us together."

Perhaps Facebook will take this sort of feedback into account as it works out the details of the way in which the algorithmic changes will officially take shape. For now, what nonprofits can do about the new Facebook algorithm is to stay aware of what's happening in the news and to update their social media strategy as necessary. 

Additional Resources: Social Media for Nonprofits

- Read our blog post on the possibilities of using [chatbots](#), which can work in conjunction with Facebook Messenger
- See how [libraries use social media](#)
- Check out TechSoup's [Social Media Starter Kit](#)

(Drugs continued from p8)

interview.

Drug intoxication deaths are among the hardest for determining manner of death, she said. The CDC is looking at death investigation systems around the country and working with medical examiners and coroners on determining the manner of drug overdose deaths.


Each state is in charge of their death investigation system; it is not a federal program, Warner said, "but we want consistent investigations and comparable stats between states."

Overall, the research team found, gunshot and hanging deaths are 41 times more likely to be classified as a suicide by medical examiners and coroners than drug intoxication deaths.

Deaths where a suicide note was found were 34 times more likely to be classified as a suicide than cases with no note or unknown note status.

When the deceased had a prior suicide attempt, death investigation teams were 2.4 times more likely to classify it as a suicide than without such a history. When decedents had documented unipolar depression or bipolar disorder, they were 61 percent and 41 percent, respectively, more likely to be classified as a suicide than someone without a psychiatric disorder.

"I want to caution about everything being called a potential suicide because if we make it a very heterogeneous group, it stops having meaning and it's hard to understand the factors that contribute to suicide," said Jill Harkavy-Friedman, vice president of research at the American Foundation for Suicide Research in New York, who wasn't involved in the study.

"Not every overdose is a suicide. We want to be as clear as we can when you're calling something a death by suicide," she said in a phone interview. 





V100 Yard Sale

Source: [Fair Shake Network](#)




On September 30, 2017, Fair Shake Network joined with V100 to put on V100's Yard Sale. It was off to a chilly start at 7:30 in the morning. All of the vendors were getting ready with their goodies. The great volunteers with Fair Shake were busy setting up all the delicious baked good that were prepared. On the tables, there were baskets of cookies, brownies, muffins, rice crispy treats, dipped pretzels and other delicious morsels.

As soon as 8 o'clock hit there were people coming over to find what goodies we had and to quench their thirst; and instead of pricing each item, the decision was made to have all items donation-based. Everyone that came over and got something always gave a fair share, and some gave very generously, we would like truly thank everyone that gave.

Throughout the day, between 8 and noon, there was a continuous stream of people taking all kinds of stuff; the volunteers always had to restock everything to keep up with demand but in the end the amazing people who donated baked goods made a few to many, so we pushed and pushed and finally got everything sold.

After the long day's work, we were able to raise \$360 from baked goods and \$1,400 from V100 making a grand total of \$1,760.

Fair Shake would like to thank all the hard working volunteers who came to help and those who made all the baked goods, without them there would not have been a bake sale. We would also like to give a huge thanks to V100 for allowing us to be the recipient of the proceeds from the Yard Sale and look forward to partner with them in the future. 



2018 NCIL Congressional Briefing & Reception on Capitol Hill

The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) hopes that you will join us at our annual Congressional Briefing & Reception on the State of Disability in America. The briefing will take place on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 from 5:00-7:00 in the Russell Senate Office Building 385.

The reception will include a short presentation on the state of the Independent Living Program in America, and brief remarks by members of the NCIL Board of Directors. Members of the House and Senate, as well as members of the Administration, have also been invited to provide brief remarks. Each year, the NCIL Congressional Briefing has an incredible lineup of speakers, and we are looking forward to an equally exciting event this year.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP online [here](#) or to NCIL's Policy Analyst, Lindsay Baran, at lindsay@ncil.org by Thursday, February 22, 2018.

Wherever you are, we are asking for your help to get your members of Congress to attend this briefing. NCIL, as the national advocate for CILs, SILCs, and the Independent Living philosophy, has the mission of being your voice in Washington DC and representing your interests. NCIL hosts this annual briefing and reception in order to educate members of Congress on a number of relevant policy initiatives that aim to advance disability rights and the ability of people with disabilities to live more independently.

There is a lot at stake for our community in 2018. This event is a great opportunity for your members of Congress to learn more about the issues affecting our members, and they will hopefully leave better equipped to vote in the interests of the Independent Living community.

To invite your members, simply download and email this [customizable invitation](#) to your Senators and Representatives, and urge them to attend! They are much more likely to attend if they hear from constituents within their home districts, so we are really counting on our members to make this event a success.

Follow the links below to find contact information for your state's Representatives and Senators. You will likely have to submit an email using the form on their website.

- [Contact Your Senators](#)
- [Contact Your Representative](#)



West Virginia Legislature

2018



JANUARY

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STATE HOLIDAYS (WV Code §2-2-1)
 01/01/2018 Monday New Year's Day (observed)
 01/15/2018 Monday Martin Luther King's Birthday
 02/19/2018 Monday Presidents' Day
 05/08/2018 Tuesday Primary Election Day
 05/28/2018 Monday Memorial Day
 06/20/2018 Wednesday... West Virginia Day
 07/04/2018 Wednesday... Independence Day
 09/03/2018 Monday Labor Day
 10/08/2018 Monday Columbus Day
 11/06/2018 Tuesday General Election Day
 11/12/2018 Monday Veterans Day (observed)
 11/22/2018 Thursday Thanksgiving Day
 11/23/2018 Friday Lincoln's Day
 12/25/2018 Tuesday Christmas Day

2018 LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

First Day - January 10, 2018: First day of session. (WV Const. Art. VI, §18)
Twentieth Day - January 29, 2018: Submission of Legislative Rule-Making Review bills due. (WV Code §29A-3-12)
Thirty-fifth Day - February 13, 2018: Last day to introduce bills in the House. (House Rule 9(a)) Does not apply to originating or supplementary appropriation bills. Does not apply to House resolutions or concurrent resolutions.
Forty-first Day - February 19, 2018: Last day to introduce bills in the Senate. (Senate Rule 14) Does not apply to originating or supplementary appropriation bills. Does not apply to Senate resolutions or concurrent resolutions.
Forty-seventh Day - February 25, 2018: Bills due out of committees in house of origin to ensure three full days for readings.
Fiftieth Day - February 28, 2018: Last day to consider bill on third reading in house of origin. Does not include budget or supplementary appropriation bills. (Joint Rule 5, paragraph b)
Sixtieth Day - March 10, 2018: Adjournment at Midnight. (WV Const. Art. VI, §22)

= legislative landmark

= legislative session

= payday* = holiday

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SILC Meeting Schedule:

February 7, 2018
April 4, 2018
June 6, 2018
August 1, 2018

Location:

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Division of Rehabilitation Services
10 McJunkin Drive
Nitro, WV

Valentines Gifts Bazaar

Beckley Mountain State CIL Office

Saturday, February 3, 2018
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Ice Cream Social!

WV Sate Capitol
Upper Rotunda on the House Side

Wednesday, March 7, 2018
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Everyone is welcome!
Come and enjoy some delicious
ICE CREAM!

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AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to WVSILC. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device and choose WV Statewide Independent Living Council

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