



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2015 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

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2016 West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council



Front row from left: Cathy Hutchinson, Zach Casto (friend of SILC), Emily Robinson, Ann McDaniel – Executive Director, Sarah Mathis, Michelle Norweck, Marian Steele, Carissa Davis, Greg Bilonick Second row: Bob Waybright, Sandy Haberbosch, Nathan Parker, Vanessa VanGilder, Aaron Morris, Michael Meadows, Kathi Young – Office Manager, Scott Gossard, Nancy Tyler, Mark Fordyce. Not Pictured: Jerry Boyko – Program Assistant, Joshua Brown, Jan Derry, Joyce Floyd, David George, Bob Gray, Pat Homberg, Beverley Jones, Susie Layne, Beth Morrison, Todd Rundle, Marissa Sanders, Kevin Smith, John Taylor, Richard Ward.

A Message from the WVSILC Chairperson

SILC members and staff were saddened by the passing of our Chairperson, Cathy Hutchinson in December 2016 and I was humbled to be elected to fill her term as Chairperson. Cathy was a well-known disability advocate in West Virginia and worked tirelessly educating policy makers about disability issues. Each January and February she made the rounds during the legislative session in Charleston, visiting all her representatives and working with other advocates to teach them how to advocate for themselves and their communities. She was well known in Charleston as a determined advocate and quickly and easily made friends with new and seasoned legislators, receiving their respect and support on disability issues. Most recently she was the Vocational Director at Mountain State Centers for Independent Living (MTSTCIL), also serving as a Community Resource Advocate, as a Transition Specialist helping people in nursing homes to transition to living on their own and helping people to stay in their own homes, teacher of life skills classes, worked with consumers one on one, and worked with the Community Living Services Program. Known for her delicious cooking, for several years Cathy prepared dinner for the Pi Kappa Phi, "Journey of Hope" bicycle teams, who came through every year as part of their fund raising event to provide financial support for organizations with disabilities.

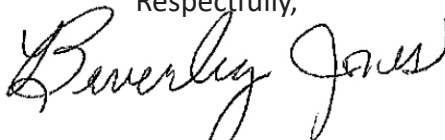
This was a busy year for the SILC with several projects and partnerships. The Disability History Essay Contest, a partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council and the Division of Rehabilitation Services, continued in FY 2016 with the topic: "The barriers for people with disabilities in my community and how I can make a difference." Open to all WV high school seniors, the number of entries for the contest was a new high of 156 this year. This contest is designed to provide WV high school seniors with an opportunity to showcase their writing skills, share what they have learned about disability issues in their community, use their ability to form and express opinions, and perhaps to earn some money! The awards were presented at the winners' high school senior award ceremonies in the spring. Meet the winners and read their essays in a special edition of the IL Edge coming soon.

As required, West Virginia wrote a new, three-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for federal fiscal years 2017-2019 (Oct. 1, 2016 through Sept. 30, 2019) and submitted it to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for approval in June 2016. The team that developed the SPIL included representatives from the SILC, all the centers for independent living (CILs) in the state, and the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services. Approval was received September 1st and implementation of the new SPIL began October 1, 2017.

This year was full of hard work and fun. In the future we hope to increase our state-wideness and diversity by adding members from more counties and areas of the state and adding more youth to the council.



Beverley Jones

Respectfully,

Beverley Jones
WVSILC Chairperson

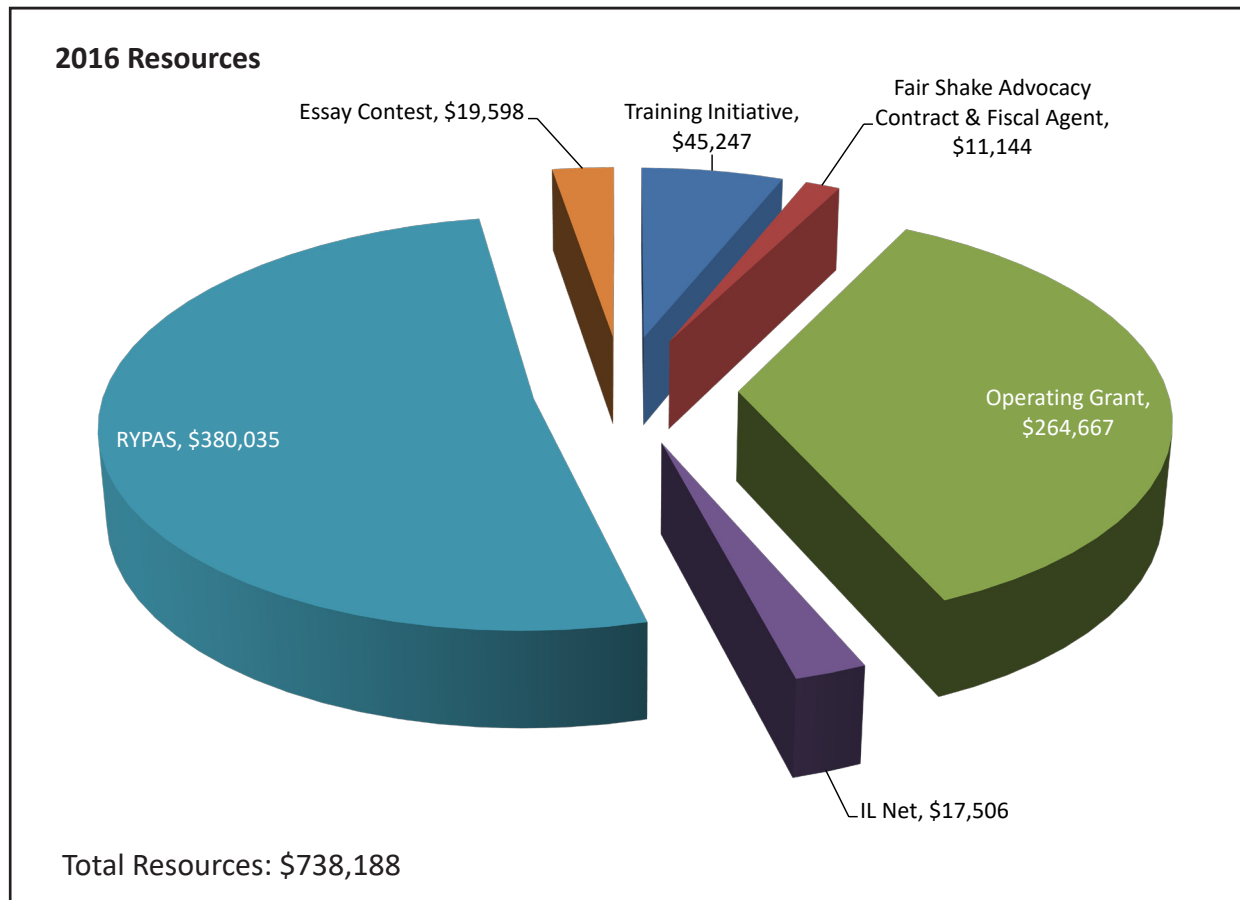
The West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council, is a private, non-profit corporation established to develop jointly with the Centers for Independent Living; and monitor the implementation of the state plan for independent living (SPIL) as mandated under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended in 2014. The SILC has chosen to incorporate as a non-profit organization to maintain its required autonomy from any state agency.

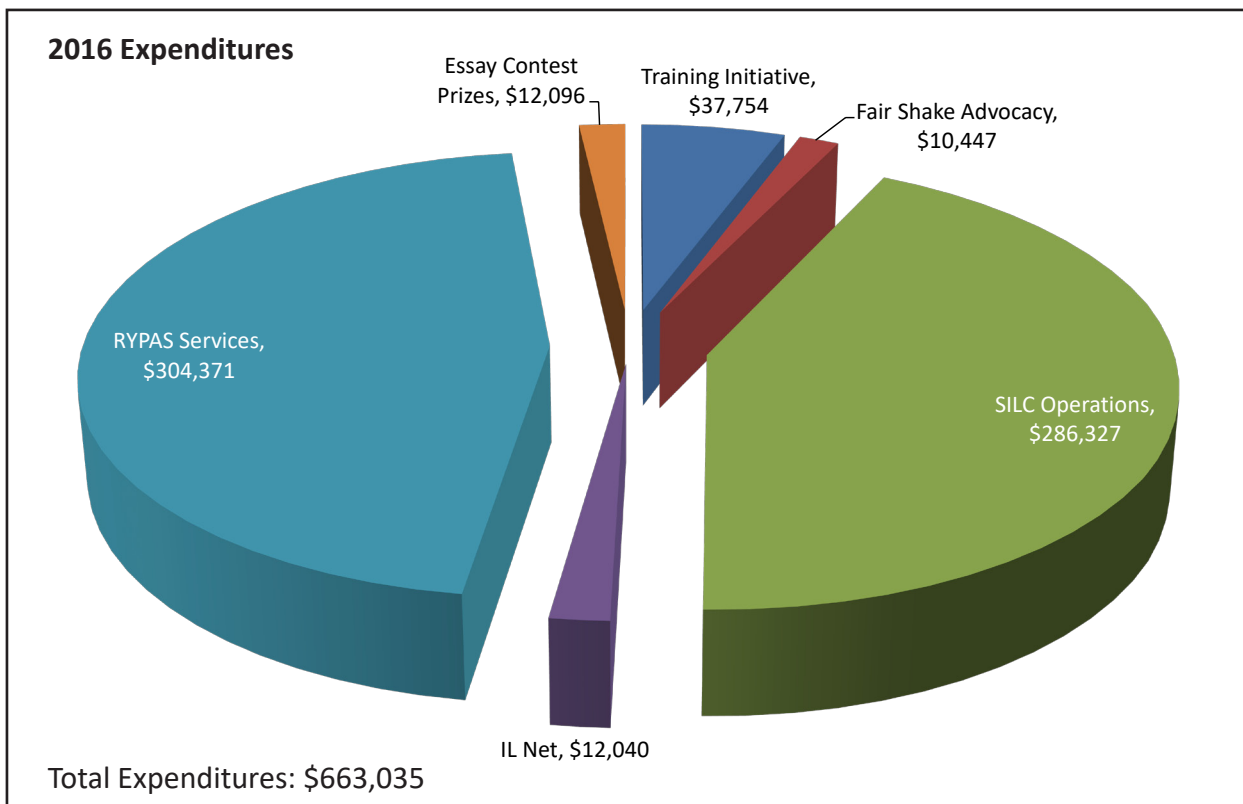
Mission - To ensure persons who have disabilities have access to community-based resources that promote personal choice and facilitate the achievement of their independent living goals.

Vision - To be a consumer-controlled council that is effective in leading a statewide independent living movement that empowers persons who have disabilities.

Values - The West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council is committed to the following values: freedom of choice; diversity; respect for others; quality of life; equality; excellence; fiscal responsibility; self-reliance and self-sufficiency; and inclusion.

Council Composition - The Governor appointed Council is composed of thirty-one (31) individuals, twenty-four (24) voting members nominated by the Council after an application and review process, and seven (7) ex-officio, non-voting members representing various state agencies and/or providers. A majority of the council members are individuals with disabilities who are not employed by any state agency or center for independent living. The Governor appointed voting council members serve as the board of directors of the WVSILC, Inc. non-profit corporation. All policies governing the activities and operations of the SILC are made by the Board. ■





State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) 2014-2016 Progress Report

West Virginia is required to write a new State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) every three years for submission to the federal government for approval. The SPIL must be jointly developed and submitted by the SILC and the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in the state. Prior to 2014, the SPIL was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education. With the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, federal oversight was transferred Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The 2014-2016 SPIL began October 1, 2013 and ended September 30, 2016.

Mission: To ensure all West Virginians are valued equally and participate fully in their communities.

Goal 1 – People with disabilities have access to the community-based resources they need.

Objective 1.1 Employment Services for people with disabilities are accessible.

Indicator: Transition plans to ensure accessibility of all DRS offices are in place and being implemented.

Activities and Progress:

1.1.a. DRS will conduct an accessibility assessment of each office. DRS will provide an annual report of known issues and plans for corrective actions related to the accessibility of its offices.

- DRS completed an accessibility assessment of each office and provided a written report to the SILC and Accessibility issues are being addressed.

1.1.c. CILs will research complaint process for One Stop Accessibility.

- Appalachian CIL (ACIL) has contacted Wade Kaufenfaffer with Work Force who said he will send a copy of the complaint process.

- Mountain State CIL (MTSTCIL) staff have secured the complaint process from the WIA Website and have them available if anyone wants to file a complaint.
- NWVCIL Executive Director is on the Region 6 Workforce Investment Board and as such, has learned that if someone has access issues with a One Stop, the Complaint needs to be filed directly with the State Office. One stop properties are leased by the Department of Administration, Real estate Division, Executive Director: Constantine Amores. All one stops are leased through State Leasing thus complaints must go directly to the state Workforce Office. Research of their website does not indicate that there is any on line process for filing a complaint.
- ACIL also tried to reach out to their local One Stop but never gets a response to his inquires.
- NWVCIL will continue to work on this attempting to ensure that the complaint process is at least accessible on line.
- Jan Derry will train CIL staff on One Stop Recertification Process: NWVCIL learned that the requirements for a recertification process for One-Stops has been rescinded, thus no longer a mandated requirement. Region 6 continues to revisit the recertification process every two years regardless, using it as a tool for continuous improvement. However, this is subject to change once the new rules for the reauthorization are complete.
- NWVCIL and ACIL have good relationships with the transit providers. Both have added action steps regarding this goal to their center's work plan. NWVCIL is active on the transit authority's advisory board. NWVCIL's consumers are identifying ways to test the working order of lifts. Due to the positive nature of our relationships with existing providers, WVCIL is taking more of a collaborative/technical assistance approach, rather than the "got ya" approach to ensuring that existing providers are addressing the needs of riders with disabilities.
- NWVCIL's Executive Director is also participating in the Regional Transportation Initiative and worked to increase consumer participation in the on line transportation survey being conducted by the Initiative. Our efforts increase consumer participation by 57% in this 6 county transportation survey.
- The Appalachian Center for Independent Living Inc. (ACIL) in cooperation with the Kanawha Valley Regional Transit Authority (KVRTA) sponsored a Bus Accessibility Day. The event was held at the Slack Plaza Transit Mall on July 24th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The purpose of this event was to bring awareness to the need for accessible transportation for people with disabilities. This was one of several events being held throughout the country to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This was a free event in which 11 people with disabilities rode the bus and approximately 60 to 75 people either attended or stopped by to ask questions and pick up brochures. ACIL, Fair Shake and KVRTA had information available. Each attendee was provided with a free lunch as well as a free-ride pass if needed. The really neat thing about this event was that 10 newly disabled CAMC patients were shuttled back and forth between the event and the hospital. KVRTA designated a bus just for that purpose. This enabled these folks to learn how to ride the bus and experience using the lifts which will be a valuable skill when they are released from the hospital. ACIL was also

Objective 1.2 Public transportation is available and accessible.

Indicator: All "Bus Access Days" (B.A.D.) participants were able to board the bus.

Activities and Progress:

1.2.a. CILs will conduct B.A.D. in all WV cities that have fixed route public transit systems to bring awareness to the need and requirement for all bus lifts to work all the time.

presented with the keys to a van donated by KVRTA which will be used as a back-up and to supplement our transportation services. Two local TV stations covered the event and the Gazette Mail wrote a nice article. Our Center received a lot of positive feedback regarding the event. We would also like to thank Doug Hartley of the KVRTA for all of his work and support for this event

- Mountain State CIL/Huntington (MTSTCIL) As part of the Vote for Transportation rally, Anne Weeks spoke about ADAPT's role over the years and how their advocacy brought about changes in the transit system, and how the relationship between MTSTCIL and TTA has improved over the years. Several consumers rode buses to the event and went on tours afterwards. All reported the buses had working lifts both in coming to the event and when taking tours and getting on and off the buses at various stops (which would be random pick-ups). MTSTCIL has been able to stop providing transportation on Election Days because TTA agreed to provide free transportation to the polls both on buses and Dial-A-Ride.
- MTSTCIL/Beckley There is no public transportation system in Beckley.

Objective 1.3 WV Medicaid Waivers have no waiting lists.

Indicator: Each CIL will assist at least 5 individuals on Waiver waiting lists per year in filing a DOJ complaint.

Activities and Progress:

1.3.a. CILs will collaborate with the Bureau of Senior Services to gain access to the Senior Centers.

- ACIL has not experienced a problem gaining access to Senior Centers. We have distributed three different types of brochures at several Centers in our area.
- Relationships with senior centers have improved dramatically since we initially tried to seek their support for funding to serve seniors currently on the CLSP wait list. NWVCIL has worked with the

local senior center providing technical assistance on their access issues. Once in the door, we have provided training on fair housing and included OCR complaints during this training.

1.3.b. CILs will make presentations at Senior Centers on how to file a DOJ complaint and provide assistance to individuals who want to file a complaint.

- ACIL is in the process of scheduling presentations at Senior Centers
- To date ACIL has not had any requests for assistance in filing a DOJ complaint
- NWVCIL has provided 1 training attended by 7 consumers specifically on how to file an OCR complaint regarding the wait list. 1 individual has started the process.
- MTSTCIL has been able to gain access to Senior Centers to provide information on the CLSP program and other services at the centers. Staff have presented to 12 Senior Centers over the period of this SPIL.
- The Beckley Center assisted 5 individuals with filing complaints to the DOJ regarding the Medicaid waiting list. The cases were referred to the Civil Rights Division, but were never brought to a hearing. There were no people with disabilities who came forward and attended the advertised meeting in Huntington in order to file a complaint.

Objective 1.4 Ratio of Home & Community-Based services over institutional services is increased.

Indicator: The ratio is increased by 15%.

Activities and Progress:

1.4.a. CIL Staff will advocate for full implementation of the Olmstead Plan.

- CIL staff work directly with the Fair shake Network's advocacy strategies during the legislative session, with priorities in the 2016 Disability Agenda including full implementation of the Olmstead Plan, and have signed on as supporters for the 2015 Consensus Agenda on Disability Policy, which includes full implementation of the Olmstead Plan.

- CIL staff have met with MFP project staff to discuss CIL services and to make ourselves available for participants of the project hoping to assist with providing supports needed to keep the transitioned consumer from returning to the facility. However, to date, no one has been referred for IL services.
- ACIL, prior to last December, had great success in getting reimbursement through Olmstead for CLSP consumers. We did however; receive funding for four lift chairs. We continue to advocate for the full implementation of the Olmstead Plan
- The past two years MTSTCIL CLSP staff have been able to access Olmstead funds to assist CLSP consumers needing help to stretch CLSP dollars.

1.4.b. All CIL, SILC, & DRS staff/members serving on boards & committees will advocate for systems change that will result in rebalancing.

- The SILC Executive Director and members serve as advocates on many boards & committees including:
 - People First of WV
 - WVDRS Community Advocacy Committees
 - River Cities Council for People with Disabilities, Huntington, WV
 - Our Children, Our Future
 - Legislative Interims
 - ADRC Advisory Boards & councils
 - No Wrong Door Advisory Board
 - Olmstead Council
 - Parent Training and Information (PTI) Board
 - Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Board
 - WV Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children
 - Aged & Disabled Waiver, IDD Waiver, and TBI Waiver Quality Councils
 - Take Me Home WV Advisory Board and work groups
 - People First National Board
 - Behavioral Health Planning Council
 - Human Rights Council for Behavioral Health
 - North Central WV Community Action
 - TTA Transportation Council

- No Wrong Door Advisory Council
- WV Advocates board of directors
- WV State Rehabilitation Council
- WIA Region 1 Youth Council
- WIA Board
- Grant County Human Rights Commission
- City of Morgantown Human Rights Commission
- WV Assistive Technology Board
- All SILC members are individual members of the Fair Shake Network
- Fair Shake Network board of directors
- All SILC members are individual members of the National Council on Independent Living
- NCIL Committees
- Kanawha/Putnam Emergency Planning Council
- ADAPT
- SILC member is Senior Living Community Project Director
- West Virginias for Affordable Health Care
- WV Housing Council Planning Group
- United Way of River Cities Grant Committee
- Partnership for Elder Living
- FACT/AARP-PEL Partnership Group
- Universal Design Conference Planning Committee
- WV State University Student Access Advocates
- Mid-Atlantic ADA Center Advisory Council
- WV Developmental Disabilities Council
- WV University Center for Excellence in Disabilities
- WV Advocates
- Governor's Task Force on Substance Abuse
- Governor's Task Force on Homelessness
- North Central Action Head Start Policy Council
- Grant County Board of Health
- Medicaid Waiver Coalition
- Council of Exceptional Students
- NWVCIL Executive Director serves on the Olmstead Advisory Board, the Take Me Home WV board, No Wrong Door advisory board, the MFP Housing Committee, the ADRC Advisory

Board and the Region 6 workforce investment board, all to advocate for community based services and supports and employment for individuals with disabilities.

- ACIL also has staff that serve on the state Take Me Home WV Board.
- One MTSTCIL staff member serves on the Olmstead Advisory Committee and one MTSTCIL staff member serves on the Take Me Home Housing Committee

Objective 1.5 Compliance with the Fair Housing Act is increased.

Indicator: Fair Housing design and construction complaints filed with HUD have increased by 40%.

Activities and Progress:

1.5.a. Northern WV CIL will distribute 2,500 copies of the current Landlord Tenant Handbook.

- MTSTCIL previously reported the distribution of 690 handbooks. To date, an addition 1,563 copies have been distributed. The demand is such that we had to go to a second printing. While doing so, the need for this manual to be written in common language became evident, thus we have created a common language brochure that can be used to supplement the legal information found in the manual.

1.5.b. Northern WV CIL will provide training to increase the awareness of consumer Fair Housing Rights.

- NWVCIL has developed a network of 48 agencies and organizations for distribution of educational materials, training event brochures, and outreach for potential complaints. NWVCIL conducted formal training at the WV Developmental Disabilities Council Partners in Policy Making, the WV Human Rights Commissions Annual Housing Conference, the WV State Housing Conference, the WV Behavioral Healthcare Providers Conference and the WV CAP conference. We also were interviewed by Daniel Ringer on the “The Law Works” a WV Public Broadcasting Television

show, and provided one large scale training for ILNet on Fair Housing rights and how to gain assistance through HUD or local FHIPs in their states. 36 sites nationwide participated in the training.

1.5.c. CILs will provide assistance to individuals who want to file a Fair Housing Complaint.

- ACIL has had three Fair Housing complaints. At Jan’s request since they have the HUD Grant, these complaints were forwarded to NWVCIL. To my knowledge two were resolved and one is still pending.
- MTSTCIL referred complaints regarding housing to NWVCIL.
- During this year, NWVCIL received 192 hotline calls with 141 calls recorded as intakes with potential fair housing violations. In 2013 there were NO design and construction complaints filed with HUD. In 2014 NWVCIL has successfully file 5 design and construction complaints with the US Dept. of HUD that have gone to court for resolution. NWVCIL is also a plaintiff in a Department of Justice complaint against a major builder in WV and Pa related to design and construction violations. An additional 15 discrimination complaints have been filed with HUD.
- Thirty-seven consumers were assisted with addressing reasonable accommodation/modification complaints. 20 were resolved to benefit the consumer, 4 complaints were filed for failure to accommodate, 2 are in process and 11 were closed.

Objective 1.6 People with disabilities have access to the personal assistance services (PAS) they need.

Indicator: Waiting Lists are reduced.

Activities and Progress:

1.6.a. DRS will track unmet need for Employment Attendant Care.

- ACIL wrote a letter regarding the changes to DRS’s employment Attendant care program, reducing hours available for reimbursement,

and pointed out the lack of compliance with the public comment period required for changes.

1.6.b. DRS will request additional State funding for the Employment Attendant Care Program when necessary to address unmet need, provided such requests are consistent with State budgetary guidance.

- Budgetary guidance from the Governor's office prohibited requests for funding increases.

1.6.c. Funding to address any unmet needs for PAS will be requested.

- Efforts were focused on maintaining current funding levels in a time of across the board and targeted budget cuts.

1.6.d. Advocate to increase use of Personal Care Option in the Medicaid State Plan.

- MTSTCIL Staff provided comments to the new Medicaid State Plan.
- The SILC Executive Director advocated for increased use of the Personal Care Option at Take Me Home WV Advisory Council meetings.

Goal 2 – Independent Living services are available and operate efficiently.

Objective 2.1 Consumers are satisfied with the IL services they receive.

Indicator: Consumer satisfaction survey shows 90% satisfaction rate or better on all service areas.

Activities and Progress:

2.1.a. Random sampling done twice a year to assess satisfaction.

- CILs forwarded all open and closed consumers' information to the WVSILC office to include in the Consumer Satisfaction Survey. This information was provided once at the end of the year due to changes in the process and survey to gather deeper responses.
- ACIL has placed a special emphasis on ensuring that each consumer chooses the services they want or need and once the service is provided that they are pleased with the outcome. In West Virginia we have a system in place to measure consumer satisfaction that has and

continued to work very well. The collaborative effort with the WVSILC, WVDRS and the WVCIL's has been formed and a procedure put in place to acquire and analysis consumer feedback. At the end of each quarter each Center sends a list of open and closed consumer service records (CSR's) to the WVSILC. This information is then forwarded to an outside consultant who conducts telephone surveys on fifty of the consumers on the list and the WVSILC mails surveys to the remaining consumers. When the mailed surveys are returned to the WVSILC they are forwarded to the consultant who compiles all of the data in a formal report which shows the quantity and quality of each Center's services. Each Center's satisfaction rating continues to be 90% or better.

- Individual centers shared consumer satisfaction survey reports with their boards of directors to determine if modifications to services are warranted.

2.1.b. Maintain www.mtstcil.org database of resources available.

- The www.mtstcil.org database has been updated and revised and the email list for the Constant Contact email blasts has been updated and old, non-existent emails purged. The website database is updated annually or whenever an organization or service provider sends us updated information, as their website is linked in all our information. The Constant Contact email blast service database is update whenever we receive new names to add or whenever someone requests to be removed from the list.

Objective 2.2 CILs provide quality services.

Indicator: CIL Peer Reviews indicate quality service provided at least 90 percent of the time.

Activities and Progress:

2.2.a. Evaluate whether CIL Suite is implemented consistently by all CILs.

- WVCIL determined that CIL Suites is NOT being used consistently. One of the software's qualities

is that it allows for customization to individual CIL's data needs as determined by the different funding sources specific to their center. We are all using it differently.

2.2.b. Evaluate how CIL Suite may be used to identify strengths and weaknesses of CIL operations and efficiency.

- MTSTCIL reports CILSuite has an internal audit function and these audits are conducted at least twice a year, and at the end of each fiscal year. This helps us identify weaknesses in tracking consumer services, goals, services requested, etc. The ability to put a narrative in CILSuite every time there is a success story or some significant event to record assists us with tracking strengths. Staff training was done twice while working on annual work plans to help staff understand the significant of outcome measures and the process.

2.2.c. SILC & CILs work on outcome measures process & how to measure.

- No progress made.

Objective 2.3 WV CILs are in compliance with the Standards and Indicators.

Indicator: CIL Peer Reviews indicate compliance with all 6 of the Standards and Indicators in Section 725 of the Act.

Activities and Progress:

2.3.a. CILs will use CIL Suite to track compliance with the Standards & Indicators.

- It is an excellent tool for monitoring compliance with consumer related services such as service plans, waivers, goals, etc. but we have all determined that the community activities table creates a challenge in tracking outcomes related to mandated categories within the 704 report. Each center has developed their own mechanism for monitoring compliance with standards that are not directly related to consumer's individual services. Thus CIL suites can NOT be used to track compliance with ALL standards and indicators.

- ACIL has tracked and reported standards and indicators in narrative form. CIL Suite is used to track consumer data.

2.3.b. CILs will use CIL Suite to measure implementation of work plans.

- Although, CIL suites is a great tool for monitoring implementation of work plan activities related to individual consumer services, it is not helpful in tracking the outcomes of the work plan and most of that is done through entering narratives that support outcomes of work plan activities.
- The 704 Reports are completed by MTSTCIL using the data from CILSuite, which helps track compliance with the Standards & Indicators. The Community Activities Table provides tracking of capacity building and community activities and provides measured outcomes.
- The 704 Report Narratives sections assist with tracking the implementation of the work plan. The work plans are entered into CILSuite under the narratives section, then as accomplishments are completed, or sections thereof, it is entered into the narrative, so it will be completed by the end of the fiscal year.
- ACIL continues to use CIL Suite and have identified several problems they are trying to work through.

Objective 2.4 Time spent on the CLSP waiting list is reduced.

Indicator: The amount of time an individual spends on the CLSP waiting list is reduced by 6 months by September 30, 2016.

Activities and Progress:

2.4.a SILC will develop a tool to track and report months spent on the waiting list.

- The CILs advised the SILC that the waiting lists they have track the time spent waiting and a separate tool is not needed.
- CILs have reduced the amount of time each consumer has to spend on our waiting list through leveraging third party resources. CILs have leveraged additional funds by helping

consumers apply for Olmstead Funds and the VA. CILs have also leveraged significant amounts of funding through the WV Housing Development Fund and the Ross Foundation. These activities enable CILs to continue providing services while waiting on quarterly IL funds.

2.4.b. WVSILC & partners will request an increase in funding.

- During the last session due to changes in the Legislature, SILC & CIL staff believed this was not a good year to ask for additional funding, and instead focused on maintaining the \$500,000 that had been allocated previously.

2.4.c. CILs will organize consumers to advocate for increased funding for Independent Living Services.

- For MTSTCIL the CLSP waiting list time is increasing, not decreasing. While we had been able to maintain current level State IL funding, FY 2017, which started in July of 2016, saw the 1st decrease in State IL funds. The VII, Part B funds continue to decrease. While some leveraged funds have helped, it is not enough to decrease the waiting list time. People who need DME's less than \$500.00 are being served in a short time frame and do not stay on the waiting list.
- With such a change in on elected officials, NWVCIL decided that instead of having folks on the waiting list call legislator to have those served in the past 2 years call and write regarding the impact CLSP services has made on their lives. Consumers are being provided with names and numbers of their local legislator so they can easily call.
- For those who are opting out of calling, we are securing quotes to put in a general letter to all elected officials that cover our service area.
- During Disability Advocacy day, each Senator and Delegate was provided with a data sheet that indicated who were served in each county and how many remain on the waiting list.

2.4.d. CILs will request a public hearing on funding for Independent Living Services.

- A hearing was not requested

- WVCIL made the determination that this legislative session was not going to be the time to request a public hearing or to ask for additional money but rather fight to ensure level funding at \$500,000.

2.4.e. CILs will organize consumers to give testimony at the public hearing.

- See 2.4.d.

Goal 3: All West Virginians with disabilities have access to a CIL.

Objective 3.1 A Center for Independent Living line item is established in the State budget.

Indicator: A new line item in the State budget for Centers for Independent Living is established by September 30, 2014.

Activities and Progress:

3.1.a. WVCIL & partners will work with governor's staff to establish line item.

- All Centers held a preliminary meeting with the governor's staff to discuss the upcoming budget to be presented to the Legislature and the need for increased funding in the State IL line item.
- This is an ongoing effort that will probably be given a lot of attention in fiscal year 2017 to try and increase the availability of CILs in other areas of the state which are currently unserved by a full Center for Independent Living.

3.1.b. WVCIL & partners will work with budget/ Finance committee staff to establish line item.

- MTSTCIL Staff, consumers, and board members contacted members of the WV Legislative Finance Committee to discuss the importance of funding an additional center for independent living. Consumers at both centers participated in a Legislative training about increasing funding to establish a new center for independent living prior to attending the Legislative Session.

3.1.c. CILs organize consumers' advocacy efforts.

3.1.d. Collaborate with FSN (Fair Shake Network) on advocacy efforts.

- Several staff, board members, and consumers

from MTSTCIL attend FSN meetings on a regular basis. Some staff and board members have served on the FSN board; two different staff members serving as Chairperson.

- NWVCIL actively participating in the weekly FSN advocacy efforts at the Capitol during the legislative session is not feasible due to distance and expense. However; as members we share alerts with our networks to increase participation on call in campaigns, etc. Many staff participated in Fair Shakes Advocacy training day and day at the capitol.

3.1.e. Establish criteria for eligibility to receive CIL funding (tie back to WV IL Act).

- The WV State IL Act states centers must follow

the Federal requirements in order to receive any State funds for centers for independent living. An IL Act/WIOA Committee was formed during the close of the 2014-2016 SPIL with representatives of the SILC and CILs. The committee is working on updating the IL Act to make sure it will be consistent with the changes WIOA made to the Rehabilitation Act as amended.

- Discussion still needs to be held regarding the scenario if a “CIL” is funded with private funds or non-federal or state IL funds, how do we ensure they follow the IL philosophy to be called a “CIL”.

The complete SPIL may be found at www.wvsilc.org.

Consumer Satisfaction Survey

The WV Statewide Independent Living Council conducted a survey of consumer satisfaction with Independent Living services in West Virginia. The survey was developed several years ago, as a tool for collecting information on consumer satisfaction. It was revised in 2016 to more accurately reflect the information needs of the Council and to reduce the response burden for consumers who complete the survey. Consumers are asked to rate their level of agreement with statements about the independent living services they received. Consumers are also asked about specific services and the impact of those services.

The surveys were distributed to consumers who were served during the October 2015 to September 2016 time-period. The Council staff received contact information for each closed case and a sample of open cases from each CIL. These lists were randomly sampled with replacements until a total of 50 telephone surveys were completed. All others on the lists received mail surveys in the Fall of 2016.

There were 128 completed mail surveys in addition to the 50 telephone surveys. All surveys were conducted using the same instrument. A total of 831 surveys were distributed by mail and 50 were administered over the phone. A total of 178 surveys were completed. Thus, the response rate was 20% (179/ (831+50)). This report summarizes the responses of those 178 surveys and details the findings for the 2015-2016 program year.

Type of Program

Each of the surveys contained codes for the programs in which consumers participated. There were 125 people served through the Community Living Services Program, 30 people in the Title I-Part C program, 7 people in the Employment Services Division program, 4 people who received ACL services, 3 who received HUD services, and 1 person who received Part B-Title VII services.

Type of Disability

The consumers were asked to indicate their disability. There were 143 people who listed a disabling condition (e.g., Diabetes) or a description of their disability (e.g., bad legs). There were 64 people who indicated that they have a motor-related disability (45% of the sample). Sensory disabilities (15 people) represented 10% of the sample, Cardiac/Respiratory disabilities (12 people) represented 8% of the sample, Cognitive disabilities (11 people) represented 8% of the sample, and those reporting Other/Various disabilities (39 people) were 27% of the sample. Mental Health disabilities (2 people) represented about 2% of the sample.

Type of Disability	Respondants	Percent
Motor	64	45%
Other/Various	39	27%
Sensory	15	10%
Cardiac	12	8%
Cognitive	11	8%
Mental Health	2	2%
Total	143	100%

The Motor category included people with problems walking, paraplegia, amputation, arthritis, and other movement limitations. The Sensory category included vision and hearing impairments. People reported Cognitive impairments including autism and people who described themselves as “slow learning.” The Cardiac/Respiratory category included COPD and heart problems. The "Other/Various" category includes conditions such as cancer and diabetes, as well people who reported having multiple disabling conditions.

Satisfaction Items

The Satisfaction Items were revised in the previous program year to provide necessary information about consumer satisfaction and to make items clearer to responders. The consumers were asked to rate their agreement with a series of seven statements about their interactions with independent living services. They used a Likert-type scale that ranged from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree with options to indicate that they were neutral or that the item was not applicable.

All Consumers

Table 1 lists the percent of responders who agreed or strongly agreed with each of the survey items. Column 1 presents the text of the item, Column 2 contains the response from last year’s survey, and Column 3 contains the current percent of responders who agreed or strongly agreed with each item.

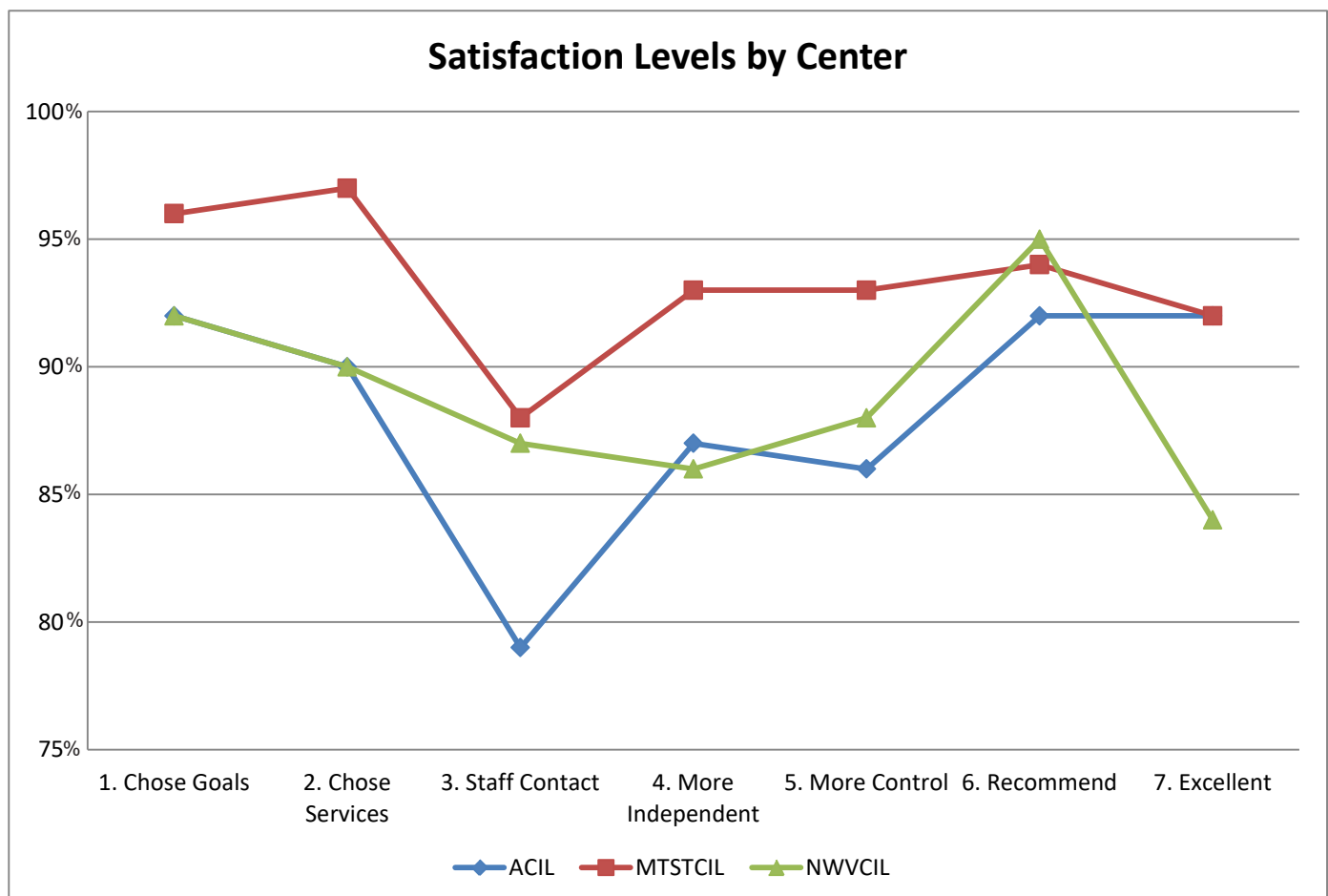
As may be seen in Table 1, six of the seven items were rated at more than 90% agreement. Item 3. “The staff stayed in contact with me so I knew what was happening with my services.” was rated at 87% agreement. The ratings are relatively high, but slightly lower than last year. The difference in sample size (178 for 2016 versus 88 for 2015) may contribute to this fluctuation in scores.

Satisfaction Item	% Agree / Strongly Agree	
	2014-2015	2015-2016
1. I chose my own independent living goal(s).	99%	95%
2. I chose the service(s) I needed to meet my goal(s).	98%	95%
3. The staff stayed in contact with me so I knew what was happening with my services.	99%	87%
4. The services I got helped me to be more independent.	95%	92%
5. I have more control over my life now.	93%	92%
6. I would recommend this CIL to my friends and family.	99%	95%
7. Overall, the services I received from the CIL were excellent.	97%	93%

Table 1

Consumers of Various CILs

Of the 178 completed surveys, 60 responses were received from consumers of the Appalachian CIL, 91 responses from the Mountain State CIL, and 27 responses from the Northern WV CIL. The following graph compares the responses to the satisfaction items by CIL. As may be noted in the graph below, the overall patterns are very similar across the 3 Centers and the widest variation between points is less than 10 percentage points. Even the lowest point on this graph shows that nearly 80% of consumers were satisfied. Given the wide variation in the number of responses per Center, caution should be exercised in interpreting this graph.



Services Received

The survey recipients were asked to indicate which IL services they had received. There were 135 people who indicated that they had received at least one service. The following table lists the types of services they said they received.

Type of Service	Consumers
a. If I had a problem, they stood up for me or helped me stand up for myself	56
b. The CIL staff put me in touch with other agencies or people who could help me.	75
c. I received items that help me do things I need to do.	68
d. They helped me find another person with a disability I could talk to.	25
e. They gave me information about how to take better care of myself.	45
f. They taught me how to make choices to improve how I live.	53
g. They taught me new skills I wanted to learn.	40
h. They helped to make my surroundings more accessible (ramps, lifts, hand rails).	71
i. They helped me to find a place to live.	12
j. They helped me to get transportation to all the places I needed to go.	32

The consumers reported receiving a variety of services. They most often reported receiving help with referrals to other agencies or people, home modifications, and assistive technology. These were also the most-often reported services during the previous 2 surveys. Some services are used less often than others, but low-incidence services (e.g., helped me find a place to live, peer support) may be life-changing for the person who needs that service. It may be important to examine the breadth of services provided along with the absolute incidence of a specific service.

There were 91 people who received 1 to 3 services, 28 people received 4 to 6 services, and 16 people received 7 or more different services. This variation in the number and type of services received has been noted across the years, and may be seen as an indicator that services are individualized to meet client needs.

The Consumer Satisfaction Survey Report for fiscal year 2015 can be found at www.wvsilc.org. ■

2015 Disability History Essay Contest

The SILC is very pleased to share the winners of the 2015 Disability History Essay Contest. The contest is held each Fall corresponding to WV Disability History Week in October. The awards were presented to each winner at their high school's Senior Awards Ceremony in May 2016. All high school seniors in West Virginia are eligible to submit an entry, and this year we received the most entries since the contest began in 2012!

The top award is presented to the state winner, and awards may be presented to first place and second place entries from six Districts of our state. This year, the authors of the winning essays received an engraved key chain and, thanks to a generous grant from the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services, a check for the amount of their award as follows: State Winner \$3,000, District First Place Winners \$1,500, and District Second Place Winners \$750. And the winners were:

- State Winner:** Blake Huffman, Winfield High School - \$3,000
- District 1:** First Place – Annalee Raines, Winfield High School - \$1,500
- District 2:** First Place – Sydney Hosfeld, Buckhannon-Upshur HS - \$1,500
Second Place – Laura Dean, Buckhannon-Upshur HS - \$750
- District 3:** First Place – Mitchell Newbanks, Parkersburg South HS - \$1,500
Second Place – Mattison Johnson, Ritchie County HS - \$750
- District 4:** First Place – Linsey Fain, Greenbrier West HS - \$1,500
- District 5:** No winner
- District 6:** First Place – Sabrina Shroades, Musselman High School - \$1,500

The theme for the 2015 contest was, “How Have the First 25 Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act Changed America?”. This section of the annual report includes the state winning essay, photos of the authors, information about their schools, and a bit of information to help you get to know these students.

Congratulations to all the winners! We hope this contest continues to motivate high school seniors to not only submit an entry, but to learn more about disability history and how the disability rights movement has changed our world and our lives.

District Winners



Annalee Raines is a graduate of Winfield High School. She played the timpani in the Marching Generals for all her four years at Winfield, and looks forward to being in the Marching Thunder at Marshall University, where she will be a Theatre major starting this fall. When not at school, she enjoys blogging, singing and playing with her two dogs and two cats. Annalee strongly believes the stigma against those with disabilities should be erased, and acceptance and understanding should be commonplace instead.

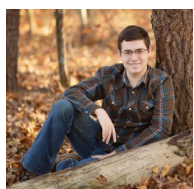


Sydney Hosfeld graduated in 2016 second in her class from Buckhannon-Upshur High School. She is the daughter of Lisa Hollen and Alan Hosfeld, and the step daughter of Bruce Hollen. Sydney is an active member of The Dance Factory's Augusta Youth Ballet Company, the drum major and first chair flute of the Buckhannon-Upshur High School Band which she joined after teaching herself to play flute. In February 2016, Sydney was named a National Merit Scholar Finalist. She plans to attend West Virginia University to study Computer Science, and will be a member of their marching

band in the fall. Her essay was inspired in part by her grandmother, Elaine Hosfeld, who displays independence and determination despite severe mobility issues and heart problems.



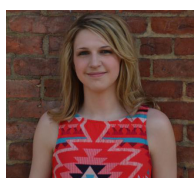
Laura Dean, is a 2016 graduate of Buckhannon-Upshur High School. She plans on attending Davis and Elkins College where she will pursue a degree in environmental science. Laura is a member of National Honor Society, FFA, and Math League. She has also been a member of the Math Team. Laura was a member of cross country for three years and qualified for the state meet two years. Her interests include hiking, reading, and farming.



Mitchell Newbanks a 2016 graduate at Parkersburg South High School. Mitchell participated in the schools co-op program where he attend school in the morning and worked half a day for the Wood County School's Bus Garage. He plans to go to college and obtain an accounting degree. In his spare time, Mitchell enjoys riding his 4 wheeler, playing electric guitar, deer hunting, fishing, arrowhead hunting and coin collecting.



Mattison Johnson, the daughter of Richard and Candy Johnson, is a 2016 graduate of Ritchie County High School. Mattison is active in her school and community as the vice president of her county's FBLA and National Honor Society chapters, the secretary of the local LEO Club, and a member of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee. In addition, Mattison has participated in Quiz Bowl since her sophomore year and now serves as team captain. She has also enjoyed participating in theatrical productions and choir concerts. As a future teacher, Mattison is an active member of Educators Rising and was elected as a state officer of the organization in the fall. Mattison plans to continue her schooling at Fairmont State University and major in Secondary Math Education.



Linsey Allison Fain is the daughter of Harold and Ginger Fain of Quinwood, West Virginia. Linsey is a 2016 graduate of Greenbrier West High School in Charmco. She served as the National Honor Society Chapter President at her school, along with the Student Body President. Linsey enjoys kayaking, hunting, and fishing in her spare time and is a member of the Quinwood First Baptist Church. She plans to continue her education at West Virginia University in the Fall of 2016 to study Dental Hygiene.



Sabrina Shroades, an honor roll student and 2016 graduate of Musselman High School, has received multiple academic and athletic awards. She was recently student of the nine weeks and is currently ranked 1st in her class with a 4.54 GPA. She pushes herself academically, currently taking 4 AP classes and an online college class through WVU. Sabrina is a member of the National Honor Society and is serving as their Treasurer this year. She plays pitcher and shortstop for the Varsity Softball team, and has started since her freshman year while holding the Musselman school records for strikeouts, ERA, RBI, and doubles. She has made the WV All-State team two years in a row including being named the Captain of the AAA 1st Team this past season. She was also runner-up for the WV Sportswriters State Softball Player of the year and was a Gatorade Player of the Year Finalist. Sabrina attends Connections Community Church in Inwood and has volunteered for their Food Bank preparations. Sabrina recently had the honor of representing her school in the South Berkeley Annual Christmas parade after being nominated by the teachers and staff of Musselman. After graduation, Sabrina will be attending Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina where she plans to study Computer Science. When not active in school or sports, Sabrina enjoys spending time with friends and family. She also enjoys going to the beach and amusement parks.

State Winner



Blake Huffman a graduate of Winfield High School with a 3.9 GPA. During his high school years, he has been involved with the General Admission Show Choir, the Marching Generals, the Boys Soccer team, Fuel Bible Club, FCA, National Honor Society, Link Crew, and the Spanish Honorary Society. He is an active member of youth group at Teays Valley Baptist Church and works with the Highways & Hedges Bus Ministry and sings in both the adult and youth choirs. Blake is also an Eagle Scout and was selected as a delegate for Mountaineer Boys State. Blake has logged over 300 community service hours since beginning high school. Blake was diagnosed with Dyslexia his junior year and has worked with the Teays Valley office of WV Division of Rehabilitation. He is extremely excited to be chosen as the 2015 Disability History Essay Contest winner and is very thankful for the opportunity.

Blake's winning essay:

“How Have the First 25 Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act Changed America?”

Imagine standing atop the stairs and overlooking the grounds of the US Capitol Building on a cool March day. The year is 1990, and 1,000 protestors have made their way to Washington to demand that the House of Representative pass the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Imagine watching as more than 60 activists laid down their wheelchairs, walkers, and crutches and began the ascent to the top of the 83 marble steps. The passing of this legislation would require equal rights for the disabled. The Capitol Crawl, as it is now known, is now seen as one of the most important events leading up to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act passed into law on July 26, 1990. Now imagine walking down the streets of small town America earlier that same year. How different things would things have looked then as compared to the world today.

Let's look at the changes in the world today due to The Americans with Disabilities Act. The Act was broken into 5 different titles with each title having a unique effect on the lives of the disabled. Let's look into each of those titles separately.

Title I - Employment

Prior to the ADA many employers would find ways to discriminate against those with disabilities. Accommodations in the workplace were not commonplace. This section of the law brought about positive changes.. Special equipment, scheduling alternatives, and a change in work assignments helped allow those with disabilities to enter the workforce. Special communication devices including blinking fire alarms and braille markings were incorporated into structures to alert deaf and blind employees of an emergency. Entrances and bathrooms were also equipped with wheelchair access. The workplace is a different place.

Title II - Public Entities

With the ADA, every school district, city, county and state had to make all of their services available to the disabled. Whether special testing opportunities in schools for those with reading or developmental deficiencies, equipping school and public buses with wheelchair ramps, making public housing available to everyone, or modifying their streets and sidewalks, the ADA has made significant changes in the world of the disabled. Today, crosswalks are equipped with not only blinking lights, but beeping traffic indicators and voice street directions.

Changes have also come to city and state parks. Trails and special parking access has been added to allow those with disabilities to enjoy the outdoors as never before. Our communities are a different place.

Title III - Public Accommodations and Commercial Facilities

The ADA has required that all new construction and renovations make commercial buildings handicap accessible. Special parking, ramps, automatic doors, wider entry ways, braille and audio instructions in elevators, and handicap accessible bathrooms were all enhancements to buildings made due to the provisions of the act. Today, you can walk into most restaurants and request a menu in braille and be able to maneuver a wheelchair without assistance into most commercial establishments. The difference continues.

Title IV - Telecommunications

Prior to the ADA, those who were blind, deaf or dumb had major challenges with communication. Today services like text telephone (TTY/TDD) have opened up the world to the hearing impaired. The hard of hearing or speech impaired can use these services to communicate by typing messages which are then relayed and received back in a way they can understand. Closed captioned TV has allowed those with hearing disabilities to keep up with current events or watch their favorite shows without lip reading. Computer generated relay services also allow communication through the internet and even your smart phone will allow hands-free communication through both visual and audio means. Communication is different, much different.

Title V

The final provision of the ADA provided protection from retaliation or coercion. Those exercising their rights under the American Disabilities Act could now do so without the fear of negative backlash. This is a difference, especially to those who have faced retaliation in the past.

Let's now go back to that street in small town America. Twenty five have passed since that July day in 1990. A walk down the street does look and sound different today. The beeping cross walk, the braille menu at Wendy's, a time extension to take standardized testing, or being able to gaze over the New River Gorge at Hawk's Nest, all of these are different as a result of this life changing act. The ADA has made a huge difference in the world and especially in the lives of the disabled. One has to wonder if those brave souls that climbed the Capitol steps that day had any glimpse into the changes seen in the world today. But, the job is not done. The changes are not over and improvements are happening daily. The disabled still face challenges in the world they navigate daily, but the ADA has had and will continue to have a dramatic effect on the lives of the disabled. ■

The ADA



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush. The ADA is one of America's most comprehensive pieces of civil rights legislation that prohibits discrimination and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the mainstream of American life -- to enjoy employment opportunities, to purchase goods and services, and to participate in State and local government programs and services. Modeled after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin -- and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 -- the ADA is an "equal opportunity" law for people with disabilities.

To be protected by the ADA, one must have a disability, which is defined by the ADA as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment. The ADA does not specifically name all of the impairments that are covered.

For more information on the ADA, visit www.ada.gov.

Community Living Services Program

The Community Living Services Program (CLSP) assists eligible individuals with disabilities to return to or remain in their homes and communities by enabling them to function more independently. We strive to help people with disabilities achieve integration and full inclusion into mainstream American society.

This program operates under the independent living philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination and equal access through individual and systems advocacy. This approach maximizes the leadership, empowerment, independence and productivity of people with disabilities.

As provided in the West Virginia State Plan for Independent Living, State and Federal funds for this program provide services such as home modifications, assistive devices and equipment, vehicle modifications and durable medical equipment.

Under administrative oversight by the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services, in partnership with the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council, CLSP services are provided statewide through the four state-recognized centers for independent living (CIL) in West Virginia: Appalachian CIL-Charleston, Mountain State CIL-Beckley, Mountain State CIL-Huntington and Northern West Virginia CIL-Morgantown.

Services are provided as funding is available. When requests for services are received, CIL employees make every effort to locate needed resources, including donations by third parties. CLSP funds are used only when, after a diligent search, it is determined that no other public or private funds are available.

If the necessary funds are not available, applicants are prioritized in order of request and are served as funds become available. A total of 469 consumers remained on waiting lists as of June 30, 2016.

2016 Performance At A Glance

- A total of 126 consumers completed CLSP services and were successfully enabled to remain in their own homes during the last fiscal reporting period.
- Cost of services averaged \$3,690 per consumer completing their goals.
- 469 consumers remained on the waiting list as of June 30, 2016.
- The projected average waiting time for consumers on the waiting list is at least two years.
- A total of 50 assistive device and equipment services were provided.
- A total of 108 rehabilitation technology services were provided.
- At least 39 of the consumers completing their goals were either diverted or transitioned from nursing homes.
- CLSP was funded by the State of West Virginia in the amount of \$500,000 for State fiscal year 2016.
- Therefore, the diversion or transition of 39 consumers from nursing home care through CLSP is estimated to have created net annual savings of over 3.4 million dollars in State fiscal year 2016. (According to the Genworth Financial Cost of Care Survey for 2016, the median annual cost for a semi-private room in West Virginia nursing homes was \$100,380.)

Services

All CLSP consumers also are eligible for other services provided by centers for independent living, including individual advocacy, independent living skills training, peer support, counseling, and information and referral. Services provided by CLSP include the following:

Home Modifications

Ramps
Accessible Bathrooms
Other modifications to make homes accessible



Assistive Devices and Equipment

Positioning/Seating
Augmented Communication
Aids to Daily Living

Vehicle Modifications

Vehicle Conversion Lifts for Wheelchairs and Scooters
Hand Controls
Other Specialized Modifications



Durable Medical Equipment

Shower Chairs
Walkers
Other Durable Medical Equipment and Related Items



CLSP in Action

Following are several summaries which illustrate CLSP services and outcomes:

- DA is a 51-year-old woman diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. She applied for assistance to obtain a bathroom modification in May 2014. She has been experiencing difficulty with mobility as many areas in her home were inaccessible due to multiple floor levels. A step-free entrance and a small stair lift enabled access to the home and to the kitchen. The floor was built up in the bathroom, and a roll-in shower was provided. The washer/dryer were relocated and higher toilet and grab bars were installed. DA is very thankful her home now is a place she can comfortably age in. The West Virginia Housing Development Fund assisted with the needed modifications.

- ST and her sister, ages 11 and 17 years, both have a rare skin disorder, mastocytosis. Among other symptoms, being in direct sunlight can damage their skin. An outdoor shelter was provided. Both ST and her sister now can go outdoors and play, enjoying the fresh air without fear or harm. Their mother said they love the shelter and have been in it all summer long! ST's sister also received a roll-in shower owing to a physical condition that causes her problems with walking. The shower has enabled more independence in shower taking and made her mother's life much easier.

- RP is a 73-year-old female with a leg amputated. Grab bars and a hand-held shower unit were installed in her home. RP can now bathe on her own without assistance and living independently. RP had spent over a year in a nursing home due to her disability and now is living in her own home in the community!

Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living

**Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living**

Telephone: 844-212-3464

Website: www.nwvcil.org

601-3 East Brockway Avenue, Suites A&B

Morgantown, WV 26501

Counties Served: Barbour, Berkeley, Gilmer, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Harrison, Jefferson, Lewis, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Morgan, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker and Upshur

**Appalachian Center for Independent Living**

Telephone: 800-642-3003

Website: www.acilwv.org

Elk Office Center

4710 Chimney Drive, Suite C

Charleston, WV 25302

Counties Served: Boone, Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Nicholas, Pleasants, Putnam, Ritchie, Roane, Webster, Wirt and Wood

**Mountain State Centers for Independent Living**

Telephone: 866-687-8245

Website: www.mtstcil.org

821 Fourth Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701

and

329 Prince Street, Beckley, WV 25801

Counties Served: Brooke, Cabell, Fayette, Hancock, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Ohio, Raleigh, Summers, Tyler, Wayne, Wetzel and Wyoming

Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS)

The Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS) Program is a state-funded, consumer-controlled program to enable people with severe disabilities to live in their own homes and communities. During fiscal year 2016, 19 individuals were RYPAS recipients and at the end of 2016 there were 8 individuals on the waiting list. The RYPAS program provides resources for individuals with severe disabilities to hire a personal assistant to help them perform essential daily living tasks – including, but not limited to:

- getting in and out of bed, wheelchair or motor vehicle
- bathing and personal hygiene
- dressing and grooming
- meal preparation, eating and cleanup
- paying bills
- shopping and banking
- + a daily schedule



Eligible individuals have a permanent disability or a disability that will last for at least 12 months; need assistance to take care of the essential tasks of daily living; are not currently receiving personal assistance services through any Medicaid program; can, or have a designee who can, meet responsibilities as an employer and manage financial and legal affairs; and meet the income guidelines or adjusted annual income.

The RYPAS program is managed by a seven-member, consumer controlled board. Board members are people with disabilities, most of whom have their own personal assistants. The board makes all decisions about the program and the eligibility of applicants for services. Board members are not eligible for services while serving on the Board.

You may request an application packet by calling the SILC office. The packet includes an application form, a financial survey and a short assessment form which provides an estimate of the number of hours of assistance you need. ■



Who is Ron Yost?

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.



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