

# IL-NET

CIL-NET · SILC-NET

## **Empowering Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities: The Role of the Peer Model of CILs**

*Providing Core Services to All Consumers*

**Presenter:  
Sarah Launderville**

# Providing Core Services to ALL Consumers

## Joining the Independent Living Movement

- Experiences that led to joining the movement
- Joining the movement
- Learning about the commonality we have as a movement of people with disabilities

# Policy Framework for Cross-Disability CILs

- Center for independent living means a consumer-controlled, community-based, **cross-disability**, nonresidential, private nonprofit agency for individuals with significant disabilities (regardless of age or income) that is designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities, and provides an array of IL services, including, at a minimum, independent living core services as defined in section 7(17).

~ Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

# Cross Disability Rights

Consumers regardless of disability or diagnosis have:

- Shared Experiences
- Shared Stories
- Shared History
- Shared Philosophy
- Shared Barriers
- Shared Pride

# Experience

“Knowledge or mastery of an event or subject gained through involvement in or exposure to it.”

What are some of our shared experiences?

~ Oxford Dictionaries

# Our Shared Experiences

- Discrimination
- Medical systems
- Social programs systems
- Dependency
- Institutions (nursing home, hospitals, group homes)
- Stereotypes
- Treated like children
- Support Services

# Story

“an account of past events in someone’s life”

“a situation viewed in terms of the information known about it or its similarity to another”

Think about: What is our shared story?

~ Oxford Dictionaries

# Our Story

- Leaders: Ed Roberts, Judy Heumann, Howie the Harp, Judi Chamberlin
- National Groups: NCIL, ADAPT, NAPRA, NDRN, National Empowerment Center
- Away from the medical model towards recovery, peer support, and independent living
- From institutions to independence
- “superheroes,” “inspirational,” and “puzzle pieces”
- Inequity within movement around race, sexual orientation



# History

## History

“the study of past events, particularly in human affairs”

Think about: What is our shared history?

~ Oxford Dictionaries

# Our Shared History :

## Regardless of disability or diagnosis

- Shaming of parents
- Sterilization of our people
- Euthanasia
- Institutionalization
- Segregation
- Experimented on
- Hidden from society
- Secrets

# Philosophy

## Philosophy

“the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline ”

Think about: What is our shared philosophy?

~ Oxford Dictionaries

# Our Shared Philosophy

- Peer support
- Recovery
- Empowerment
- Self-help
- Autonomy
- Overcoming barriers
- Pride
- Equality
- Full inclusion
- Independence

# Barriers

## Barriers

“an obstacle that prevents movement or access”

Think about: What are our shared barriers?

~ Oxford Dictionaries

# Our Shared Barriers

- Attitudinal
- Communication
- Employment
- Physical
- Transportation
- Housing
- Recreation

# Pride

## Pride

“a feeling or deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of those with whom one is closely associated”

~ Oxford Dictionaries

# Showing our pride together

- Slogans
- Songs
- Civil disobedience
- Personal Stories
- Social Media
- Connectivity
- Membership



## Final Thought

I was walking down the hall of my center one day and the receptionist slammed down the phone and said in a frustrated voice “I hate people with mental illness!”

As she saw me she said,  
“I’m sorry – you know what I mean.”

I did.

We had a shared empathy for one another.