**Strengthening Relationships among CILs and the SILC: Building and Maintaining a Statewide Partnership**

Presented by [Ann McDaniel](http://www.ilru.org/users/ann-mcdaniel) on July 9, 2015

>> TIM FUCHS: Good afternoon, everybody, this is Tim Fuchs with the National Council On Independent Living. Thank you for joining us for our newest SILC-net webinar, strengthening relationships among CILs and the SILCs: Building and maintaining statewide partnerships. Today's presentation is brought to you by IL-Net training and technical assistance project for CILs and SILCs. The IL-net, of course, is operated through a partnership among ILRU, NCIL, and APRIL with support provided by the administration on community aliving at the US Department of Health and human services.
So as always, we are recording today's call so that you can access the archive on ILRU's website. That will be up within 48 hours, usually sooner than that. And we will break several times to take your questions today.
There are a few ways you can ask questions, and I will remind you each time we take a Q&A break. Of course, the chat box on the webinar, where most of you are connected is a great way to do that. You can enter your question or comment any time during the call. I encourage you to do so. We will wait until the Q&A break to address them, though. And then also, if any of you are on the full screen CART captioning, that's the ccproductions.com link that was sent to you. I'm logged into chat there and you are welcome to use that chat box as well. Finally if you are only on the phone, you may prefer that to ask your question live. You can indicate you have a question by pressing star pound.
And like I said, I will remind you of those instructions each time we break for Q&A, but I just wanted to let you know.
Okay. Of course, there's a companion PowerPoint today as there always is. If you are on the webinar, that will display and follow the presentation automatically. But if you are on the full screen CART, or just on the phone, you want to make sure that you have a copy of that PowerPoint handy. That was sent to you in the confirmation email as well, and if you don't have that in front of you, you will definitely want to get it to follow along with today's presentation.
If you have any trouble finding it, just let me know at Tim@NCIL.org. I've got my email open, if you have any trouble, I can get you a fresh copy in a matter of minutes -- or second, really.
And then the last thing I want to mention before I turn it over to Ann today is our evaluation form. For those of you who do these calls regularly, you know that the evaluations are easy to complete. There's only a few questions. We kept it short so that it's not a burden for you to fill out, but we really do want your feedback and we take that seriously when we look at the program, the topics that we are offering.
And please do provide not just the answers to the numbers section on the like scale. Please let us know how we can improve. As far as our eval, you will see that. It's on one of the slides today. There's a live like to the evaluation form and like so many of these things it was also sent to you in the confirmation email that you received with the connection instructions.
That's it for my housekeeping piece. I want to introduce Ann McDanel. Ann McDaniel, the executive director of the West Virginia SILC, and such a fun person to work with, and a capable SILC leader and I'm so thankful, Ann, that you have agreed to do another one of these webinars with us and that you put together today's presentation. So I will go ahead to slide three and kick it over to you.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Well, thank you, Tim. You are most welcome and I appreciate the opportunity.
We'll start out just by going through what the objectives are for this webinar today. Once you have gone through what I have to share and we talk about the questions, you should be able to describe the statutory requirements related to developing working relationships between SILCs and CILs, identify the avenues for team work with Centers for Independent Living for planning and developing your next SPIL and describing some examples of best practices for SILC and CIL partnering, which we'll talk about as we move along.
Next slide, Tim.
We thought we would start with this statutory requirements, meaning what does the law say we have to do. And this is the updated statutory requirements with the reauthorization of the Rehab Act through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. So the purpose statement for Title 7, which is Section 701, why does this chapter of the law exist?
The purpose of this chapter is to promote a philosophy of independent living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy in order to maximize the leadership empowerment, independence and productivity of individuals with disabilities and the inclusion -- the integration, pardon me, and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the main stream of American society.
Next slide.
By statutory requirements continued, providing financial assistance to the states, for providing expanding and improving the provision of independent living services, providing financial assistance to develop and support statewide networks of Centers for Independent Living, and by providing financial assistance to states for improving working relationships amongst state independent living rehabilitation service programs, centers for independent living, Statewide Independent Living Councils, state VR programs, state supported employment services. Other programs under the Rehabilitation Act, and other federal law and programs funded by nonfederal sources. So we are really talking about everybody that what we are trying to do is to improve working relationships amongst all of those entities that have an impact on the lives of people with disabilities, preferably that they are all having a positive impact and improving the lives of people with disabilities. Next slide.
So then it goes on to talk about a brand new section of the law, which was added in this latest reauthorization and that is Section 701A which is titled Administration of the Independent Living Program. And this does some very specific things. It establishes the independent living administration within the Administration for Community Living in the Department of Health and Human Services.
That means the program is moved away from the Department of Education, and RSA, over to DHS and the Administration for Community Living, that the director of the independent living administration is to be a person with substantial knowledge of independent living services. That means we don't want them pulling in whoever is handy. This needs to be somebody with some background.
And then also establishing the ILA as the principal agency and the ILA director as the principal officer to carry out Chapter 1 of Title 7 of the Rehab Act under WIOA and Chapter 1 is the section that deals with the state plan, the Statewide Independent Living Councils, the services provided under part B, the centers for independent living, the standards for centers, what centers are to do, and provide and the funding for all of that is all included under Chapter 1 of Title 7 of the Rehab Act. Next slide.
So one of the requirements in the law is the inclusion of Centers for Independent Living in the makeup of the Statewide Independent Living Council. And the statutory requirements are that you have to have one director of a center that is chosen by the centers within the state to serve on the SILC as the center representative. You have to have at least one director of a Center for Independent Living run by American Indian tribes if such Centers for Independent Living are in the state. You have to have other representatives from centers from independent living and CIL members have to be people who are knowledgeable about centers for until living and IL services. So there's a lot of statutory requirements that pull together the centers and the SILC to work together.
Next slide.
The other piece of the SILC goes back to the heart of independent living, which is consumer control, and that is that a SILC has to be a majority of individuals with disabilities, who are not employed by a Center for Independent Living or a state agency. And both the voting membership and total membership of the SILC. There's some conclusion about that out there, and I have had more than one question about it from other folks. But if you read the law, it says the majority of the council has to be these people with disabilities who don't work for a center or a state agency. And that doesn't differentiate between the voting membership and the total membership. So in order to really maintain a majority, the voting machine has to have that majority because they are the ones who make the decisions, but the overall membership has to have that majority as well.
So how do you maintain that? I know there's been more than one state that dealt with federal reviews saying, well, your membership isn't right. You don't have enough people with disabilities and you go back and look at it again and realize you didn't count it right. So how do you do that? How do you make sure that you maintain your majority?
First thing is always look for people with disabilities first. When you are recruiting new members, when you are identifying people that you want to nominate to be appointed to the SILC, look for people with disabilities first. Always.
Then when you are looking at the voting membership, and you want to make sure you got people who understand independent living and Centers for Independent Living, and you can't -- you can't overweight the board with people who work for a center, well, think about the board members of Centers for Independent Living. And think about the consumers of Centers for Independent Living. You can have as many of those as you want, and they all count in your majority if they have a disability because they don't work for a center. They are not employed by a center.
If they are employed by a state agency and they happen to be a board member or a consumer of a CIL, then you have to consider that. That's a good way to look for voting membership that has the knowledge and the expertise you need, but that helps you maintain that majority.
Then when you look at your ex-officio nonvoting membership, try to recruit individuals who have disabilities, who work for those state agencies that are going to be represented in your ex officio membership. When you talk to the directors of those agencies or whoever it is that you go to, to have them identify for you who the ex officio person is going to be, mention to them that if there's a person with a disability who has the expertise that works for their agency, that would be a really perfect person to have serve on your council. That helps you to maintain that majority as well.
Next slide.
So we're really looking in the law about a new partnership. It's a partnership that ought to already exist, but the reauthorization this time really codifies that partnership. It creates it in law. WIOA creates a partnership in law, in statute, between the SILC and the centers. We are jointly responsible for developing the State Plan for Independent Living now. The SILC and the centers, we are the ones who have to figure it out. That really makes us the IL network in the state. Now the law doesn't talk about an IL network.
It talks about a network of centers. I think if we are going to look at the partnership between the centers and the SILC, we really need to consider it to be a statewide partnership. It's a real network between all the members of the siccant responsibilities of the SILC, and all of the Centers for Independent Living you have, and all of the folks out this would work for centers or depend on centers for services, think of us as one big independent living network in the state.
And the new responsibilities that we have in the law, are really opportunities. For the very first time we are going to have an IL program nationally and within our states that has consumer control. Because we have to have the partnership between the centers and the SILC in developing that program.
That whole team work is a consumer controlled partnership. The SILC is consumer controlled and the centers are consumer controls. We are the team. We are the network. We are the ones who will figure out what is best in our state by listening to people with disabilities and taking all of that knowledge that we have together into consideration as we lay out a plan.
This is a real opportunity to strengthen our partnership. Next slide.
So if you look at the statutory roles that we have, I already mentioned that the SILC and the centers now jointly have responsibility to develop the State Plan for Independent Living. In that whole process, we jointly have the responsibility to select the designated state entity for our state. The designated state entity is the state agency that is selected and agrees to receive the Part B dollars and administer those dollars in accordance with the state plan.
You still have a DSU in your state. I know there's a lot of confusion out there.
The designated state university is still the designated state university to receive the vocational rehabilitation funds. That's a specific role. The DSE really is a new role because it no longer has to be the DSU. It could be, but it's an opportunity for us to look at what the best fit is and who gets independent living and who has the most to bring to the table for us.
And then the signing of the state plan is a statutory role because the requirements are right there. The chairman of the SILC has to sign on behalf of the SILC, at least 51% of the CIL directors in the state have to sign it. So everybody needs to be at the table so that we are all in agreement. So when it comes time to sign, it everyone is ready to do that. It says at least 51%.
That doesn't mean that that's all you can have sign it. All of those center directors can sign that state plan, if they want and if that's what you all decide to do in your state. Then the director of the designated state entity also has to sign the state plan.
Next slide.
Then also within our state plan, we have to include a description of the statewide network of Centers for Independent Living, and we have to have a plan for the establishment and support of a statewide network Center for Independent Living. I think I'm safe saying most states done really have a statewide network that covers the whole state to the degree that we would like for it to be covered. Then what is our plan to get there?
We also have to include the cooperation, coordination and working relationships piece of how are the SILC and the centers going to do this, working with the designated state entity and then also working with others that address the needs and the issues of the state. Other state entities and other state agencies, other councils that deal with disabilities issues and service providers out there.
The coordination and cooperation piece applies to all of those.
Next slide.
And then the other thing that we are supposed to include in our state plan is activities that we are going to undertake as partners, with a goal of improving the independence of individuals with disabilities. And that can be the working relationships part and collaboration with those who are providing services for people with disabilities, and bringing the Centers for Independent Living to the table in those discussions and bringing the SILC to the table in those discussions, whichever the case may be.
Whoever gets the opportunity to be at the table should be bringing the other partner to the table as well. And then joint strategies for the IL network, for the centers and the SILC. What are activities and strategies that we can do to improve the independence of individuals with disabilities in our state?
Next slide.
Questions.
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. So that brings us to our first Q&A break. Like I said, I will remind you all if you have a question and you are on the phone, you can press star pound to indicate you have a question. And don't forget if you are on the full screen CART captioning, I'm logged into the chat there, you are welcome to use that.
I will start with a few questions that have come in on the webinar chat. First, Ann, Brian asks: Shouldn't the network include all IL service providers?
>> ANN McDANIEL: Well, that's a good question, Brian and I really think it's up to the centers and the SILC to jointly decide how that network is going to be structured and who all that is going to include. You are laying out in your state plan how this is going to all work, what the program -- the independent living program that's funded with the funding that the state plan governs, what is that going to be and how will that look? Is it centers? Is it other providers? Is it something different entirely? So I really think that's part of the partnership, is figuring out who is going to be included as we talk about our network for independent living. But I think it's the SILC and the centers that have that responsibility, because we are responsible for developing the state plan.
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Thanks. Ann, Joe is wondering how they can find out who their ILA is. Can you talk about ILA and then -- go ahead with that first, Ann.
>> ANN McDANIEL: The independent living administration is a new entity created under the reauthorization, through WIOA. It is housed within the Administration for Community Living at DHHS on the federal level. That's what they are talking about. When you see ILA, that is a -- an entity within ACL at DHHS on the federal level. Instead of having funding go through the Department of Education and RSA, the funding is now going to go through DHHS and the ILA under the Administration for Community Living. And the ILA will have responsibility for monitoring independent living Arendt state. They have to promulgate regulations and rules for how the Rehab Act is going to be implemented. It includes a requirement for standards and indicators for Statewide Independent Living Councils and ILA will be the entity that's responsible for monitoring SILCs to see that we are doing what we are supposed to be doing under those standards and indicators>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Great. Thanks, Ann.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Mm-hmm.
>> TIM FUCHS: Before I take the next written question here, we had someone chime in on the phone pretty early. So I will go to phones now.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Okay.
>> TIM FUCHS: Caller, give us just a second as we get your line open. Caller, you can go ahead.
>> PARTICIPANT: Hi, Ann, this is Shea Stevens in Arkansas.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Hi, Shea.
>> PARTICIPANT: I have a question, of course, when you state that we jointly write the state plan, the SPIL, could you elaborate a little bit because as you know, I -- when I started the tenure as the executive director, we were writing -- you know, we were finishing up our new state plan came into existence that following year and I know we had to gather -- gather the information, you know, getting the information the centers had to input their data or give the data to Arkansas rehab services. Can you elaborate, when you say jointly write, just give me a good definition. I think some of my center directors are on. I want others to hear what you mean by that.
>> ANN McDANIEL: The SILCs and the centers are to jointly develop the SPIL. We all have to sit down together and decide what the content is going to be, how the funds are going to be used, what the objectives are going to be, what services have to be provided. We have to do that together, as partners under the law.
>> PARTICIPANT: Thank you. That answers my question.
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Great. All right. Let's see, Ann, next question comes from Becky Tuttle and Shelley Simmons, do SILCs still have to have a representative on the state rehab council on the new law?
>> ANN McDANIEL: Yes, that part of the law did not change. So the state rehab council is still required to have a SILC representative in their voting membership.
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Great. Thank you.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Mm-hmm.
>> TIM FUCHS: And one of our guests is asking if you are further define independence. They say independence is very subjective, and can be different for what each person chooses.
>> ANN McDANIEL: I think that has a lot to do with our whole philosophy of consumer control. It will vary greatly from individual to individual, but I think it's also going to be a matter of the SILC and the -- and the Centers for Independent Living talking about in our state plan, what does this mean? And what are we working toward with our goals and objectives and activities and services under our state plan?
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Great. Thanks.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Mm-hmm.
>> TIM FUCHS: All right. Let's see. The next question comes from germane, who asks: When you say all the CIL directors, do you mean Part B and C funded CILs or only Part B when signing the SPIL?
>> ANN McDANIEL: Well, that's something that we are waiting to see how it falls out in the regulations. That ACL and the independent living administration are currently writing. What NCIL has recommended and several of us have worked on, the recommendation we have made is that it should be whatever you say in your state plan. Your network of centers -- it says in the state plan that we are to describe our statewide network of centers.
If we are describing it, then we should be the ones to say this is what the Centers for Independent Living are in our state. This is what it takes to be a center. These are the entities that we recognize, as Centers for Independent Living in our state. And I don't think the source of funding is relevant when you are looking at your statewide network of centers because you all know, there are centers that receive Part C funding. There are centers that are primarily funded with Part B funding. There are centers that are funded with state dollars, and there are centers that get combinations of any or all of those sources of funding. And as you know, centers have other courses of funding that they get on their own. Whether it's other grants and contracts that they get or whether it's just straight out resource development.
So the source of funding is not as much an issue, to me, as it is that the centers and the SILC in your state have defined this is what the network of centers is in our state because to me, that's what the law says we are supposed to do. But we are still waiting to see what ACL says we are supposed to do.
>> TIM FUCHS: All right. Thanks, Ann. Also, when you answered one of those first questions, from Joe, I was wondering if Joe may be referring to the liaison to his state from the independent living administration, and --
>> ANN McDANIEL: Oh, that could be.
>> TIM FUCHS: And Darra Johns had the same thought. She sent me this handy link. On ILRU's website, they have a list of all state liaisons. So Ann talked about the ILA at ACL and, indeed, just like at RSA, each state has a liaison to the IL staff there. So I just posted that link in the chat for you to check that out.
If you don't have access to the webinar, again, just let me know and I can, you know, send you an email or whatnot, but it's on ILRU's website under resources and in the WIOA implementation section. So I just wanted to mention that.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Thank you.
>> TIM FUCHS: Let me just give 5 or 10 more seconds just to make sure that we finish the questions. I see people are typing. We will have more Q&A breaks, obviously, folks.
Okay. And I don't see any -- I don't see any now. But we will break later. So I will go ahead to slide 14 and turn it back over to you.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Okay. Now we know what the statutory requirements are and under the law what it says we are all supposed to be doing together. But let's talk about the reality of what things are like in your state. What's the climate for independent living in your state? Are the Centers for Independent Living not active on the SILC or are they active? Does the SILC include the Centers for Independent Living already in the SPIL development process or do they not?
Do the SILC and the centers respect each other? Do they not? Does your SILC believe they should be monitoring the centers for independent living in your state? Is this a lack of communication between the centers and the SILC in your state? Are the SILC and the centers fighting over funding and control? Does each think they know best how the funding ought to be used? Sounds real familiar to our old fight with the DSU to me, but is that what is going open in your state?
Does one partner consider themselves to be more important or more informed or more qualified to be making those decisions and having that control?
Well, we have already said that the law says that we are partners. Let's talk about what you do with the situations in your own state. Next slide.
First of all, you've got to see each other as equal partners. If we are the IL Network, and if we have joint responsibility for what our state plan says and how the dollars are going to be used, and for how we are going to build our statewide network, then we have to be equal partners in that process. So we have to learn to work together. And if there's things that some of us don't know that we need to know, so that we can do a better job, let's figure out what those things are, and how we are going to learn that. How are we going to get that information?
We have to be establishing and working toward common goals. We have to be working towards the same thing. If we are not, we are going to be counterproductive, no matter what it is, each partner is trying to accomplish and I have an old trainer that value greatly that used to work at independent living named Maggie Shreeve and she would say, it's the vision thing, stupid. It's the vision thing. The vision thing is knowing where we are trying to get to.
So let's talk about that more. Next slide.
You really need a joint vision. You need a vision for what IL is going to be in your state. What -- if you could have exactly what you need, if people with disabilities in your state could have exactly what they need from independent living, well, what does that look like? What is that? And you really have to take the time to figure that out. It's like you can't figure out how to get where you are going if you don't know where it is that you are trying to get to.
So take the time for the centers and the SILC to work together. Have a facilitated visioning process. Figure out where it is that you are trying to go. Develop a vision statement for independent living in your state. In a perfect world and you had everything that you needed to make it happen, what does it look like? Develop a vision and a strategic plan for the IL Network for these partners to have a specific roadmap we know where we are going and here is our plan for how we are going to get there. And that can be part of what's in your state plan, but it doesn't have to be just your state plan. It can be a plan that you all work on together, to figure out how you are going to achieve your vision. Because I don't know about your state, but in my state, the Part B dollars are not going to get me to our vision. It's not going to get us there. It's not enough. So let's work together to figure out how we are going to get there with all of the possibilities that we have.
And then in your vision, in your strategic plan, identify the specific roles of partner. What is the SILC going to do? What is our responsibility and what are our activities that are going to help achieve that vision? And what are the centers going to do? What can each individual center do to help get us to where we are trying to go?
And you know, one of the biggest roles that centers can have is bringing the consumers to the table. So how are we going to do that in our strategic plan? And then establish regular communications and share information.
If the SILC and the centers aren't talking to each other on a regular basis, there's no way you are going to be able to achieve a real vision for independent living in your state. It's just not possible. There are two critical partners to not be communicating and sharing information with each other.
So part of your plan needs to identify how you are going to do that. Next slide.
I highly recommend a facilitated strategic planning process for how you are going to achieve had a vision. What it is that you want to accomplish, and how long is it going to take to accomplish it and what are the details of what you are going to do to get there? How are we going to get there?
Include what the support and the growth -- what's going to support the growth and the development of the IL Network in your strategic planning process. You want a statewide network of Centers for Independent Living so that every individual in your state who has a disability has access to those services and supports and can really become a part of the movement to make our state not only friendly to, but supportive of people with disabilities living independently and having the level of independence and freedom that they want and need. And then also supporting the growth and the development of the SILC.
You know, there's a lot of SILCs out there that have never been given any opportunity whatsoever to actually grow and develop into a real partner.
So talk about that. What needs to happen for the SILC to be able to do that? SILC has a lot more responsibility under the new law than we did under the old law. What about the SILCs who aren't prepared? How can we get them prepared?
That's part of what your partnership and your state needs to address. And then direct the work of the centers and the SILC in developing the partnership, in fulfilling our roles and responsibilities and duties and authorities under the law in the statutory requirements, and towards achieving that vision that we have come up with.
Who is going to do what?
Next slide.
Is a facilitator necessary? Well, I guess it's not necessary, necessary, not like you can't do a process without a facilitator, but an outside facilitator can really be helpful because their objective, they have no dog in that fight to use a local analogy. And they can -- you can get somebody that has a lot of expertise in strategic planning and in facilitating that can make your process work better. They can direct that planning process.
Not the content part but the process part. And it also, if you have an outside facilitator, it allows all the partners people, the SILC members and staff, the stakeholders, the Centers for Independent Living, everybody that you have pulled together to help develop your vision and your strategic plan, it allows those individuals to all participate fully because nobody has the responsibility of facilitating the conversation.
And then it gives you real impartial direction through the process. They aren't leading you one direction or another. They are listening and recording and facilitating at conversation to get you there and they also can be really helpful in mediating stressful situations. When people start getting stressed out and frustrated, you don't want somebody who has a preference to be the one trying to resolve the situation. It's really helpful to have somebody who is impartial and skilled at helping you through the process and getting over those rough patches. Not that you can't have rough patches. You probably should have. If you don't, somebody is not being honest, but you need to get through those conversations in a productive way.
Next slide.
Then let's talk about building your partnership. You've got a strategic plan now. You've got a vision. So how are we going to build the partnership? Well, think about what the role of the partnership is, number one. Why do we have one? Why do we need to be partners? Strengthing the IL Network in our state is a big part of that to me. That includes your network of Centers for Independent Living. Development of the state plan, you know, it's going to govern a pot of federal money that is a flexible pot of money that can do some wonderful things if you choose the right uses for it. So it's an important role to be developing that plan, and then also improving the lives of individuals with disabilities has to be a role of our partnership. There's no point in having a state plan. There has no point in having an IL Network if it doesn't improve the lives of individuals with disabilities in our states.
The second piece is using the vision as your guide. Keep your eye on the prize. Remember what you are trying to achieve. Don't get distracted. Let the vision guide your partnership and let the vision guide your planning and your decision making. When you start to have disagreements and you get frustrated with each other, pull yourselves back and look at the vision again. Where are we trying to get to? What will get us there? And that will help you make good decisions.
And then we have to work on how we interact with each other, how we listen to each other. How we include each other. If we are really partners, if we want a strong productive partnership, we have to interact and we have to listen. We have to include each other. I mentioned earlier, if you get the opportunity to be at the table, make sure your partner gets that opportunity as well. That's where you get the full picture. If it's not possible for an additional seat at the table, then make the best use of the seat you have by communicating with your partners to ensure everybody's voices are going to get heard through you.
Next slide.
Share opportunities. When there's something going on that it would be really helpful to have a strong IL presence, or that the IL network could benefit from, well, let each other know. Make sure everybody knows about it. Make sure everybody has the opportunity to take advantage of it. Help and support each other. You know, I have said for years in my opinion, the main role of a SILC is to do whatever we can do to make sure the Centers for Independent Living in our state are the best centers they can be. And I don't mean by monitoring them and telling them what to do. I mean by making sure they have what they need. Making sure the monies is used well. Making sure that if you have an opportunity to help them access training, or whatever it is that's going to help the center to be the best that they can be, then that's what the SILC needs to be doing. And then be seen by our partners, by other folks as partners. Get our partnership strong enough that everybody knows it's a partnership, that we see each other as partners, that we work together, and that all of us have to be included and that includes your DSE, your other state agencies, other folks in your disability community, and your governor. You want to be seen as partners. Be the IL network in your state. Own it.
Make a real effort together to do that. Next slide.
Use your vision as your touch step. I said before whenever you are not sure or you get distracted or you get frustrated or you get confused, go back to your vision. Let that guide what you do next. If you are not sure where to go next, look at your vision again. Use that to guide your partnership and the decisions that you make as partners. Use that for your design for the statewide network of centers.
Use it to focus your state plan. Both the activities of the SILC and the centers, what are you going to do within your state plan that gets to you that vision? And use it to guide your decisions and your activities outside of the state plan. Because we know that the state plan is not the be all and end all of independent living in our states. Our SILCs have other things that they are doing. Our centers certainly have lots of other things that they are doing other than what is covered by the state plan. So use that vision as your touchstone to guide all of those activities so everything that you are doing is building toward achieving that vision.
Next slide.
Okay. When you think about the relationship, it's like any other relationship, there's going to be good things and bad things. There are times that you love each other and times you don't so much. So think about how you are going to build that relationship and how you are going to make it work. Use your partnership to focus on the vision.
The SILC supporting the centers for independent living and IL network, not just about money, had because the money is limited, but bringing the CILs to the table when there are state initiatives that the SILC has access to. Serving as a link between whatever is going on at the state level, and the Centers for Independent Living who are the ones that really know what is going on in the real world, and how decisions are going to impact real people.
Don't police and monitor centers. That's not your role. SILCs are not supposed to monitor Centers for Independent Living. SILCs are supposed to monitor this implementation of the state plan. That's a whole different role.
And then the centers need to be supporting the SILC and the IL Network. And one of the most important things that centers can do is to recruit good candidates for appointments to the SILC, whether it's from amongst themselves from the center's staff or board or consumers, hopefully, but other folks that they are -- they have access to, that they have experience with, that they think would be strong SILC members and bring a lot to the table. Recruit those individuals to apply or whatever process you are using in your state. Make sure their names get on the table for consideration.
Serve as a compass as a SILC. The centers are the ones out there in the real world who know what services people with disabilities need, and who know what impact policy decisions make on the people with disabilities, that they serve, that these interact with at the local level. So be a compass to the SILC. Be the one that -- you know, the mechanism that helps the SILC stay focused. And helps the SILC in those decision-making processes when they have an opportunity to have an influence. And use the state plan as your roadmap for building your strong IL network. That's why it's so important you write it together, you develop it together and you all understand it and you all agree upon it.
Next slide.
Okay. What do you do when you have problems? When you don't get along, when you have differences, when you can't reach agreement? What do you do when the SILC and the centers don't get along? What do you do when the centers amongst themselves don't get along? How can you have a strong partnership if you don't get along?
Well, you really need to develop an agreed upon process. Figure out a way that will work for you all to resolve your differences. Identify the areas of agreement. What are the things that we all agree on, that aren't in debate, aren't in question. We have no conflict about.
Identify our common goals. What is it that with want to accomplish, that we all agree we want to accomplish? Allow for negotiation and give and take on how to accomplish those goals because that's usually where differences between, is when it comes to the how.
Well, be flexible and talk about it and work it through together. What's going to work? What do we have the resources to do, et cetera?
And if you have a facilitator who can mediate that discussion, I think it helps you reach a resolution that everybody is happy with a little quicker and easier.
Communicate. That's huge. Communicate. I have a friend in state government who says, oh, that starts all the problems when you communicate. I don't think you can ever find solutions if you are not communicating. And keep your eye on the vision.
Next slide.
Okay. Fighting about funding is usually one of the primary sources of conflict in any relationship. (chuckles).
It's the primary source of conflict in marriages. It's the primary source of conflict in this situation. When you are partners and you have joint responsibility for laying out a plan for how a pot of money is going to get spent, you are not going to all agree immediately about how that money should get spent.
So we have complained for years that the DSU exerted too much control over the decisions about the money because they are the ones who hold the money, right?
Holding the money gives you more power. But the new SILC/CIL partnership in developing the plan gives us control of the money, because we are the ones who decide watt content of the plan is. It creates opportunities for new and creative initiatives in our new partnership. We don't have to do anything the way it's always been done. We can figure out together what is the best way to do it or what we want to try and if that doesn't work, then, what do we try next?
But it also creates some potential hazards, this new partnership. And conflict over the money and would gets how much for what. Depending on what's been done in the past. If the Centers for Independent Living have gotten all of the money, all the Part B dollars in the past, to provide services or even to operate a center, and now under this new partnership, maybe it's going to be a primary source of funding to support the SILC resource plan. Well, the centers aren't going to like that, but if there's other sources of funding for the SILC resource plan that are in danger, then what we going to do? How do we figure out the best way to use the money? We have to do it together and we have to let our vision guide those decisions.
If we are going to achieve our vision, then where do we need to put the money to best facilitate the process of achieving our vision?
And having an unfunded SILC is not going to get us there and having centers go under for lack of funding is not going no get us there. So we have to figure it out together.
Next slide.
Okay. Part B funding. The uses for the Part B funding which is now called subchapter B, just so you know, those -- the uses of funding is determined by the state plan. It's how you write your state plan and how you jointly agree the money will get used.
The law says that a maximum of 30% of the part B dollars can be used to support the SILC resource plan, unless the state plan designated more money and there's no guidelines or measuring stick for how you would designate more money. It's a matter of in your state plan saying, we're going to use 35% because -- or this is what we believe our SILC needs. This is how the SILC is going to use the money. You lay it out in your state plan and then that's how it works.
Other funds for independent living are funds that you have to look at. I & E funds for the SILC is a big one. I & E stands for innovation and expansion, and it's a part of the Title 1 money that the state VR agencies receive, and the law has always said and still says that the Title 1 state plan has to reserve a portion of funding for innovation and expansion activities, including supporting the resource plan for the state rehab council, and the Statewide Independent Living Council. That's still in the law. So that's money that should be on the table and if you all are strong partners together, you should be able to secure some of that money to support your SILC resource plan.
Social Security reimbursement funds are another pot of money that is an allowed use of that money. It's independent living services and Centers for Independent Living. So when you are negotiating about money, remember that that is allowable under the law. It's still allowable under the law. And what that money is, is when a state VR agency provides services to somebody who has been receiving support from Social Security, any pot of Social Security dollars when that individual is rehabilitated and goes to work, they can bill the Social Security Administration for reimbursement for at least a portion of the funds they spent serving that individual and that money comes back to the state VR agency as program income, and it's a flexible pot of money that they can use for a lot of things. One of the things that they can use it for is independent living.
And then state funds can be made available for independent living if you make the case for it. And working together, I think you can make the case in most instances. Then the other option is resource development. And resource development is a required activity for Centers for Independent Living under Section 725 of the act. And it is now a new authority for SILCs. Prior to this reauthorization, SILCs were told they were not allowed to do resource development because it was not in the law. Well, now it's in the law in Section 705, that we can do resource development to support our resource plan and also to support Centers for Independent Living and activities in the SPIL.
In public and private funds, for the IL Network, have always been authorized and now we have more authority to actually go out and develop that money.
Next slide.
So then we need to maximize what funding we've got and what funding we can get. And it varies from state to state. It varies based on what the appropriations are from the federal government, and whatever appropriations you may get from the state. It varies based on the economic climate in your state. For state funding and for public and private resources.
So for the SILC resource plan, you have to figure out what the sources of funding are going to be and what the amounts of funding are going to be for your SILC to be able to do the job that it needs to do. For the network of funding for independent living you lead to look at the amount of money that's needed to support the centers that you have right now and establishing a minimum funding level for existing centers. So when there are increases at the federal level, you have a way to feed some of that money to the centers because they may not be getting what you consider to be a minimum funding level now.
And also for establishment of the center for independent living. So that the feds don't bill out, you know do an RFP for $50,000 to start a new center in your state. If your state plan says that's not an adequate amount of money to start a new center.
Then you want to think about unserved and underserved areas or populations in your state. And then you really must remember that all of the uses of the Part B dollars have to be outlined in the state plan. And that is the guide for the DSE to contribute the part B dollars is what it says in the state plan. So if isn't in there, you can't distribute it. Next slide.
One of the other things that we need to talk about as an actist for our IL Network is advocacy. You know that advocacy is required under the Section 725. Centers have to provide the core independent living services which include advocacy.
Then in their standards and assurances, they have to work to increase the availability and the quality of community options. You've got to do advocacy to make that happen and they have to conduct activities to increase the community capacity to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities. And you have to do advocacy to make that happen.
Well, under the new authorities for the staywide Independent Living Councils in Section 750, SILCs are allowed to perform other such functions consistent with the purpose of this chapter and comparable to other functions described in this subchapter that the council determines to be appropriate. If you remember back to the beginning about Title 7, one says individual and systems advocacy and it goes on and talks about improving the lives of individuals with disabilities.
Well, SILCs can do that. What you need to remember that is SILCs can't perform -- they cannot provide services. So they wouldn't necessarily be doing the individual advocacy, but they would certainly be doing systems advocacy. Next slide.
Then we have to be working as partners to achieve that purpose. Remember, we talked the purpose says you are going to promote the independent living philosophy. You are going to improve the independence of individuals with disables. You are going to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities. You are going to ensure full inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the main stream of society.
And you are going to do systems advocacy. All of those things are part of the purpose of the act, and we have to work together to do those things.
Just as a caveat at the bottom of the slide it talks about lobbying versus advocacy. Lobbying is a form of advocacy. Lobbying is always advocacy. Advocacy is not always lobbying. If you go to the web citation at the bottom of this slide, there's an interpretation from the internal revenue services about lobbying versus advocacy and it's well worth you looking at to help you get a better understanding of it.
Next slide.
Okay. I mentioned this already. The SILC shall not provide independent living services directly to individuals with disabilities or manage such services. It's not the role of a SILC, it's the role of the centers to provide services and having that differentiation between the two helps to avoid conflicts between the SILC and the centers. You are not competing for service provision because only one of the partners provides services.
Next slide. And we are ready for more questions, Tim.
>> TIM FUCHS: Great. So we will open it up for questions again. You can press star pound or type your question in the chat. I will give folks about 30 seconds to type their questions out.
And, again, if you are on the telephone, that's star pound and if you are on the webinar or on the CART captioning screen, you can use the chat functions there>> ANN McDANIEL: It looks like we might have a phone question, Tim.
>> TIM FUCHS: Oh, thank you, Ann. I missed that. Great. We will go to the phones and caller, you can go ahead.
>> PARTICIPANT: Hi, Ann. This is Shea Stevens again. Ann, you mentioned about the Social Security reimbursement funds for IL Services and you recall when you mentored by SILC, you mentioned that, and at that time, I didn't quite understand it. Could you elaborate on how with that being an allowable cost. Say, for instance, that a SILC had a caucus or a conference serving the people with disabilities. How would that work? And who do you contact or how does it work to actually be able to get some of those funds?
>> ANN McDANIEL: Well, it's entirely up to your state VR agency. They are the ones who earn and receive Social Security reimbursement funds. Sometimes they will send out an RFP that there is funding available for different things.
Sometimes depending on what their economy is like, they may use it all to provide services to bolster their client service dollars. But it's a conversation you have to have with them. If you think you have a valuable service, that's independent living related or even employment related, could you absolutely approach them about whether that's something that we would consider funding or not. But it's entirely their decision.
>> PARTICIPANT: Thank you.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Mm-hmm.
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Ann, next question comes from Martha, who asks: Our state DVR says they can keep a max of 5% of Part B funds which would include funding for the SILC and the SILC coordinator. Oops. It looks like the chat was cleared.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Yeah.
>> TIM FUCHS: Were you able to spot the rest of that question, Martha? I'm sorry, we lost the very end of the question.
>> ANN McDANIEL: I can address what you already read to me, though.
>> TIM FUCHS: Great.
>> ANN McDANIEL: What the law says is that 5% of the Part B dollars can be retained by the designated state entity for their administrative costs and administering the funds according to the state plan. So if your DSU, your DVR is your designated state entity, they can keep 5% to cover their administrative costs. That has nothing to do with the SILC resource plan. The SILC resource plan can be 30% or even more if you put it in your state plan to support the operations of the SILC and to support the SILC fulfilling their duties under the law. It has nothing to do with the 5% administrative costs that the DSE can keep.
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay.
So Martha clarified. If we choose to go with another DSE, besides DVR, where does the I & E go? Where does the innovation expansion funds go?
>> ANN McDANIEL: The Part B dollars will come from the federal government to the designated state government entity. The I & E funds are still held by DVR or DSU, whatever initials are using, but it's the state VR agency. The law still says that the I & E dollars are to be made available to support the SILC resource plan. So you would have to have a conversation, negotiation, with your VR agency about using those dollars and getting them to put it in their state plan, their Title 1 state plan that they are going to use a portion of those dollars to support the SILC resource plan.
I know that in a lot of states the VR agency, the DSUs are saying if you choose a different DSE, then we're going to withhold I &E funds from you. The SILC won't get any I & E funds. I wouldn't let that be the last word simply because the law says that they will do that. So you have a little bit of ground to stand on.
But I would also caution you that if you go in like gang busters and say you have to do this, you are probably not going to get anywhere. It needs to be a matter of having a conversation about the need for the funding and how it's going to be used and how it's going to free up other dollars to support services for people with disabilities. You know, have a real negotiation and a real conversation about how to do that.
You are still going to have state VR agencies who say no, and at this point in time, we don't have any resource if they say no. I'm hopeful that with regulations, we may gain some resource there. But don't give up on it. I can tell you that we have not done the formal process of choosing a DSE in my state yet, but I think we are all pretty much in agreement that we will stay with our current DSU, because of the relationship we have built. And our DSU said we will not take away the I & E funding for the SILC. So hang in there.
>> TIM FUCHS: Thank you, Ann. The next question comes from Beth who says that their SILC traditionally has viewed efforts to garner state funding support for the CILs to be lobbying, yet it sounds as if they are expected to do this in the partnership. What's your input?
>> ANN McDANIEL: Well, you have to figure it out. First of all, there's nothing that says that a SILC can't lobby. What you can't do is to use your federal funds to lobby. So if you are incorporated as a nonprofit and you can access other funds, you can absolutely lobby. Individual SILC members, as long as they are not using funding from the SILC resource plan, resource plan can absolutely lobby. They are citizens. They are lobbying their legislature for whatever they think is important.
It's a matter of whether you are using federal dollars to do it and whether you are using your SILC resource plan to do it.
So I'm not saying in the partnership that the SILC has to lobby, but I am saying that the SILC can choose to advocate, and there's a lot of advocacy that can happen before you cross the line into lobbying.
For example, the SILC is authorized to old public hearings and public hearings and public forums. So you can hold a public forum on the need for state funding for Centers for Independent Living. And you can gather all that information and share it with your legislators. And your governor. That's not lobbying. That is fulfilling one ever your roles as the statewide Independent Living Council. You can also talk to legislators without taking a position, without trying to influence their vote but to just share information with them about what will happen in a good way or a bad way for people with disabilities if they vote one way or the other on something.
If this proposal that is before them will have this kind of impact on the people with disabilities that you represent, you are allowed to share that information with legislators and that's not lobbying.
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Great. Thanks, Ann.
Ann, Ian is wondering if you have any suggestions or best practices for funding a SILC coordinator or executive director position in consideration of the DSE centers and the SILC roles.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Hmm. I know that there are a lot of different things about how you fund a SILC resource plan. I know that some SILCs have good healthy resource plans and some SILCs barely have enough money to meet the required numbers of times in a year they get their staff support from their DSU right now. None of us really have a DSE yet specifically because we haven't written a new state plan to say who that is going to be.
So it's kind of all over the place right now. I think that as you do your strategic planning process, you need to think real carefully about in order for the SILC to fulfill its roles in an effective way, what kind of resources do you need? And if you have a DSE that you all have agreed you are going to use, it certainly wouldn't hurt to include them in that conversation.
If you are recruiting a DSE, if you are out there looking for a state entity to be a new DSE for you, what can they bring to the table? Ask them that. Share what your vision is and what the role is of the SILC and getting there and what it's really going to take for them to be able to do that and what can they bring to the table? That's worth having a conversation about.
So you know, there are SILCs that are using all Part B dollars to support their resource plan. There are SILCs that are funded with innovation and expansion funds. I understand that there are SILCs that have received Social Security reimbursement funds. There's lots of options. You can do contracts as a nonprofit to bring in other funding. You can do resource development to bring in other funding, but you really need to think about what it's going to take to support the role of the SILC to really do a good job in that partnership.
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Great. Thanks.
So the next question comes from Ian who is wondering about the formal process for selecting a DSE that you alluded to, but he said that you just answered that in your last question. So he says you would put it in the state plan, correct?
>> ANN McDANIEL: Yes, absolutely. Absolutely.
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Great. Great. I think that's the last question for this section and we will have a final Q&A before we break. I will go ahead to slide 31 and turn it back over to you.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Just some examples of things that have been done in the past as partnership activities between SILCs and centers. State plan public forums to gather input for a new state plan have manytimes been held at centers for independent living. Centers can help to bring people in. They can help you do outreach to reach the people with disabilities that you are trying to make sure get services.
Center directors and staff and board and consumers serve on SILC. We have all of those on my SILC. And certainly as, you know, I talked about earlier, that's a good pool of people who have knowledge about independent living and centers, which is a requirement under the law.
Collaboration on consumer satisfaction surveys and statewide needs assessments. That's something that can be done as partners. Inviting centers to do presentations at SILC meetings so that the SILC members get to know more about what the centers do. Having SILC meetings in centers. So the SILC can move around the center and see the centers and it gives an opportunity for the people with the disables served by a center to access SILC meetings and hear what's going on and have an opportunity to speak to SILC.
Next slide.
Things we have done in West Virginia. We have over the process of many years developed a consumer satisfaction survey process where the form, the format was jointly developed by the SILC and the centers and the DSU and the process is jointly funded by all the partners but the actual survey goes out from the SILC so that there's no fear on the part of the consumers that there's going to be a retaliation against them if they say bad things about their center. The responses come back to the SILC and then go to an outside consultant who compiles all the data and writes a report that is then shared with all the partners and center-specific data is provided to the centers.
We have had a couple of times now a disability policy summit that has been a joint effort with not only the Centers for Independent Living but with our state rehab council, to bring together all the players out there, all the entities that work on policy issues, for people that have an impact on people with disabilities, to talk about what they see as the priority issues and what their initiatives are. And everybody can come to agreement on what we can all support and it provides a really powerful piece of data that you can share with policymakers around a wide variety of issues and have a huge amount of organizations that are supporting it.
And then we also had a joint effort with our centers to educate our governor and his staff about Centers for Independent Living and what they do, and the need for centers and the number of unserved counties in our state, and the amount of additional funding that it would take to really have a statewide network. That's something that we did jointly with our centers.
Next slide.
So what about the future? What are our opportunities in the future as partners? The first one we have that you canned about a couple of times today is choosing a designated state entity. And that has to be done in the state plan process. Of the state plan is due less than a year from now. The process of getting a DSE could take some time. That's something that y'all need to start working on immediately. The SILC and the centers need to sit down immediately and say does the DSU that we have now work as a DSE for us? If not, who can we find out there that really gets independent living and will support the independent living network. What state agency is there that we think is a better option? And start those conversations and start talking to other state agencies to see if they do get it, and to see if they want to support independent living.
And for many of them, it should be consistent with their mission. And then using the SPIL development process to strengthen the partnership, what can we do to help each other. What can the SILC do to help the centers? How can the centers strengthen the SILC? Let's work together to coordinate services with other entities that provide services to people with disabilities. Let's coordinate, resource development efforts so that we can maximize those efforts at the centers and the SILC are all going to be doing resource development. Then what can we do together to maximize those efforts?
Use our state plan process and conversations and work to help us figure out how to do all of those things together. Next slide.
And use the partnership to strengthen the IL Network. You know, the weakest -- a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Any weakness in our network is going to pull us all down. So what do we do to help each other to build the strongest network we can. Let's coordinate the center and SILC activities with our strategies to achieve the vision for the independent living network in the state.
Use the vision to guide independent living into the future. That's the strongest thing I can tell you. If you don't know where you are going, how are we ever going to get there? We did a very painful visioning process in West Virginia several years ago because we all got along great until it was time to talk about the new state plan and how we are going to use the money.
And every time it was time to talk about money, the DSU would show up saying this is not negotiable and everybody would start getting all twisted up about the money. Once we sat down and we did a several week long visioning process, and we really figured out where we are all were trying to get to, the fighting over the money has stopped. It was horrible and painful and awful and I hated doing it, but in the long run, it's one of the most productive things we ever did, was achieve -- you know, developing that vision that everybody agreed on, because then you can always go back to that and say, if we do this, how will it help us get there? If we do it this way, maybe we will get there easier. You always have that to go back to.
Next slide.
And we are back to questions, Tim.
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. All right. So we are at the end 69 presentation and we're going to take your questions for remainder of the time. We have plenty of time, ten minutes. So please, don't be shy. And, again, if you are on the phone, you can press star pound or type your question in either one of the chat boxes.
Okay. The first question, Ann comes from Bonita who asks, does the SILC have the final say on choosing our DSE or ask the governor of our state have the final say?
>> ANN McDANIEL: That's something that we don't have any guidance on, really, but I can tell you that what the law says is that the SILC and the centers have to develop the state plan and the state plan has to designate who the DSE is going to be. Obviously if there are state laws that have an impact on that process, you are going to have to follow the state laws. But don't feel like you just sit back and wait for the state to decide for you. Be really proactive and start talking about it amongst yourselves and start talking to the state agencies and figure out out what you think is the best, most productive fit that you can find and then figure out how you make that happen.
If you have to get your governor to agree to it, the more leg work and ground work you have done, the easier it's -- excuse me, going to be to get your governor to do what it is you think is going to be the best.
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Great. All right. The next question comes from the folks at the North Carolina SILC who were wondering does the DSE have to be a state agency?
>> ANN McDANIEL: I don't know that I have ever seep in writing those words, but it is my understanding in order for the DSE to receive and administer the federal funding it has to be an entity of the state which is generally a state agency. So that's where I would start. There's been some conversations in some states about whether the SILC can be the DSE, you know. California SILC is a state agency. I don't know whether that's the best way to go or not, but I know that you need to start having your conversations now. I know that you can talk to entities within your state about what the laws are within your state and you can also be talking to the at the independent living administration about what their interpretations are. But we are hearing that regulations are going to be coming out soon, and I know sometimes you hear that for years from a state or a federal agency. But I think there is a lot of motivation to get regulations out and to get guidance out. So hopefully we will start seeing more from ACL and the independent living administration about how that process is going to work.
But as I said, if you have state laws that influence how that's going to work, you have to follow those state laws. All the more reason to build a good relationship with your governor's office and there's lots of other good reasons to do that too.
>> TIM FUCHS: All right, thanks, Ann.
Janetta asks if could you elabborate on consumer satisfaction surveys and how you use them between the SILCs and the CILs.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Well, obviously, it's really helpful for the centers to have direct feedback about how their services are working for people but it's really helpful in the state plan development process to understand what services people are using and how helpful those services have been, and where there are gaps and what services are not being provided that people want and you can gather all of that from consumer satisfaction surveys. You can't use that as your only guide in your state plan, because that only hits on the people who already have access to a center and if you have a state where not everybody in your state has access to a center, you've got to find ways to communicate with those folks as well.
I think it's a really good cool to help inform the process when you are developing your state man. And obviously, to help the Centers for Independent Living, know what things they need to be looking at better, and adding to their array of services.
>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Great.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Mm-hmm. Jenny is wondering, Ann, if your vision, the one that you all have developed in West Virginia is available online.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Well, the vision of my Statewide Independent Living Council certainly is. The vision that we developed in that long, awful process probably is not because it is been so long. But I can -- I can post it on my website. I can go back and find it. It will take me a little time.
But I can post it on the website. I can have Tim send it out to everybody once I find it.
>> TIM FUCHS: I would be happy to, yeah.
>> ANN McDANIEL: Okay.
>> TIM FUCHS: All right. So you can press star pound if you have a question on the phone or keep entering your questions in the chat. Ann, Jenny says thank you, as I do too.
I want to acknowledge Joe Gabel had to leave the call but he was the one who asked about the liaisons at ILA. And he noticed that a few states were missing and as Darryl Johns pointed out, that's the official list from ACL of the ILA staff. So, yes, there are some assignments that haven't been made and Darryl says that they can inquire about the other states and get back to all of you, but that's -- that's all we have from ACL.
>> ANN McDANIEL: And you all can contact ACL yourselves. Jamie Kendall is the acting director of the independent living association and contact her and say, I don't see my state on the list. Who do I need to talk to? They will connect you with somebody.
>> TIM FUCHS: That's a great point. Yep.
Okay. So I will give about 30 more seconds just to make sure we haven't missed anyone. Oh, it looks like we have a question on the phone. Caller, you can go ahead.
>> PARTICIPANT: My name is Nancy and I was wondering if you could speak to the issue, if a state has a DSE that they are thinking about switching to a new entity, and maybe they haven't gone through the solicitation process yet, are there any limitations on how -- what time -- a timeline in which you have to -- to select your DSE if you are going to change and can you switch back maybe to a different DSE in the future? Is there anything that talks about how frequently you can switch, not that anyone would want to switch frequently.
>> ANN McDANIEL: That's a good question. That's a very good question. First of all, your timeline is around your SPIL development process. So you can amend your SPIL any time you want to, but your next SPIL that you are going to really formally designate, your designated state entity will be due next June 30th. That's when the next three year state plan will be due.
>> PARTICIPANT: Mm-hmm.
>> ANN McDANIEL: So that's your first target is to make sure you have something lined up by then. Some agreement and relationship and everybody is on board for that being your DSE.
Then, no, there's absolutely nothing in the law that says you can't ever change your DSE. So any time you are doing a new state plan, you can revisit that if you need to, but remember that state plans can be amended any time, as long as all the partners agree to the amendment. And then you have to get approval of the amendment from the independent living administration but if all of a sudden there's -- I don't want to say it was really bad and you have a really bad relationship, but say there's something that comes up in state law for some reason that says that that state entity can be your designated state entity. There's nothing that prohibits the SILC and the centers from identifying a different state tenty, from the governor or whoever, whatever those limitations are at the state entity in submitting that to the SPIL that changes your DSE.
>> PARTICIPANT: Okay. Thank you.
>> TIM FUCHS: Great. Thanks.
Okay. Well, we are at the -- we are at 4:29 and I don't see any additional questions. So I will go ahead and begin to wrap up here. I will go to slide 36 where Ann has been kind enough to offer her contact information. And I want to offer my own email again, just in case. If you have a question and you don't have the PowerPoint handy. You can reach out to me, it's Tim@NCIL.org, it's on our website too. So that's Tim@NCIL.org. So if you have a question, whether it's later today or next year, it doesn't really matter, that's a big part of our role in the IL Network process to make sure that you have the questions and answers that you need. And then I will click to slide 37 now. And this is where you will find the evaluation form for today's webinar. Please do fill it out. I know a number of you were participating in small groups but I do hope that each of you will take a moment to respond. Like I said, it is brief. It doesn't take a long of time and I really do hope you will fill it out.
And with that, I will keep that link open so you can click on it. It was also in the confirmation email that you got, but with that, it's 4:30. Ann, I want to thank you so much for taking the time to share the model that you all have in West Virginia with folks around the country. And I want to thank all of you for taking time out of our busy schedules. Please do be in touch. Let us know how we can help as we think this through and share it with others. Thank you so much and have a wonderful afternoon, everybody. Bye-bye.
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