What is Independent Living?

- Independent living can be considered a movement, a philosophy, or specific programs.
- In the context of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living (ACL), independent living programs are supported through funding authorized by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (the Act).
- Title VII, chapter 1 of the Act states the current purpose of the program 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 integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society.”
Who is Part of Independent Living Program in Wisconsin?

- Wisconsin’s 8 Independent Living Centers (defined further on next slide)
- State Independent Living Council (SILC) which is known in Wisconsin as the Independent Living Council of Wisconsin (defined further on latter slide)
- Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC)
- Designated State Entity (DSE) which is the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources
What are Independent Living Centers?

Independent living centers (ILCs) are consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private non-profit agencies that are designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities, and provide an array of independent living services.

At a minimum, ILCs funded through a contract are required to provide the following independent living core services:

• Information and referral
• IL skills training
• Peer counseling
• Individual and systems advocacy
• Services that facilitate transition from nursing homes and other institutions to the community, provide assistance to those at risk of entering institutions, and facilitate transition of youth to postsecondary life.
What are ILCs? (continued)

ILCs may also provide:

- Psychological counseling.
- Assistance in securing housing or shelter.
- Personal assistance services.
- Transportation referral and assistance.
- Physical therapy.
- Mobility training.
- Rehabilitation technology.
- Recreation.
- Any other services necessary to improve the ability of individuals with significant disabilities to function independently in the family or community and/or to continue in employment.

Wisconsin independent living services are provided statewide.
What is the State Independent Living Council (SILC)?

- Each state required to maintain a statewide independent living council (SILC).
- The primary duty of the SILC is jointly developing the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) with the Independent Living Centers (ILCs) in the state, after public input from individuals with disabilities, other stakeholders, and all segments of the public.
- The SILC is comprised of 51% people with disabilities, service providers, and ILC staff.
- Members are required to have knowledge about ILCs and IL services.
- Members are appointed by the Governor for a three year term.
- Members are required to attend quarterly meetings held at ILCs.
State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

- To receive funding, states ILCs and SILC must jointly develop and submit a SPIL, which is a three-year plan for that state how to provide and improve independent living services for individuals with disabilities in the state.

- Independent living services are provided statewide and can only be provided by ILCs. IL services include:
  - Information and referral
  - IL skills training
  - Peer counseling
  - Individual and systems advocacy
  - Services that facilitate transition from nursing homes and other institutions to the community, provide assistance to those at risk of entering institutions, and facilitate transition of youth to postsecondary life.
• A SPIL must reflect the needs of individuals with significant disabilities in the state. To accurately describe the complexity of the challenges and barriers encountered both individually and at the systems level requires a thoughtful, organized approach. Relevant data should be gathered through existing disability statistics/databases as well as carefully designed needs assessment activities.

• The SPIL also identifies the needs and priorities of consumers, providers, and other stakeholders and sets forth goals and objectives to respond to them.

• The SILC and ILCs within the state develop a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

• Having a strong network for independent living in a state or territory is crucial. Collaborating on the SPIL development can help create a cohesive and unified vision among all stakeholders who have an interest in issues that impact citizens with disabilities.
SPIL (continued 2)

- This public hearing session is being conducted to gather feedback on IL services as defined on the previous slides.
- The SPIL cannot address issues outside of this scope, or based on individual needs.
- During this public hearing session, the SILC is seeking input on SPIL content. Specifically:
  - Mission
  - Goals
  - Objectives
  - Indicators
  - How to Reach Underserved Populations
Mission in Previous SPIL

A unified, statewide network of Independent Living Centers and other consumer-controlled organizations will provide quality services to support people of all ages with all types of disability in Wisconsin, as needed, to:

- determine the course of their lives and the services necessary to support their independence;
- be fully included as active participants by business, government and other parts of community life to maximize their leadership, empowerment and productivity;
- live independently in fully inclusive communities;
- have reasonable economic security;
- have meaningful access to health care and person-centered community living supports; and
- maximize their ability to effect change, manage their lives and live with a sense of personal power.
Example of Mission in the New SPIL Instrument

- “Wisconsinites with disabilities participate fully as they like in community activities.”

   Or

- “Wisconsinites with disabilities are valued equally and participate fully in their communities.”
Thoughts on a New Mission?
Goals, Objectives, and Indicators

• As defined by ACL:
  • Goals of the IL Network for the three-year plan are defined as: “intermediate outcomes, what you want to achieve, that build toward the mission.”
  • Objectives for the three-year plan must include geographic scope, desired outcomes, target dates, and indicators. Objectives are defined as: “specific outcomes – the changes you want to result from what you do – that build toward the achievement of a goal. Objectives should be outcomes focused, measurable, and have timelines/target dates. Objectives may include specific amounts and sources of funding to be used for an objective or activity.”
Goals, Objectives, and Indicators (continued)

• As outlined in the new SPIL instrument:
  • Be realistic with objectives, and do not include more than can be achieved in the 3-year period of the plan. Do NOT include all the ILCs work-plan objectives—the SPIL and the ILC work plans should work together but not duplicate each other.
  • Outcomes vs. Outputs – Outputs reflect how much was done, quantity of work, numbers of activities, etc. Outcomes reflect the changes that occurred as a result of the work done.
  • Outputs are how much work is done:
    • number of people served
    • number of hours of service
    • number of activities conducted
    • number of public service announcements
Goals, Objectives, and Indicators (continued 2)

- As outlined in the new SPIL instrument:
  - Outcomes are the changes or results you want:
    - changes in individuals (knowledge, skills, etc.)
    - changes in organizations (attitudes, programs, etc.)
    - changes in communities (attitudes, accessibility, etc.)
  - Measurable objectives include indicators—what information will tell you if you are being successful in achieving the objective—how you will know how fully the objective is being achieved.
  - Indicators should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely (SMART).
    - Specific – clear what exactly is being measured
    - Measurable – necessary information can be gathered with reasonable amount of effort and cost
    - Achievable – somewhere between too easy to achieve and hopelessly out of reach
    - Relevant – captures the core essence of the desired outcome
    - Timely – likely to move/change
Examples of Goals, Objectives, and Indicators from the New SPIL Instrument

• Goals:
  • 1. Individuals with disabilities live independently in the community.

• Objectives:
  • 1.1 Individuals with disabilities have access to transportation.
  • 1.2 Individuals with disabilities have access to the community-based resources they need.

• Indicators:
  • 1.1 Availability of accessible transportation increased by ____%.
  • 1.2 Community-based resources available increased by ____%. OR Waiting list for __________ Waiver was eliminate/reduced by ____%.
Examples of Goals, Objectives, and Indicators from the New SPIL Instrument (continued)

• Goals:
  • 2. Formerly underserved populations are served by ILCs.

• Objectives:
  • 2.1 ILC services are available in _______ county(ies).
  • 2.2 Hispanic individuals with disabilities have access to ILC services.

• Indicators:
  • 2.1 ____________ ILC provided services in _________ county(ies).
  • 2.2 All ILC materials are available in Spanish and Spanish speaking staff is available during all business hours.
Thoughts on Goals, Objectives, or Indicators?
Underserved Populations

• This can include, but it not limited to:
  • People with disabilities in urban versus rural areas
  • Specific disability groups or populations (for example Deaf people or people with physical disabilities)
  • Minority populations
  • Age groups of people served
  • People without access to transportation

• Thoughts On: Are there people in your ILC community who can benefit from IL services and are not receiving them?
Thank you for your time and feedback!

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