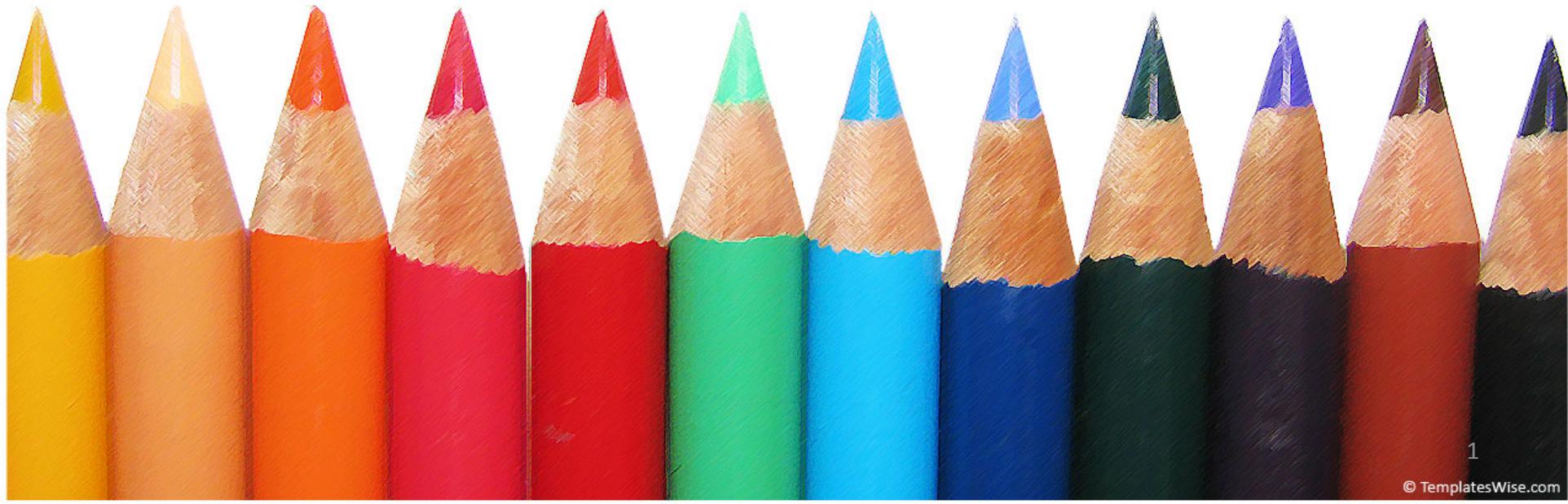


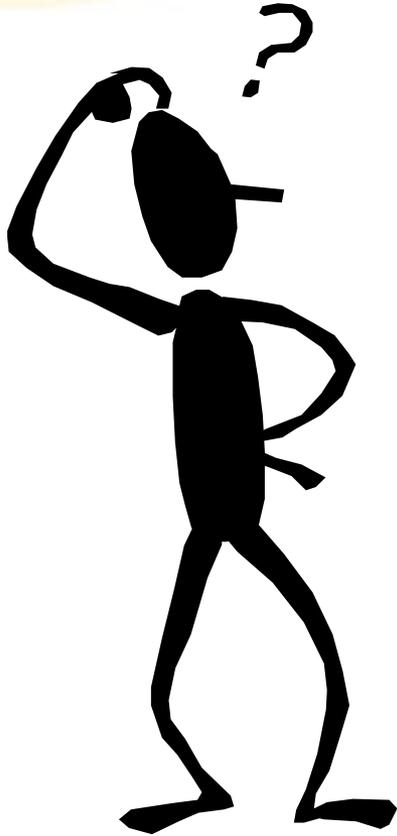
# A Basic Orientation

## Oregon's State Independent Living Council

*The voice of IL program consumers - Nothing about us without us!*



# What are we here for?



"The purpose of life is to collaborate for a common cause; the problem is nobody seems to know what it is."

- *Gerhard Gschwandtner*

# Let's start at the beginning!

Brief history: *The Independent Living Movement*

Setting the stage...

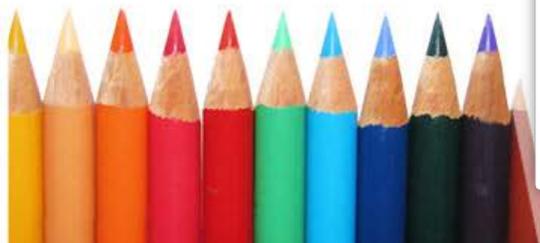
- Social crises
  - *Polio Epidemic & Returning Injured Veterans*
- The civil rights struggle 1950s & 60s
  - *Dignity & Equality*
- The consumer movement 1960-mid 80s
  - *Empowerment & Informed Choice*

# The Movement Begins to Form

- Ed Roberts and the Student Movement
  - *UC Berkley & the battle for access to education*
  - *Peer's support and assist each other*
  - *Community members come to these student for assistance with community access*
  - *Similar occurrences around the US*
- Capacity Issues
  - *Students must do peer mentoring off campus*
  - *Development of “The Center for Independent Living”*

# A Philosophy Forms

- *Right to independence & equal participation*
- *Not “patients” to be treated, but “consumers” of services*
- *Informed personal choice - the option to take risks - personal responsibility*
- *Respect/Dignity/Confidentiality*
- *Nothing about us without us*
- *Normalization/Deinstitutionalization*
- *People have unique strengths and abilities – they don’t need to be **fixed** to fit a standard – they aren’t broken*



*We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, while others are bright, some have weird names, but they have to learn to live in the same box*

*– Anonymous*

# A Program is Established

## Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1978

- Established first federal funding for Independent Living services
  - *People with disabilities begin forming Centers for Independent Living around the country*
  - *Advocates begin requesting clearer legal definitions to maintain the philosophy and integrity of the services*

## – Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992

- Established standards & assurances
  - *preventing hospitals and non-IL entities from using IL funding*
- Established State Independent Living Councils
  - *Consumer-controlled entities focused on statewide program planning and coordination*

# SILC Responsibilities

## 1. Writing and approving a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

- Developed jointly with CILs. Signed by SILC and CILs, with the Designated State Entity signing as the fiscal fiduciary for the program.

## 2. Examine and assess the quality of how the State plan is carried out, and monitor progress toward goals/objectives

- Working with partners to make adjustments when needed

## 3. Advertise and regularly hold, public meetings as opportunities for input

## 4. Submit periodic federal reports and maintain supporting records

- Refers to the annual report on State Plan progress – the 704 Report

## 5. Coordinate activities with other entities in the state that provide similar or complementary services, such as entities facilitating long-term community based services and supports.

### Major purposes of coordinated activities include:

- Assessing IL service needs
- Reducing service duplication
- Filling service gaps
- Achieving better service coordination

# SILC Authorities

Consistent with the State plan, and unless prohibited by State law, SILCs **may**...

- Work with CILs to coordinate services with public and private entities, to improve services to people with disabilities
- Conduct public and private resource development activities to support the SILC's activities or the provision of independent living services by CILs
- May do other functions, consistent with the purpose of IL services and the SILC's functions, that the Council determines to be appropriate

## Limitations

The SILC may not provide IL services directly or manage such services.

# What documents guide the SILC?

## FEDERAL

### **Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII - as amended**

Describes the structure and purpose of the IL program

### **Code of Federal Regulations**

Describes how to carry out the law in detail

## STATE

Executive Order of the Governor (1994)

Various Oregon Revised Statutes for Public Entities (ORS)

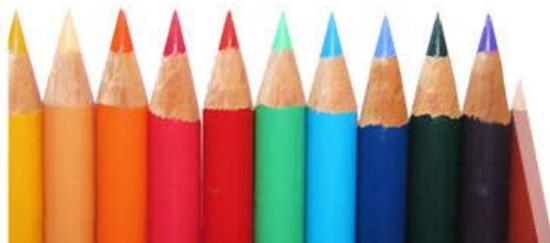
Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 582-085-0005 (*Regarding providers receiving IL service funds*)

Various State Policies – Financial & Human Resource

## SILC

Bylaws

SILC Policies & Procedures Manual



# Important Laws for SILC Members

- **Representation** - May not speak on the Council's behalf without specific Council approval
- **Conflict of Interest** – Announce a conflict of interest prior to any vote, whether the conflict is actual or might be perceived
- **Honoraria Restriction**
  - May not receive funds for conducting SILC presentations or representing the SILC at an event, other than cost reimbursement
- **Gift Restrictions**
  - May not give or receive anything of economic value greater than \$50/calendar year to/from a public official. This includes the immediate relatives or people who live with you or the public official. The limit for gifts of entertainment is \$0. Regular political contributions are an exception to the gift restrictions.
    - *Incidental entertainment at a permissible event is an exception*
  - Food or drinks are considered gifts, unless it is incidental food/drink free to everyone at a reception. Full meals are not incidental. *Exceptions include:*
    - *When you are there to speak or answer questions as part of the program*
    - *When at an official meeting, convention or fact-finding mission paid for by the federal, state, local or tribal government organization the SILC is a member of, or a non-profit corporation that receives less than 5% of its funding from private sources.*

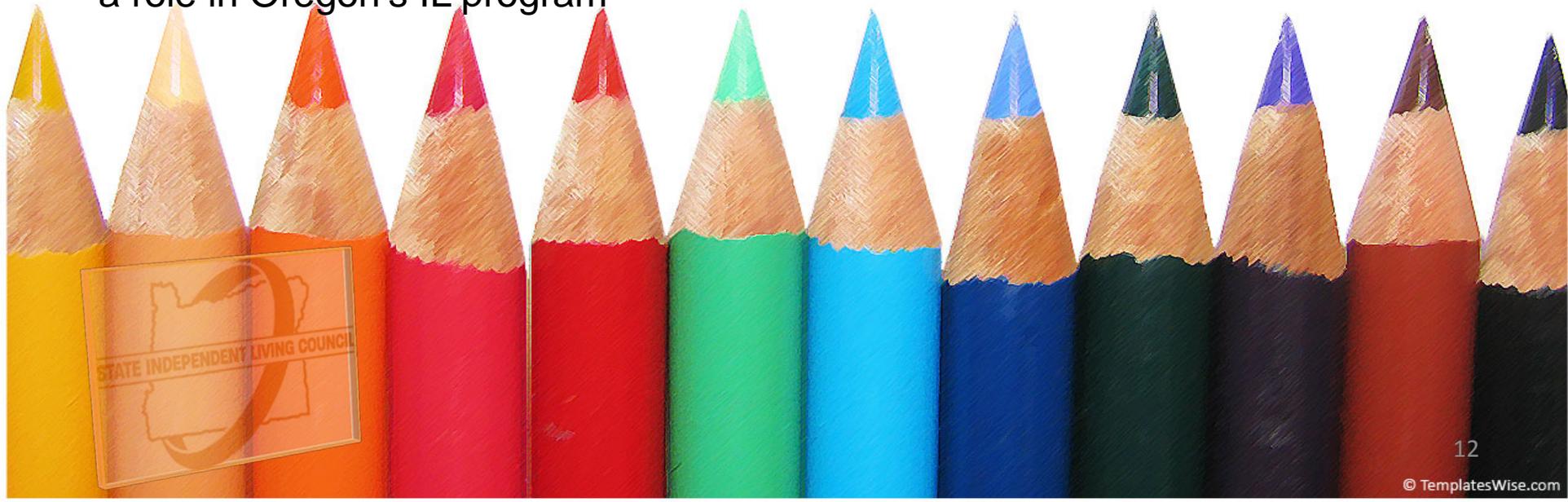
# Who are the Key Players in the IL Program?

- **Centers for Independent Living (CILs)** – Grass root, non-profits run by people with disabilities.
  - Provide services to consumers
  - Promote systems change
- **Designated State Units (DSUs)** – The Vocational Rehabilitation Program (within the Department of Human Services) & the Oregon Commission for the Blind (OCB) [This structure is in transition, and a Designated State Entity will be established to replace the DSU, consistent with new federal law]
  - Manage IL program resources
  - VR - Assure funds are going to eligible entities and are used for the intended purpose. (Includes verifying CIL accountability to program standards. Some CILs receive direct federal funds and are also monitored by the Federal authority.)
  - OCB – Receives funding to provide direct IL services to individuals who are blind
- **State Independent Living Council (SILC)** – Includes consumers, advocates, business & agency reps - a majority of whom must be individuals with disabilities
  - Coordinate statewide program planning - includes the IL state plan & coordination between IL services and other service programs
  - Enhance program effectiveness through monitoring state plan progress and identifying barriers that may need to be addressed

# Association of Oregon Centers for Independent Living (AOCIL)

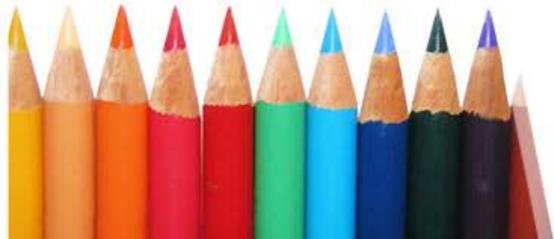
- **Forum for CIL consultation and consensus** on statewide initiatives that further independence for people with disabilities
- **Shared outreach and education initiatives** to community partners, including elected officials and governmental administrators
- **Shared service contracts or grants** with state or private agencies

This association is not defined in federal law as a program entity, but does play a role in Oregon's IL program



# The State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

- **3-Year State plan**
- **Provides guidance** for funding and activities of Oregon's IL program.
- **Responsibility for implementation** belongs to all IL program partners, but CILs have major role in regard to IL services.
- **Development of the SPIL** includes:
  - *Assessment of needs and other consumer input*
  - *Development of specific goals, objectives and activities*
  - *Setting of funding priorities for currently served and unserved areas*
  - *Signature by the SILC, 51% of CILs & the Designated State Entity*
- **Evaluation of the plan's implementation** is a SILC responsibility, working with partners to resolve barriers and improve outcomes.
- **State Plan progress reports (704 Reports)** are submitted each December by States and CILs that receive Federal funds. 704 = Rehab Act section about SPILs



# Here is a summary of what we are trying to accomplish in our current State Plan

## We are working toward:

- **Effective funding strategies** to support services
- **Maximized reach and effectiveness** of services
- **Changed systems and social attitudes** to create consistency with the IL philosophy

# Strategies planned to achieve the goals

- **Improve communication and collaboration between program partners** when developing budget requests and funding distribution plans
- **Maximize the geographic areas receiving services** through use of credible data to analyze service gaps and build funding strategies
- **Improve organizational management of CILs** by implementing identified effective practices
- **Identify service innovations** that increase effectiveness and reach more consumers
- **Increase use of structured agreements to facilitate service coordination** with other service programs
- **Develop an advocacy network** to facilitate information sharing between national, state, and local Independent Living advocates

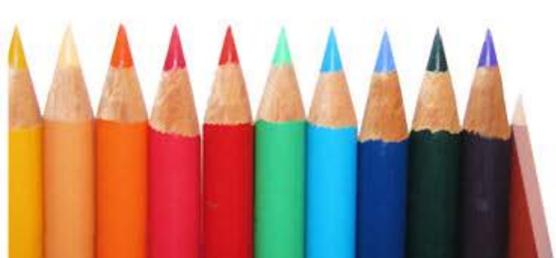
# Your job as a SILC member

***You are part of the SILC because your voice matters!***

- Complete the orientation process and keep on learning
- Prepare for, attend and participate in SILC meetings
  - SILC Bylaws - *“If it is determined that a member has consistently failed to participate in the work of the Council and its subcommittees, including but not limited to absence from more than 2 Council meetings or 1/3 of their committee meetings within an eighteen month period, the Executive Committee has the option of either initiating additional corrective action or immediately requesting the resignation of such member.”*
- Respond to email & other SILC correspondence
- Join a SILC work group or committee
- Be an ambassador for the IL philosophy
  - Occasionally, you may be asked to represent the SILC at an event (partner meetings, conferences, exhibits, etc.)

# Logistics – Travel Packets

- **Quarterly meeting travel packets**
  - Surface mailed and e-mailed 3 weeks before meetings
  - RSVP by the specified date – even if you can't attend!
- **State Travel Rules determine maximum reimbursements** - Use a travel claim to obtain reimbursements for:
  - Mileage or hired transportation
  - Lodging – keep receipts! (Unless direct billed to the SILC)
    - *70 mile rule for overnight status*
  - Per diem for meals that aren't provided at event, if on travel status
  - Disability accommodations (personal attendant/driver)
- **Meeting materials**
  - Surface mailed and e-mailed for arrival 1 week before meetings
- **Logistics Contact** – Joette Fitch – [joette.l.fitch@state.or.us](mailto:joette.l.fitch@state.or.us) – 503-945-7015



# Acronyms

As with any program the Independent Living program has many acronyms. Find a list of SILC acronyms...

- In your member binder
- On the table at each SILC meeting
- On the SILC website – [www.orsilc.org](http://www.orsilc.org)

