SPIL Public Meeting Format

The public meetings are designed to gather input for the development of the 2014-2016 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The meetings are scheduled for 2 hours.

Please follow the outline and instructions below. Be careful to follow the time frames closely (I advise that you have a time-keeper to help with this).

It is your job to keep the group on topic – to allow and encourage folks to answer the questions and provide input we can use – but to make sure they don't get so caught up in talking about their own problems that we don't get those answers and input.

Be sure you have someone designated to take notes on the flip chart. You may want to put up a flip chart page over to the side to write questions or issues that need to be discussed later.

Make sure everyone signs in so we have a record of attendance.

Introduction: (15 minutes) Power Point Slides 1-14

Please read all the content on each slide and be sure to discuss the following:

Slide 1 – Title

Slide 2 – Explain that funding for independent living comes to WV because of the Rehab Act

Slide 3 – Explain that they have to work together to write the SPIL and both have to sign it before it can be submitted to the feds for approval

Slide 4 – Explain that in WV, we develop the SPIL in partnership with DRS and with the CILs and with input from the public

Slide 5 – Explain that the SILC is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the SPIL but is NOT responsible for monitoring and evaluating the CILs

Slide 6 – Explain that the SILC does not provide services – the services outlined in the SPIL are provided by the CILs (and in some states by the Rehab agency)

Slide 7 – Review that the SPIL governs how Title VII, Part B funding will be used in West Virginia – this funding can be used to provide IL services, to expand IL services, to do legislative advocacy, and many other things. In some states it is used by the Rehab agency to provide IL services – used to be done that way here.

Slide 8 – Review the components of the SPIL – point out that under the WV IL Act, the SPIL also governs what we will do with State IL funds – also point out the importance of the Design for a Statewide Network of CILs – our network is not statewide – what we put in the SPIL about this will direct how any new IL funding will be used – also establishes priority areas of the state for new CILs

Slide 9 – Review how the funding is being used under the current SPIL – all the funds currently go to the existing CILs to provide services – some services are statewide – most are in 20 counties

Slide 10 – Go over areas CILs serve and the availability of services

Slide 11 – Review the map – point out that the two blue and gold checker board counties are base counties for Northern WV CIL and are CLSP counties for Appalachian CIL because the CILs divided up the service areas for CLSP for ease of access and to even the workload

Slide 12 – Explain that these are the top priority areas for a new CIL in the CURRENT State Plan – we have to determine whether these will continue to be the top priorities in the new State Plan

Slides 13 & 14 – Explain that these are the second level priority areas for a new CIL in the CURRENT State Plan – we have to determine whether these will continue to be the second level priorities AND what order of priority each area should be given

INPUT FROM ATTENDEES: (1 ½ Hours) Slides 15 - 28

Slide 15 – Explain why we are having these public forums and what it is we need from the folks attending – we need their opinions about what the needs are – how the money should be spent – what services should be provided with the money – where the services should be provided (what areas of the state) – what our priorities should be as we write the new SPIL – and that we have a series of questions for them to answer

Slide 16 – Explain we are talking about any kind of resources – what kind of help, information, services, etc. can you get as a person with a disability in your area?

Slide 17 – We want to know how you find out what is available in your community – media, Internet, library, other people? How?

Slide 18 – Where do people go? What processes do you have to go through? In order to find the right place to apply and find out if you are eligible for services/resources?

Slide 19 – Who do you talk to about your problems? About anything specific to your disability? To find out how to handle a problem you are having?

Slide 20 – Try to find out if the people in your forum know what a center for independent living (CIL) is and whether pwds in their area need access to a center for independent living

Slide 21 – Explain that:
- there are standards for CILs in the Rehab Act
- CILs must have a board and staff that are at least 51% people with disabilities
- CILs must be cross-disability
- CILs must provide the Four Core Services:
    - Individual & Systems Advocacy
    - Peer Support
    - Information & Referral
    - Independent Living Skills Training

Review the four core services – include that each CIL is unique and that other services are provided based on community needs and the direction of the board of directors

Slide 22 – Try to find out whether people are aware of any CIL and/or CIL services available in their area/community – if they are aware, ask how a CIL could help them as a pwd and/or their family member

Slide 23 – If there is a CIL in the area – are the people in your forum willing to advocate (make phone calls, write letters, send e-mails, talk to legislators) to get more funding for independent living so the CIL can do more - - - If there is NOT a CIL in the area – are the people in your forum willing to advocate for funding to start a NEW CIL - - - Be sure to get names and contact information for everyone who is willing (pass around a sign up sheet)

Slide 24 – Find out who at your forum is willing to serve on a board of directors for a new CIL in their area – are they willing to attend planning and strategy meetings to organize and advocate for a new CIL? - Be sure to get names and contact information for everyone who is willing (pass around a sign up sheet)

Slide 25 – Find out what they know about advocacy groups in their area and around the state – then make sure they know about:
- Fair Shake Network
- People First
- Disability Caucus (as an activity – coming again in 2015)
- ADAPT WV
- National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)
- DRS Community Affairs Committees (CACs)
- CIL Consumer Advisory Committees (CACs)
- WV Advocates

Slide 26 – Ask what they would consider to be discrimination – ask if it has happened to them or someone they know – ask what they did about it or what they would tell a friend to do about it – make sure they know they have rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws that make it illegal to discriminate against someone because of their disability

Slide 27 – Have a conversation about what pwds in their area need to be more independent and have a better life

Slide 28 – Have a conversation about what prevents pwds in their area from getting those things – what keeps them from being able to have that better life

Slide 29 – Make sure everyone puts their name on the sign in sheet so we have a record of who attended the forum – also let them know if they want more information to include their contact information – also make sure folks who are willing to advocate and folks who are willing to serve on the board for a new CIL sign those sign up sheets and include their contact information

Thank Everyone for Attending! Tell them we will be having public meetings next year to give them an opportunity to give us feedback and comments on the DRAFT SPIL before it is finalized and submitted to the feds – if they put their contact information on the sign in sheet we can make sure they know when and where those meetings will be – and we can make sure they get a copy of the Draft SPIL in advance

Slide 30 – Refer to my contact information so they can contact me if they have more ideas, questions, comments

Thank them again!