**Virtual Town Hall to Gather Input on the New SPIL Instrument and Instructions**

**Presented by Julia Kates, Ann McDaniel and Richard Petty**

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**Transcript**

>> TIM FUCHS: Good afternoon everybody this is Tim Fuchs with the National Council on Independent Living I want to welcome you all to our latest SILC-NET webinar today is our virtual Town Hall to gather input on SPIL instructions so we have organized this webinar and it's being brought by the SILC technical assistance center it's operated among a partnership among ILRU and NICL and APRIL and support for the center is provided by a CL at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services I had a little hiccup with my phone today and this is the phone I intended to use I hope you all can hear me okay please let us know in the chat if you have any problems hearing me at all.

So I want to walk through a few housekeeping things before we kick off today's event. First of all, this Town Hall like all of our webinars is being recorded and will be archived an ILRU's Web site. We are going to be taking your comments and questions throughout today's call. The whole point is for this to be interactive and to hear from you all and there's a few ways to share your comments and questions with us first of all you can use the chat feature in the webinar system most of you are logged into the Adobe Connect webinar. The chat of course is the text box underneath the list of attendees type your question or comment there any time during the call and hit enter and we will receive it we will wait until we're on the relevant discussions sections to address them. But you can type and enter your comments any time you would like. If you're on the phone today or prefer to ask your question live over the phone you can also press star pound and that will let our operator know that you have a question.

We'll take those in the order that they come in.

Just a heads up, if you press star pound we will see it. Sometimes there can be a bit of a queue until we get to your question if you press star pound again it will take you out of the queue so it's a toggle make sure you don't hit it twice unless you want to be taken out and if someone else answers the question that you had, or you don't have that comment anymore again you can hit star pound again and it will remove that.

Okay. We have some discussion questions that we're going to organize today's call around. Those were sent to you in the conversation email that you received. Of course most of you on the webinar are looking at the PowerPoint on the display right in front of you. If you're on the full-screen CART or only listening in on the phone make sure to open that PowerPoint it will make the discussion easier to follow along with if you don't have it handy email me at Tim@ncil.org. And I'll make sure to get a copy to you.

Oh, I want to mention, too, I mentioned the full-screen CART of course there's captioning in the webinar but there is a full-screen CART-captioning option that I'm sure many of you saw in the confirmation email. There's a chat feature there on StreamText. And so I will log in there, as well. So if you have comments and you're focused on the CART and you want to use that chat feature I'll be happy to voice them for you on the call.

Okay. And then finally before I do our introductions this afternoon I want to mention our evaluation form. So we take the quality of our program very seriously and we really like to hear from you after each of our calls so please do take a moment to fill out the evaluation after today's event. One of our final slides there's actually a link to the evaluation form. It's a live link. You can click right on it and I'll remind you at the end of the call but if you plan to do that today before you leave, we would really appreciate it. All right. So with that I'm going to go to Slide 3 and introduce our facilitators today with the introductions I just want to thank all of them, Julia, Ann, and Richard for taking time to be with us today to share their expertise and to be willing to take time to hear from you all, as well. So Julia of course is the chief of Florida's Division of Vocational Rehab, the bureau of program development and assistance. She is also a member of the SPIL revision committee, something that all of our facilitators have in common today and we'll talk more about that group in a minute. Also with us, Ann McDaniel, many of you know Ann, she is of course the executive of the West Virginia SILC and Richard Petty he is director of the National Center for Aging and Disability at TIRR in Houston and also of course co-director of ILRU.

So thank you so much to the three of you for being with us. Thanks to our audience and with that I'll turn it over to Richard to begin today's presentation.

>> RICHARD PETTY: Thank you very much, Tim. And welcome to all of you on the phone and on the webinar. It's gratifying and exciting to know that so many people are interested in this important topic.

I've asked Tim to hold here on Slide 3 for just a moment and that's because the contact information for Ann, Julie and for me is on this slide. Our email addresses are here. Now, we believe that the best time and best opportunity for you to provide input into the development of the new instrument, the new document that states will use to develop their state plans for independent living and the instructions for that document, the best opportunity for you to provide input is -- there will be a chance for good synergy, there will be a chance for others to key in from your remarks and for us to have. The best way to do it is in a Town Hall format. With that being said, all of us will welcome your comments in any way that you want to submit them. And using the email addresses on Slide 3 will be another way that you can provide input.

Let's move to Slide 4.

What we're asking of you, and what the opportunity is today is for you to provide input as stakeholders to the SPIL revision committee. We'll say more about the committee in just a little bit. You will provide input on the SPIL the State Plan for Independent Living. That's, as well, the process used to develop the plan.

You'll provide input on the roles and responsibilities of the SPIL partners. And the strategies that will promote healthy relationships among the partners.

And those partners include, of course, the statewide independent living councils, designated state entities. And most important or very important, probably most important of all, Centers for Independent Living.

You'll provide information that will assist states in developing achievable goals and those goals -- achievable goals and those goals demonstrate measurable outcomes.

Let's move to Slide 5, please.

A little bit about the SPIL revision Working Group. The SPIL revision workgroup was formed by ILRU, Independent Living Research Utilization at the request of the independent living Administration within the -- independent living administration within the Administration for Community Living.

The purpose of the workgroup is to develop a revised document or instrument for the State Plan for Independent Living, as well as the instructions that will be used by states in completing that document.

The work that we will be doing today and what we'll be asking of you is guided by the same questions that the SPIL revision workgroup has used to guide its work that it continues to use to guide its work in making these recommendations to the Administration for Community Living (ACL).

Now we'll move to Slide 6. And my colleague, Julie, will address guiding principles that the committee has used. And then we're going to be -- and that we'll be using especially today as we conduct this Town Hall.

Julie?

>> JULIE KATES: Hi everyone I just want to echo what Richard said thank you all for taking an interest in this topic.

We wanted to provide some guiding principles to sort of set the stage for what we're going to talk about today. And hopefully spark your imaginations a little bit.

Those principles are that our Federal statute, the Rehab Act as it was amended by WIOA and the final regulations are really the only non-negotiable elements that we have to deal with. There are things in regulation and law that have to be included in a SPIL. And so we have to do that.

But other than that, and our second principle, is that this is an opportunity for us to all be creative. We're not limited by how we've always done it.

In that vein, our third principle is that wishful thinking is strongly encouraged. I know that in ten years of writing state plans and dealing with the instrument and the document and all of the partners in it, I can count many, many times where I said, I wish this wasn't in there. I wish we didn't have to do it like this. I wish we could have done something else.

All your wishes now we want to hear about because this is our chance and that leads to the fourth principle and that is that we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity that we have to make this SPIL the document that we need to design and implement programs across the country. We can take our wishful thinking of how we want this document to work. And make that come true, hopefully. Or certainly have an opportunity to get it on paper and take it to ACL for consideration.

So I hope that you'll keep all of those things in your mind as we move forward. And I'll turn it over to Ann to do Slide 7.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Thank you, Julie. So just to tag on a bit to Julie's guiding principles, I would also tell you that ACL has been very clear in saying if we want to throw the whole thing out and start over, that is fine with them. So don't feel constricted at all. Anything that you think might be worth consideration, we want to hear about it today.

So the first thing to consider is why is there even a SPIL? What is the purpose of having a State Plan for Independent Living? Why should we have one? What is it going to do?

And at this point I want to hear from you all, what do you think? What is the purpose of having a State Plan for Independent Living?

>> TIM FUCHS: Thanks, Ann, so again, folks, if you want to share the purpose of the SPIL, you can hit star pound if you're on the phone and type your comments in the chat. Comments I should say, not questions.

Okay. It looks like there's a few people typing but we also have got someone on the phone so let's go there now.

>> Hi, I think that the purpose of the SPIL in many states has been just to make sure the money keeps coming in. But I think that the purpose of the SPIL should be to identify how the Council and others that work with it are going to bring about changes in the state that maximize the ability of people with disabilities to live independently. That should be the focus.

And I think that it should be not just about what's the Council going to do at its meetings. But what are we going to do statewide? Who do we need to talk with respect to state-elected officials and bureaucrats? What are the needs that our people are experiencing? And how can we work together to maximize their ability to live independently? That to me should be the purpose of the SPIL.

>> Thank you, do we have anybody else in the queue, any chat comments.

>> TIM FUCHS: Yeah, it looks like we have another caller in the queue and in the meantime Shelly from Oregon says the law lays out some of the purposes of the SPIL one of those is it forces necessary planning. Thanks, Shelly. All right. We're going to go to the next caller and if you would, caller, please identify yourself when you share your comment, thanks.

>> Hello, Tim, this is Shay in Arkansas, can you hear me.

>> TIM FUCHS: Very well, hey, Shay go ahead, thanks.

>> Hello, everyone, well back to Ann's question, I think that if the -- I think the SPIL is necessary because we have to have goals and objectives in order to measure data. It's very important to know if we're following the plan, you know, our goals and our objectives are being met. And we can take that because it's data driven. Take that data like if for example one of our centers doing some voter registration. How many individuals did you sign up? That's data that drives the funding that will help us even from the national level. So that's my take-home. It's very necessary.

I use it as a Bible in the office. And I think it's very necessary. However, you know, you've got to be innovative and I think as states and individuals that are doing this, there's ways to make it better.

>> TIM FUCHS: Great, thanks, Shay.

Other thoughts on the purpose of the SPIL? I see a few people typing. I'll give folks about 30 seconds to see if there are any other comments there.

Okay and Quinton asks what are some of the drafted outcome metrics, can you share, Quentin asks.

>> ANN McDANIEL: I don't know that I'm the person to answer that. In terms of outcomes, I think there's been a lot more work done with regard to the Centers for Independent Living and their work plans than there have been with the SPIL. We have talked about outcome measures and logic models. And there have been training on those. If anybody has a better answer for Quentin, I would love to hear it.

>> TIM FUCHS: We're going to talk some more about outcomes in SPILs later in the call. But again, it's going to be mostly for feedback to hear from you all.

Tink shares that her thoughts are framed by her experience with the SPIL in California. She says I haven't seen any others. I think ours is pretty excellent. But I wish it were easier to amend or revise to get quicker action when changes are needed.

I know you're not alone in that, Tink. Thanks for sharing.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Great.

If you have thoughts about this as we move along don't hesitate to type them in.

>> TIM FUCHS: Here is one from Emma. Sorry, Ann, here is one from Emma she says the SPIL should drive the statewide advocacy and result in quality effective service and then let that attract the funds.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Nice.

Who do you as the audience for the State Plan for Independent Living? We have talked a lot on our committee about how to make it more logical, how to organize it, how to make it more useful to states, to SILCs, to centers. And one of the things we're asking ourselves is who is the audience? Because that determines a lot about how it's organized and what kind of language you're going to use. I can give you examples but I would rather you give me examples of how you see as the being the audience for the SPIL, if you have this printed out SPIL, who are you going to share it with? Who do you want to be able to share it with? Who does it need to be understandable to?

>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Ann, it looks like we have a caller on the phone so let's go there now.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Thank you.

>> Hi, this is Teresa from Indiana. I think that the audience is twofold. I think firstly, the audience should be people with disabilities across the states who are going to be impacted by what the state plan proposes to do. And it should also include those decision makers that we're going to need to work with or call upon to make some of the changes necessary for their benefit.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Thank you, Teresa.

>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Any other thoughts on the audience for the SPIL? You can press star pound on the phone. And here we go. We've got another caller. So let's go there now.

>> This is Stephanie Jensen from Wyoming. One of the audience members for the SPIL is usually a new SILC member. And when I hand the SPIL to the new SILC member, they look at that and say, huh? Eyes glaze over, everything.

It's very long. It's difficult to understand. You know, I'll tell them, skip through the first part. If it doesn't apply to you. And yeah, a lot of that first part is needed because it's mandated by law.

Yeah, I mean, some policymakers do need to see it. But simple language might not hurt policymakers, either. And then the DSC does need to be an audience member because they are providing the funding. I know that Wyoming vocational rehabilitation has referenced it when there's been funding increases to know how to difficulty up the new funding.

So hopefully that gives you some ideas.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Thank you, Stephanie.

>> TIM FUCHS: Ann we have another comment from Tink and Tink shares it's important for all stakeholders to have some level of familiarity with the plan. Consumers probably would prefer a brief summary of the goals and actionable steps to implement with bullet points rather than reading the fully expanded version however that is available to them as well if they want to read the details. Our CILC is a state agency and the SPIL is on the Web site so the California SILC. Thanks, Tink.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Thank you, Tink. Any other thoughts about audience?

Okay. If you think of any, please don't hesitate to put them in the chat or get in the queue.

What do you currently wish that you could use the SPIL for but you can't because of the way it's written? If it could be changed and be more useful to you, how could you use it that you can't use it now?

I'm not talking about content. I'm talking about structure. Well, some content, I guess. Components. But not like what your goals ought to be.

The way it's written and how you could use it, if it could be any way you wanted it to be, how would it be more useful? Who could you use it with, what could you use it for, that you can't right now?

>> TIM FUCHS: We've got one caller in the queue this might have been on the audience question but let's start there and then we'll continue to take questions about uses sport SPIL.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Comments.

>> TIM FUCHS: Comments, thank you, Ann.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Sure.

>> So this is Mel out of Idaho. And because we're a state entity, I have to submit a five-year plan. And what I did -- and it worked well for us -- is so we have our SPIL and then the state plan is a plain language version of the SPIL. And then from that leading into your next question about using the SPIL, we turned that document into a chart where we track everything quarterly at our SILC meetings and people put into it what they do so it gives us good tracking for it, too. And I don't know that I would have gone to the effort of trying to turn that SPIL into a plain language document if I hadn't had to for the state. But it's something I would definitely continue doing because it's been so beneficial and made the documents so much more user friendly for people to actually have an idea what's in it.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Great, thank you, Mel. Other thoughts on how you could use the SPIL, if only it were different?

>> TIM FUCHS: All right. Well, Lisa wants to share, it has a lot of repetitive information and it's written in jargon so it's not very helpful in informing those outside of a CIL about independent living and its goals and objectives also I think the financial information should be in a separate document as it's constantly changing as resources increase or decrease.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Good point.

>> TIM FUCHS: Okay any other final comments or questions on the purposes or uses for the SPIL?

>> ANN McDANIEL: Let's go to the next slide.

>> TIM FUCHS: Sounds good. We're right on time. Thanks, Ann.

>> ANN McDANIEL: You're welcome.

Okay. What are the key components of a state plan? And we really want to hear what your perspective is about what does the statute -- what do the statute and regulations require to be in the SPIL? What should be in the SPIL to make it more useful? What does not need to be in the SPIL that is in the current instrument and is not useful?

And I'm lumping all of that together and you can answer any of those questions or comment on any of those aspects of what the key components of a SPIL ought to be to make it the kind of document that is really useful to you in your state.

>> TIM FUCHS: Great, thanks, Ann. All right, you all know the drill. But I don't like dead air so star pound if you have a comment or you can type your questions out. All right. It looks like we have a caller so let's go back to the phone. You can go ahead.

>> Hi, this is Teresa from Indiana again. I think that a relative aspect to the question is what are we doing to make sure that the content is substantive? You know, I mean, the document that exists now, it has just general guidelines for example, 75% of the state plans that our state submitted and got approved have goals that have to do with quote improving the Council's organizational effectiveness.

And that got approved.

And so I think that whatever component people recommend or whatever parts of the plan are developed, we need to have some assurance that it's going to be substantive and that someone is going to make sure that it is. Because otherwise, there's no -- you know, you can come up with 20 really, really great categories. But if we don't have a means by which there's some accountability for making sure -- well, for example, one category in the state plan has always said, how are you going to conduct outreach to members of unserved and underserved populations? How are you going to do outreach to minority population? In our state for 12 years the answer was we're going to have a booth at the black expo.

So having the component with the question there doesn't do any good unless somebody is going to say well you need to have something more substantive than to say we're going to have a booth at the Black Expo. You know what I mean?

>> ANN McDANIEL: That's a good example of something that we need to think about in the instructions. Because we are talking about an instrument and instructions that will provide guidance in how to develop the plans.

>> Yeah, but if it's just -- but my point is how -- if you provide instructions, right, and make recommendations, but you know ACL has said, well, we're not -- who is going to be making certain that the instructions are followed I guess is the question.

>> ANN McDANIEL: And I don't have an answer to that but what I'm saying is as we look at what all goes into the instructions, we'll have key components. But then there's also going to be instructions for every one of those that talks about what the expectations are.

>> Okay. That's good. That will be helpful.

>> ANN McDANIEL: That's something that we'll consider as we do that.

>> That makes sense. That's good.

>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. All right, well, thank you. We've got a couple more people waiting in the queue. So let's go to the next caller now.

>> Hello, this is Lorel from Everybody Counts North. And I had a question I wanted to know -- well, I actually wanted to know what was currently in the SPIL that those of you who were involved in improving it or felt there was a need to improve it or expound on some pieces, what did you particularly identify as being problematic or not as flushed out? Or what did you identify as some areas that needed to be in? And maybe that will come out during the call actually. But I guess a more immediate question would be, how can we in the wording of the SPIL guarantee the input of all SILCs as posed to most or as opposed not having very definitive language about what portion of the SILs have to be involved in the creation of the SPIL. Was that clear?

>> ANN McDANIEL: I think it was and I think that's another issue for instructions. That's my personal interpretation of the law that all centers need to be involved in the development of a plan. Centers can't be forced to participate. But should all be invited to the table and I would hope that they would all accept that invitation I think you end up with a much stronger plan if everybody is at the table all along from the beginning providing input and balancing the opinions and perceptions. So I would anticipate that the instructions will reflect that.

>> TIM FUCHS: Okay, thanks, Ann. All right. We have another caller. But I'm going to sneak in a comment from Emma. Emma shares specifics on where all of the funds used in independent living come from and where it's going would be helpful in showing equity and/or need within a state so that people with disabilities across the state can be completely informed.

All right. We have another caller waiting so we'll go ahead to their line now. Just a moment while we get you unmuted.

>> Hello, this is Dawn from Iowa, to me the SPIL I'm a really concrete and sequential person and to me the SPIL the way it's currently set up is just kind of all over the place and I think it's really important that each state set their goals, objectives, activities and outcomes and have a section. But this is a plan for your state independent living network so the CILs and the SILC need to come to agreement on what needs to be strengthened in the state. Some of that could be strengthening the operations of centers in SILCs. I know that's one 69 of the pieces in our SPIL. It talks about, you know, regular Board training and fiscal and programmatic accountability. That's one piece. But there's also other things that it talks about. And obviously, you know, we're told this year that we needed to make sure that we wrote stuff in about resource development. And about systems advocacy, especially for the SILC because those are now things that we can do.

But I just think it needs to be ordered in a better fashion where you start out with, you know, what are your goals and objectives and activities and outcomes that you're going to work on. And then some of the specific things about how are you going to do outreach to minority and urban and rural populations.

But I think, you know, a piece that's not in there that's not talked about but we have tried to remind people to write it in is one of them is what I just said about putting in about resource development and self-advocacy because you have to have it in your SPIL in order for the SILC to do it. But you know, there's also other pieces in terms of funding.

In our SPIL in Iowa I know that we have a formula for what centers need and we're very underfunded in Iowa so we have a formula that whenever new Part C comes down or Part B or state funding, you know, how that's going to be spread out among our current centers. And people don't understand that they need to put in that and caveat, like, you know, when we had a center close, you need to put something in there about what happens if the center in your state closes? But that's not in the instructions or in the format of the SPIL. So there's things like that that need to be added in. And Ann, I can send you kind of a list of my thoughts on that and I'll be happy to do that.

>> ANN McDANIEL: That would be great, thank you, Dawn.

>> Yep.

>> TIM FUCHS: Great, thanks, Dawn.

All right. In the meantime, Lisa shared, I would like it to include more of a Needs Assessment, which would include some of the consumer feedback, census data, et cetera. Showing why an ILC is addressing a particular need in that state. And also, if there is a reason they are addressing certain needs in geographic regions versus statewide, I think that would be helpful, too, as needs will vary by region, urban versus rural, density of providers, et cetera. Great. Thanks, Lisa.

Okay. Looks like we have another caller in queue let's go back to the phones and just a moment while we open up your line.

>> Hi this is Stephanie Jensen again. With the change in law, the spill will no longer need the piece about to build the blind (phonetic) I'm so glad that piece changed in the law. Very confusing.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Yeah.

>> Very confusing.

Section 6, the service provider requirements, tends to be a little confusing. It needs to be either simplified or something. It could be redundant to what the centers already have to do.

And I see here -- an arrangement of services that's required by law. It could also be simplified. It seems pretty confusing when working with the centers to come up with they are actually providing and those sorts of things. So the centers get confused by it. So anything to simplify the instrument on. Because if we can't understand or put it together, how is lay audience supposed to put it together? Mel mentioned that she used this chart because she had her -- what she had to provide for her state. And -- which helped her because it helped the state. So if we can have a simple instrument from the get go then that would be great.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Thank you, Stephanie.

>> Uh-huh.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Other thoughts.

>> TIM FUCHS: Teresa shares I think the SPIL should include specific information about the methods used to solicit stakeholder input, and how many people provided that input our SILC said that they are not required to even send out a press release, let alone do any additional outreach and as a result only 3 people other than SILC members provided input.

Okay. Shelly shares, I agree that we have a summary that talks about -- that if we have a summary -- excuse me -- that talks about what was learned from the Needs Assessment and how that connects to the goals and objectives selected, the plan would be more logical to readers. I also agree with Dawn about some things being disjointed. If outreach and working relationships are required, it seems they should be integrated into the goals, objectives and activities.

Okay. We've got a couple more minutes for the key components. And oh, there we go. We've got some more comments rolling in.

Tink shares, like Iowa, our California SPIL now includes a plan for allocation of new funding. Our SILC does extensive work to collect input from all stakeholders and to look at needs assessments and other data that helps to identify unserved and underserved. I tend to think of the framework like a logic model without the grid. In other words, inputs, outputs, who is responsible and goals. Both short and long term. The bottom line is what will be different as a result of all of the work everyone will be doing. Going back to the example about outreach, the plan should describe the methodology to be used to do outreach and a measurable goal.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Thank you, Tink. Other thoughts?

>> TIM FUCHS: Okay.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Go ahead.

>> TIM FUCHS: Just one quick comment, another one from Teresa. The plan should also include specific information in terms of how and when the SILC is going to discuss the contents of the plan.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Okay I would like to hit one more time on what is in there now that shouldn't be? That you don't think is useful and you don't believe is required.

>> TIM FUCHS: While we wait for those comments, Lisa shares since CILs serve similar populations as other groups such as ADRCs et cetera it should also explain how the CIL is addressing these goals differently from other groups and finally Teresa says our SPIL is now a year old and there has never been a conversation about any of its goals.

All right we're going to move on in a moment so just wanted to highlight again, Ann asking folks what is in the SPIL now, what's in the current instrument that doesn't need to be in there?

Any final thoughts before we move on?

I see a few people typing so let's give just 30 seconds to see if any comments come in.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Yeah.

>> TIM FUCHS: Well let's go ahead and keep this moving and I will certainly share any comments that I see come in in the meantime.

>> ANN McDANIEL: Thank you. We'll move to the next slide.

>> TIM FUCHS: Yeah.

>> ANN McDANIEL: And I believe I'm turning this back over to Julie.

>> JULIE KATES: Okay. This next slide has to do with the roles of all of the partners and it's specifically getting at once the SPIL is signed and approved by ACL what do each of the IL partners owe to the commitment to which they agreed.

And I want to do this in two pieces I think. And talk about the first one on its own. And then we'll take the next three altogether.

So the first question on here is: How could we better clarify the SILC's responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the SPIL in the SPIL instrument or the implementing the SPIL as approved? So how can we clarify the SILC's responsibility in monitoring progress on the SPIL? Is there a way that we could make that better, easier to do? Stronger?

>> TIM FUCHS: While we wait for those let me share the last two thoughts Tink says although the plan is long it can be a good tool for helping people outside the CIL arena to understand the requirements we have to follow and how that's being implemented in their state. And also Teresa shared, our SPIL is only addressing CILs which -- our state plan is only addressing CILs which receive only state funds. Is that supposed to be what's happening?

All right. So I wanted to share that and then we'll see if anybody responds to Julie's question.

>> JULIE KATES: I don't think that's what's supposed to be happening, no. You're supposed to -- at least the old SILC is supposed to reflect the resources going to the independent living program across the board. What we decide to put in the new SPIL, what do you think it should include?

So is there anything that anyone wants to say about the SILC's responsibility? If not, we'll open it up to these other three questions.

>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. It looks like we have one on the phone, Julie so let's go there. All right, caller, you can go ahead. Hello? Can you hear me?

>> Hi this is Dawn from Iowa. Sorry, we got put on mute for some reason and forgot we put ourselves on mute.

(Chuckles).

>> I'm looking at this question on better clarifying the SILC's responsibility for better monitoring in the SPIL instrument and implementing the SPIL as approved. And you know, I think it needs to be clarified that the SILC probably is the one that brings the partners together to jointly monitor the implementation. Because the SILC alone can't monitor the implementation of the SPIL because everybody has different pieces to do. And everybody needs to report back on their pieces so it will all be pulled together.

So you know, it does need to be clarified that maybe the SILC is the one that pulls the information together and pulls people together to talk about it. But the other partners have to be involved, too, in monitoring the implementation. It should not just be the SILC only.

>> JULIE KATES: Okay, thank you.

>> TIM FUCHS: It looks like we have another caller. So let's go to the next line. Caller, you can go ahead.

>> Thank you, this is Lorel from Everybody Counts North again. And I think this -- I'm not sure if this is echoing someone else's concern. But my issue was, again, how it's possible for there to be some real concrete evaluation of the impact that the SPIL is having on people with disabilities that are not on the SILC. I think that's my biggest thing in terms of kind of trying to deconstruct our state -- yeah our state's SPIL, as someone already said, you know, in terms of reading it, there just didn't seem a whole lot of -- I guess not exactly oversight but there has to be some type of evaluation method about whether or not these -- whether or not what is written is actually positively affecting the lives of people with disabilities in the state. And what type of measure is that? And who is doing that? And of course the primary people to do that should be the CIL. But what is that process? Making it a little bit more definite. And as well, the question I had before which is about who is included in creating the SPIL, I think there is -- as one of the presenters said there is a consistency in that. So there's some inconsistency about should all CILs be involved in the creation of this SPIL? Should only 51% of the CILs be involved in it? And 51% is the -- the law says that's how many center directors need to sign off on that SPIL but not in terms that it should -- well not that it should but it must be all SILCs at least there being some outreach to also participating in it not that all center directors have to but there should be an inclusion of all -- and how is that measured? I guess that's my big thing. How is all of this being measured? How is all of this being evaluated? Because I think without that you have the situation -- the independent situation where you have a SPIL that's -- the Indiana situation where you have a SPIL written in extremely vague language and the affect that had on the lives of people with disabilities within the state. Thank you.

>> JULIE KATES: Thank you. .

>> TIM FUCHS: Great, we've had some comments come in on the web in the meantime so let me walk through these.

So Jamey from Maryland shared we need to encourage SILCs to include the CILs as part of the SILC so they can work together as partners I fear SILCs are not as IL as they should be I know most could be but many are not so what can we put in the SPIL to foster better relationships?

And then Teresa shares if the CILs are supposed to be in the -- involved in the development of the CIL why shouldn't -- SPIL why shouldn't they be involved in the Annual Report which is supposed to report what goes on the law requires that the SILC includes members that represent the centers but there's tremendous disparity as to how that individual is selected and how long they serve so I think the SPIL should include specifics as to how that individual has been selected, how they are interacting with the other CIL directors. In our state, the person so identified has openly acknowledged that he will only communicate and work with certain individuals.

Tink from California shares, I don't know what the instructions say about monitoring the SPIL. Our SILC has a SPIL committee, comprising some SPIL members and their monthly meetings are open and joined by some CIL directors as a representative from the DSE. It needs to be a process in which everyone holds themselves accountable for implementing the plan and moving toward the goals.

And finally Quentin says, I think that all groups that are valid should be a part of the SPIL.

>> JULIE KATES: Okay. I think you all have really good questions. And -- about how to really -- how do we hold each other accountable for the work that we do, for the promises we make in the SPIL and the commitments we make in the SPIL?

None of us have the magic answers to that. And that's part of why we wanted to do this call today. Because we're hoping that you'll have some thoughts on how to accomplish those things. Because I'm not sure anyone would disagree that they are all important and that it would be a next step in independent living development if making our SPIL really a true partnership. And with that I'm going to segue into the next few questions. And we'll just deal with these all at one time. Because they really get down to that role issue.

How could we better clarify the roles of the CILs in implementing the SPIL? How could we better clarify the DSE's role in funding and administering the independent living services program as set forth in the SPIL? And how can we revise the SPIL instrument to foster better collaboration between and among the IL partners?

I think you guys have asked some of these questions during the call what do you think? How can we do this better? How can we answer those questions?

>> TIM FUCHS: I just commented about an echo on the call. Hopefully no one else is hearing an echo. If you're listening on the phone make sure your computer speakers are also not on. So you're welcome to listen over the phone or computer but if you try to do both, you will get an echo.

Let me walk through some of these comments that have come in in the last few moments.

Let's see. I think that the SPIL should include information as to the SILC's policies, allowing public participation in their meetings. Quentin shares, this should be public, private and corporate partnerships. Teresa continues whether it's okay to call the police if a 16-year-old talks a few seconds over an arbitrary time limit. Shelly says I find that SPIL developers sometimes struggle to understand what the purpose of monitoring the implementation of the SPIL is. What's the end game? That needs to be clear.

Okay. It looks like we have another caller in the queue so let's go there now.

>> Hi this is Lorel from Everybody Counts North I actually wanted to ask one of the facilitators to repeat their question before the Web site questions were taken. There was a question that was thrown out. And I didn't quite catch the end of it.

>> TIM FUCHS: Sure. We'll try to repeat those questions that we're asking for comments more often. Thanks, Laurel.

Okay. Teresa shares the SPIL should include the information as to the SILC's policies regarding advertising their committee meetings, allowing people to participate if they attend, et cetera.

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>> JULIE KATES: Right now we're talking about the roles of the various IL partners in the development and implementation of the SPIL.

I heard something that I would like to have a little bit more discussion of, if people are interested. It's almost sounding to me that some of you are asking for states to be held more accountable by our Federal partner for what's in the SPIL and how the SPILs are implemented over the three years and whether or not we're accomplishing the goals that are in the SPIL. And I'm sort of curious about whether -- what that would look like.

Because it's always been one of the tensions that we've had that we put a lot of things in our SPIL and it has goals for some really big ideas. But if we don't achieve those big ideas, do we want ACL to come take our money away? We don't want to hurt ourselves by writing a SPIL that's too big and having negative consequences of that. But we also don't want to aim too low for fear of being held accountable if we aren't able to achieve everything.

So for those of you who have talked a little bit about that accountability, I'm sort of curious about what you think that would look like.

Tim, are you still there.

>> TIM FUCHS: Yes, I'm sorry maybe I was on mute. We have a caller on the line so let's go back to the phones.

>> Hi, in response to what would that look like, this is Lorel from Everybody Counts North. I guess in my mind, if the SILC is supposed to be the legislative advocators. They are supposed to be making relationships and pushing for -- I'm sorry; legislative process towards inclusion, towards accessibility, things like that, I think that the evaluation should very much -- well a part of it at least should come from the evaluation of the SILC should come from the CILs. And I think it should also -- I think in that the CILs should be very engaged for their community to also provide an evaluation for what the SILCs have done. The issue with that is, though, after there's been all of this evaluating and I guess holding accountable, who is responsible for making sure that the SILC either changes in places where there are problems and some significant problems, very significant problems, in Indiana, a lot of attention -- we know we have a housing issue when we're trying to place people with disabilities in accessible housing, the issue is that there's very little low income housing. And some cities have an active campaign to almost make it even more difficult for low income people to get housing as we know if we're talking about a senior population, on a fixed income with disabilities even more so.

So there's an area there for legislative advocacy that's direly needed. But if our SILC isn't providing that legislative advocacy in that area, what is the recourse not just for the CIL but for the population of people with disabilities that are being affected by that inaction? So I guess that's one part. An evaluation not just by the CIL and the center employees. But also by the public that this affects.

But where is that oversight to for lack of a better word enforcing better practices? Where is that oversight coming from? I think without that oversight you can have people on a SILC committee that are not engaged with people from a particular area of the state. Unfortunately our situation, there are no Representatives from our area on the state. The police is often used to silence us as the advocates when we try to say that there's no advocacy for our area of the state.

And nothing really ever changes the one change we have experienced here is there's now been a proposal to cut out my center, the center I work for, out of state funding. So that's an issue.

And it's not an issue for me as an employee. It's an issue for the population of disabled people that this center serves. It's an issue so I guess that's what I mean. By what I mean is, what it could look like. It's not just people having input. But it's also where does the force of that implementation of better practices come from? It has to come from somewhere. Or else the input doesn't really mean much. In my opinion. Thank you.

>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Thanks, Lorel. Julie I'm going to read a few people who responded directly to your last question. And then move us along.

Just because I want to make sure that we have plenty of time for the last slide.

Okay. So Mike from Wisconsin shares, I would hate to see ILA, the Illinois administration evaluating our plan I think their role needs to be limited to whether the plan meets the legal requirements, and two, is the state effectively evaluating its own implementation.

Kim says, if we're talking about creativity, then we shouldn't have punitive action for the SPIL's objectives that we were not able to accomplish.

And Teresa shared that she disagrees with Mike. You have the legal requirement by saying that the way you're going to reach minority populations by having a booth for Black Expo. So they are still going to get their money. What is the SILC's incentive for doing something more in-depth?

Okay. And just some other quick comments before we move on. About the general slide. Teresa shared revising the SPIL instrument to foster better collaboration between and among the IL partners. Because people with disabilities should be considered IL partners, as well.

Lisa shares, as the DSE, we are working to get more money to our network to fund their work. However, it's hard getting DWD and others to understand why and how she should partner with the CILs as with the change from RSA, they don't necessarily understand their role or why they should partner. If it's no longer outlined or defined in the law. It makes it harder to engage these partners and to get them to commit funding at times.

And finally Tink shares, it appears to me that some of the issues identified are related to how the SILC, the California SILC is constituted since our SILC is a state agency, all meetings are open and everyone is welcome to attend and we have a long standing collaborative relationship between the SILCs the DSEs and the CILs. There are also individual consumers that follow SILC meetings and give input at public workshops, et cetera if there isn't a willingness to collaborate and communicate there's no amount of instruction in the SPIL that can create that kind of partnership.

All right. There are a few more comments here. Julie, would you like to borrow another minute or two to walk through these last few comments? Julie, are you there?

>> JULIE KATES: Yes, I was muted this time. Yes, a couple more minutes on this topic and then we'll move to Slide 10. Thank you.

>> TIM FUCHS: Okay. Great. I think we can fit it in. Jeremy shares, for accountability, having a final SPIL report where you give a description of what was done for each goal with a section of what was the outcome. You can explain whether the goal was met or not and why. There are annual reports done for the SILC but nothing that's a final report of the SPIL this makes the SPIL less of a Strategic Plan and more of just a document.

Emma shares, the SPIL is a plan. There are many things it can and will impact the implementation of a plan. The more united the partners are in developing the plan, the more difficult it will be for a funding agency to simply penalize the partners for areas of incompletion. This is why collaboration and true partnership, including the engagement with the public, are so very important. This is also why it's critical to maintain autonomy from the DSU -- or DSE now.

Okay. Beth says, I don't think the centers should monitor the SILC. There is a reason the law limits the number of CIL members on the SILC.

And Teresa says, the law says you can't have a majority of CIL directors on the SILC but if nobody is implementing that law, you have Indiana. So maybe the centers shouldn't monitor the centers legally but most certainly their input should matter, especially if there's nothing that requires the official CIL rep to actually work with all of the centers.

Okay. Thanks for making time for that. Would you like to go ahead to the next slide?

>> JULIE KATES: Yes, please. And thank you, everyone, for indulging my curiosity about -- for follow-up. And I think that this discussion really emphasizes one of the things that the workgroup has been struggling with and that is from state to state, our experiences vary so much that it's difficult to fully understand how this instrument affects each of you around the country. And that's why your input here is so valuable to us.

So the last slide that I'm going to do is, what's involved in drafting an achievable SPIL? What makes it achievable? What makes it measurable? And what direction can we provide to help states draft an achievable SPIL? What do we need in the instrument and in the instructions and through training and technical assistance?

I know this is something that ILRU has done in the past with lots and lots of information.

What can we do that would change the instrument or the instructions to make the achievability and measurability stronger?

>> TIM FUCHS: All right, it looks like we have a caller on the phone so let's go there now.

>> Hi, this is Stephanie Jensen again. One of the things that could be included in the instructions and/or training and technical assistance, although this has been in some training and technical assistance in the past is the limit -- to limit how many goals and objectives you have because when you put in too much, it waters it down and also makes it difficult to achieve.

You know, something that could be included in training and technical assistance is how to turn your activities into an objective, a goal and objective, so that if an activity changes, your whole CIL doesn't go out the door. You can achieve your goal in whatever way is needed depending on how the different landscape changes. And it's also noticed, especially when I first came on, that there's this tendency to put in everything the CILs are doing or the partners are doing. And that's not the case. You don't need to put in everything that you're doing. I know everything is there but the kitchen sink. And (inaudible) to me.

But you only need to put in the most important things or else it's -- the things you're doing anyway, probably, unless it's a SILC authority, you don't need to necessarily have in there. Hopefully that helps to get some ideas.

>> JULIE KATES: Okay. Thank you.

>> TIM FUCHS: All right. What direction can we provide to help states draft an achievable SPIL, Mike Bachhuber says money.

(Chuckles).

>> JULIE KATES: I hear that.

>> TIM FUCHS: Okay, Teresa says things that would help would be assurance that all stakeholders would be involved as partners. And specific goals which identify who will be responsible for what and when. Identify the means by which achievement will be measured, by whom and within what timelines. It's important to provide direction to SILCs with respect to what the real purpose of the SPIL is. When SILCs identify the role as being only to develop a SPIL, it's pretty clear that they don't understand their responsibilities.

Okay. It looks like we have another caller in the queue so let's go back to the phones. Caller, you can go ahead.

>> Hi, I'm sorry this is Lorel I earnestly forgot my question. I apologize.

>> TIM FUCHS: That's okay. All right. I see some people typing. So let's see if we have some other folks that have thoughts on achievable and measurable SPILs.

Okay. It looks like we have another caller in the queue so let's go back to the phones.

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>> Yeah, this is Mel again in Idaho. So this was really -- this was my first SPIL. But I come from a really project and data collection background. And we're a tiny state. And we all get along and play well together. For the most part.

But I think -- so what actually helped me a lot was just I probably looked at close to a dozen SPILs that other people had written once they got them drafted. And that was helpful. And everybody's is wildly different. One is wildly different from another. And not one is better than another. They are just different. So I was just like, screw it, I'm going to write it the way I do things. And again I'm very project oriented so I work on timelines. But I just think if there was more -- I mean, I think it's great that we have the flexibility really to write these vastly different plans because we're different states with different needs. But just some kind of direction as to like someone said earlier, don't pick ten goals to do and then outline 20 projects under each goal.

And if there could be just a little bit more direction as to what -- because in different fields, objectives look different. So what's an example of an objective? You know I know what an objective is in my mind. But you ask 10 different people and they will give you 10 different answers. And for me that was really difficult. Because I could never -- I felt like I was trying to write to get it proofed. And again it was my first one -- to get it approved and again it was my first one so I had no clue that that just kind of happened. So I felt like I was writing to make sure it got through ACL but also I pitched that out the window and just went, I'm just writing it for what people indicated in their -- in the meetings that we had and in the surveys we sent out and we had really good participation. So we had a lot of material. But it was just to me the form is just -- it's vague. And that could be me. But I've completed a lot of Federal forms before. And to me the form was just vague.

>> JULIE KATES: Okay, thank you.

>> TIM FUCHS: All right. Thanks, Mel. Tink says, it sounds like many would benefit from training and technical assistance on how to plan steps to follow to develop a plan, samples of what a plan should look like, et cetera. There seems to be a widely diverse of array of skill levels and understanding of how to do this.

And Lisa says, I think sometimes CILs may want to only create goals that are measurable against 704 data. We need to think broader about how we can submit a true report of SPIL outcomes rather than SILC recording on 704 data that may not have relevance to the goals in the SPIL. So if changes to the SPIL are made, changes may be needed to reporting on SPIL whether that is the 704 or not. I know this data can be valuable as a baseline when drafting the SPIL, so I don't want to disregard that, that is important but sometimes they are not always related.

Okay. KS or maybe it's Kansas says I agree with Mel -- yeah, Kansas. I took -- it took Kansas SILC a while to figure out that our SPIL could be completely different than every other state collaboration is key between the SILC and the CILs, evaluation can be done in lots of different ways, as well. And Teresa says, RSA and ACL have sent a boatload of trainers to Indiana but there is no requirement that anybody actually follow the direction they are provided.

Okay. And this is actually our last feedback slide. So let's take these last few moments before we move on to next steps. Just to cover your final thoughts on what it would take in the revisions to the instrument or instructions to help states draft more achievable and measurable SPILs.

Shelly says, when you actually calendar your activities, it simultaneous becomes apparent that things aren't achievable. That might be a suggested approach to determine what you actually can get done.

Teresa says I'm disappointed that you say you've been meeting without reps from CILs but think today is a good start of dialogue that is long overdue and needed. My question is, can we put thoughts together and submit them to the committee? And the slides were very specific and good to follow.

>> JULIE KATES: I can say yes, please do that. Anyone can answer any of these questions and send them in. I'm not sure who they should send them to. But you can send them to any of us, our contact information…Richard is going to say.

>> RICHARD PETTY: Hi Julie, this is Richard. Coming back to our initial statement, you were very -- you are very welcome to write Ann McDaniel, Julie Kates, or me, Richard Petty. Our contact information is on Slide 3. And we very much -- it's on Slide 3. And we very much welcome that. We certainly wanted this opportunity to discuss these issues, synergistically in this Town Hall setting. But we encourage and welcome written comments directly to any, or all three of us.

>> TIM FUCHS: Great, thanks. I don't see any additional comments on this slide. Excuse me Teresa says I applaud all of you for today's endeavor and your patience during the process.

All right. Well, should we go ahead to next steps? Richard, are you ready to take over.

>> RICHARD PETTY: We will do just that. And thank you to Ann, to Julie and to Tim. After this call, the text -- the chat information, the transcript of the call, will be presented to the SPIL revision workgroup. Many of the members of the workgroup are on the call today and have already heard your comments.

That, by the way, is a 15-minute working group which includes representatives of SILCs, of centers, designated state entities. And representatives of ACL on that group, also. So this information will go to the committee and it will use this information in creating a draft of the documentary self. The SPIL instrument, and also the instructions for using the instrument.

The final draft will be submitted to the independent living administration within the Administration for Community Living.

The instrument will be published in the Federal Register for public comment. And the -- there may be changes based on the public comments that are received after it's published. And of course, those -- that process in the Federal Register is governed by the Administrative Procedure Act. So I'll just say, once again, as we are concluding, thank you, those of you who called in to give us your guidance and your recommendation. Your input. It's been very valuable. I know that the committee will find it extremely useful as it continues its work. And we look forward to hearing from any of you who would like to write us offline back on Slide 3. Once again, you have our contact information. And we will be pleased to receive that.

So again, so many of you are here. We're grateful for that. And now we'll move to the evaluation slide with Tim. Tim?

>> TIM FUCHS: Great, thank you, Richard.

All right, well here it is as promised here on Slide 12 is the evaluation form. So again, it may take you away from the webinar so be aware of that. You can wait until the webinar is finished or hold your control key and it will make sure it will open in another window please fill this out I know some of -- some of you were participating in small groups but please fill them out as individuals if you don't have time to fill it out you no or if the webinar closes before -- this is also going to be sent to you with the email you sent with the instructions. Again I want to thank all of you today for taking time to share your thoughts and comments. This has been a really excellent conversation and we just about filled the whole hour and a half that we had for this. So please do take advantage. And share your -- share any additional thoughts that you have with the folks from the committee. If you don't have the PowerPoint handy, you're welcome to write to me as well and make sure -- I'll make sure to get them to them my email is Tim@nicl.org I just want to mention in talking about the SPIL today there were a number of questions came up that were about SPIL content and development outside of the possible revisions to the instrument and instructions and I just want to remind you all that the IL-NET and SILC-NET specifically have a whole host, a boatload to borrow Teresa's word of resources on that, on the web. ILRU is generous enough to host that material on their Web site. So if you're not familiar, check that out. It's all organized by content. You can go and see all of the SPIL and SILC resources in one place. And if you have any trouble finding that or if you would like an orientation I know I would be happy to walk you through it as would anyone from NICL, ILRU or APRIL that's involved in the project.

In fact, Sharon Finney from ILRU just posted a link to that Sharon it's not easily to do verbally you can see it at ILRU.org/projects/SILC-NET. So anyway, I just want to plug that. We put a lot of effort into this program. So I want to make sure you all know that those resources are online for you and new any SILC members or partners that you have.

So thanks again to you all. Thank you so much Julie, Richard, and Ann. I really appreciate the time that you took. You volunteering for the committee in the first place. And then taking time to be with us today. This has been really useful and I appreciate you all agreeing to facilitate this.

With that we're going to go ahead and close the call. I hope you all have a wonderful afternoon. Bye.