

02-22-2024 INSILC SPIL Committee CIL Director Input Meeting Feedback

Attendance

The following were in attendance to this meeting and had the opportunity to provide feedback:

Leslie Hawker – Member of the SPIL Committee

John Guingrich- The League Fort Wayne

Chris Spinks- Public Health Director at SILCL, co-chair of the SPIL Committee

Renee Jackson- Counselor Advocate with Everybody Counts and Everybody Counts North

Virginia Bates- Director of Program Improvement, part of DSE, and member of the SPIL Committee

Teresa Torres- Director of Everybody Counts & Everybody Counts North

Tammy Themel- Director of Accessibility

Jim McCormick- Director of ILCEIN

Becky Anderson- Director of ATTIC

Dee Dodds–Director of the WILL Center in Terre Haute

Anna Thompson-Jones- Director of SILCL

Amy Varble-Brown- Director of SIILC

Amy Luellen- Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, facilitator in the meeting

Halie Brown- Member of the SPIL Committee

Theresa Koleszar- Director of DSE

Document Layout

Topic Person giving feedback or Agreement to Feedback Feedback on Goals

Please find below items that are grouped by a TOPIC and then the PERSON GIVING FEEDBACK OR AGREEMENT TO FEEDBACK and then the FEEDBACK ON GOALS that they gave feedback on.

NOTE: Feedback on Goals is presented in a summary/compilation format and is NOT word for word as stated by the individual providing the feedback.

DEFINITIONS of CATEGORIES

Accessibility - expands access to information in all formats across all platforms.

Advocacy - Advocacy means getting support from another person to help you express your views and wishes, and help you stand up for your rights. Someone who helps you in this way is called your advocate.

Education - teaching or informing individuals and entities about the disability community and independent living philosophy, issues/solutions for the disability community and give a better understanding of the aspects of the Independent Living Network in Indiana.

Grassroots - Grassroots movements and organizations use collective action from the local level to implement change at the local, regional, national, or international levels.

Outreach - an effort to bring services or information to people where they live or spend time

Partnerships / Collaboration - Collaborative partnerships are agreements and actions made by consenting organizations to share resources to accomplish a mutual goal.

Advocacy

Leslie- SPIL Comm

- The important thing is to refocus the state plan for independent living to be more focused on the people with disabilities in the state. There are a lot of people struggling because their needs are not being met.

Tammy

- Agree that it's important to increase funding.

Education

Leslie- SPIL Comm

- Your average everyday person has not a clue what INSILC is, what the plan is, what services are available, etc.
- First you will have to educate people about what the SILC is, and what the state plan is so that they have an idea when they come in because you're going to get people coming in and saying "oh, I need a ramp, I need this and that" which isn't really specifically part of the plan.

Tammy

- Create a sheet explaining what the meeting is about, and then create an information sheet that explains the basics of independent living, what SILC is, what a CIL is, and what the SPIL is.

Renee

- Get the flyer to organizations, especially during disability awareness month, since they will be doing programs, and they can spread the information to people.

John, Tammy, Jim, Anna, Renee

- Promoting the IL Philosophy throughout the state is important.

Grassroots

Tammy

- It's also important to increase the voice of people with disabilities in order to create change.

Outreach

Leslie- SPIL Comm

- Has a list of colleges and universities as well as government entities to reach out to.
- There needs to be a better way to reach out to people.

Kacie- SPIL Comm

- How are we engaging people with disabilities? Are we tapping into all available networks such as VR, State agencies, and key disability organizations in Indiana.
- There are listening sessions and in-person events planned for people to provide input.
- With an extension, we can encourage people to reach out to bigger organizations so they can join the public meetings. This will allow people to provide input on how to improve.

John, Virginia-DSE

- Is there a way for VR councilors to send an email to every consumer informing them about the public meetings? We can facilitate something along Those lines, yes.

Tammy

- Look at setting up a public survey as another way to gather input.

Chris-SPIL Co-Chair

- Look into adding a link where people could be directed to the INSILC website and fill out a form where it's automatically uploaded.

Partnerships/Collaboration

Kacie- SPIL Comm

- If you have any information regarding where appropriate public places are to share information about public meetings, please share that with us to distribute information more widely.

Leslie- SPIL Comm

- We can't just rely on sending stuff out to the CILs because they're not going to be able to dispense things in a way that will be able to reach everybody.

Virginia-DSE

- We could also connect the CIL groups, in the meeting with Heather with the Bureau of Disability Services and we could potentially ask how we can utilize getting that information out to their providers.

Other Feedback to Consider

John, Tammy, Jim, Anna, Renee

- I think all these goals are still valid and the reality is the Council, right or wrong, for whatever reason, hasn't been in the position to actually work on them in the last year or longer. These need to be some of the goals we focus on going forward. Maybe redefine them a little bit and take a look at the objectives.
- The current overarching goals need to be worked on.

Leslie- SPIL Comm

- I think we have to refocus a little bit and get the plan not so focused on these goals that we've been rehashing for years, but we need to plan more for the future.

Renee

- Those goals need to be looked at and possibly redefined. We should move forward with the goals that uphold the IL philosophy, and more funding is needed to be able to pursue these goals.

Chris-SPIL Co-Chair

- Look at other SPILs and consider how to improve the SPIL based on those documents.
- We are going to put together some resource materials and evaluation methods from other state SPILs to kind of get a broader idea of what the possibilities are, maybe expand our objectives under evaluation. And then they can also help us to better structure that evaluation process.