

# SILCK Annual Report on Progress/Implementation from the 2014-2016 SPIL

Submitted 04/16/2015

## Preface

The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are the support beam of Independent Living (IL) in Kansas. They have the staff in the communities meeting one on one with persons with disabilities, finding the resources, reaching out to supports, and making sure the voice of IL is heard across Kansas on what would make our state more inclusive. A majority of the CIL staff are people with disabilities themselves, peers who have an understanding of how far Kansas has come and how far it still has to go. While the report below shows the statistical data on how many consumers are receiving services or setting goals in the areas of Transportation, Housing, Employment and Outreach, SILCK thought it was important to understand what the frontline people thought the progress of IL in Kansas was as well. Below is a summarization of feedback that was given to the SILCK from the CILs;

The SPIL workgroups are great; they provide a way for staff across the state to share and network and really promote a coordinated effort to meet the goals set in the SPIL. The momentum needs to continue through participation by CILs and other disability organizations.

IL stands a far better chance at accomplishing goals when we work together, on all aspects, all CILs, all IL partners, and DCF. It really made a difference when the state would come to the table, state the problem and ask for input. Everyone worked together for the common good, following the same roadmap.

Core services funding needs to be increased, CILs are struggling to achieve the goals set forth and meet the needs of people in their service areas. With an increase in services expected with WIOA this will become even more difficult.

Advocacy has become a bad word at the capitol, when it should be viewed as a method to achieve integration for individuals with disabilities, which is our mutual goal. CILs should not be fearful to do advocacy, it is one of the core services.

SILCK appreciates the feedback from the CILs and hopes that this report gives insight on the progress of the goals of the SPIL and the hard work and complete dedication of IL providers in the state of Kansas.

## **Goal 1) Kansas communities and persons with disabilities have an awareness of needs, rights and responsibilities.**

**Component 1: Persons with disabilities are aware of CILs, the services offered, as well as their rights and opportunities.** The first SPIL Forum was held in Wichita, KS in September 2013 and four workgroups were formed by various CIL staff and community disability organization staff. The Outreach workgroup was formed with representatives from 8 of the CILs, KYEA, and KACIL. While the

membership has changed somewhat over the first SPIL year, the collaboration of the group has stayed consistent. This workgroup was tasked with branding the statewide outreach efforts and came up with the tagline; Recognizing Disabilities, Emphasizing Possibilities. This tagline was incorporated into the SILCK logo and used on materials created by the group. The statewide outreach efforts were divided into three different target audiences: General outreach, Youth outreach and Professionals outreach (to focus on education and medical). The group developed a list of organizations and entities to target for each audience and plan to tailor specific materials for each. A general PowerPoint was developed with talking points on core services and common language. They then plan to test these materials at 3 different CILs (each presenting to a different audience) to determine what, if any, changes needed to be made before distributing statewide. A PSA and video were also planned and both are in the beginning stages. The group plans to disseminate these products to the CILs for their use in Outreach efforts in year 2. All information from this workgroup has been shared with the SILCK and the DSE as it has come available.

**Component 2: On a statewide level the network of CILs is aware of transportation availability and needs.** The Transportation workgroup was formed with representatives from 7 of the CILs, the Veterans Administration and the SILCK Board. This workgroup developed a survey tool and distributed it to each of the CILs to disseminate in their community to transportation providers. The survey captured community level data such as service area, total number of riders with special needs, prioritization, waiting list, funding sources, types of vehicles used, types of services, dispatching system, scheduling/invoice system, coordination between providers, training for drivers, background checks and more. Over 100 surveys were sent out and approximately 30 were received back by the transportation workgroup. The data that was returned was compiled into a spreadsheet and discussed in the group. The survey, instructions, and data were provided to the SILCK and DSE as they became available. Unfortunately with such limited surveys returned and some of the surveys that were returned were not completed fully it made it very difficult to have any strong data to review, however what was available showed what the group already suspected, transportation in rural areas is lacking, there are pockets in urban areas that have decent services but statewide coordination between providers is virtually non-existent. A noteworthy thing happened from this groups interaction with different transportation councils, committees, groups, etc., a member was asked to be on the Kansas Department of Transportation's Regional Transit Initiative to speak to disability related issues.

**Component 3: On a statewide level the IL Network is aware of housing availability and needs and has coordinated input into the consolidated plans for housing.** The Housing workgroup was formed with representatives from 7 of the CILs. This group worked quickly at the beginning of the SPIL year and gathered information and provided input and comments to the Kansas Housing Resource Corporations regarding the Kansas Consolidated Five Year Plan and 2014 Annual Action Plan. Some of the recommendations included: on the needs assessment include people with disabilities and an additional group with disproportionate housing problems and add a list of the housing problems they are experiencing, provide incentives for the development of affordable, energy efficient housing for both rentals and homeowners, provide education to landlords on what is required for a dwelling to be considered accessible, increase basic accessibility features in new housing, increase basic accessibility in

existing housing that is being rehabilitated, and to include the Housing workgroup in KHRC's future efforts . This workgroup coordinated an effort to develop a list and identify the number of **affordable and accessible housing units from** several different housing entities, including the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation, Public Housing Authorities, United States Department of Agriculture, Tribal Housing Authorities and local housing resources. The result is a comprehensive spreadsheet that lists accessible and affordable housing options by county **in** the following categories: low rent, Section 8, Rent Subsidy, USDA Section 515, Senior, Disability, Senior/Disability, and Family. The workgroup realizes that this list will not be able to be updated as far as numbers of units on a regular basis, but it does give a very good guide on where to look and how to contact lots of different housing providers. The Housing and Enforcement Resources and SPIL Housing Survey were developed during the FY 2014 fiscal year and shared during the October SPIL forum. All items were shared with the SILCK and the DSE when they became available.

**Component 4: Integrated competitive employment is attainable for persons with disabilities, and myths about hiring them are dispelled. Persons with disabilities are aware of the benefits of employment and services available to them to help attain employment.** The Employment workgroup was formed with representatives from 8 of the CILs, the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation, the Potawatomie Prairie Band Nation, the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Veterans Administration, KACIL and a SILCK Board member. This workgroup developed a document called SPIL Employment Resources which included information on job search, training, skills, employee resources, disability friendly employers and employer resources. They also worked on obtaining short videos from local employers regarding hiring a person with a disability and the benefits of doing so. The employment workgroup has also assembled a package of information and resources (also called a toolkit by this group) for CIL staff to learn how to better assist consumers find employment and how to market the CILs services and prospective consumers to local employers. This toolkit consists of information on accommodations, incentives to employers, myths and facts of hiring a person with a disability, marketing to an employer, job matching and job carving. Discussion on a video training to share with all of the CILs on effective employment models has been happening, but it is still in the discussion phase as there is a lot to coordinate in the production of a fully accessible video. The workgroup is setting up a focus group of employment providers and employers to present the toolkit to and receive feedback on. All items have been shared with the SILCK and the DSE as they have come available.

**Goal 2) Kansans will have program and physical access to support integrated inclusive community living.**

**Component 1: Kansas youth with disabilities access CIL and youth mentoring services to increase their independence.** The FFY 2014 704 data shows that 167 consumers requested assistance and 161 of those requests received services to work towards a desired goal in youth transition. This is an increase in services of 78% over FFY 2013 where 101 consumers requested services and 90 received youth transition services. CILs collaborated in several different ways to reach out and educate youth in their areas, some of those ways included: Disability Mentoring Day projects, Living Well with a Disability presented in the school, student interns through the ICON project, and various community education events. Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEA) which is the youth mentor contractor for the SPIL

coordinated several programs that served youth with disabilities. Those programs include: Kansas Youth Leadership Forum -19 participants, Living Out Loud Presentations-56, Mentoring Matters, ICON -5 interns, Empowerment Services-8 plans.

**Component 2: Kansas IL consumers gain access to needed transportation.** The FFY 2014 704 data shows 239 consumers requested assistance with transportation and 212 of those requests received services towards transportation goals. This is an increase in services of 13% over FFY 2013 where 232 consumers requested services and 187 received services toward transportation goals. Furthermore, data shows that 1,078 goals were set, 436 goals were achieved and 590 goals were still in progress for FFY 2014. In comparison FFY 2013 had 1,057 goals set, 401 goals achieved and 647 goals still in progress. And lastly in 2014, 11,341 consumers requested access to transportation, 863 achieved access and 302 had access still in progress. In 2013 14,640 requested access, 485 achieved access and 160 had access in progress. CILs partnered with transportation providers to offer disability and awareness training to staff and management, as well as joining and providing expertise to various transportation councils and advisory boards in their communities.

**Component 3: Kansas IL consumers receive services which support them to live independently in their community of choice.** The FFY 2014 704 data shows 1994 Community Based Living goals were set, 443 goals were achieved and 1524 goals are still in progress. Nursing Home Relocation shows 148 goals were set, 54 goals were achieved and 94 goals are still in progress. In comparison FFY 2013 704 data shows 2610 Community Based Living goals set, 955 goals achieved, and 1629 goals in progress. Nursing Home Relocation shows 79 goals set, 29 goals achieved and 46 goals still in progress. CILs provided education on services and resources at local health fairs and community events, as well as providing Transitional Living Services to Money Follows the Person participants.

**Component 4: Kansas IL consumers increase independence by setting and achieving vocational goals, and by gaining competitive integrated employment.** The FFY 2014 704 data shows that 543 consumers requested employment services and 529 of those received services. This is an increase of 192% over FFY 2013 where 291 requested services and 275 received services. Furthermore 2014 data shows 528 vocational goals were set, 125 goals were achieved and 389 goals are still in progress. In comparison, 2013 information shows that 568 goals were set, 155 goals were achieved and 388 goals were still in progress. The Department of Labor statistics for Kansas are from a 2009-2013 survey and show a total labor force of 1,387,885 with 87,784 being a person with a disability. The survey lists the unemployment rate as 6.9% total, and 15.2% for people with disabilities. No more current DOL statistics were available. Some CILs have provider contracts with KRS to provide employment services, others have independent grants to fund their employment services and others simply assist in employment as independent living skills training.

**Component 5: Kansas IL consumers have the knowledge to access healthcare resources.** The FFY 2014 704 data shows that 5213 consumers required access, 3,142 achieved access and 1,833 have access still in progress. In comparison FFY 2013 704 data showed 7,289 consumers required access, 3,932 achieved access and 3,299 had access still in progress. CILs work with the Managed Care Organizations to understand all of the intricacies of the KanCare program, however with the changes that have occurred

in the past couple of years, it is not surprising that the number of consumers requiring access to healthcare resources remains high.

**Goal 3) Kansas Centers for Independent Living have the network capacity sufficient to meet the needs of the communities they serve and the consumers who reside there.**

**Component 1: CIL funding opportunities.** CILs worked on efforts to diversify funding in provision of services. Examples of this are the partnership with an Managed Care Organization (MCO) to fund home modifications, continued referrals made by the MCO increasing use of the Money Follows the Person grant to assist consumers in relocating from a nursing facility, increased use of Kansas programs such as Working Healthy and WORK to assist consumers in gaining employment, partnership with an MCO through a trial grant project related to employment, use of volunteers, county funding and sharing of successful fundraising ventures among the CIL network.

**Component 2: Training of staff and board.** CILs worked together to identify and implement trainings across the network on many areas of practice including serving underserved populations, IL Philosophy, financial management. The SPIL workgroups are all developing types of training resources to share with all of the CILs.

**Component 3: Partnerships.** Connections with other service providers in the community increased offering more opportunities for referrals and increasing quality of wraparound services offered to CIL consumers. Some areas of focus were sexual assault and domestic violence, employment, housing, safety and disaster preparedness, services for the deaf and hard of hearing. New partnerships were established for referrals to and from the service provider to offer better services, volunteer opportunities were explored through social organizations. One CIL focused on collaboration with KU to build community capacity, assess community needs, analyze barriers and goals and develop action plans for intervention and increased participation.

**Component 4: Services.** Populations of persons with disabilities targeted for outreach included the deaf and hard of hearing community, persons who are low vision or blind, the Hispanic population and youth. Strategies included connections to organizations serving those populations or a subset of a population, staff training focused on underserved populations, assignment of a staff person to full time outreach.

**\*\*Additional information from the 9/11/14 SPIL Forum\*\***

**Goal 3 info from the 9/11/14 SPIL Forum**

Activities, partnerships, funding and services

**RCIL:**

Continuum of Care group

local housing committees

Mainstream-Nonprofit sector advocacy group

Going into local schools and teaching about Disability awareness-has bulletin board kits and stations and willing to share how they do this with other CILs

**Independence Inc.:**

Working with KU MBA students to research DOL, how to expand current services and revenue sources

Partner with different stores and restaurants to receive 10% of revenue from the day as a fundraiser

Partner with different business for Blue Jean Friday donations

Outreach to ADRC, Hospital case managers, and others through projects like DMD, renting office space to complimentary organizations, providing transportation to work comp carriers as a revenue source

**LINK:**

Working with local schools and superintendents

Partner with SKIL, Hospital, Police dept., The Children's Center, Batters Intervention and more for the Confronting Violence in Our Communities Summit.

Strong partnership with SKIL, and the AAA/ADRC in sharing information

**PILR:**

Pratt and Dodge office put on a Low Vision Community Resource Fair and provide a lot of service collaboration.

Received increased county funding

Participate in Disability History and Awareness month in local schools.

**OCCK:**

Participating in the planning of the KS Disability Caucus for 2015

**SKIL:**

Partnered with JR. Miss KS to raise money for an accessible playground in the community

Partnered with LINK, hospital, police dept., Children's center and Batters Intervention in the Confronting Violence in Our Communities Summit

Strong partnership with LINK, and the AAA/ADRC in sharing information

**KCDD:**

2 RFPs out; Prevention of Abuse Neglect and Exploitation Grant and Employment Systems Change Grant

**General items shared:**

Disability Day Mentoring organizers have a Do's and Don'ts on social issues skit available to them

Kansas Health Foundation has possible funds for Advocacy