

# What's Up with WASILC

December 2018 — March 2019

Washington  
State  
Independent  
Living  
Council  
(WASILC)

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## New WASILC Chair

I am honored to serve as the new Chair of Washington State Independent Living Council. As a member of the Council for the last three years it's inspiring to reflect on our past accomplishments and the planning and implementation that it took to achieve them. In the midst of the SPIL season, I anticipate and embrace opportunities to continue to grow. The Council will continue to collaborate and strengthen partnerships, further integrate diversity and inclusion, and refine our advocacy efforts at a statewide level. I appreciate working with volunteer council members who are passionate about the Independent Living Philosophy and the mission it serves. This is the driving force behind what makes this a success and I hope to continue to hold that presence as we move forward.



Keith James, Chair of the Washington State Independent Living Council

## Partner Updates

The Center for Independence (CFI) co-hosted three SPIL Forums with the SILC Director and staff in Vancouver, Marysville, & Lakewood. CFI has several robust youth programs which recently celebrated a Fall Fest. Additionally both offices are working with five high schools teaching advocacy, self awareness, and pre-employment skills. The Roads to Community Living program transitioned six people from nursing homes in the past 2-1/2 weeks and assisted a student with housing after receiving an eviction notice. Yearly, they host a harvest meal for *Out & About* support groups and prepare for the annual Christmas gifting program. Recently, staff provided an emergency preparedness and information presentation for the South Puget Inter Tribal Planning Agency and took part in an exercise at a local shelter to assess for accessibility in an emergency. It's a busy time of year!

Disability Action Center (DAC), NW hosted a National Career Mentoring Day for students ages 16-24 with a disability. The event was November 30th at Spokane Falls Community College. Career Mentoring Day is a nationwide effort to promote career development for students with hands-on exploration. "By matching students with mentors in our community, we can give them an opportunity to 'test drive their dream job'," says project coordinator Mels Felton, "This gives them the opportunity to get their hands dirty with an on the job experience." This is the first time CMD has been hosted in the Spokane area. The program is offered at no cost to the student or the schools. CMD hopes to give transitioning students the skills they need to pursue the employment or post-secondary education of their choice.

## Legislative Reception

January 16, 2019

5:30—7:00 pm

Columbia Room of  
the Legislative  
Building  
State Capitol

Not sure who your  
representative is?

Search [HERE](#)

[https://  
app.leg.wa.gov/  
districtfinder/](https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/)

Flyer details can be  
found [HERE](#).

## Travis Alert

In 2017, the Washington State Legislature passed SHB 1258, known as the Travis Alert Act, [RCW 43.70.490](#). The law required the Department of Health (DOH) to collaborate with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), State Fire Marshal's office of the Washington State Patrol (WSP), Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and Washington State Council of Firefighters (WSCFF) to review existing training programs both local and nationally to design a state wide training program to familiarize fire department and emergency medical service personnel with the techniques, procedures, and protocols for best handling situation in which persons with disabilities are present at the scene of an emergency. The training is mandatory for all EMS personnel.

DOH brought together members of groups designated by the legislation as well as key partners from the disability community such as WASILC, Alliance of People with *dis*Abilities, DVR, and Thurston and King County among others. The disability partners provided the subject matter expertise on disability culture, language, and protocol for working with people with disabilities. The disability experts informed the curriculum for the two-hour training.

As part of the legislation, DOH is to provide a list of disability related organization and agencies on the DOH website. This website is voluntary. If you are interested in accessing and/or being part of this resource, the links are below:

### List of Disability-Related Organizations and Agencies

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/DisabilityOrganizations>) on the DOH website. Disability Organization Registration Form ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

## State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

WASILC held six SPIL forums in Marysville, Seattle, University Place, Vancouver, Wapato, and Spokane. We will conducting two more forums in the Tri-Cities (December 18<sup>th</sup>) and Clarkston (December 19<sup>th</sup>). You can also give us feedback by filling out the survey at [www.wasilc.org](http://www.wasilc.org) or click on the link below. We have extended the deadline for our outreach to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Look for the draft SPIL in the Spring of next year!

### **People with disabilities, Families, and Caregivers Survey**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ConsumersFamilyCaregivers>

### **Community Partners, Service Providers, and Stakeholders Survey**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PartnersProvidersStakeholders>

Spanish versions are available on our [website](#).

## Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Preparedness Update

Jim House, Disability Integration Manager for the Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP), a program of WASILC, was one of two people selected by Region 10 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to participate in the agency's Strategic Planning efforts for 2018 to 2022. FEMA's Region 10 is comprised of the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. FEMA will explore the effectiveness of its current policies, and develop new procedures to align with the following three goals outlined its Strategic Plan for 2018-2022:

1. Build a culture of preparedness where everyone should be prepared when disaster strikes.
2. Ready the nation for catastrophic disasters and enhance our collective readiness.
3. Reduce the complexity of FEMA to promote simpler, less complex processes to streamline the processes for individuals and communities to receive necessary support through its response lifelines.

What CIEP is mostly concerned about and advocated for is the steep loss of ADA expertise during disasters. We would like to see more disability specialists on the state and local levels as well and hope that FEMA will support us in this area. We must remember, that an ADA checklist for shelter accessibility is pretty much useless in the hands of someone without the experience of living with a disability, and does not really know what to look for. And it is not possible to evaluate access and functional needs if you are not on site. For information about CIEP you can either go to our emergency preparedness [page](http://www.wasilc.org/EmergencyPlanningWorkshops/EmerPlnWrkshps.html) <http://www.wasilc.org/EmergencyPlanningWorkshops/EmerPlnWrkshps.html> or reach out to Jim at [housej@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:housej@dshs.wa.gov).

In California wildfires, disabled people may be left behind:

<https://sf.curbed.com/2018/11/13/18087964/california-wildfires-disabled-people-elderly-evacuationdisabilities?fbclid=IwAR33reGnZaGz36fDc9M63pF8Csum24EZIaMqmZIDLQRYEIAQjEL98xn6G6Q>

## 2018 - 2019 Quarterly Meetings

January 15-16 2019, DoubleTree Hotel Olympia 415 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501

April 11-12, 2019, Bellingham, WA

July 11-12, 2019, Vancouver, WA

October 3-4, 2019 Wenatchee, WA

**All meetings are scent free.**

**Contact staff for accommodation requests at (360) 725-3693.**



## WASILC

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The Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC) is a Governor-appointed council that works to promote a statewide network supporting the Independent Living Philosophy for people with disabilities through advocacy, education, and collaboration. WASILC's vision is a world where people with disabilities exercise equal rights and participate fully in all aspects of society.

We welcome your feedback regarding your experiences and concerns!

Advocacy. Education. Planning. Collaboration.



## Join WASILC!

We promote the Independent Living (IL) Philosophy by empowering communities through advocacy, education, planning, and collaboration. This philosophy emphasizes the idea people with disabilities are the best experts on their own needs, deserving of equal opportunity to decide how they live, work, and take part in their communities.

### **HOW YOU CAN ENGAGE**

WASILC strives to ensure statewide representation of

members who represent a broad range of individuals with geographic, disability, business, ethnic, service provider, advocacy and agency diversity. If you are committed and passionate



WASILC members attending a Quarterly Meeting.

about the values and mission of Independent Living or are interested and want more information, please contact Kim Conner, Executive Director, at:

kimberly.conner@dshs.wa.gov or 360.725.3695.

To apply, submit an online application to the Governor's office at:

[https://  
www.governor.wa.gov/  
boards-commissions/  
boards-commissions/apply-  
serve-board-or-commission](https://www.governor.wa.gov/boards-commissions/boards-commissions/apply-serve-board-or-commission)