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Reflections from the WASILC Chair

Sometimes we all take the philosophy of independent living that WASILC promotes for granted. The truth is that even those that provide independent living services often need to revisit the philosophy to avoid supporting a system of dependence.

The independent living philosophy says that every person with a disability has the right to make personal choices of acceptable options and

take risks just like everyone else, and then accept responsibility for their decisions.

Of course, we all depend on each other to some degree. What's important is that we are able to freely choose those we share parts of our lives with and we determine our mutual levels of dependence. It's mutual sharing that every relationship involves.



Mark Leeper, Chair of the Washington State Independent Living Council

WASILC is proud to be a champion of this empowering philosophy for the people of Washington state. Welcome to our shared journey!

2020 –2022 State Plan for Independent Living

Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC) is an advocacy, outreach, and education council that is responsible for the development and implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), working closely with Centers for Independent Living (CILs). WASILC and the CILs are responsible for collaborating to create a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) every three years.

The SPIL is a strategic plan that includes Independent Living (IL) goals and objectives, and the continuous development of the IL Network through the Independent Living Philosophy. To determine the goals of the 2020-2022 SPIL, WASILC and CILs hold public forums for consumers, community partners, and other stakeholders, to comment on and provide information on the expe-

riences of individuals with disabilities in Washington State. One of the primary purposes of WASILC is to monitor, review, evaluate, and maintain the [State Plan for Independent Living \(SPIL\)](#). The SPIL establishes goals and benchmarks for the IL services provided to all individuals living with disabilities in Washington State. To guide the SPIL, WASILC solicits continual public feedback on the effec-

Be sure to thank your Congressional Representatives and Senators for these increases and let them know how this funding increase makes a difference for you!

Omnibus Appropriations Bill—\$12M for IL

The Omnibus appropriations bill passed by Congress last March included a \$12 million increase in funding for Independent Living (IL) for FFY 2018 – and for the first time since 1988, we will see some new money for CILs in Washington State! This increase won't be enough to fund a

new CIL but it does mean from now on, every time Congress increases CIL funding, the Evergreen State will benefit - a great reason to celebrate! And the House Appropriations Committee included an increase for IL for FFY 2019 as well – about \$8 million. Be sure to thank your Con-

gressional Representatives and Senators for these increases and let them know how this funding increase makes a difference for you!



continued

State Plan for Independent Living

tiveness of IL services and the changing needs of the community.

The development of the SPIL not only includes input gathered from public forums but also the wider Independent Living Network, which includes the Department of Vocational Re-

habilitation (DVR), other state agencies, and organizations serving people with disabilities in the state of Washington.

We have two similar but different surveys, both surveys are open through December 14.

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>

“Nothing about us without us!”

NCIL's 2018 Annual Conference on Independent Living

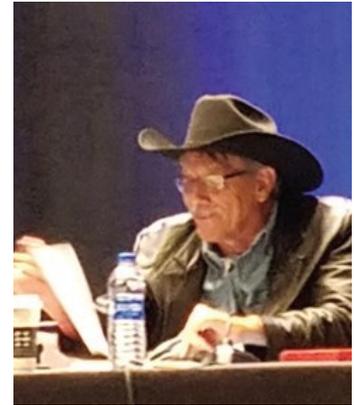
The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) held its 2018 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. this past July. The theme was "Mobilize: Resistance through Action."

NCIL's Annual Conference is the largest Independent Living event of the year. NCIL regularly hosts over 1,000 people, including grassroots advocates, and CIL and SILC leadership.

WASILC council members, Keith James and Michael Richardson and ED Kim Conner along with CIL staff and leadership from across WA State attended this exciting conference.

"Not only did I learn about innovative ideas and new best practices but my passion was rejuvenated. Being around so many passionate advocates lifted my spirits,"

said Keith James. He adds, "I like how my perspective is challenged."



Kelly Buckland, Executive Director, National Council on Independent Living.



Nichole Kloepfer WASILC's new Executive Assistant

Meet Nichole (Nikki) Kloepfer, WASILC's New Executive Assistant

Nichole Kloepfer has worked for over a decade with a variety of Councils, Boards, and Commissions. She's spent much of her career advocating for social justice, and supporting mental health, workforce, and health based nonprofits. Previously, Nikki worked for the Washington State Supreme Court Commissions, supporting 5 Commissions in various aspects concerning bias in foster care, gender, race, and disability within the judicial system. Her specialty was with the Tribal State Court Consortium where she did analyst work identifying process and education gaps through each tribal sovereignty and their courts, while supporting and building relationships.

Nichole is excited about continuing her work in a Council capacity and learning a comprehensive perspective to the IL philosophy. She is about to complete her B.S. in Business Administration and hopes to move onto her Masters in Leadership. In her spare time she likes to participate in obstacle races, enjoy the outdoors, and spend time with her kids.

2018—19 Quarterly Meeting Dates and Locations

Upcoming meetings:

October 11 & 12, 9-4 pm
Red Lion River Inn
700 N Division St.
Spokane, WA 99202

January 2019 TBA
April 2019 TBA
July 2019 TBA
October 2019 TBA

**ASL Interpreters are provided.
All meetings are scent-free.
Contact staff to request other accommodations.**



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. Collaboration.



Join WASILC!

We promote the Independent Living (IL) Philosophy by empowering communities through advocacy, education 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 about the values and mis-

sion 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.



WASILC members attending a Quarterly Meeting.

To apply, submit an online application to the Governor's office at: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/application/default.aspx>