



Idaho State Independent Living Council

Annual Report
State Fiscal Year 2006
July 1, 2005—June 30, 2006

Dismantling barriers affecting
people with disabilities



Commemorative watercolor in honor of Idahoans who actively advocate on behalf of people with disabilities

presented to

Kelly Buckland,
Recipient of the
Hewlett Packard
2005 Distinguished Leadership in
Human Rights Award



Ten Ways You Can Make the Dream Live, "With Liberty and Justice for All: Toward the Culture of Individualized Empowerment", Justin Dart, Jr., 2003

- Give up life as usual - escapist television and games; time-consuming, expensive travel and recreation; and devote the time to passionate advocacy for individualized empowerment.
- Give up politically and socially correct conversation and become a single-minded, repetitious communicator of the message of individualized empowerment - so that when people see you across the street, your message will register in their minds even though you say nothing.
- Speak to people with words of love, giving them sincere, loving praise for the distinctive positives that everybody has. They will be glad to see you coming and be far more likely to internalize your message of empowerment.
- Recruit your family members and friends first. People from age one to a hundred can be good advocates. Severely disabled people living in nursing homes can be good advocates. Small babies and dogs can carry good buttons and signs with great effect.
- The vital election campaigns of 2004 are fully underway. Become a politician, promoting your agenda everyday through every political process. Volunteer and contribute money to the campaigns of good politicians. You will have ten times more influence than if you simply ask them for favors. Get into politics as if your life depended on it - because it does - and the lives of your children's children.
- Become a media person - write letters to the editors, participate in radio and TV talk shows, become friends with media employees and business and political staff. Become a media professional.
- Use the electronic technology to send out brief talking points on the issues - make sure they are 100% accurate. Most political advocacy is obvious hyperbole. It goes directly into the wastebasket.
- Be an aggressive participant in your local and national advocacy organizations - from AAPD, LCCR, CCD, NCIL, ADAPT, DREDF, People First, psychiatric survivors and People for the American Way to your local independent living center, disability and civil rights coalitions. If you support them, they will support your advocacy for individualized empowerment.
- If there is no cross disability action group in your area, form one. Thirteen penniless people started the Christian revolution, and the same number started the modern Chinese revolution.
- When necessary, send your messages of love and truth with militant action. You will be surprised how a small demonstration at a political, media or business office can change attitudes.

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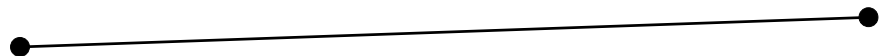
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SILC Council

Roger Howard, Chair, Boise
CIL Representative, LINC

Todd DeVries, Vice-Chair, Idaho Falls
Region VI, Person with a Disability

*****Jacob Anderson**, Boise
Youth Representative

****Dana Ard**, Boise
Ex-Officio, ICBVI

Lois Bauer, Boise
Ex-Officio, ICOA

Scott Benson, Moreland
Region V, Person with a disability

Wilma Bob, Worley
121 Project Director

****Jean Coil**, Orofino
Region II, Person with a Disability

Sue Cook, Boise
Ex-Officio, IDVR

***Sandra Dressel**, Burley
CIL Representative, LIFE, Inc.

Mark Gravatt, Grangeville
Advocate

Kirk Grogan, Spirit Lake
Region I, Person with a Disability

Candy Harris, Caldwell
Service Provider

***Diane Helton**, Boise
Ex-Officio, IDHW

Brian Helsley, Hagerman
Region IV, Person with a disability

*****Dorothy Hill**, Buhl
Region IV, Person with a disability

Rick Huber, Rupert
Member-At-Large

Jacque Hyatt, Boise
Ex-Officio, SDOE, Special Education

*****Jake Kershnik**, Lewiston
Advocate

*****Kristi Laney**, Coeur d'Alene
Region I, Person with a Disability

Mark Leeper, Moscow
CIL Representative, DAC-NW

Angela Lindig, Boise
Parents' Interests

Ray Lockary, Boise
Region III, Person with a Disability

Greg Metsker, Boise
Ex-Officio, ICBVI

Amy Michels, Caldwell
Region VII, Person with a disability

****Ron Moran**, Nampa
Region VII, Person with a disability

Deanna Watson, Boise
Service Provider, Boise City Ada County
Housing Authority

History

The State Independent Living Council

The history of independent living stems from a philosophy that states that people with all types of disabilities should have the same civil rights and control over their own lives as people without disabilities.

The independent living movement involves shifting societal attitudes about people with disabilities away from a patronizing, pitying medical model towards empowerment, independence, home- and community based services, and integration as fully contributing, valued members of society.

The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992 were signed into law by President George Bush on October 30, 1992, and required the establishment of State Independent Living Councils (SILC's). The Idaho SILC was created by Executive Order 93-01 on May 28, 1993 and was given autonomy from other state agencies with HB711 in 2004. Since its inception, the Idaho SILC has been actively engaged in activities that assist in providing Idahoans with disabilities a greater voice in obtaining services that are consumer-responsive, cost-effective and community-based. The SILC is known nationwide as an innovative leader in the independent living movement.

The SILC provides leadership development opportunities to empower grassroots advocates, who in turn, developed systemic changes in public policy to positively impact people with disabilities. The SILC supports training and education for people with disabilities, businesses, legislators and others involved in public policy development.

* Indicates first term expirations that occurred in SFY 2006

** Indicates second term expirations that occurred in SFY 2006

*** Indicates Resignations that occurred in SFY 2006

SILC Responsibilities

The SILC must fulfill the following responsibilities:

✓ Develop, sign and submit, in conjunction with the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) and the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI), the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for people with disabilities. It must monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the SPIL.

✓ Support the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and advocate for independent living (IL) services provided through state and federal programs for people with disabilities.

✓ Gather and disseminate information, conduct studies and analyses, develop model policies, conduct training on IL philosophy, and work to expand and improve IL services.

Membership Guidelines

The SILC is comprised of twenty-two members appointed by the Governor. These individuals must represent a broad range of disabilities and be knowledgeable about CILs and independent living services. A majority of the Council's members (at least 51 percent) must be people with disabilities who are not employed by the state or a CIL. A wide range of disabilities are represented by SILC members: mobility impairments, blindness and visual impairments, deafness and hearing impairments, mental illness and cognitive impairments. The Council also seeks representation of un-served and under-served populations. During FY 2006 the Council moved to discontinue the Youth Representative position in favor of encouraging and recruiting younger advocates for all available positions.

Membership Categories

People with disabilities (7 regions)

Parents of people with disabilities

Advocates for people with disabilities

Center for Independent Living representatives

Service Providers

The Director of Vocational Rehabilitation Programs for Native Americans (121 Project)

Member-At-Large

Ex-officio (non-voting) members, including representatives from IDVR, ICBVI, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW), the State Department of Education (SDE) Special Education and the Idaho Commission on Aging (ICOA)

Nomination/Selection Process

Council members are appointed to three-year terms, and are limited to two consecutive terms. If, however, a member is appointed to fill an un-expired term, the individual may serve the remainder of that term plus two additional terms. Nomination forms are accepted on an ongoing basis. Selection of a nominee is based upon one's knowledge of the independent living philosophy along with the desire and ability to serve. Full participation is crucial to the success of the Council, so candidates must carefully consider their time commitment and other factors when submitting a nomination form. When a vacancy occurs in a specific category, nominations are reviewed by the Membership Committee. The Committee makes a recommendation to the full Council regarding its selection.

The Council forwards its recommendation to the Governor. The Governor appoints all members.

2007 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Sovereign Immunity
Student Transition / Disability History Week
Fiscal Intermediaries

KEY 2006 LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities Act (Medicaid Buy In)
Health Insurance / Mental Health Parity
Idaho Educational Interpreter Act

KEY LEGISLATION SUPPORTED DURING THE 2006 SESSION

Sovereign Immunity
Health Care Directory
EText: Text Book Publishers provide Electronic Format
Medicaid Reform

MAJOR LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY THE SILC SINCE 1995

Accessible Parking
Assistance Dog Legislation
Idaho Building Code Act
Idaho Child Custody Laws
State Sales Tax Exemption for CILs
Tax Credit for CIL Donations
Vehicle Fueling Assistance
Idahoans with Disabilities Act
Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities

SILC works to make life better for all Idahoans

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

Just as Idaho has waived sovereign immunity to permit tort claims, this bill would waive sovereign immunity for the single, limited purpose of allowing claims against the state under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). If enacted, it will place the same duties of non-discrimination and reasonable accommodation on the state as every other governmental and private employer and provide people with disabilities the same legal protections and remedies in dealing with the state as exists with every other level of government and private business.

STUDENT TRANSITION / DISABILITY HISTORY WEEK

Frustrated with the lack of uniform transition curriculum from school district to school district and the lack of inclusion of the independent living philosophy in the curriculum, the SILC, partnered with the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR), centers for independent living (CILs), the Blackfoot School District, the State Department of Education, Special Education (SDE Special Ed) and Idaho State University. The coalition worked for over a year to develop a uniform yet comprehensive curriculum to be used statewide. The Blackfoot High School (BHS) piloted the project during FY 2006 but discontinued the program when the District directed BHS to focus on No Child Left Behind. Disheartened when SDE Special Education stated that schools and teachers could not be required to participate, the team moved to develop legislation requiring transition curriculum to include the independent living philosophy, mentoring, better resources for assistive technology needs, etc. in addition to the current VR transition to work program.

With the recent passage of legislation in West Virginia creating a Disability History Week (similar to the Black History Week tracks that schools offer), the SILC will seek the passage of legislation that will require Idaho schools to provide instruction on disability history, the independent living movement and disability rights.

SILC 2006 Activities

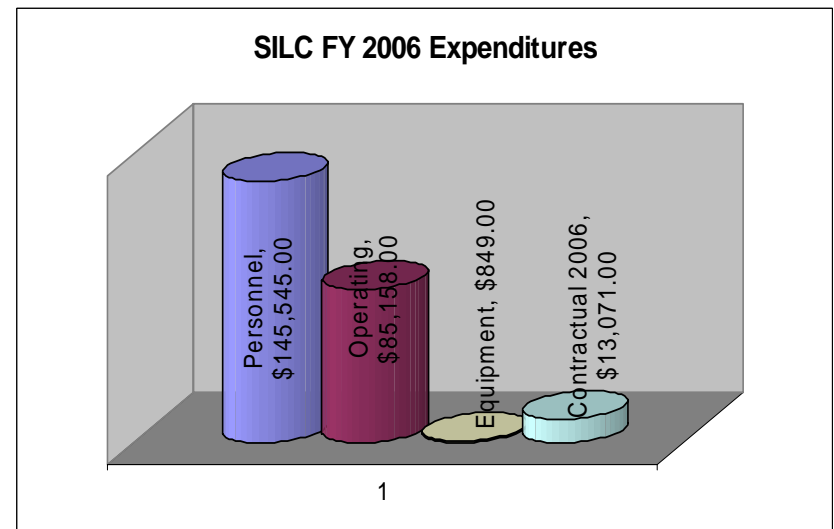
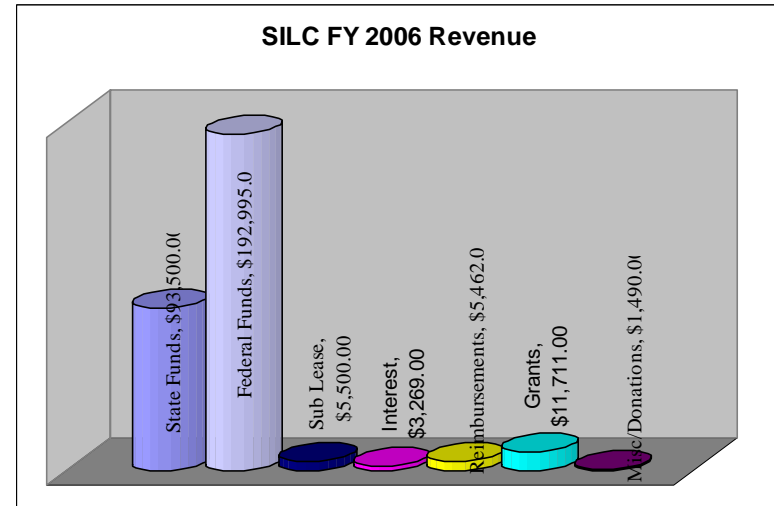
SILC members and the Executive Director currently participate on several committees to develop and administer policy and programs important to the disability community. Examples of committees:

- Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities
- A Better Way Coalition/Advanced Care Planning
- SILC Student Transition Team
- Blackfoot Student Transition Team
- Interagency Council on Transition
- National Council on Independent Living
- Assoc. of Programs for Rural Independent Living
- Children's Special Health Program
- National Center for Accessible Transportation
- Aging & Disability Resource Centers Committee
- Idaho Homelessness Policy Council
- Idahoans with Disabilities Act Task Force
- State Rehabilitation Council

In FY 2006 the SILC Resource Development Specialist obtained a grant to hold regional leadership trainings in Coeur d'Alene, Boise and Pocatello and also drafted a proposal, in partnership with the Idaho Coordinated Response to Domestic and Sexual Violence (ICRDSV) and the BSU Gender Studies Program to benefit Idaho women with disabilities who suffer from domestic violence. The proposed project, including the considerable talents of all involved, have placed the SILC as a finalist for this three-year \$750,000 grant!

The SILC Planning Committee began the strategy process and scheduling of statewide focus groups to gather input from constituents, service providers, advocates and family and friends of people with disabilities to develop the 2008-2010 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Developing the SPIL is one of the primary functions of the SILC.

SFY 2006 SILC Budget



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The SILC provides three mass mailings annually and all are during the legislative session. The purpose of the Legislative Updates is to inform our consumers on all pieces of legislation that directly affect the liberties of Idahoans with disabilities. Included in each of the three Updates is an informational page on topics requested by our consumers. The third informational is a "Legislative Scorecard" where legislators are graded on their support of legislation that benefits Idahoans with disabilities. Consumers are voluntarily added to our mailing list by mailing in a "Reply Card" obtained from the Transportation Department when applying for an accessible placard or license plate. Consumers may request to be removed from the list at any time.

LEADERSHIP TRAININGS

With a Quality of Life grant award of \$10,000 from the Christopher Reeve Foundation the SILC sponsored three non-partisan leadership trainings (Coeur d'Alene, hosted by the Disability Action Center NW (DAC NW), Boise, hosted by the Living Independence Network Corp. (LINC), and in Pocatello (hosted by the Living Independently For Everyone (LIFE)) designed to prepare people with disabilities to campaign for public office as well as to understand the political structure and process. The trainings covered topics such as assembling a campaign management team, communication, fundraising, and get-out-the-vote.

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING CONFERENCE "We the People"

Every two years the SILC sponsors and hosts a statewide independent living conference. The planning process began in FY 2006 but the conference will not take place until FY 2007 (February 5-8, 2007). By request, the conference will again include a rally and meetings with legislators.

Legislative Session 2006

Idahoans with disabilities, their families and friends and advocates for people with disabilities have never seen such cohesiveness among its legislators as they have this year. As the Legislative Scorecard shows (Legislative Update #3), the majority of Idaho's legislators have resoundingly shown their support for the concerns that people with disabilities have stated.

Consideration and debate on the issues resulted in the passage of several Medicaid related bills, Mental Health Parity (pilot program), Health Care Directory, Mental Illness Treatment, the Idaho Educational Interpreter Act, Suicide Prevention Plan, Criminal Background Checks for Long Term Care Providers, Caregiver Respite, Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities and the Regional Mental Health Services legislation.

The SILC works closely with Idaho Centers for Independent Living (CILs). CILs are nonresidential, community based, cross-disability, private, nonprofit organizations that are designed and operated by individuals with disabilities.

Idaho CILs operate on a strict philosophy based on consumer control.

Idaho's CILs provide the following services at little or no cost to consumers.

Independent Living Goals – Centers facilitate goals selected by individuals who seek assistance.

Community Options – Centers work to increase options so consumers may achieve their own independent living goals.

Individual and Systems Advocacy – Centers provide assistance with individual human rights issues as well as creating systems change to impact all people with disabilities. CILs encourage participation in leadership training, grassroots legislative activity and service planning.

Information and Referral Services – Centers provide information on specific disability-related topics and referral to specific community agencies and service providers.

Independent Living Skills Training – Centers provide training services which offer individuals the opportunity to learn and practice basic life skills necessary to live independently in the community. Community education focuses on integrating people with disabilities into community activities.

Peer Support Services – An individual with a disability mentors, counsels or acts as a role model to another individual with a disability to explore options, make informed choices and achieve control over his/her life.

**DISABILITY ACTION CENTER NORTHWEST
(DAC-NW)**

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Idaho Centers for Independent Living

FOR EVERYONE (LIFE)

Dean Nielson, Executive Director
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Glossary of Acronyms

- ADA** Americans with Disabilities Act
- CID** Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities
- CIL** Center for Independent Living, which provides cross-disability services to empower and enable people to live independently
- DAC** Disability Action Center Northwest, the Idaho CIL with a main office in Moscow and a satellites in Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston
- FFY** Federal Fiscal Year
(October 1 through September 30)
- LINC** Living Independence Network Corp., the Idaho CIL with a main office in Boise and satellites in Caldwell and Twin Falls
- ICBVI** Idaho State Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- IDHW** Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- IDVR** Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- IL** Independent Living
- LIFE** Living Independently For Everyone, the Idaho CIL with a main office in Pocatello, and five satellites in eastern Idaho
- SFY** State Fiscal Year
(July 1 through June 30)
- SILC** State Independent Living Council
- SPIL** State Plan for Independent Living



Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities
Bill Signing Ceremony, March 2006



Idaho Educational Interpreter Act
Bill Signing Ceremony, March 2006

AGENCY HIGHLIGHT

The Idaho Task Force on the ADA
(**ADA Task Force**)
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The Idaho Task Force on the ADA was formed in 1991 to respond to a statewide need to have an information and technical assistance center in Idaho to exclusively focus on the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA). The mission is to: *"Maximize the capacity of Idaho citizens and organizations to accurately understand and effectively implement the ADA."*

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*This report is available in alternative format
upon request and can be viewed on our website*

***"The SILC's mission is to advocate for
and achieve independence, choice, self-
determination, equal access and equal
opportunity for Idahoans with disabilities
through systems change, policy
involvement and public education."***

— July 2004