

# SUBPART VI – SPIL COMPARISON AND UPDATES, OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF THE REPORTING YEAR

Section 704(m) (4) of the Act; 34 CFR 76.140

## Section A – Comparison of Reporting Year Activities with the SPIL

### Item 1 – Progress in Achieving Objectives and Goals

Describe progress made in achieving the objectives and goals outlined in the most recently approved SPIL. Discuss goals achieved and/or in progress as well as barriers encountered.

The following narrative represents preliminary results based on reports, documents, and data gathered by the NYSILC office.

- **Objective # 1:** NYSILC will demonstrate its operational effectiveness and capability to develop, monitor, and evaluate the SPIL. There were nine outcomes related to this objective and two sub-outcomes (a total of eleven). Preliminary results indicate that NYSILC exceeded five outcomes (or targets), met five outcomes, and partially met one outcome.

1) Number of full council meetings held during the year with a quorum (target 4) NYSILC successfully held all four full council meetings with a quorum during the year at the Troy Hilton Garden Inn on the following dates: November 4, 2016, March 17, 2017, June 9, 2017, and September 12, 2017. Outcome met.

2) Number of issues addressed by NYSILC committees (Target: 12) Based on the information from the July-September 2017 NYSILC quarterly contract report (which also reflects the end of the contract year), thirteen issues were addressed by NYSILC committees during the past year. Outcome exceeded.

a) Action successfully completed by committees (target 4) Ten actions were completed. Outcome exceeded. A few examples included:

- Recruitment and Executive Committees Recommend New Candidates for Appointment for 2018: The Recruitment Committee vetted candidates and recommended the top candidates for the council in 2018. The Executive Committee recommended an action to expand the council to include all eight highly qualified candidates. The full council discussed and accepted the position to improve the viability and skill sets of the council. These candidates were reviewed with ACCES-VR. The DSE will create a Regents item to address the SILC appointments at a December 2017 meeting.
- The Executive Committee worked between council meetings to promote and find replacement officers to successfully recommend a candidate slate for 2018-2020.
- The Development Committee successfully worked for eight months to discuss and plan the logistics to launch the NYS Disability rights Hall of Fame. Announcement press release: <https://www.nysilc.org/news-announcements/79-nysilc-establishes-nys-disability-rights-hall-of-fame>.

b) Unresolved Issues: faced by committees: (target 4) Two issues were unresolved at the end of the contract year: 1) The statewide database issue (SPIL objective 4) and action on the Governor's Employment First Policy (the Commission's report). Since having fewer issues than the target is more desirable, Outcome exceeded.

3) Annual financial audit completed "unqualified" and 990 forms filed fully, accurately, and on time

(target 100%) Based on the information from the January-March 2017 NYSILC quarterly contract report, the NYSILC independent fiscal audit was successfully conducted and presented to the Finance Committee on 2/7/17. Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Tom Hosey of Lubbe and Hosey reviewed the statement on the call with members and answered questions. He noted that NYSILC had an “unqualified” audit, which is the desired outcome. The Finance Committee formally accepted the audit and presented it at the full council meeting on March 17, 2017. The NYSILC 2015 990 was posted online at the following link: [http://www.nysilc.org/images/2015\\_990\\_Filing.pdf](http://www.nysilc.org/images/2015_990_Filing.pdf). Outcome met.

4) Annual 704 Report completed with DSU to ACL fully, accurately, and on time (target 100%) Based on the information from the January-March 2017 NYSILC quarterly contract report, NYSILC worked with its partners to help complete Part I of the annual 704 Report. This included the NYS Commission for the Blind, since they were still a state plan partner for FFY 2016. The partners successfully completed the report before the end of year deadline, but had to wait until the Administration on Community Living’s (ACLs) new Management Information System (MIS) was functional to transmit the information. NYSILC and ACCES-VR received notification in March 2017 about the ACL MIS and submitted the 704 Report information. Staff had to connect with ACL to work through some technical issues. However, the report was finally accepted on March 22, 2017. The NY 2016 Part I 704 Report was posted on the NYSILC website at: [http://www.nysilc.org/images/Final\\_NY\\_704\\_report\\_2016.doc](http://www.nysilc.org/images/Final_NY_704_report_2016.doc). Outcome met.

5) Annual SPIL evaluation and report completed by evaluator and committees as documented (target 100%) As described earlier in this report (Section D – SILC Duties, (B) Monitor, Review, and Evaluate the Implementation of the State Plan), Alan Krieger of Krieger Solutions provided support as the council’s SPIL evaluator. He worked with NYSILC staff and committees with SPIL objective responsibilities to guide the council through the 2016 evaluation, which is the last year of the previous SPIL 2014-2016. The 2016 SPIL Evaluation report was completed, reviewed and approved at the June 9, 2017 full council meeting. The full report is available at: [https://nysilc.org/images/2016\\_SPIL\\_Evaluation\\_Report\\_.docx](https://nysilc.org/images/2016_SPIL_Evaluation_Report_.docx). Outcome met.

6) CIL statewide consumer satisfaction survey and report completed by committee, network, and consultant as documented (target: 100%) As described earlier in this report (Section D – SILC Duties, (A) State plan Development), NYSILC was the lead coordinator on the New York Statewide Consumer Satisfaction Survey project. Support was provided prior to surveying and during the process. Centers conducted surveys with varied methods from January to May 2017. NYSILC developed reports for each center, which were shared with centers and the DSE. The council then pulled together the collective data for consultant Alan Krieger of Krieger Solutions, who worked on a draft report. The final report was presented and accepted at the November 2017 council meeting. The consumer satisfaction survey committee will take the recommendations and consider what items will be implemented going into the next cycle. The 2017 NY IL Statewide Consumer Satisfaction Survey Report is available at this link: <https://www.nysilc.org/resources/key-documents/reports/260-2017-nysilc-statewide-consumer-satisfaction-survey-report>. Outcome met.

7) Percentage increase of resource development efforts above contract (all other sources) (target 1% or \$4,339) Based on the NYSILC Quarterly Fiscal Report for July to September 2017 (plus other documented information), the council now has the capacity to develop resources per authority (B) in the new SPIL. The SILC can use operating funds to ideally support its primary operations and identified programs, such as the Leadership Development and Civic Engagement Program (LDCEP), Pat Figueroa young adult scholarships, the NYS Disability Rights Hall of Fame, and other opportunities as defined and supported. During the past year, NYSILC developed (all sources) \$18,067. \$2,354 came from fee for service/consulting revenue. Brad

Williams provided services at SILC Congress, for a SILC-net webinar, and to speak at an ADA anniversary. \$4,834 was received in the form of unrestricted donations. \$2,000 came at the end of the year from Honorary Committee members for the Hall of Fame. The rest were individual and business donations to the yearend appeal. ADG gave an in-kind donation of \$10,075 for the cosmetic redesign of the NYSILC website. \$779 in interest and \$25 in miscellaneous revenue was also realized. Outcome exceeded.

8) Number of young adults participating in a training sponsorship (target 12) Based on the information from the July-September 2017 NYSILC quarterly contract report (which also reflects the end of the contract year), four scholarship opportunities were provided to young adults during the year. One young adult received a \$250 scholarship to assist with the cost to attend the Philadelphia Transgender Health Conference September 7-9, 2017. They are connected through Youth Power! and really appreciated the opportunity. Families Together in NYS, which still provides support to Youth Power, paid for the remainder of the costs. In a follow up on survey monkey, they wrote about the experience:

- There was a great panel workshop that highlighted the various experiences of those within the trans disabled community. I will be putting together some information to share with the YOUTH POWER! team.
- Thank you SO much for your support and making it possible for me to attend this conference. I really appreciate it. I have already told some other young people about this opportunity.

A second individual, who has utilized the scholarship before, attended the NYAIL statewide conference September 18-19, 2017 in Troy, NY. He is extremely active with the Rochester youth leadership group, "Youth Own." The Center for Disability Rights provided funds up front for him for the reimbursement. NYAIL's "Open Doors" Peer Outreach and Referral Program, a part of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration project, reimbursed other costs. He did not respond to the survey monkey link, but expressed his appreciation later in the week.

Earlier in the year, a young adult from Long Island was provided a scholarship opportunity to assist with costs to attend November NCIL board meeting, which was held just outside of San Francisco, CA. She participated in the online survey and voiced her appreciation for the funds, but also provided feedback about the possibility of expanding the parameters of the opportunity.

Another scholarship opportunity was provided to an individual from the Capital District to attend the 2017 Democratic National Committee (DNC) Winter Meeting in Atlanta, GA, February 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. She was looking to get connected and work with individuals on the Disability Council. This would help her to be more proactive and to work with local individuals on common issues as an advocate.

One additional application was approved for an individual to attend the University of Youth Power in June of 2017. However, after follow-up, it never happened. He did not attend the event. No funds were transacted (since it is a reimbursement). So, it will be counted as an application considered, but not as a youth attending/participating in a training.

The four scholarships are down from previous years. The decline began last year. As a result, NYSILC obtained feedback on the utilization of the scholarship from the Monitoring & Evaluation Committee and the Youth Leadership Subcommittee. It was felt that NYSILC needs to take proactive measures to market the scholarship given the decline in participation. A set of steps were identified:

- First, it was noted that the opportunity should be renamed the Pat Figueroa Scholarship. They found the word "sponsorship" confusing.

- Create a concise Pat Figueroa Scholarship marketing opportunity in Constant Contact in time for the NYAIL Conference that can be used in the future and sent out monthly.
- Create a listing of youth groups at Independent Living Centers in the statewide network (and Youth Power!) with contact names and email addresses.
- Create an opportunity for local youth groups to apply for a stipend by completing a simple form capturing contact information with background information about their group if they agree to actively market the Pat Figueroa Scholarship.
- Update the Pat Figueroa Scholarship webpage (<https://www.nysilc.org/programs/pat-figueroa-program>) and create a YouTube video (<https://youtu.be/FKdjtFDCE8A>) to market the Pat Figueroa Scholarship.

The recommended measures were all created and implemented. Outcome partially met.

9) Number of young adults actively participating in NYSILC's youth leadership subcommittee (target: 5) Based on the information from the July-September 2017 NYSILC quarterly contract report (which also reflects the end of the contract year), there are currently eight members of the NYSILC Youth Leadership Subcommittee. They were actively engaged in online discussions in July and August to review and approve the two scholarship opportunities during the quarter. They also were active in helping to identify and provide feedback and producing some of the work relating to the new Constant Contact marketing email notice. Members also assisted with the local youth group contact listing, helped to distribute the local youth group application form opportunity, and participated in the filming of the YouTube video. Outcome exceeded.

Overall, this objective and its nine outcomes demonstrated significant progress during the past year.

**Objective # 2:** New Yorkers with disabilities will be actively engaged in promoting disability rights through the support of a Statewide Systems Advocacy Network (SSAN) and a statewide coordinator working with priorities identified in the NYSILC statewide needs assessment. There were eight outcomes related to this objective. Preliminary results indicate that NYAIL exceeded all seven outcomes (or targets).

The New York State Education Department (ACCES-VR) contracts with the New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) to coordinate the Statewide Systems Advocacy Network (SSAN). ACCES-VR also contracts with the 15 ILCs that make up the SSAN. The SSAN sites in 2016-2017 were: ARISE Child & Family Services, Syracuse (ARISE); AIM Independent Living Center, Corning (AIM); Access to Independence of Cortland County, Cortland (ATI); Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled, Brooklyn (BCID); BRIDGES, New City; Center for Disability Rights, Rochester (CDR); Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York, Manhattan (CIDNY); Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley, Troy (ILCHV); Independent Living, Inc., Newburgh (IL, Inc.); Northern Regional Center for Independent Living, Watertown (NRCIL); Resource Center for Accessible Living, Kingston (RCAL); Resource Center for Independent Living, Utica (RCIL); Southern Tier Independence Center, Binghamton (STIC); Westchester Disabled on the Move, Inc., Yonkers (MDOMI); and Westchester Independent Living Center, White Plains (WILC).

NYAIL worked with its committee structure and advocates to develop its 2017 disability policy and budget priority agendas. NYSILC coordinated its public policy committee and agenda to include many of the items in its agenda. NYAIL hosted its annual legislative day on February 13, 2017 in conjunction with the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of NYS. Many SSAN advocates were in attendance discussing items in the priority agendas. During the year, the

NYAIL office provided ongoing technical assistance to sites needing support, or who were having difficulty meeting their projected targets. Ongoing communication and training was also provided on key issues, such as the ACCES-VR hearings, the Homes and Community Renewal Action Plan, and the Partnership for Innovation, Inclusion and Independence” (P3I) proposal to the Administration on Community Living (ACL). An annual in-person training was offered on May 22, 2017 with the topic of “Back to Basics: The Fundamentals of Effective Community Engagement.”

The following information comes from the SSAN 2017 yearend report:

1) Number of SSAN significant statewide system changes (target 2) The SSAN participated in the following significant systems changes, which were achieved during the past year:

- **Kendra’s Law Extended for Additional Five Years** Kendra’s Law was due to sunset this year, which forces certain people with mental illness into assisted outpatient treatment. The NYS Office of Mental Health and the Senate were pushing to make Kendra’s Law permanent and expand it. The disability community feels strongly that the State must continue to fund and expand voluntary, community based services for people facing mental illness. NYAIL and the SSAN agreed to support this bill because it was a far preferable option and would ensure the State continues to fund community based options. As such, NYAIL and several centers submitted memos of support for the bill and NYAIL issued an alert to ensure the bill passed by the end of session. A.7688 / S.6726 was passed by the Senate and Assembly this session and signed into law on June 29, 2017.
- **Advanced Home Health Aide (AHHA) Bill Enacted!** NYAIL and the SSAN have been advocating in support of the creation of Advanced Home Health Aides (AHHAs) for several years. This legislation created a new class of home care worker which would allow AHHAs to perform certain advanced tasks under the supervision of a registered nurse. Having this class of home care worker available will allow many more people, who were unable to perform these tasks on their own and who were not able or willing to self-direct, to live in the community with appropriate supports and services. NYAIL and SSAN providers worked with a wide cross-section of impacted stakeholders in support of AHHA. Governor Cuomo has supported AHHA legislation for the past few years and signed it into law in November 2016.
- **Step Therapy Bill Enacted!** Step therapy, also known as fail first, is a priority which NYAIL has supported for the past couple years. This new policy puts an appeal process in place for consumers whose prescriptions are denied by insurance companies due to high costs. For too long, insurance companies have forced patients to fail first on less expensive options, against the wishes and direction of their doctors. This new protection puts an appeals process in place in which insurance companies will have to respond within 72 hours to an appeal, and within 24 hours in the case of an emergency. While this practice has negatively impacted many people with different disabilities and health conditions, it has had a negative impact on people with auto-immune disorders and mental health disabilities. NYAIL issued a memo of support, which was circulated among the network during the legislative session. NYAIL also encouraged the network to participate in a rally at the Capitol in support in which at least one SSAN provider participated. NYAIL also issued alerts – both during the legislative session so it would be passed by the legislature and again geared toward the Governor. Ultimately, Governor Cuomo signed the bill into law.
- **Infant Protection Act Enacted!** The Infant Protection Act was intended to resolve problems with the Medical Indemnity Fund (MIF). The MIF helps children with neurological disabilities to live at home and out of institutions by providing needed supports and services. There were some provisions which were preventing the MIF from working as intended. This bill resolved many of those concerns. Now, the MIF will cover things like medical related transportation, habilitation, and respite – none of which were previously covered. It also asserts that it will cover health related costs that have a direct benefit to the consumer, even if others in the

household will benefit from it. In the past, the MIF has denied things such as wheelchair ramps because others in the house may use the ramp. These provisions should help ensure that children have the supports and services they need to remain at home, as the MIF was originally intended to do. NYAIL issued an action alert asking people to call Governor Cuomo and urge him to sign this bill into law. In addition, NYAIL and many centers in the SSAN sent Governor Cuomo letters of support for this bill.

In addition, the following systems change actions prevented negative activity from occurring:

- **Blocked American Health Care Act (AHCA), Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), and the Graham-Cassidy Amendment!** Much of the spring and summer, the SSAN was consumed advocating against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and drastic cuts to Medicaid. These proposals would have had a drastic and devastating impact on people with disabilities. While the SSAN does not typically spend so much time on federal issues, these health proposals were so harmful that NYAIL and the SSAN dedicated significant time to opposing these proposals in local Congressional Districts. New York State was identified as a key state which could stop the AHCA due to our more moderate Republicans which may be swayed to vote against it. NYAIL shared information on how the AHCA would impact people with disabilities, Medicaid, and the NYS budget. NYAIL also shared different webinars on the subject and issued several action alerts. In addition, NYAIL had an op-ed published on how the BCRA would harm people with disabilities in New York. NYAIL worked with a coalition of health care advocates around the State to protect Medicaid and fight against cuts to the program, the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and in opposition to the AHCA. We strongly encouraged advocates to join the organizing efforts being made locally and many centers were very involved in these advocacy activities. As a result, two NYS Republican members of Congress committed to voting against the AHCA – Katko and Donovan. Some advocates in the SSAN also organized their own, disability specific protests during the summer which received a good amount of media attention. A few advocates in the SSAN also participated with Americans Disabled Attendant Programs Today (ADAPT) in direct action in D.C. Outcome exceeded.

## 2) Number of local partnerships and coalitions established by the SSAN network (target 75)

The SSAN centers established 119 new partnerships and coalitions, exceeding the goal by 44 – a decrease from last year, but still far exceeding the annual target. A few examples of the partnerships and coalitions include:

- AIM (Corning) helped found a committee of local disability providers that is working to ensure disability priorities are acknowledged in the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) project.
- WDOMI (Yonkers) has worked with Community Voices Heard (CVH), a statewide member led grassroots organization. Currently WDOMI is part of a CVH led coalition of organizations planning a Candidates Forum on Housing Issues for the Westchester County Executive Race.
- ILCHV (Troy) is a partner in a collaboration addressing sexual assault and Domestic Violence (DV) committed against people with disabilities. As part of this collaboration ILCHV is working with Unity House of Troy (the DV provider) and Samaritan Hospital (sexual assault provider). During August ILCHV conducted accessibility surveys of the offices and the DV shelter.
- WILC (White Plains) joined the Hudson Valley Housing Alliance and attended a meeting with Westchester stakeholders to brainstorm increasing/promoting housing options for the intellectual/developmental disability population; meetings will be held quarterly. Outcome exceeded.

3) Number of educational alerts disseminated to local volunteers by the SSAN network (target 660) Distribution of alerts is one of the areas in which SSAN centers are most active with a total of 881 alerts distributed to local volunteers. This was an increase compared to last year and exceeded the annual target. The NYAIL office disseminated 11 action alerts and the SSAN advocates collectively sent out disseminated 160 alerts to their local volunteers. Examples include:

- Call-in Day to Protect Medicaid and the ACA!
  - Your Call Can Stop a Bad Budget!
  - Ask Your Representative to Co-sponsor the TIME Act!
  - Urge Congress to Fully Fund Affordable Housing Programs in FY18
  - Markup Tomorrow: Call House Judiciary Members to Oppose H.R. 620!
  - Provide Comments Today to Preserve Disability Protections!
  - Call Now to Oppose Graham-Cassidy Repeal Proposal!
- Outcome exceeded.

4) Number of local public education activities engaged in by the SSAN network (target 300)

The SSAN Centers exceeded this goal by engaging in 483 public education activities in the past year. This exceeded last year's activity. Examples of local public education include:

- The New York Times covered the BCID (Brooklyn) lawsuit against Uber, which charges the company discriminates against riders with disabilities who use wheelchairs. Link: <http://dralegal.org/press/ubers-lack-accessible-vehicles-shuts-wheelchair-users-five-boroughs/>.
- ATI (Cortland) facilitated an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Celebration Event that featured Brad Williams of NYSILC and elected officials, including Senator James Seward.
- The RCAL (Utica) Systems Advocate participated in a radio interview with WOR/NBC Radio (A statewide affiliate) following a health care rally organized by the Governor's Office. The Systems Advocate discussed health issues facing people with disabilities in Ulster County, and the proposed Faso-Collins Amendment.
- The Systems Advocate for IL, Inc. (Newburgh) spoke during a focus group hosted by the Orange County Department of Planning for the Coordinated Public Transit / Human Service Transportation Plan (CPTHSTP) on the need for a consolidated county-wide transportation network and the need for that network to be fully accessible for all.
- CDR's Systems Advocate (Rochester) coordinated a Legislative Breakfast at CDR's Geneva office. Invited was local legislators and local consumers to discuss disability issues. Outcome exceeded.

5) Number of grassroots organizing activities engaged in by the SSAN network (target 90)

SSAN sites reported a total of 168 grassroots organizing activities for the year. This was a decrease from last year, but still far exceeding the annual target. Examples of grassroots organizing activities include:

- ILCHV (Troy) helped develop a consumer run transportation committee which will be meeting regularly to address transportation issues within the Capital District.
- ATI (Cortland) organized a group of advocates to attend a Coffee with Representative Claudia Tenney (R-NY) to discuss the Disability Integration Act, TIME Act, and to voice opposition against cuts to Medicaid and the repeal / replacement of the Affordable Care Act.
- RCAL (Kingston) organized a group to attend the Senator's Town Hall Meeting in the City of Kingston.
- ARISE (Syracuse) helped to organize a press conference with NY State Senator John DeFrancisco, AARP and the MS Society to urge Governor Cuomo to sign the Visitability Tax Credit Bill.

Outcome exceeded.

6) Number of oral or written public testimonies statements or letters provided, in response to a documented request, by the SSAN network (target 90) SSAN sites collectively provided 136 public testimonies during the past year. This was a slight decrease from last year, but still far exceeding the annual target. Examples of public testimony include:

- IL Inc. (Newburgh) provided written comments to the NY State Board of Elections (SBOE) on their proposed changes to their administrative complaint process for Help America Vote Act (HAVA) administrative complaints.
  - STIC (Binghamton) submitted comments on proposed priorities for Disability Rights NY and their various federal programs.
  - WDOMI (Yonkers) submitted testimony on proposed changes to ACCES-VR's policies involving self-employment and home modification/adaptive equipment.
  - ARISE (Syracuse) submitted written comments to NY Homes and Community Renewal on their 2017 Draft Action Plan.
  - AIM (Corning) submitted comments on the proposed P3I changes in the federal budget.
- RCIL (Rochester) provided public testimony on the Graham-Cassidy US Senate Bill while in the Senate Finance Committee and explained its harmful impacts on the disability community. A copy was emailed to the Senate Democrats on the Committee in partnership with the Citizens Consortium on Disability and a copy was mailed to appear in the official committee record. Outcome exceeded.

7) Number of CILs or SCILs without a SSAN contract voluntarily involved in the participation of the network (target 2): Three non-SSAN centers participated at various levels in the SSAN. Bronx Independent Living Services (BILS) regularly participated in NYAIL's Housing Committee and attended NYAIL's Legislative Day. They also attended the rally on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Taconic Resources for Independence (Poughkeepsie) was very active, participating regularly on NYAIL's Employment Committee and other advocacy activities. Western New York Independent Living (WNYIL) was active on NYAIL's Housing Committee, attended the SSAN training, participated on Legislative Day, and the rally. Outcome exceeded.

Overall, this objective exceeded expectations for all seven outcomes.

**Objective # 3:** Increase the attendance and involvement of attendees from the IL network, including affiliated stakeholders, by providing support for a statewide independent living training conference. There were five outcomes related to this objective. Preliminary results indicate that three outcomes (or targets) were exceeded and two outcomes were substantially met.

NYAIL coordinated the 2017 New York statewide IL conference, "Purpose. Progress. Power. New Strategies for Systems Change." The conference was held at the Troy Hilton Garden Inn September 18-19, 2017.

The conference featured keynote presentations by Judy Heumann, International Disability Rights Consultant, and Rebecca Cokley, former Executive Director of the National Council on Disability.

Throughout the two-day conference there were five (5) clusters of workshops, totaling 30 different workshops for attendees to choose from. The workshops addressed a wide range of topics impacting New Yorkers with disabilities and the services and supports they depend on



to live independently, including the areas of housing, healthcare, employment. A few of the featured workshops included:

- Employability Skill Development for Transition Age Youth
- Inclusive Planning, Partnership, and Collaboration in NYS Emergency Management
- ICAN: Navigating your Managed Long-Term Care
- Domestic Violence and Disability: The Threat to Parents with Disabilities
- Transitioning Nursing Home Residents with Mental Illness to the Community
- Incarceration: Your Worst Nightmare as a Person with Disabilities
- ABLE Accounts, Trusts, and the Medicaid Buy-In: Financial Options for People with Disabilities
- Achieving Systems Change Through Legal Action
- Fully Integrated Duals Advantage Program (FIDA): A comprehensive Medicaid and Medicare benefit package
- Diversity in Disability: Sharing Universal Design Principles with the Community
- Litigation and Legislative Update Article 17A: Tackling Self-Determination and Decision Making

1) Number of people attending the IL conference with reduced registration costs (target 200)

Based on the documentation from registration forms, the total number of attending the IL statewide conference with a reduced registration was 369. This was a significant increase from two years ago (222) and far exceeded the target. Outcome exceeded.

2) Number of people attending the IL conference with reduced registration costs sorted by IL involvement (target 100 staff, 25 board members 25 advocates, 25 stakeholders, and 25 other)

The council and NYAIL had difficulty measuring this outcome last conference. During this cycle, it was not addressed during the online registration process. Instead, it was assessed during the post-conference evaluation process. So, these numbers represent a sample of the potential total number. There were 375 total individuals who attended the conference (369 had reduced registration). Out of these individuals, 156 completed post-conference evaluations, or 42%. For this outcome, the following results were achieved: 115 staff, 2 board members, 21 advocates, 1 stakeholder, and 17 other. This gives a mixed result on the range of targets (one exceeded, two partially met, and two substantially met). Outcome substantially met.

3) Percentage of attendees satisfied with their overall experience at the statewide IL conference (target 90%)

There were 375 total individuals who attended the conference (369 had reduced registration). Out of these individuals, 156 completed post-conference evaluations, or 42%. For this outcome, the following results were achieved:

- In their responses to overall satisfaction, 82 responded excellent, 40 good, and 14 satisfactory.
- Combined, these three satisfactory responses amount to 136. 136 divided by the total responses of 156 achieves a satisfaction rate of 87%.

Outcome substantially met.

4) Percentage of attendees who learned something useful at the statewide IL conference (target 70%)

There were 375 total individuals who attended the conference (369 had reduced registration). Out of these individuals, 156 completed post-conference evaluations, or 42%. For this outcome, the following results were achieved:

- 75% indicated that they learned something useful at the statewide conference.

Outcome exceeded.

5) Percentage of attendees who intend to implement a best practice or other idea at the local level (target 40%) There were 375 total individuals who attended the conference (369 had reduced registration). Out of these individuals, 156 completed post-conference evaluations, or 42%. For this outcome, the following results were achieved:

- 70% indicated they intended to implement a best practice or other idea at the local level. Outcome exceeded.

Overall, progress was made on this objective, which was reflected in the increased attendance and overall satisfaction of the conference.

**Objective # 4:** Designate funds to develop and establish a database and interface that will compile, analyze, and interpret data from the statewide network. There were two outcomes active related to this objective. Preliminary results indicate that one outcome (or target) was met and one was substantially met.

1) Vendor selection process identifies a viable candidate capable of developing product (target 100%) The NYSILC Database Workgroup met in May 2017 to review two final vendor proposals for the database project. During the 5/4/17 meeting, the group decided to end consideration of the proposal initially considered by Jeremy McGowan Enterprise Corporation (JMEC) for a short list of reasons. A new proposal was received by local vendor ES11 and partner Rocco Semeraro. There was a positive reaction, but the group wanted to interview ES11 like previous vendors to ask questions. During the 5/9/17 meeting, Rocco Semeraro of ES11 joined the call to review his proposal and respond to questions. Members felt satisfied with his proposal. Background checks for the vendor came back positive. The council has used his services before. Brad Williams submitted the ES11 vendor proposal to ACCES-VR for review in early June 2017. Outcome met.

2) Partners confirm resource commitment necessary to support project (target 100%) In late August 2017, after ACCES-VR had an internal meeting about the issue, Brad Williams was instructed to submit budget amendment materials to the DSE for the NYSILC contract to accommodate an additional \$125,000 in funding over two years to address the long awaited SPIL statewide database project. NYSILC and ACCES-VR spoke about the budget amendment, and other issues, at an October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. NYSILC and ACCES-VR staff are finalizing the budget amendment materials. When it receives internal approval, the budget amendment will be submitted to the Office of State Comptroller (OSC) for review and approval, which could take up to three months. The amendment seeks \$50,000 to address two phases of the project over six months in 2018 and \$75,000 to complete four phases of the project over nine months in 2019.

Outcome substantially met.

Overall, respectable progress was made on this objective. 2018 will dictate the direction of this long-awaited SPIL objective/project.

**Objective # 5:** Address priority unserved and underserved populations and issues by providing one (1) \$72,000 demonstration grant opportunity that can be evaluated by the council, be held to its own unique set of deliverables (outcomes), and subsequently provide a best practices manual for the benefit of the statewide IL network. There were three active outcomes related to this objective. Preliminary results indicate that two outcomes (or targets) were met and one outcome was substantially met.

1) RFP issued to CILs and SCILs for priority population and issue demonstration project (target 100%) This RFP was sent out to the center network in the spring of 2017 before Bob Gumson

retired from the DSE/IL Unit. In our communication with ACCES-VR, there was a good response with approximately seven competitive applications received for the demonstration project. The DSE convened a review panel in the summer to review the applications and select a recipient. Outcome met.

2) Award recipient notified of selection to receive a grant (target 100%) ACCES-VR communicated in late August 2017 that they knew the recipient of the demonstration project. Internal review, approvals, and communication with the recipient needed to take place before making any public announcement about the awardee. In early October 2017, it was shared that Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc (TRI) located in Poughkeepsie was the recipient of the demonstration project. They developed a brief description of their project to provide a “Special Populations/Housing and Transportation Demonstration Project” to reach unserved/underserved Veterans with disabilities. They will have a full-time veteran’s specialist to provide engagement in independent living services to obtain affordable and accessible housing and to help support and stabilize people in their homes and community. Outcome met.

3) Contract executed for grant recipient (target 100%) Rookmini Mangal, new staff person in the IL Unit at ACCES-VR, has been working with TRI to execute the demonstration project contract. The contract and project should be moving forward by the beginning of 2018. Once the contract is finalized, TRI will share the project outcomes with NYSILC for monitoring and evaluation purposes. Outcome substantially met.

Overall, this objective was on track with its outcomes to initiate the project.

**Objective # 6:** Improve the capacity of the IL network to address priority unserved and underserved populations identified in the statewide needs assessment by providing nine (9) \$25,000 capacity building self-sustaining grant opportunities that can be evaluated by the council, disseminated, and documented for replication for the benefit of the network.

There were five outcomes related to this objective. This is the final year of the three-year Capacity Building Independent Living Opportunity (CBILCO) grants addressing unserved/underserved populations. There are now nine sites located at centers in White Plains (Healthy living), Putnam (Healthy Living), Rockland (Youth), Corning (Youth), Cortland (Youth), Plattsburgh (Access to Health), Buffalo (Youth), Bronx (Healthy Living), and Utica (Minorities). Preliminary results indicate that one outcome (or target) was exceeded, one met, one outcome was substantially met, and two outcomes were partially met.

1) Number of people served by identified target unserved/underserved population (target 600/540): The target of 600 should be adjusted down to 540 now that the Southern Tier Independence Center (STIC) no longer has an active project. Collectively, the nine sites reported that they generated 353 new Consumer Service Records (CSRs) during the past year. This number represents 65% of the adjusted target. Based on feedback from previous evaluations, it is believed that the outcome was set too high. Future projects could also benefit from outcomes that represent the uniqueness of the population they serve. Outcome substantially met.

2) Number of community organizational contacts related to targeted populations that are developed as a result of outreach efforts (target 50/adjusted to 45): The target of 50 should be adjusted down to 45 now that the Southern Tier Independence Center (STIC) no longer has an active project. Collectively, the nine sites reported that they made 114 community organization contacts (or partnerships) because of outreach efforts related to their target populations. Examples of selected community contacts from the projects include: Employment Solutions,

HR Bethany Village, GST BOCES-Odessa-Montour, Master's Vineyard School, Chemung County SPCA, Cortland City Youth Bureau Advisory Board, Seven Valleys New Tech school, Tompkins Cortland Community College, Cornell University's Tang Yan Institute, Burlington Coat Factory, United Way, North Country Center Association for the Visually Impaired, Legal Aid Society, Senior Citizens Council, Friends of the North County, Literacy Volunteers, WeCare Transport, Carmel Recreation, Putnam Valley Library, Patterson Library, Carmel Library, Reid Memorial Library, Putnam County Dept. of Health, Putnam Chabad, Church of the Holy Communion, Community of the Holy Spirit, Trinity Lutheran Church, Brewster UMC, Grace Assembly of God, Lakeview Community Church, Mount Lebanon Baptist, Our Lady of Loretto Church, Patterson Community Church, Red Mills Baptist, St. Philips Church in the Highlands, Second Kent Baptist, St. John the Evangelist, St. Lawrence O'Toole, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Temple Beth Shalom, Donovan Middle School, Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, laundromats, Library, restaurants and at the Department of motor vehicles, The Boxwood Alliance, AIP White Plains, Community helping Hand Ossining, JCC on the Hudson, YWCA White Plains, Ossining Recreation, the Carver Center, Eastchester Lake Isle Senior Nutrition Program, Yonkers Riverfront Library, Dobbs Ferry Senior Center, New Rochelle Public Library, Medina BOCES, Niagara Academy, Orleans and Niagara Counties BOCES. Partnerships ended up having a different value for each project. Some directly contributed to the outreach to the target population. Others provided opportunity, or access to an existing provider. A few of the partnerships were community points of interest where the target population frequents. Outcome exceeded.

3) Amount of new funding secured toward self-sustaining programs (target \$166,664):

Collectively, all nine sites tried to develop resources for their projects, or looked to leverage their funding. Based on the reports, about half of the centers/projects pursued several funding options during the year. However, the status of these proposals was either pending, or funding was declined. WNYIL received their annual distribution from the Tower Foundation (\$41,046). They formally ended their relationship with the foundation when the project closed. BRiDGES continued their contractual relationship with the East Ramapo School District (\$14,000). During the past year, this amounted to \$55,046 in new funding secured by these projects, or 33% of the target. Outcome partially met.

In other "value-added" funding progress reported by these sites, two centers developed government funding opportunities for their projects. AIM received additional OMRDD family supports and services funding to support their youth programs. ATI hired a staff person to facilitate the different fee for service revenue opportunities for youth programs. Specifically, they have pursued ACCES-VR Core Rehabilitation Services (CRS), Youth Employment Services (YES), NYSCB pre-vocational and vocational services, and OPWDD pre-vocational and vocational services. Both were an undetermined dollar value, but will help to sustain the projects. Last, the WNYIL reported that they will receive a "No Wrong Door" grant through the NYS Office for the Aging. The multi-year funding will provide \$1.3 million in year one and just over \$1 million in each subsequent year.

4) Number of self-sustaining programs (target 8) Based on quarterly report information, out of the nine existing CBILCO projects, it was assessed that four projects will be self-sustaining. BRiDGES (Rockland County), AIM (Corning), and ATI (Cortland) all have developed the programmatic and funding mechanisms to support their programs in the future. A summary of their fund development is described above. NCCI (Plattsburgh) will also be self-sustaining. Despite several attempts to generate resources, their project was geared to develop best practices for access to health in their rural area. They will incorporate what they learned in their "how to" manual into day-to-day operations and practices, along with the networking

opportunities that they have created. Four out of nine projects becoming “self-sustaining” establishes a result of 44%. Outcome partially met.

5) Number of “how to” technical assistance manuals submitted to NYSILC (target 10/adjusted to 9) Members of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) Committee received nine Capacity Building Independent Living Center Opportunity (CBILCO) project “How To” manuals in mid-August 2017. WILC combined manuals for their two projects since they were essentially the same (healthy lifestyles) for White Plains and Putnam. The “How To” manuals were a deliverable for the project. Members reviewed selected draft manuals and sent back forms expressing what each center needed to do to improve their product. Final documents were all received by the end of September 2017. NYSILC will work with ADG to create a consistent format to convert the content for each manual. In 2018, one manual will be posted to the NYSILC website monthly and sent out to the network and NYSILC lists via Constant Contact to share the best practices of these projects. Outcome met.

Overall, respectable progress was made on this objective. More was learned from each capacity building site and can be used for future replication. Targets for some of the outcomes were too high and did not allow projects to set their own unique measures.