

# **ORIENTATION FOR NEW MEMBERS**

## **STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)**



Photo is of Statewide Independent Living Council members sitting around large oval table with 7 people sitting around the edge of the room. All are listening to a woman standing and talking at the head of the table.

# WELCOME

**It is with sincere pleasure that we welcome you to the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). We anticipate that your skills and experience will be an asset to the Council, and we look forward to working with you. You will also be given a package of information in advance of each meeting. We strongly value ongoing education and development of Council members and expect new members to attend meetings as well as other training and retreats that may be planned through the year.**

**We thank you for your willingness to serve and are very pleased to have you as part of SILC. We have developed this power point to help give you a brief overview of the Council. If you have any questions, please contact any person on the Membership Committee: Charlotte Morgan, Olivia Tonti, Joe Triplett, and Louise Wilson.**

**Welcome once again, and we look forward to working with you and your valuable contribution.**

**SILC Membership Committee**

# HISTORY OF SILC

- ▶ SILC's were established under Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Colorado Statewide Independent Living Council (CSILC) supports the full inclusion of people with disabilities in community life. We further this mission by strengthening independent living centers, advocating for change with elected and appointed officials, and educating the general public about independent living. SILC partners with Colorado's 9 independent living centers (CIL's) to ensure that every person with a disability in our state who wants to live independently has the resources to do so. The following is some of SILC's functions:
  - ❖ promotes systemic reform to remove barriers to independent living
  - ❖ conducts research to inform policymakers and the general public
  - ❖ is a resource for people with disabilities and the communities in which they live
  - ❖ creates the State Plan for Independent Living in collaboration with public and private stakeholders

# SILC's PURPOSE

- ▶ SILC's primary function is to advance independent living through the development and implementation of a three-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The Colorado SILC consists of 15 members and is a governor appointed Council. We invite any Coloradoan who is committed to the independent living philosophy and is willing to work with us to ensure people with disabilities receive the support and services needed in order to live with dignity and quality of life.
- ▶ We partner with Colorado's network of Centers for Independent Living (CIL's)
- ▶ We promote systemic reform to remove barriers to independent living
- ▶ We conduct research to inform policymakers and the general public
- ▶ We are a resource for people with disabilities and their communities
- ▶ We create the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)
- ▶ We work with the multiple groups that support independent living

# SILC COUNCIL MEMBER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Attend and actively participate in SILC meetings and activities

Commit to serve at least one SILC committee as an active team member

Advocate for all persons with disabilities

Concentrate on independent living issues, resources and solutions shaped by geography, values, politics and cultures unique to Colorado.

Enhance the leaderships of people with disabilities

Promote equal access and equal opportunities for people with disabilities for full integration in all aspects of society including honesty, integrity and respect for the values of others.

Possession of a strong personal code of ethics, that includes maintaining confidentiality and avoiding conflict of interest.

# PRESENT COUNCIL MEMBER E-MAIL ADDRESSES

- ▶ Joan LaBelle, Chairperson; Fort Collins  
[joan.labelle@coloradosilc.org](mailto:joan.labelle@coloradosilc.org)
- ▶ Martha Mason, Treasurer; Durango  
[martha@swilc.org](mailto:martha@swilc.org)
- ▶ Charlotte Morgan, Arvada  
[charlotte.morgan@coloradosilc.org](mailto:charlotte.morgan@coloradosilc.org)
- ▶ Jennifer Scilacci, DVR Rep; Steamboat  
[jennifer.scilacci@coloradosilc.org](mailto:jennifer.scilacci@coloradosilc.org)
- ▶ Sam Jarris, Parker  
[sam.jarris@coloradosilc.org](mailto:sam.jarris@coloradosilc.org)
- ▶ Ty Smith, Vice-Chair; Grand Junction  
[ty.smith@coloradosilc.org](mailto:ty.smith@coloradosilc.org)
- ▶ Olivia Tonti, Treasurer; Arvada  
[olivia.tonti@coloradosilc.org](mailto:olivia.tonti@coloradosilc.org)
- ▶ Staci Nichols  
[staci.nichols@coloradosilc.org](mailto:staci.nichols@coloradosilc.org)
- ▶ Bill Wood  
[bill.wood@coloradosilc.org](mailto:bill.wood@coloradosilc.org)
- ▶ Louise Wilson, TVR, Rep; Ignacio  
[awilson@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:awilson@southernute-nsn.gov)
- ▶ Steve Heidenrich, SRC Rep  
[steve.heidenrich@coloradosilc.org](mailto:steve.heidenrich@coloradosilc.org)

# DATES AND TIMES OF SILC COUNCIL MEETINGS

- ▶ SILC meetings are held quarterly. (February, May, August and November)
- ▶ **Meetings are the third Wednesday of the month (During the Pandemic, meetings are held by ZOOM).**
- ▶ Tuesday evening before each SILC meeting, there is a “Meet and Greet” from 5 - 7 p.m. (During the Pandemic there are no “Meet and Greet”)
- ▶ Contact the Independent Living Coordinator to let them know whether you will be attending the Board meeting in advance in order to make timely hotel reservations.
- ▶ A council member can serve two 3 -year terms if reappointed by the governor.

# SILC ORGANIZATION CHART

- ▶ Administration on Community Living (ACL) is the funder. The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) holds the contract for Part B dollars, which includes the SILC and the CILs. CDLE has the Colorado Office of Independent Living Services (the Office) administer the Part B funds, the Office is our fiscal sponsor and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is the Designated State Entity (DSE). Both the Office and DVR are jointly listed in our Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) as our DSE. ACL, however, works with the Office whenever they require information, not DVR. The Executive Director of DVR must sign the SPIL, however, not approving it, but for verification of their collaboration
- ▶ When the SILC became a registered non-profit with the State of Colorado that enabled us to hold a contract with CDLE as a sole source entity, unique among the other Boards and Commissions in Colorado. After the contract is finished and executed, the SILC will have the same relationship with the Office as the CILs
- ▶ ACL allows each state to operate per that state's laws. For Colorado, that means the SILC operates under an Executive Order (EO) from the Governor. Not all SILCs in the United States and their territories require EO's. Our EO's follow the Rehab Act and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA).
- ▶ Each SILC, per the Rehab Act and WIOA, are governor appointed through that state's Boards and Commissions.



## Centers for Independent Living (CILs)

- ▶ Every state in the USA has a SILC since they are federally mandated. Although these SILCs operate independently of each other, the Colorado SILC is part of this larger network of SILCs. The purpose of each SILC is to determine the direction of the Independent Living (IL) Program for their state by identifying the needs of people with disabilities in partnership with their state's Centers for Independent Living (CIL). In Colorado, Each CIL is a separate private, non-profit, 501C3 operating independently of each other with their own Board of Directors, staff, By-Laws, operating budget and services. All CILs must comply with federal mandates by providing five core services, have a Board and service staff of (at least 51%) people with disabilities, have diversified funding and maintain state and federal certification as a Center for Independent Living. There are nine CILs:
- ▶ Atlantis Community in Denver
- ▶ Center for People with Disabilities in Boulder
- ▶ Northwest Colorado Center for Independence in Steamboat Springs
- ▶ Disabled Resource Services in Fort Collins
- ▶ Connections for Independent Living in Greeley
- ▶ The Independence Center in Colorado Springs
- ▶ Center Toward Self-Reliance in Pueblo
- ▶ Southwest Center for Independence in Durango
- ▶ Center for Independence in Grand Junction

# RESOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please go to the websites listed below

- ▶ Colorado (SILC) Home page <https://coloradosilc.org/>
- ▶ SILC Guide Book Copy will be provided
- ▶ SILC By-Laws Found in SILC Guide Book
- ▶ Travel Reimbursement SILC Coordinator will provide Information