

The National Council on Independent Living presents –

NCIL's 2020 Policy Briefing

July 14, 2020
3:00 – 4:30 p.m. EDT



Agenda

- Welcome and Logistics
- NCIL priorities
- Rehab Act / ILA
- Housing
- Healthcare & LTSS
- ADA / Civil Rights
- Transportation
- Emergency Preparedness
- Priorities Wrap-Up
- Questions & Answers
- Preparing for the Hill
- Questions & Answers
- Closing

Tim Fuchs

Cliff Perez

Ann McDaniel

Brian Peters

Ami Hyten

Steve Higgins, Kimberly Tissot

Peter Johnke

Todd Holloway

Cliff Perez



Overview of NCIL's Legislative & Advocacy Priorities

Cliff Perez, NCIL Vice-President

- Rehabilitation Act / Independent Living Funding
- Housing
- Healthcare and Long-term Services & Supports
- Civil Rights and the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Transportation



Rehab Act / IL Administration

Ann McDaniel & Dan Kessler, Rehab Act / IL Funding Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- NCIL is very thankful for the \$85 million appropriation in the CARES Act stimulus package for CILs that receive Part C funding – these funds have made it possible for CILs to protect staff, help people with disabilities, and continue to provide IL services, including advocacy
- CILs are the only entities required by federal law to transition people out of institutions – as part of the required Core IL Services – and funding is needed to provide transition services
- CILs provide services to hundreds of thousands of individuals with disabilities every year
- Systems Advocacy is a required Core Service – in addition to individual outcomes, CILs (& SILCs with the new Authority) are also about ***changing communities***



Rehab Act / IL Administration

- FAQ on Advocacy issued by ACL seems aimed at limiting systems advocacy significantly
- Most recent data on services and outcomes still not available from ILA / ACL & no progress has been made on new reporting mechanism to show outcomes & results
- Current funding is not adequate to implement the Statewide Network of CILs outlined in SPILs nation wide
- Increased funding (for both Part C and Part B) is necessary to build the capacity & network of CILs to provide IL services statewide in every state and the capacity of SILCs to fully represent all people with disabilities & conduct the advocacy necessary to improve service systems and protect civil rights



Housing

Brian Peters and Darrel Christenson, Housing Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Background

- President's [2021 budget request](#) (submitted before COVID-19) has DEEP cuts
 - Many programs receiving zero funds
 - But president's budget requests typically not followed by Congress
- Decreased tax revenues and increased deficit/debt will create pressure for federal program cuts in 2021
- State/local governments will struggle with revenue losses and need to make cuts unless more federal aid is provided (such as in HEROES Act)
- Housing generally is a bipartisan issue in terms of funding current programs



Housing

- 45% (or more) of pandemic deaths have been in nursing homes and assisted living!
 - Emphasizes importance of community based housing and services
- [HR 1122/S 291](#): Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Act
 - Passed House, advocate in Senate
 - Note this was funded through FY19 Consolidated Appropriations but legislation is still needed for future success
- [HR 6800: The Heroes Act](#)
 - Massive \$3 trillion bill that includes almost [\\$200 billion](#) for various housing programs
 - Passed House, advocate in Senate
- [HR 2 Moving Forward Act](#)
 - Passed House, advocate in Senate
 - \$100 billion for affordable housing programs
 - New & expanded housing tax credits



Healthcare / Long-Term Services & Supports

Ami Hyten & Lisa Hayes, Healthcare / LTSS Subcommittee Co-Chairs

ISSUES:

- Ending the Institutional Bias
- Money Follows the Person
- Electronic Visit Verification
- Chronic Pain / Opioids Task Force
- Universal Healthcare
- Assisted Suicide
- HCBS Infrastructure
- Healthcare Discrimination



Healthcare / Long-Term Services & Supports

PROGRESS:

- Money Follows the Person

CARES Act

- DSWs in Hospitals (Section 3715)
- Access to Testing and Treatment

OCR Guidance on Health Care Rationing

- Oklahoma ban on QALYs
- Resolution on Visitor Policies & OCR enforcement



Healthcare / Long-Term Services & Supports

- \$20 billion in dedicated HCBS funding for the COVID-19 pandemic; the funds must be dedicated to personal care attendants, direct service workers, and home health workers (Section 202 of S.3544 from Casey and 26 other Senators)
- Extension of Money Follows the Person either permanently or for at least five years
- \$11 billion in Individuals with Disabilities Education Act funds (S.4100 from Murphy, Hassan, and VanHollen)
- Personal protective equipment for consumers and workers
- Protections against involuntary institutionalization
- Access to medications, supplies, and equipment
- Delay implementation of EVV



ADA / Civil Rights

Steve Higgins & Kimberly Tissot, NCIL ADA / Civil Rights
Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- ADA Notification “Cares Act”
- Position Paper on Guardianship
- Removing Implicit Bias
- Advocating for use of plain language in all we do



Transportation

Peter Johnke, Transportation Subcommittee Chair

- Advocate for accessibility & equity in all modes of transportation (including e-bikes and boats)
- Advocate for a strong “Bill of Rights” for air travelers with disabilities including passage of the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act - H.R. 1549 (Rep. James Langevin and S. 669 (Sen. Tammy Baldwin)
- Advocate that Medicaid Transportation is codified in law so that states cannot opt out: Protecting Patients Transportation to Care Act – H.R. 3935 (Rep. Earl L. “Buddy” Carter)
- Advocate for equity (equivalent service) from Ride Hailing Service / Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)
- Advocate for accessible rail service – especially Amtrak
- Work with a broad spectrum of stake holders to develop a *sustainable* transportation funding mechanism for transportation infrastructure and all modes of transit



Emergency Preparedness

Todd Holloway, NCIL Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Co-Chair

- ADA Notification “Cares Act”
- Position Paper on Guardianship
- Removing Implicit Bias
- Advocating for use of plain language in all we do



Priorities Wrap-Up

Cliff Perez, NCIL Vice-President



Questions & Answers

Use the Q&A feature in the Zoom toolbar to type your question. You may also type your question in the chat box on the CART screen at <http://www.streamtext.net/player?event=NCIL>.



Preparing for the Virtual Day on the Hill

- Virtual Hill Day: Tuesday, July 21
- Rally
- Make sure your Virtual Hill Meetings are scheduled!
 - Meetings can be by phone, Zoom, or another virtual format
 - Accommodation requests are made to the Congressional offices
 - You can coordinate with other people in your State



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