**TENTATIVE AGENDA / SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**Monday October 18, 2021 Day 1**

**9:00-10:30 am Pacific, 12:00-1:30 PM Eastern**

Welcome Ceremonies

Come Join us as we ring in another year of the APRIL Conference. We are once again staying in place to show grace to our communities, but don't let that stop us from sharing great information and reconnecting with all. Program includes APRIL updates, Blessing from Cherokee Nation's Steven Morales, and remarks from Acting Administrator Barkoff.

**11:00-12:00 Pacific, 2:00-3:00 PM Eastern**

A. COVID Realities and Implications for Persons with Disabilities

For the past 20 months, the world has been grappling with the implications of a pandemic of global proportions. This session will examine the on-going issues impacting the lives of persons with disabilities including facial covering and vaccination mandates, accessibility of the vaccine, testing and treatment process, emergence of "long haul" COVID as a disability and implications for accommodations in the workplace and the community.

B. Each One, Reach One, Teach One: Diversity and Inclusion in Community Outreach and CIL Programs

Our session will promote Diversity, Inclusion and Peer Support within professional, public and personal spaces. Not all disabilities are visible, and therefore may be overlooked, while some are more stigmatized than others. Focusing upon building understanding and alliances between members of the cross-disability community only serves to empower all of us, of any gender, ability level, socioeconomic status or ethnic origin. Building and sharing our knowledge of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion renders it not work, or ongoing study, but a way of life, touching all whom we meet.

 **12:30 PM- 1:30 PM Pacific, 3:30-4:30 PM Eastern**

 A. Let's Talk About APRIL Membership

Are you an APRIL member? Are you considering APRIL membership? Did you previously let your membership lapse? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this session is for you! The APRIL Board and Public Relations Development Committee wants to hear from YOU. This session will be an open forum for individuals to discuss all the aspects of APRIL membership, including perspectives on why membership is or isn't valuable. Input from this session will be used to shape the future of APRIL's annual memberships options, so don't miss this opportunity to share your thoughts!

 B. Growing Partnerships to Improve Housing Options for People with Disabilities

 Rising housing costs in rural communities makes finding and retaining accessible, affordable housing more difficult. While workforce shortages and distances in rural areas can complicate access to home and community-based services, new federal funding provides opportunities for CIL/housing sector collaborations to improve options for affordable, accessible housing and voluntary services. This workshop will have highlights of Central Coast CIL's successful housing partnerships, 2 structured dialogues with participants, and short presentations by experts. Participants will learn about different CIL/housing partnerships, best practices for initiating and sustaining partnerships, and new resources available that partnerships can use.

**1:45-2:45 PM Pacific, 4:45-5:45 PM Eastern**

Membership Meeting:

Announcements on the results from By-law changes and Board Elections. Come listen to our Executive Director report on APRIL events and accomplishments this year.

**Tuesday, October 19**

**9:00-10:00 AM Pacific, 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern**

A. Disability Advocates Taking Action (DisDATA): Ask questions, get data, take action!

DisDATA (Disability Data Advocates Taking Action) is a collaborative of researchers, disabled people, and advocates promoting disability data equity. Disabled people, particularly those in congregate settings, are made invisible through the lack of data collection and representation leading to a disability data inequity. DisDATA is building a network to connect advocates, researchers, and policy makers around the shared goal of improving access to and representation within disability data systems. Join this workshop and learn about how you can get involved in DisDATA and share your experiences accessing and using data for advocacy. What questions have you struggled to answer about the experiences of people with disabilities in your community?

B. Using volunteer drivers to provide transportation options for persons with disabilities and other transit dependent persons in rural areas

Does your ILC provide services in a rural area where there are limited transportation options? If so, learn how your ILC can develop a transportation program using volunteer drivers to meet the transportation needs of persons with disabilities and other transit dependent persons. Almost 20 years ago the Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin developed the New Freedom Transportation Program to program to assist persons with disabilities who had unmet transportation needs in our service area. Learn how the program was developed, how it's funded, recruiting volunteer drivers and training them, and developing a collaboration with other agencies that provide or fund transportation programs in rural areas.

**10:30 am-11:30 AM Pacific, 1:30-2:30 PM Eastern**

A. Peer Support Session Assistant Directors/Program Managers

Join your peers from around the country who are in leadership positions in CILs as the Program Manager/Assistant Director or Vice President role. Bring your questions, bring your updates, and be ready to share with others.

B. When a CIL Closes - SILCs Role

Join several SILCs who have experienced the fallout of a CIL closing or on the brink of closing for a discussion of preventative and ameliorative measures that can be taken. Kansas and Pennsylvania will lead you through their journeys as SILCs when CILs closed, and what their role was to support the IL Network.

**12:00-1:00 PM Pacific, 3:00- 4:00 PM Eastern**

Keynote Session: Engaging with the White House

**1:30-2:30 PM Pacific, 4:30-5:30 PM Eastern**

A. Peer Support Youth Coordinators

Join your peers from around the country who are serving young people with disabilities through their Independent Living Services. Bring your questions, bring your updates, and be ready to share with others.

B. Navigating the FEMA Emergency Relocation Reimbursement Process.

This session will address nursing home transition during emergencies. Attendees will learn what works, what doesn't, steps needed in order to be successful when requesting reimbursement from FEMA / State EMAs for your transition work and how to establish an MOU with your State EMA.

**5:00 – 6:00 PM Pacific, 8:00-9:00 PM Eastern**

Social Hour

Come to greet old friends or meet new ones. We will have a zoom room open with ability for breakouts if you want to invite your friends and meet them virtually here. Cart and Interpreters will be provided until 6 pm Pacific (9 pm Eastern)

**Wednesday, October 20**

**9:00-10:00 AM Pacific, 12:00- 1:00 PM Eastern**

A. Time to Play Hard Ball in Healthcare: Getting Your Game Face on to Engage with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO's)

B. Conversations with Faculty: Assessing Student Accommodation & Accommodation Denial in Higher Education

The purpose and benefit of this Higher Education (HE) session is to give potential and present students, advocates, and HE professionals an organized, straightforward way to resolve difficult issues regarding academic disability-related accommodations to assure ADA/504 civil rights. This training, accompanied by a published guide handout, will map out an organized, straightforward tool to use when engaging, educating, and resolving accommodation issues. This analytical tool can be especially effective when seeking a better method to work with instructors and disability services staff, including resolving their hesitations, resistance, or down-right denial of accommodations in the classroom.

**10:30-11:30 AM Pacific, 1:30-2:30 PM Eastern**

A. Mental Health – An Open Conversation!

There is no textbook answer for what mental health looks like to a person. This workshop is set up to be a peer to peer There is no textbook answer for what mental health looks like to a person. This workshop is set up to be a peer to peer conversation where we can learn from one another, a true team experience. There will be some set conversation topics around mental health checklists, suicide and disability and sharing successes while invoking the true peer to peer experience through IL philosophy. Attendees will leave this workshop with some new ideas, outlooks and have one more tool for their toolbox. We are ALL experts and can learn from one another.

B. Rural outreach and organizing for community living: A peer mentoring program for reaching rural communities and consumers

Reaching rural consumers can be challenging. Over the past year, RTC:Rural and APRIL collaborated to develop a curriculum for a peer mentoring program for rural outreach and organizing. In true "nothing about us without us" fashion, we worked with a team of CIL staff from across the nation to iteratively develop the curriculum with concepts, ideas, and examples coming directly from CIL staff and consumer experiences. This work resulted in nine sessions that can be used by CIL staff mentors to assist other staff who wish to expand their rural outreach. Come to this session to learn about the new peer mentoring program that connects CIL staff with mentors and resources for improving rural outreach and organizing for community living.

**12:00-1:00 PM Pacific, 3:00-4:00 PM Eastern**

A. Keeping It Real: Positive, Effective, & Authentic SILC Member Engagement

How do SILC's maximize engagement and collaboration with it's members? It starts with Keeping It Real! SILC membership, Robert's Rules, and named leaders alone rarely translate into effective member engagement, collaboration, and quality outcomes. Join this presentation to learn practical steps needed to develop critical positive, effective, & authentic SILC member engagement practices. Real world application examples will be shared and dialogue with participants encouraged!

B. ILRU Part 1: Identifying the Gap and Finding the Data

**1:30-2:30 PM Pacific, 4:30-5:30 PM Eastern**

A. ILRU Part 2: Program Planning

B. Developing Virtual Communities: Creating a Disability Justice Podcast

In this workshop, Leo Allanach, producer and host of EOCIL's podcast "Voices in Action", will speak on the importance, accessibility, and advocacy benefits of creating an area-specific podcast that elevates local grassroots orgs and activists while tying them to larger issues such as capitalism, the prison industrial complex, the for-profit healthcare system, etc. Additionally, he will discuss the technical elements and logistics of producing a podcast, providing resources to empower others to create podcasts for their own community.

**Thursday, October 21, 2021 Day 4**

 **9:00-10:00 AM Pacific, 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern**

A. Inclusive Disaster Resilience During a Pandemic

The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies, the nation's experts on disability rights, accessibility and inclusion throughout all phases of emergency and disaster operations presents, Inclusive Disaster Resilience During a Pandemic. This workshop will focus on disability rights in disasters, community-found promising practices for inclusive preparedness, and advocacy efforts you can take home with you. An engaging discussion on empowering whole community resilience and systems advocacy for disability inclusion before, during, and after disasters.

B. How to host independent living workshops online

We will discuss how to recruit, host and present independent living workshops online using zoom and participants will hear from CIL staff at CILs who have presented Healthy Community Living workshops online using the Community Living Skills or Living Well in the Community workshop curriculums. They will provide their experiences with workshop start-up and facilitation and be available to ask questions to help others get workshops via Zoom started at their organization. We will walk you through planning, outreach, recruitment and facilitation of online independent living workshops.

**10:30-11:30 AM Pacific 1:30-2:30 PM Eastern**

A. Peer Support Session SILC

Join your peers from around the country who are serving people with disabilities in their varied roles on SILCS

B. Get in the ADA Game: Engage, Connect Play & Learn!

New to disability rights? Confused by the different parts of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)? Know the difference between an accommodation and a modification? Can your employer deny your request for an accommodation? Can you have an emotional support animal in public? Get the answers and learn more about the ADA as three fellow APRIL members lock their wits in an interactive game of ADA answers and questions. Play along to check and expand your ADA knowledge plus solve the ADA mystery word puzzle.

**12:00-1:00 PM Pacific, 3:00-4:00 PM Eastern**

A. Peer Support Session: Executive Directors

With community, we are stronger! Come start building your community. Executive Directors or CEO's of CILS, join this meeting to meet and discuss with other Eds. Bring your questions and your updates on what you are working on currently in your communities.

B. Community Transitions 101: Building Blocks for New Programs

In this session, Transition Program staff and developers at the Dayle McIntosh Center will share the tools and experiences they acquired after relaunching DMC's transition services with new staff last summer. The presenters will provide job descriptions, service plans, transition checklists, and other materials - as well as lessons learned - for centers seeking to launch or enhance their own transition services. Come join us for an exciting and empowering discussion of this important ILC core service!

**1:30-2:30 PM Pacific, 4:30-5:30 PM Eastern**

A. Creating a Strategic Plan that Doesn't Collect Dust After it's Made

Creating a strategic plan will provide your Center with a roadmap for implementation and accountability to grow your Center's impact.

There are five areas to evaluate to create a strategic plan for your Center. We'll discuss what each area is comprised of and the order, and overlap, that each has in the strategic planning process. We'll then cover how to assess how much time, people, and planning will be involved to come up with your strategic plan, as well as how to tie together and streamline your rural and metropolitan efforts.

At the end of this workshop, we'll also discuss a proven formula for ensuring that your strategic plan doesn't sit on a shelf collecting dust but is used collaboratively across your Center.

B. Don't Just Talk About It, Be About it!: Strategies for Engaging Today's Youth with Disabilities

Don't Just Talk About It, Be About It! Resources for Independence Central Valley, RICV motivates their youth participants with this phrase all the time. We realized that we needed to practice what we were preaching. We dove in face first on a journey to expand and create new services within our Youth Empowerment Services Program. Let us tell you about our journey including, our mistakes and successes, so that you can walk away and "Be About It!" too!

**4:00-5:00 PM Pacific 7:00-8:00 PM Eastern**

Sing-A-Long with Mr. Billy Altom

Join us for an APRIL Tradition, turn on your microphones and cameras if you like, bring your favorite beverage, and join Billy in our traditional night before closing sing-along. Captions and interpreters provided.

**Friday, October 22, 2021 Day 5**

**9:00-10:00 AM Pacific 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern**

A. Municipal Partnerships to Improve Recreation Access in Rural Communities

This workshop will explain how to build relationships with municipal leaders in your community and leverage those connections to have a greater impact on improving the accessibility of your service area, while also creating new revenue streams for your CIL.

B. Home Usability to support Community Living: Results and Next Steps from the PICL Project

In this workshop attendees will learn about the results of the home usability research project and explore how your center can start your own program. Attendees will hear success stories about how home usability made an impact on consumers' lives and ability to live independently, how home usability can complement existing home modification programs, and explore possible funding strategies.

**10:30-11:30 AM Pacific, 1:30-2:30 PM Eastern**

A. Peer Support Session: IL Specialists

Housing, congregate setting transition, transportation, IL Skills Training workshop facilitators, information and referral, employment. You name, you do it! Join with your other Independent Living Advocates, specialists, or whatever your title is, if you are doing direct consumer work, you are welcome here. Bring your questions and successes about day to day consumer services to brainstorm and share with your peers.

B. SILC Strategies: Engaging in Emergency Preparedness Efforts

Join representatives from Arizona, Florida, Idaho, and Washington SILCs for an overview of their strategic approach to engaging in, and contributing to, a variety of Emergency Preparedness efforts within their states.

**12:00-1:00 PM Pacific 3:00-4:00 PM Eastern**

A. Community Conversation: Trust, Privacy, and Internet-Connected Devices

Join us for a community conversation about trust, privacy, and internet-connected devices. We plan to share what we learned from our research with members of the disability community and also collaboratively explore other topics related to this area that should be addressed.

B. Disability Justice and Solidarity Economy

The session will convey the importance of an anti-capitalist approach to the fight for access. Using a framework of disability justice, we’ll cover an expansive understanding of disability and ableism that can support cross-movement solidarity work. We’ll invite participants into questions about how access can be increased through solidarity economies and an overview of what solidarity economy is.

**1:15-2:00 PM Pacific 4:15-5:00 PM Eastern**

Closing Ceremonies

Linda Gonzales Award, Earl Walden Award,