

West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council Annual Report

October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009

MISSION

“To ensure persons who have disabilities have access to community based resources that promote personal choice and facilitate the achievement of their independent living goals.”



www.wvsilc.org

From the West Virginia SILC

VISION

“To be a Consumer-controlled council that is effective in leading a statewide independent living movement that empowers persons who have disabilities.”



Greetings Friends,

The West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council is pleased to share with you our Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report. This past year West Virginia has seen some challenging times economically and the Council has worked hard to ensure that while we weather through this economic storm people with disabilities are affected in the least negative way possible.

The Council continues to collaborate and be a team partner with various organizations in order to address the independent living needs of individuals with disabilities in West Virginia. The Council maintains a good working relationship with our DSU (designated state unit), the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services, under the leadership of Director Deborah Lovely. The Council also works closely with the WVCILs (West Virginia Centers for Independent Living) and the SRC (State Rehabilitation Council). We are ever mindful of our mission and begin each meeting by reading our mission statement.

Throughout the year council members were able to participate in various conferences and training opportunities. This helps to keep us all abreast of what is going on at a local, state and national level. West Virginia saw stimulus monies allocated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to provide funding to help more people with disabilities. While the stimulus money is one time, short-term funding, it can make a difference. The Council works towards improving services and assuring the needs of West Virginians with disabilities are met.

As an individual with a disability, I have experienced first-hand the problems and needs associated with living with a disability. I am committed to the independent philosophy and envision a world of full acceptance for people with disabilities.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve as your chairperson during the past 2 ½ years. I have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and it has been a very rewarding experience for me. I wish to share a quote by William James, “Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”

All the best,

Cindy Spinks
Chairperson

History of Independent Living in West Virginia

Federally funded independent living services in West Virginia began in 1981 when the first center for independent living (CIL) opened in Huntington, WV, quickly followed by CILs in Charleston and Morgantown and later in Beckley. The CILs are the most flexible service programs for people with disabilities funded by the federal government. The funding flows through the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, US Department of Education directly to the CILs. In order to qualify for the funding, a CIL must be consumer controlled, not-for-profit corporation with a board and management staff comprised of at least 51% people with disabilities. CILs must provide the “four core services” of: 1) Advocacy (individual & systems); 2) Peer Counseling/Peer Support; 3) Independent Living Skills Training; and 4) Information and Referral. CILs may not operate a housing program other than time-limited (6 weeks), transitional housing. Other than that, a CIL can provide almost any service needed by the people with disabilities in their service area such as: transportation, supported employment, recreation, personal assistance services, and transition. To receive services from a CIL, a person must have a disability, but does not need medical verification of it, and must request the services they need. CILs provide most of their services free of charge.

In 1984, new federal funding was provided for a state independent living services (SILS) program by the state vocational rehabilitation agency or through grants or contracts. In West Virginia, the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) began an independent living field program provided by their counselors, as well as providing grants to community organizations (like the CILs) to provide independent living services. In 1992 the federal law was changed to require a statewide independent living council in every state to work with the state VR agency (DRS) to develop the plan for providing independent living services. In 1993 the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) was formed.

Over the years, through many arguments, disagreements, and struggles, the SILC and DRS have developed a remarkably strong and healthy partnership. The CILs are also part of that partnership. We all work together to plan the best use of resources (detailed in the State Plan for Independent Living), develop new resources, and ensure that quality independent living services are provided to people with disabilities in our state.

In 2003, the partners agreed that the CILs should be the provider of IL services and the funding for the SILS program was granted to the CILs to expand their service areas and to provide the Community Living Services Program (CLSP). Also in 2003, Funding was allocated by the West Virginia Legislature for independent living services and that funding also supports the CLSP. The CLSP provides home modifications, vehicle modifications, adaptive equipment, assistive technology, skills training, advocacy, resource coordination, and other services to help people with disabilities stay in their own homes in the community rather than in nursing homes or in other institutions.

The on-going struggle is that funding is inadequate to ensure every citizen has access to a local CIL and to the CLSP. There are over 400,000 West Virginians with disabilities. We believe every one of them has a right to the valuable services and supports provided by CILs and we will continue to work to ensure that they do!

Fiscal Information

For the State Plan for Independent Living
 FY 2009 – October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009

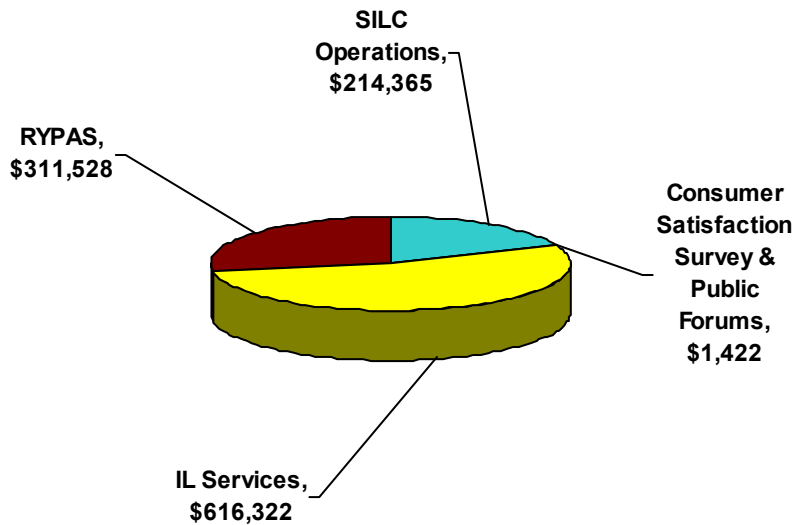
Resources:

Beginning Net Resources (SILC)	\$51,698
Federal Funding	\$522,984
State Funding	\$703,338
Contracts	\$2,333
Donations	\$730
Program Income	\$3,506
In-Kind	\$10,874
Total	\$1,295,463

Expenditures:

SILC	\$215,787
RYPAS	\$311,528
IL Services	\$616,322
Total	\$1,143,637

Uses of Funding



Projects and Accomplishments

RYPAS

The Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services (RYPAS) Program is a state funded program under the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). RYPAS is open to individuals with disabilities who need personal assistance services in order to remain in or return to their own home and who are not receiving such services from Medicaid. This consumer-directed program provides an hourly reimbursement, on a sliding scale based on income, to eligible recipients for the hours worked by their personal assistant(s) or PA. The reimbursement rate is currently minimum wage. Recipients may hire their own PA(s) or may purchase services from a provider. If a recipient cannot manage the employer responsibilities personally, he or she may designate an individual to manage those responsibilities.

The SILC, under a contract with the Division of Rehabilitation Services, processes the reimbursements to recipients and also provides staff support to the RYPAS Board. During 2009, RYPAS had twenty-two (22) recipients in fifteen (15) counties. The average age of a RYPAS recipient was 59 and the average cost per month was \$1,364. RYPAS recipients report that without this program, they would lose their homes and end up in a nursing home. In response to a satisfaction survey sent to all recipients, 93% rate their experience with the program as good or very good and that they like being able to direct their own PAS.

Community Living Services Program

The Community Living Services Program (CLSP) assists individuals with disabilities to function more independently in their homes and communities. Services provided by the program include: home modifications such as ramps, accessible bathrooms, and other accessibility modifications; assistive devices & equipment; communication devices, equipment, and instruction; vehicle modifications; durable medical equipment; coordination & maximization of resources available to provide the services; core independent living services including advocacy, skills training, peer support/counseling, and information & referral; and other independent living services.

CLSP is provided statewide by the West Virginia Centers for Independent Living (CILs). This is difficult because the CILs do not provide statewide coverage for any other program. Counties served by each CIL and a map are located on pages 12 & 13 of this report. Funding for CLSP is a combination of state funding allocated for "Independent Living Services" in the DRS budget and federal funding from Title VII, Part B of the Rehabilitation Act through RSA (part of OSERS in the US Department of Education).

In FY 2009, the CILs received \$475,000 in state funds and \$218,707 in federal funds for the CLSP. Other resources leveraged totaled \$21,039. With these funds, the CILs served 579 individuals. In addition to the services provided through CLSP, 101 referrals were made to other programs for services. At the end of the fiscal year, 396 individuals were on a waiting list for services and 19 individuals had died waiting for services. The following charts provide details on numbers of individuals served and services provided.

Community Living Services Provided Fiscal Year 2009

Service Provided	Consumers who Completed Goals	Consumers in Progress
Access and Environmental Controls	4	6
Aids to Daily Living	22	22
Assistive Listening Devices	29	92
Augmentative Communication	2	4
Computer Access	1	2
Mobility	9	22
Positioning/Seating	14	60
Prosthetics/Orthotics	0	1
Visual Aids	0	0
Other Assistive Devices & Equipment	0	0
Home Modifications	21	109
Lifts	7	22
Ramps	25	122
Vehicle Modifications	17	45
Other Rehabilitation Technology	40	64
Total Consumers	200	579

Independent Living Services Provided Through CLSP

Core IL Services	Total Provided		Total Provided
Individual Advocacy	76	Grassroots Organizing	0
Systems Advocacy	19	Housing & Shelter Services	9
IL Skills Training	58	Mobility Training	1
Peer Support/Counseling	1,428	Personal Assistance Services	0
Information & Referral	648	Prostheses & Other Applications	0
Other IL Services	0	Recreational Services	6
Adaptive Housing Services	28	Rehabilitation Technology Services	63
Assistive Devices & Equipment	125	Therapeutic Treatment	0
Communication Services	2	Transportation Services	1
Counseling & Related Services	1,060	Youth Services	1
Family Services	0	Other	0

Total Services Provided (duplicated count):

3,544

SILC 2009 Public Forums

In an effort to monitor the effectiveness of the SPIL, and to gather input for the new SPIL for 2011-2013, the SILC held a series of seven Public Forums in locations around the state:

- Morgantown – June 29th
- Bluefield – July 30th
- Summersville – August 13th
- Keyser – September 9th
- Martinsburg – September 10th
- Weirton – September 23rd
- Institute – October 19th

There were several overarching themes from these forums:

- Individuals who live in a CIL service areas are glad to have a CIL and the services they provide
- Individuals who do not live in a CIL service area are frustrated and want access to CIL services
- CILs don't have the resources they need to cover the state effectively
- Transportation is a barrier to accessing the CILs
- People want CILs located in their area
- People with disabilities statewide need the services CILs can provide
- Too many people are on waiting lists and are waiting too long for services
- "We need everything!"

Collaborations

The SILC has on-going collaborations with many organizations and had several collaborative efforts in FY 2009. The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and the West Virginia Centers for Independent Living (WVCIL) are our closest partners. The SILC, DRS and WVCIL work together on an on-going basis to plan independent living services through the SPIL. DRS and WVCIL provide the services. And the SILC monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of the SPIL. The SILC is also a partner with DRS in administering the RYPAS program as the funding comes through the DRS budget and the SILC performs the administrative duties and provides support to the board through contracts. The Fair Shake Network (FSN) and WVCIL are the SILC's primary partners for systems change and policy advocacy.

Health Care Reform

At the request of staff from Senator Rockefeller's office, the SILC took the lead to organize conference calls between the senator's office and disability organizations in West Virginia in order for staff to provide updates on Health Care Reform. Partners participating in these calls included the FSN, CILs, WVDDC, Olmstead Office, West Virginians for Affordable Health Care, West Virginia Center for Budget and Policy, AARP, DRS, and counsel for the Health and Human Resources Committees of the West Virginia Legislature.

Multifest

SILC staff participated in a planning committee and helped staff a booth at "MultiFest" – the annual multicultural festival held in Charleston, WV. Partners in the disability booth included DRS (who took the lead), FSN, WVDD Council, WV Advocates, WV State Rehabilitation Council, Mountain State CIL,

Northern WV CIL, WV Mental Health Consumers Association, WV Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, WVADA Coalition, and WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities.

Strategic Planning

DRS includes the SILC and the SRC executive directors in management team meetings once a month. This provides a forum for communication, updates, and questions. In addition, the SILC and SRC chairpersons and executive directors are included as partners in the DRS strategic planning process, developing goals and strategies for the Division.

Medical Matters

The SILC was included in several planning sessions to identify partners and topics to produce a series of episodes of a television program called “Medical Matters” for West Virginia audiences, through cable television. The series is to focus on disability issues and partners include WV Mental Health Consumers Association, FSN, WV Bureau for Behavioral Health & Health Facilities, WV Mental Health Planning Council, WV Advocates, DRS, WVDD Council and others.

SILC Peer Mentoring

The SILC executive director was recruited to serve as a peer mentor to other SILCs through the SILC Peer Mentoring Program operated by APRIL & ILRU. During FY 2009, peer mentoring was provided to the Kentucky SILC and the Maryland SILC and those efforts are on-going.

Long Term Care Systems Change

The SILC executive director has participated in many meetings, committees, and groups to research problems and barriers to the provision of health care and other services and supports for people with disabilities trying to live in the community. Recommendations have been made for changes to state code and to policies regarding the administration of medications and the delegation of nursing tasks. These efforts are on-going and partners in this effort include the FSN, DD Council, and the Olmstead Office.

In addition to the specific projects/collaborations detailed above, the SILC is involved with many partners on an on-going basis. SILC staff are members of and participate in a variety of committees, councils, boards, and coalitions including:

- AARP Money Management Program Statewide Advisory Council
- ADA Coalition
- Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
- Association of Youth Leadership Forums
- DRS Consultation Group
- Fair Shake Network (FSN)
- Gateways Leadership Council
- Medley Hartley Advocacy Project Advisory Council
- National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)
- Olmstead Council
- People First
- SILC Outcome Measures Task Force
- Vision Shared Long Term Care Task Force

Consumer Satisfaction Survey

The annual Consumer Satisfaction Survey results for 2009 give a good picture of independent living in West Virginia. Responses were received from ninety-nine recipients of independent living services from twenty-nine counties. Eighty-two of the respondents received services from the Community Living Services Program (CLSP). Sixty-five percent of the respondents indicated that the services they received made a difference.

Satisfaction Items:

The ratings of satisfaction across the items revealed at least 90% of the consumers reported that they Agree or Strongly Agree that:

- information was given in a way they could understand (96%),
- they chose the services they needed to meet their goals (94%),
- they chose their own IL goal (94%),
- CIL staff treated them with courtesy and respect (93%),
- CIL staff members were excellent, overall (93%),
- their questions were answered clearly (92%),
- CIL staff understood their needs (92%), and
- staff stayed in contact with them (92%),

Each of the other items was rated at well above 80% agreement.

Specific comments from respondents include:

"I can get in and out of my house. So can 911 services. Thank you."

"I can now remain in my home and not in a nursing home because I have a bathroom I can use."

"Have not got any help yet. I am on waiting list."

"I got therapy and a way to travel. They talked and listened to me."

"Increased self esteem and hope for the future."

"I'm still waiting"

SILC Staff



Ann McDaniel, Executive Director

Ann Watts McDaniel is the original executive director hired by the Council in November 1996. She set up the SILC office and has been through every project and change the Council has encountered. Ann is responsible for all operations of the SILC, managing the staff and the office, collaborating with SILC partners, maintaining the relationship with the Division of Rehabilitation Services as well as the Centers for Independent Living, and ensuring council members have the information they need to make good decisions in managing the corporation.

Kathi Young, Administrative Assistant

Hired in 1998, Kathi has been with the SILC through many projects and changes. She is responsible for bookkeeping and coordinating the daily operation of the SILC office. Kathi also provides administrative support to the SILC and its committees. As SILC activities shifted in response to the recommendations from RSA, Kathi's initiative and flexibility have been a true asset.



Carissa Davis, Program Assistant

Since she was hired in 2003, Carissa has served various roles in her position at the SILC. Her duties have ranged from answering the phone and handling mail to coordinating public relations and resource development. Carissa also provides staff support to the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Program. During the past year her duties have shifted to include managing and updating the WVSILC Web site which has enabled us to maximize this valuable resource.

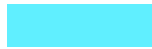
West Virginia Centers for Independent Living:

Appalachian CIL - Larry Paxton, Executive Director

Elk Office Center, Suite C
4710 Chimney Drive
Charleston, WV 25302
304-965-0376
1-800-642-3003



Base Counties - Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Jackson, Kanawha, Putnam and Roane



CLSP - Braxton, Doddridge, Greenbrier, Nicholas, Pleasants, Ritchie, Webster, Wirt, and Wood

Mountain State CIL - Anne O. Weeks, President/CEO

821 Fourth Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701
304-525-3324
1-866-687-8245

329 Prince Street
Beckley, WV 25801
304-255-0122
Virtual/Web-based CIL: www.mtsteil.org

PO Box 31
Sistersville, WV 26175
304-652-2116



Base Counties - Cabell, Raleigh, and Wayne



CLSP Counties - Brooke, Fayette, Hancock, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Ohio, Summers, Tyler, Wetzels, and Wyoming

Northern WV CIL - Jan Derry, Executive Director

601-603 East Brockway, Suite A&B
Morgantown, WV 26505
304-296-6091
1-800-834-6408

Eastern Panhandle Advocacy Project
P.O. Box 545
Rannells Acres
Romney, WV 26757
304-822-7099

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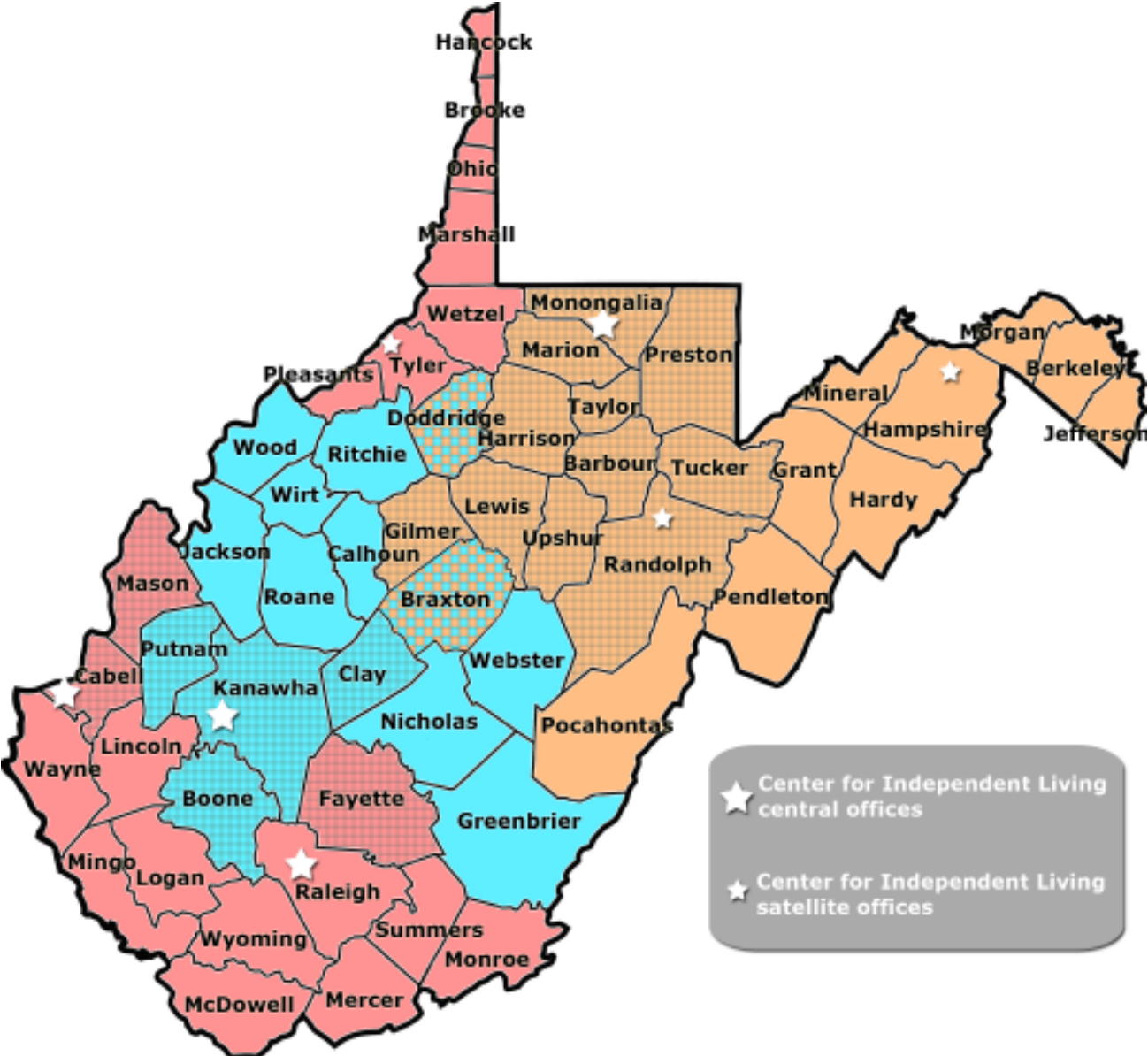


Base Counties - Barbour, Berkeley, Braxton, Doddridge, Gilmer, Hampshire, Harrison, Jefferson, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, Morgan, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, and Upshur



CLSP Counties - Grant, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton, and Pocahontas

CIL Service Areas



SILC Annual Report Glossary

ACIL	Appalachian Center for Independent Living
ADRC	Aging & Disability Resource Center
APRIL	Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living
CIL	Center for Independent Living
CLSP	Community Living Services Program
DD	Developmental Disability
DRS	Division of Rehabilitation Services
DSU	Designated State Unit
FRN	Family Resource Network
FSN	Fair Shake Network
ILRU	Independent Living Research Utilization
MTSTCIL	Mountain State Centers for Independent Living
NWVCIL	Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living
OSERS	Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services
RSA	Rehabilitation Services Administration
RYPAS	Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services
SILC	Statewide Independent Living Council
SPIL	State Plan for Independent Living
USDOE	United States Department of Education
VISIONS	Visually Impaired Seniors In-home Outreach & Networking Services
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation
WVA	West Virginia Advocates
WVARF	West Virginia Association of Rehabilitation Facilities
WVCIL	West Virginia Centers for Independent Living
WVDDC	West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council
WVDOE	West Virginia Department of Education
WVDRS	West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services
WVHDF	West Virginia Housing Development Fund

West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council

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2009 SILC Members

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Brenda Goodfellow
Beverley Jones
Brenda Lamkin
Linda Maniak
Jack Mitchell
Nathan Parker

James Qualls
David Sanders
Kelly Simpson
Kevin Smith
Cindy Spinks
David Stewart
Vanessa VanGilder
Anne Weeks
Ex Officio
Bob Cary - WVHDF
Mary Pat Farrell - WVDOE
Annette Francis - WVARF
Brian Holstine - BoSS
Michael Meadows - WVDRS
Pat Winston - OBHS

SILC Staff

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Kathi Young, Administrative Assistant
Carissa Davis, Program Assistant