



## WASHINGTON

### State Independent Living Council

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P.O. Box 45343 Olympia, WA 98504 360-725-3695 [www.wasilc.org](http://www.wasilc.org)

#### Memorandum

To: State Independent Living Council and interested parties

From: Rob Honan, Executive Director

Re: State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Review

November 5, 2009

The federal mandate of State Independent Living Councils, in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act (as amended in 1992), are the following:

- (A) Jointly develop and sign in conjunction with the Director of the Department of Rehabilitation, the State Plan required under federal statute;
- (B) Monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the State Plan;
- (C) Coordinate activities with the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council;
- (D) Ensure that all regularly scheduled meetings of the Council are open to the public and sufficient advance notice is provided; and
- (E) Submit to the federal government such periodic reports as the federal government may reasonably request and keep such records, and afford access to such records, as the federal government finds necessary to verify the reports.

With this in mind, I am providing you with a review of the SPIL from the viewpoint of the six Centers for Independent Living in WA. (I am including dRC since they were in existence for most of the fiscal year.). I asked each of the directors to go over the seven areas of the SPIL and make comments on their progress. There were some outcomes provided, but most of the information relates to CIL activities that address “issue areas” of the SPIL.

The seven areas major areas of the 2008-2010 are:

Outreach, Education, Training  
Housing  
Transportation

Transition (for youth)  
Deinstitutionalization  
Emergency Preparedness

Assistive Technology

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**The Alliance of People with Disabilities**  
**Phone Interview with Executive Director Lucille Walls and key staff**  
**October 29, 2009**

Outreach/ Marketing and Education

Ethnic and Cultural Diversity

- Alliance continues to work in this area, but has made progress
- They have hired two African-American staff members
- The Youth Specialist Program was headed by an individual of Latino descent
- The Alliance employed a Chinese-American Intern
- The Alliance is represented with LGBT interest
- Bi-Lingual Staff (Spanish-English)
- Board is diverse: Youth, African-American, and Native American

Deaf Blind, Deaf, and Hard of Hearing

- Staff is actively involved in DB, D, HH SPIL group (Rob Honan chairs this group and 8 different agencies are represented)
- The Alliance reaches out to Deaf and Hard of Hearing by allowing use of their Captel © telephone device for public
- The Alliance sponsored the interpreters for the recent Mayoral candidates forum

TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury)

- The Alliance collaborates with the Brain Injury Association in a support group for folks with TBI
- The board has recently recruited a veteran's administration to be a member of the board, and this individual has a great deal of TBI experience
- The Alliance is active in the "Hire America's Heroes" program.

Legislative Advocacy/ Education/ Marketing

- Helped sponsor Mayoral Candidates Forum

- Attended Rally Day in Olympia (20+).
- Staff went to Washington DC to advocate/ educate on federal issues.
- Attended King County strategic planning meetings to push for more disability-related service

#### Other:

- Alliance will be working with an outside agency on a marketing plan. Part of this plan is to work on the possibility of re-branding the agency logo.

#### Housing

- Worked with Rural IL Institute (Bob Liston) to complete a housing survey for consumers
- Encouraging & advocating with King County Housing Authority to be aggressive in applying for the limited number of Section 8 Vouchers for persons with disabilities
- Alliance has been active with training Housing Authority on accessibility issues in housing
- Attended Senior Resource Fair to market services.
- The Alliance is on several different housing listservs. They use this information to assist consumers in accessing housing in King County.
- The Alliance reports that GLAAD is working on housing discrimination issues from a LGBT point of view.

#### Transportation

- Staff attends King County Metro Transportation customer service boards
- Provide consumers with many I and R's in para transit and Sound Transit issues.
- Worked closely with accessible taxis in King County. The Alliance was instrumental in getting Craig Lacey to the July SILC public forum to discuss accessible taxis.
- The Alliance was very active in the issue surrounding public transportation service cuts. Alliance staff advised King County Transport on what routes to cut or scale back.

## Transitioning

- Summer Youth Transition program served six kids. If this is done again next year, it is believed that they will have a better understanding of how to attract students to this program.
- The Alliance is making strides on serving 504 students with the Part B funding, but there is still a great deal of work to do.
- The Alliance has been active in mentoring and job shadowing activities for high-school aged kids.

## Deinstitutionalization

- Executive Director spoke up about this issue at the recent town hall meeting to DSHS Secretary at recent meeting
- The Alliance sees a negative trend in King County: The county has a worse record than other parts of the state in regards to reintegration into the community. The Alliance is working on a lawsuit with the Northwest Justice Department.
- The Alliance continues to work in the Roads to Community Living process, but is frustrated with the lack of referrals.

## Emergency Preparedness

- Actively participates on the County Alert Committee (Vulnerable Population)
- Staff has engaged in CPR training
- One of the staff is CERT-certified
- In last year's December snow storm, one the staff members was stuck in home for two weeks and used this experience as an a way to advocate for more effective planning for snow removal.
- Advocates are trying to implement "Seattle Disability Commission" and emergency preparation will be one of the top issues.

## Assistive Technology

- Provides AT resources on Alliance website (over 40 different accessible software is found on the website). The Alliance received a small grant from Abode- "Sharware."
- Staff works with WATF to provide Individual Development Account and business workshops to help consumers become more economically independent.

**Center for Independence, Lakewood**  
**Interviewed Trina Forest on October 27, 2009 in CFI office**

Outreach/ Training/ Marketing:

CFI has a very diverse board and staff:

- Hired Bi-lingual (English-Spanish) Independent Living Specialist
- Employed Native American Intern for nine months. She was able to build some relationships with members of the Puyallup Tribe
- One of CFI's board members is Native American
- CFI continues in their attempt to make inroads to the African-American community (Tacoma has the highest percentage of African-Americans of any city in WA).
- The Youth Transition Program Manager is Chinese-American

Outreach to Deaf/ Activities with Deaf Agencies

- CFI has developed a very good working relationship with HSDC (Hearing Speech Deaf Center) of Tacoma
- Staff member Todd Holloway is on the HSDC advisory committee and attended emergency responder training sponsored by HSDC (and developed by CEPIN) in September 2009

Deaf Blind

- CFI reported that they worked with three (3) Deaf Blind consumers this year

TBI

- CFI staff serve on veteran's services collaboration
- CFI has a positive relationship with Penny Condall of the Pierce County TBI Support Group
- Many individuals with TBI were invited to the CFI Halloween party

## Increase Funding for CILs/ Legislative Advocacy

- CFI active with legislative activity
- 25 staff, board, and consumers attended Rally Day on March 10, 2009 in Olympia
- Executive Director (Trina Forest) worked with SILC to print ACIL-WA brochures and “Stories” handout for legislators
- CFI initiated the collaboration with Pierce County and TACID to write the HAVA grant proposal to fund accessible polling location at Center.
- Sponsored legislative training Rob Honan provided to consumers, staff and board on March 5, 2009
- Advocated for disability rights in Washington DC and Olympia

## Other outreach/ training/ education

- Staff serve on Tacoma Disability Advisory Committee for City Council in Tacoma
- Successfully advocated for curb cut removal and replacement in Lakewood

## Housing

- Staff serve on Tacoma Homeless Coalition and city of Tacoma office of Human Services
- CFI received a \$12,000 of pass through funds from FEMA to provide emergency rental and mortgage assistance. In 2008, approximately \$6,000 of these funds were distributed.
- CFI continues to work with landlords on education and individual advocacy issues

## Transportation

- CFI staff are members of Public Committee of Pierce County Transit
- Curb cut advocacy issue (mentioned earlier)
- Continued advocacy with para-transit services in Pierce County. Both individual and systems advocacy

## Transitioning

- Partnering with DVR in providing transition services to 504 Students (this has been a challenge, but the hard work is beginning to pay off)
- Summer Youth Program: worked with 15 high school-aged kids
- Successfully linking 504 students and others with DVR as a possibility for services

## Deinstitutionalization

- There has been some success with Roads to Community Living Fee for Service. But some barriers still exists, such as lack of accessible// affordable housing, lack of a competitive contractual wage (too low of a wage) to effectively provide transitional services.
- Additional resources are needed.

## Emergency Preparedness

- Received Christopher Reeve grant funds to provide emergency preparedness services to individuals with spinal chord injuries.
- CFI hosted three (3) workshops on this issue. They handed out three-day emergency preparation kits. Individuals were offered one-on-one planning at this workshop
- CFI continues to encourage personal responsibility in this area. “Individuals need to be prepared on their own and take the initiative to do this.”

## Assistive Technology

- CFI has a video phone (VP) at their office for public use. Mainly intended for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, about three to six individuals use this service/ device a month.
- CFI does give away durable medical equipment if they have some on hand.
- CFI mainly provides information and referral in this area
- One barrier that CFI has come up against is that counselors (instead of special education professionals) do not have the time to focus on acquiring AT for 504 kids.

**Coalition of Responsible Disabled, Spokane  
Met with Linda McClain, Nan Kelly and Lois King on October 27, 2009 in Spokane**

Education/ Marketing & Outreach

- Ethnic and Minority Outreach:
- CORD admitted that this is a challenge area, but they are involved with MLK day activity to promote their services and recruit minorities to their board and staff.
- CORD has performed outreach to a mosque in Spokane.
- An intern was Russian and helped with translation of documents and other forms.
- CORD is getting numerous calls from Colville Nation but has been unable to serve this area due to resource constraints.

Outreach to Deaf/ Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind

- CORD collaborated with Eastern Washington Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (EWCDHH) on domestic violence issues (along with Phil Jordan of Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence)
- Engaged in cross-training with EWCDHH
- Working with Seattle organization (led by Kathy Hoog) that focuses on sexual assault for Deaf. This organization is trying to expand into other disabilities.
- Deaf-Blind connections: EWCDHH shares a building with Lilac Foundation for the Blind. CORD makes easy referrals because of this.

TBI: Traumatic Brain Injury

- Ed Kennedy is on the Board of Brain Injury Association of Washington
- CORD has worked with Providence Adult Day Health on intensive case-management for one of its consumers with TBI
- CORD serves five-ten individuals who have TBI as a result of strokes
- CORD is strategizing on how to reach Vet's with TBI, including skill building with this population.

Other Underserved

- The agency historically has provided the homeless population with emergency and preventative services. CORD continues to do outreach to this population.

- Felons. CORD also works with felons with disabilities on IL Skills training, advocacy, reintegration and housing issues.
- Low wage workers and recent disabled.

#### State Funding

- CORD has worked with GCDE (Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment) on state funding for CILs in Washington. Still a work in progress.
- Is working with numerous agencies promoting the state funding and education issues.
- Staff, board and consumers are active in educating state legislators on this issue. Attended March 11, 2009 Rally. Staff, board and consumers are also educated to meet with local legislation and discuss the value of supporting the CIL's and state funding.

#### Outreach to Underserved regions of state/ Other Outreach

- HOPWA grant serves nine counties.
- Ed Kennedy attends town hall meetings in other areas of CORD service area, including Pend Oreille County.
- Board members, staff and consumers have written letters to the editor of newspapers.
- Staff is consistently doing presentations at schools, police stations, other disability organizations, Spokane Community Services, etc.

#### Housing

- Works with Homeless Coalition in Spokane that is made up of 50-60 agencies partnering around numerous housing issues.
- CORD has leadership positions within the Homeless Coalition
- Collaborates with SNAP to provide housing services in Spokane area
- CORD is a liaison in efforts to provide SRO (single room occupancy) funded by SNAP
- Works with all six homeless shelters in Spokane to introduce individuals to services. Provides services, training and education to many of these individuals.
- CORD collaborates with realtors and lenders to assist some of their participants attain home ownership. Two individuals served in this manner are now home owners.
- CORD works daily to get folks into affordable and accessible homes

- Staff have undergone fair housing training and in turn have worked with landlords to share their knowledge.
- There is a Fair Housing Advocate at CORD once a month to meet with consumers with questions around fair housing.
- CORD has tapped into a Department of Justice Victims fund to use in home modifications. CORD was instrumental in assisting consumer getting judgment through the victim's fund.
- CORD received approximately \$28,000 in Rental Deposit Assistance through the County. They have served 60 people through this program.
- CORD has also worked to transition individuals out of institutions/ nursing homes and felons back into the community.
- CORD works with local housing advocates attempting to create more affordable housing in the Spokane area. CORD is an associate member of Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium –SLIHC providing feedback around housing opportunities.

## Transportation

- Nan serves on the Spokane Transit Authority Customer Service Advisory Committee to provide input on to improve services
- CORD employee is currently on a TV commercial that promotes Spokane Transit with announcement of the CIL .
- CORD employee serves on Spokane Paratranist Advisory Committee.
- Lois is on (Spokane) Mayor's Committee for Bus, Benches and Snow Removal
- CORD provides training of "how to ride the bus" to numerous folks integrating into the community.
- Staff train drivers on how to be more friendly and patient with individuals with disabilities
- CORD also works with Greyhound Bus to make their services friendlier to people with disabilities.
- CORD was instrumental in changing policy for service animals in para transit situations. The old policy was that the dog/ service animal had to go up separately than its owner on the hydraulic lift. Nan helped with changing the policy so that the service animal and its owner would go up the lift together. (ADVOCACY)
- Staff work with Spokane Transit each time they purchase busses/vehicles. CORD staff does a walk through/ inspection with them to ensure accessibility.

## Transitioning

- CORD worked with 11 kids in the Summer Youth Transition Program
- The staff does a great deal of outreach to the schools: With social workers and counselors.
- Participated in a partnership safety rally. The purpose behind the safety rally was to encourage kids to speak for themselves (rather than having others speak for them)

## Deinstitutionalization

- Small number of referrals from HCS (Home and Community Services). Only three or four. This is Roads to Community Living referrals.
- CORD uses general IL funds to assist in transitioning process (as well as some RTCL)
- CORD reports 13 deinstitutionalizations in the last year. This number includes incarceration as well.

## Emergency Preparedness (A major strength of CORD)

- CORD organized and put on the April 2009 SILC meeting emergency preparation panel.
- Agency sponsored national emergency preparation expert Ana Marie Jones for an all-day workshop. Attended by over 100 individuals. March 2009
- Partners with Red Cross to put on trainings in all counties in service area.
- Collaborates with local Area Agency on Aging to teach their staff about emergency preparation issues for persons with disabilities.
- Provided emergency preparation training to participants of Summer Youth Transition program
- CORD has stated as a goal they would like to contract with apartment managers to administer emergency preparation training to their residents.
- CORD discussed that Spokane Transit WILL NOT provide emergency transportation. CORD would like to follow up with what other areas of the state do. (Katrina spawned this issue)
- Ed Kennedy is CERT-certified. He does a majority of the trainings.
- CORD implements “CIL Management” software for its files. CORD recognizes that “Continuity of Operations” plan needs some work.

## Assistive Technology (AT)

- Agency has assisted consumers in purchasing service dog gear (vests, harnesses, etc.)

- **CORD has a small AT/ Durable Medical Equipment closet**
- **The agency has located a local wheelchair dealer who fixes wheelchairs for free and low cost**
- **Staff undergoes annual TTY training'**
- **CORD provides information and applications for Washington Assistive Technology Foundation (WATF)**

**Central Washington Disability Rights, Ellensburg  
Interview on October 26, 2009 in Seattle, WA**

Marketing/ Training/ Outreach

Minority Outreach

- Hired Latino to assist with outreach in service area. Results were mixed as challenges still remain in Yakima County
- Experience successes in reaching out to Latinos in Wenatchee County. Engaging in fee-for-service in this county
- Still working to make board more diverse. Kititas County is not as diverse in terms of ethnicity as the others in the area, and this is one barrier. But the efforts are there to make the board more representative of the entire service area.
- CWDR recently expanded its board to include an African-American.

TBI:

- Staff member is certified Brain Injury specialist.
- Have been able to successful reach 12-15 individuals with brain injury per year
- Actively participated in city bike helmet law issues. Advocated for the use of mandatory helmets.

Deaf/ Deaf Blind & Hard of Hearing

- Agency is collaborating with the SouthEastern Washington Service Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to do more outreach. There is some genuine partnership in this area. CWDR staff and SEWSCDHH staff visit with consumers together.
- CWDR advertises in their office window that SEWSCDHH is available one day a week.

Legislative Outreach/ Funding

- Von Elison reports that CWDR does more advocacy in the local area rather than in Olympia
- Biggest advocacy issues are: housing and deinstitutionalization
- With ARRA Part B funds, CWDR hired a benefits specialist and an advocacy specialist
- CWDR attends DVR meetings throughout their service area to educate them on IL.

- Attend homeless coalition meetings throughout service area to advertise folks on CWDR IL services
- CWDR executive director is very involved in city-wide issues relating to people with disabilities (and other issues)
- Other staff works with city of Ellensburg on non-motorized concerns (pedestrian, wheel-chair, curb cuts, signals, etc.)

### Housing

- Von Elision serves on the Community Frameworks board. They provide low-income housing and work with 202 and 811 (HUD) housing projects
- Executive Director also is working on Washington Housing Training Initiative
- CWDR works with local landlords to educate them on accessibility issues and the benefits of Section 8 Vouchers.

### Transportation

- Participates in “Quad-Co”, a four-county transportation system that includes Grant, Kittitas, Yakima, and Lincoln counties. CWDR makes referrals to the system as well as acts in an advisory capacity.
- Von Elision serves on the board of Kittitas Transportation/ Central Transit Authority, which provides fixed route bus service in Ellensburg.
- CWDR is very active in providing individual and systems advocacy in this area. Working to expand transportation north of Ellensburg (not yet, though)
- CWDR staff very active in incorporating transportation issues into their school-based presentations.

### Transitioning

- CWDR very active in school presentations. Letting students know about CWDR and its commitment to assisting students in this area
- Success in with CWU has been slow\

### Deinstitutionalization

- Main focus has been on closure of Yakima Valley School
- Von Elision won Region X advocacy award due to her work on the Yakima Valley School
- Staff member Gretchen is heavily involved in this area as the Roads to Community Living Representative for CWDR.

- One of the barriers CWDR faces is that the Home and Community Services (HCS) staff has a high degree of turnover, thus staff continuity has been a problem in transitioning individuals out of institutions.
- Another barrier is that HCS has encouraged folks to move into adult family homes rather than truly into the community. This, according to Von, flies in the face of the IL philosophy.
- Other issues/ barriers: 1. Lack of accessible and affordable housing obtaining a good (higher) rate for contracted services from HCS.

#### Emergency Preparedness

- CWDR staff stress personal responsibility; they ask consumers if they have their own emergency plans
- CWDR had staff working with the counties to explain disability awareness and sensitivity around this issue, but the progress is not as great as Von would like

#### Assistive Technology

- There are many requests for Durable Medical Equipment and computer equipment, including software.
- CWDR partners with the university to train CWDR consumers on the effective use of AT.
- CWDR primarily focuses on information and referrals.
- There is a video phone for use for the public at CWDR. The use is relatively light right now (only 2-4 month) but they are working with the SECDHH to increase awareness and ultimately their numbers.

**disAbility Resource Connections, Everett**  
**Email response from Charley Lane, former executive director**  
**October 30, 2009**

1. Minority Outreach. (Minority Groups and Underserved disAbility groups)

**Successes in Outreach, Marketing and Education**

- With staff fluent in Spanish, Chinese, and American Sign Language (ASL), significant inroads were made through these communities (Hispanic/Spanish, Deaf/HOH, Chinese).
- Through use of volunteers and select staff, brief interventions took place among the local Indian reservation tribes residing in Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom counties.
- Through initial phases of our Office Connection program, significant presence and intervention took place among populations with displaced workers with disabilities.
- Sorenson Phone for public use was installed and utilized at dRC on behalf of D/deaf/HOH/LD communities.
- Staff training with Deaf-Blind in becoming more aware of communication needs

**Barriers to Outreach, Marketing, and Education**

- Changing priorities in funding usage
- Cultural barriers among minority groups
- Need for more funding regardless of priority ranking in funding

2. Housing

**Successes:**

- Extensive I&R Contacts through Snohomish County
- Inroads with private sector as initial step toward public-private partnerships outside of grant funding, especially with integration concepts with LEED/'Green' concepts

**Barriers:**

- Dealing with perception of 'redundant' services in community and 'getting ahead' of the disability-expertise curve

- Limitations of current funding framework and broadening perspectives into public-private sectors
- Getting consumers more involved in systems advocacy

### 3. Transportation

#### **Successes:**

- Provided input to local transportation plans with local advisory boards for future strategic planning initiatives
- Increased utilization of private sector options in providing shuttle/van services to persons with disabilities when public options are not available

#### **Barriers:**

- Challenges of funding in inter/intra-county contracts/coordination of schedules
- Funding/limited accessibility with latest technologies

### 4. Transition

#### **Successes:**

- 67 students involved with both United Way and 7B funding sources
- 90% success rate, as reported by Counselors and students in their achievement plans
- Building relationships with teachers, parents, and families

#### **Barriers:**

- No 504s placements due to multiple barriers
- Lack of resources to increase funding outside of grants
- More time and money

### 5. Deinstitutionalization

#### **Successes:**

- Some contacts with Assisted Living to increase community participation  
(weak area)

#### **Barriers:**

- More staff training and awareness to participate in deinstitutionalization

## 6. Emergency Preparedness

### **Successes:**

- Local participation in local emergency preparedness plan activities & providing input in strategic planning activities with County Services
- Involvement in policy development internally (in progress)

### **Barriers:**

- More staff training and internal preparedness

## 7. Assistive Technology (AT)

### **Successes:**

- Participation with WATF Board
- Expansion of Computer/AT Lab
- Staff certified in AT

### **Barriers:**

- More funding (\$\$) and options for consumers
- Integration with other community partners (in the works)

**disAbility Resources of Southwest WA**  
**Interview with Jim Baker and staff (Mike, Connie, Shirley..**  
**November 10, 2009**

Marketing, Education and Outreach

1. Ethnic and Cultural Minorities:
  - a. dARSW has two Latino Board members with one being added in 2009
  - b. The agency participated in the Clark County Latino Health Fare
  - c. The agency provides its brochures in Spanish
  - d. dARSW is examining ways to reach out to the Slavic community (all Eastern Europeans) in the Clark County/ Vancouver area
  - e. dARSW staff served on the National Council on Independent Living Diversity Council to strategize on ways to do more effective outreach all minority groups
  
2. Disability Minorities:
  - a. Have begun outreach to Deaf Community via the SouthWest Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
  - b. dARSW staff have done some outreach to the School for the Blind and held their 2008 Christmas/ Holiday party at the School for the Blind
  - c. dARSW does have Video Phone on location but the use has been somewhat limited so far.
  - d. dARSW hosts a very successful TBI support group at the Center. They receive funding from DSHS to sponsor this group
  - e. Staff have been engaged in TBI-related educational activities and attended the WA Brain Injury Association conference in 2009.
  
3. Other Outreach:
  - a. Significant outreach to LGBT community. Examples: hiring staff familiar with these communities, outreach at Metropolitan Community Church,
  - b. Outreach to women in domestic violence situations (work with Washington Coalition Against Domestic Violence)
  - c. Youth: Added 24-year old to the Board
  - d. dARSW led the Clark County Disability Coalition to put on the Legislative Forum (October 2008)
  - e. 15 Board, Staff and consumers visited State Legislature to educate and lobby elected officials on relevant disability issues

Housing

1. Executive Director serves on the Columbia Non-Profit Housing (CNPH) agency board. Agency provides low-income housing resources in Clark County
2. CNPH is partnering with dARSW to develop 14-unit complex for physical disabilities ( A HUD housing project)

3. dARSW has partnered with next door neighbor, Housing Resources, to provide I and R and other housing services.
4. dARSW has also worked with CNPH in advocating for and assisting consumers in the home ownership process.
5. Exposed youth with disabilities in the housing process
6. In the future, staff will attend Fair Housing Training in Tacoma
7. Staff have worked in landlord mediation process with consumers.

#### Transportation

1. Staff, board and consumers have participated in advocacy to increase transportation funding in Clark County.
2. Staff engaged in a great deal of advocacy in Paratransit. (At least 10 different situations)
3. Success in getting C-Tran (Local transportation provider) to listen to concerns about fixed routes (where to change routes, how to make bus stops more accessible, etc.)
4. dARSW now provides "Local Certification in Transportation Training."
5. One of the major staff activities is to assist IL Skills training on how to navigate C-Tran
6. dARSW promotes "conditional Part Transit use."
7. Staff involved in planning process of the extension of light rail into Vancouver (the Max)

#### Transitioning

1. Staff member (the Youth Coordinator) attended over 30 different events to promote the Youth in Transition Program at dARSW
2. It took six months to get program really off the ground (the first person signed up),but the progress is much better now: 14 are in the process right now.
3. Main activities: IL Skills training, budgeting, voting, and emergency preparation
4. Youth are encouraged to be active in the community: Took part in a food drive to benefit the local food bank
5. There is a big focus on socialization skills: Bowling, Movies, and just getting people used to hanging out with other kids.

#### Deinstitutionalization

1. A big barrier is finding the appropriate level of funding to hire and train staff for to provide deinstitutionalization.
2. Staff worked on advocacy efforts to close Fircrest and Yakima Valley School
3. During Legislative Forum process, dARSW staff used this issue to educate legislative candidates.
4. Partnered with SW AAA (Area Agency on Aging) to stop funding cuts for persons with disabilities, particularly community-based services.
5. One of dARSW's board members also serves on the Home Care Quality Board (a state wide attendant registry)

6. dARSW wrote letter of support to CDM regarding their attendant registry.

#### Emergency Preparedness

1. As part of Youth in Transition Program, dARSW, staff passed out over 30 emergency packs. This was in partnership with Clark County Department of Health.
2. dARSW staff provided input into the County's renewal of their Emergency Plan
3. Staff member trained as a " Certified Emergency Preparedness Expert."

#### Assistive Technology

1. dARSW recently obtained a video phone for use for the Deaf population
2. Agency provides a great deal of second-hand equipment and technology
3. dARSW board member was recently appointed to the Washington State Assistive Technology Foundation.
4. Another dARSW board member is on the DBTAC board
5. Agency assisted WATF in providing their IDA (Individual Development Account) training
6. Staff, board and consumers have access to Zoomtech device.