



November 18, 2015

Independent Living Team Board Report

The IL Team has been working on developing an intake document that will clearly and concisely explain MCIL and the services they may expect (DRAFT text follows). The Program Director has outlined some items that the intake must include like the individual having a disability and creating or waiving an Independent Living Plan. The IL Team is quizzed each week about essential definitions of our Title VII program to reinforce the basic design of the Independent Living Program.

The IL Team is participated in creating this document so that all of the IL staff will have input and ownership in presenting our philosophy to the consumers. The document is intended for all consumers to receive and sign and to be a tool for the IL Team to teach the general ideas of Independent Living.

The document begins with an explanation of MCIL and the IL movement. The first two pages are a narrative that is the text of the video featuring Deborah and Sandi. Page Three is a bulleted list of "What We Can Work on Together" and "Some things that we DO NOT Do." The final page is a brief explanation of goal setting followed by selection boxes where we ask the consumer to state they either wish to work on an independent living plan or waive the plan. It also asks about voter registration and outlines our complaint procedure.

This document and the procedure will begin in December.



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Community Services for November 2015

Most importantly, make plans to attend the Tennessee Health Care Campaign Town Hall to help close the “Medicaid Gap” in our state. Michael Heinrich is working with volunteers to coordinate the public meeting on December 8 at the Benjamin Hooks Public Library .

The main community interactions for the IL Team this month are reported in the MCIL Journal on the website. They include: Oct. 28, The MCIL Work Plan; Oct. 30 Stop Another Attack on the ADA; November 5, The closing of Clover Bottom and Nov. 16, The AbilityOne scandal.

Allison attended a training on transition of students on November 12 and she is facilitating the *LIFE* group on Thursdays and *Youth Connections* on Tuesdays. POP will be meeting on the first Friday of the month. Memphis ADAPT met to begin reorganization this month. Bobbie is also participating in Independent Living training for students at the Shrine School.

Peer-to-Peer completed the training of one mentor last week and is meeting with referrals this week.

The IL team made participated in Trunk-er-Treat on Oct. 31. This month the IL Team has participated with the Memphis Bus Riders Union, Memphis United, MATA STAC, Homeless Organizing for Power and Equality, and the Memphis Planning Organization.



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Individual Services

Two individuals made the transition from institution to the community this month because of our Transition Program. The entire IL Team is looking to work as a together in providing services to people in transition.

The IL Team will begin daily work on data entry and will work to improve IL professional skills and accuracy with the upgrade to our reporting database next year.

DRAFT Text of the Intake document:

Working with MCIL

Advocacy in Action for people with Disabilities

People with disabilities are a powerful and significant part of our community, yet; as a group our social roles have been marginalized by bigotry, discrimination, poverty, isolation, dependency and pity. Americans with disabilities have not had access to transportation, housing and employment that other citizens have enjoyed; MCIL will change that.

The Disability Rights movement and Independent Living are working to include people with disabilities in all aspects of civic life. But barriers remain in physical accommodations, communication and attitudes. Today, Centers for Independent



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Living such as MCIL offer comprehensive Independent Living Programs that provide people with disabilities with the advocacy, training, resources and peer support needed to live independently.

The concept of Independent Living grew out of the Civil Rights Movement.

Independent Living not only means equal rights, but also equal responsibility for citizens. Independence implies managing success as well as coping with failure. Many services, programs, charities, organizations and agencies in our community encourage dependency of people with disabilities and remove the risk of failure. The cycle of dependency, paternalism and control removes the common choices of individuals. Ultimately, only by taking similar risks can people with disabilities equally participate in the community.

MCIL offers a new model for community integration.

Since 1987 MCIL has been the center of a network of action, information, and resources to assist people with disabilities to conquer the barriers, the isolation and the dependency. We encourage you to work with us to build this new accessible welcoming community, learn from neighbors or teach fellow citizens that are struggling for their independence.



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You must have and reveal a permanent disability, you must desire independent living services and you must benefit from independent living services.

What We Can Work on Together:

- * MCIL will work with you to create a plan for achieving your goals to become independent or maintain your independence.
- * We can work with you to improve your independent living skills.
- * MCIL can assist you in moving from a nursing home, back to the community.
- * We can share local housing options and transportation resources. MCIL will help you to update your voter registration.
- * MCIL can work with you to develop your self-advocacy skills and advocate with you for our community's civil rights.
- * We will help you plan for employment, return to a job or learn independent living skills to be ready to go to work.
- * MCIL can support you to manage your paperwork, for example Social Security, housing, and community resources.
- * We can schedule follow-up appointments to check progress for your goals.
- * We can help you to research your options in order to achieve your goals.
- * We can help you to find peer support for your goals, and community groups.



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* MCIL can provide referrals to agencies and community resources.

Some things that we DO NOT Do:

- * MCIL does not make decisions for you.
- * We do not share any personal information without your written permission.
- * We do not have emergency or permanent housing.
- * MCIL does not give money for rent, utilities or other deposits.
- * We do not help with moving
- * We do not provide transportation.

Develop your Independent Living Plan:

An effective goal:

1. Has a deadline.
2. Is stated in specific terms.
3. Is challenging, yet achievable.

Examples of less effective goals	Examples of more effective goals
1. To obtain housing	1. Fill out five applications in one month
2. Get a job	2. Fill out 8 job applications this month.



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3. Get a car	3. Use a budget to save for a car.
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I am a person with a disability and I would like to (make a check inside the box beside your intention today):

I would like to develop at least one goal for an Independent Living Plan today (attached).

I don't want to work on an Independent Living Plan today, knowing I may develop a plan any time in the future.

I would like to update my voter registration.

Signed

Date

If you would like to comment or complain about anything at MCIL, you may write the Executive Director at 1633 Madison Ave. Memphis, TN 38104 or email at info@mcil.org. You may also call The Tennessee Client Assistance Program at 1-800-342-1660 or email GetHelp@disabilityrightstn.org, and the Tennessee Comptroller's Hotline for Fraud, Waste and Abuse at 1-800-232-5454.

We look forward to working with you on achieving your goals.