2016 TEXAS STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING CONFERENCE

FEATURES SPEAKERS

Presented by the Texas State Independent Living Council

PICTURES OF FEATURED INNOVATE SPEAKERS

Sherman Gillums

Al Kovach

Phil Pangrazio

Michael Murray

Joanne Fluke

Marcela Turnage

Ron Morander

Lex Frienden

WELCOME

The 2016 Texas State Independent Living Conference, *Innovate*, focuses on how the Independent Living (IL) community can connect, collaborate, and create.

Working together we can accomplish great things and remove barriers to IL. While it is often a challenge to develop innovative solutions, the rewards for our community can have tremendous impact.

The *Innovate* conference will provide sessions that demonstrate a variety of ways to advocate and problem solve by collaborating with networks in your community. Other sessions will educate us about the rights of all Texans, highlight innovations in advocacy, identify inclusion needs, and develop solutions to meet those needs.

After the *Innovate* conference sessions end, attendees can take part in the *Exhibitor Interactive Network/ Demonstration Power Hour*. This is a great opportunity to get involved with exhibitors and the wonderful services offered.

The Texas State Independent Living Council (SILC) hopes you enjoy the many opportunities to connect, collaborate, and create innovative change in your community.

**"Creativity is thinking up new things. Innovation is doing new things."**

**-Theodore Levitt**

TXSILC

#TXSPIL

#TXSILCINNOVATE

HOTEL MAP

Conference sessions and exhibits are held on the first floor of the Hilton San Antonio Airport. Accessible restrooms are in the conference area and restaurant area on the other side of the hotel lobby. An ATM is located in the main lobby area. All conference session are held in the Texas Ballroom.

Picture of Hotel Room Plan

SILC logo. Empowering people with disabilities to live independently

The Texas State Independent Council (SILC) is a statewide non-profit entity comprised of nine voting members, and four Ex-Officio members who are appointed by the Governor. Unlike most organizations, the majority of the members must, by law, be individuals with disabilities and come from all regions of the state. The Council is mainly funded by the Administration on Community Living and the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services.

The Texas State Independent Council is charged with the following responsibilities:

• Developing and monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the SPIL;

• Systems advocacy;

• Educating the public regarding disability-related topics; and

• Technical assistance concerning the Independent Living philosophy and approach.

The State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) a detailed three-year plan that sets the parameters and establishes the goals for the provision of Independent Living services in Texas.

A Center for Independent Living (CIL) is a consumer‐controlled, community‐based, cross‐disability, nonresidential private nonprofit organization; that is for individuals with significant disabilities (regardless of age or income), and provides an array of Independent Living Services by individuals with disabilities. Texas has 27 CILs.

A CIL must provide the following five core services:

1. Information and Referral (I&R) services;
2. Independent Living skills training;
3. Peer counseling or support (including cross‐disability);
4. Individual and systems advocacy; and
5. Services that

* facilitate the transition of individuals with significant disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions to home and community‐based residences with the requisite supports and services;
* provide assistance to individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions so that the individuals may remain in the community; and
* facilitate the transition of youth who are individuals with significant disabilities, who were eligible for IEPs under section 614(d) of IDEA, and who have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school, to postsecondary life.

Texas SILC Independent Living Council

MEMBERS

Jim Batchelor: Chairman – Cooper

Lynne Richardson: Vice-Chair – Austin

Karen Swearingen: Treasurer – Rowlett

Shannon Alexander: Secretary – Bryan

Paul S. Luther: Council Member – Georgetown

Jim Brocato: Council Member – Beaumont

Ralph Jones: Council Member – Harlingen

Mack Marsh: Council Member – Georgetown

Colton Reed: Council Member – New Bruanfels

Wesley Yeager: Ex-Officio – Austin

Jonas Schwartz: Ex-Officio – Austin

Terri Richard: Ex-Officio – Austin

Martha Bagley: Ex-Officio – Austin

STAFF

Regina Blye: Executive Director

Craig Davis: Executive Assistant

Sandra Breitengross-Bitter: Project Analyst—SPIL

Brian White: Project Director

Nour Hammoudeh: Project Specialist, Conference Planner

Adriana Rojas: Financial Officer

LUNCHEONS

Monday

SILC Awards

Luncheon and Networking

12:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Tuesday

Luncheon and Networking

11:50 a.m. – 2:00 p.m

CONSUMER OF THE YEAR

Awarded to

Tanya Winters

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

BY A SERVICE PROVIDER

Awarded to

Judith Laufer

EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Awarded to

Farhat Chishty

"Why fit in when you were born to stand out?"

-Dr.Seuss

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San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) logo

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INNOVATE Conference Sponsors bring light to the world with their generosity! Our Sponsors demonstrate care and concern about issues that matter to the Independent Living network, and many share products and/or services that provide greater access and inclusion.

During the Networking Luncheon on Monday, April 4th, Sponsors will be available at assigned table to meet with about their current projects and programs that help people achieve greater independence. Take the time to thank them for their contributions, which have allowed us to keep Innovate Conference prices lower!

EXHIBITORS

AACOG -Alamo Service Connection ADRC Ɵ ADAPT of Texas (ADAPT PACT) Ɵ Adaptive Driving Access Ɵ AirMedCare Network Ɵ Amerigroup Ɵ Austin Tenants' Council Ɵ Cap Tel Outreach Ɵ CaptionCall Ɵ Cigna Ɵ Cirkiel& Associates, P.C. Ɵ Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services Ɵ Deaf Interpreter Services Inc. Ɵ Disability Rights Texas/REV UP Ɵ Gallaudet University Ɵ Regional Center- South Ɵ Health and Human Services Commission Ɵ LeFleur Transportation Ɵ Marbridge Foundation Ɵ New Life Medical Equipment Ɵ Paralyzed Veterans of America, Texas Chapter Ɵ Project MEND Ɵ Providence Place Ɵ San Antonio Independent Living Services Ɵ Special Olympics TX Ɵ Superior Helathplan Ɵ Talking Book Program Ɵ

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities Ɵ Texas Department of State Health Services Ɵ Texas Department of Transportation Ɵ Texas Legal Services Center Ɵ

Texas Technology Access Program Ɵ Texas Workforce Commission Ɵ Texas Department of Transportation Ɵ UnitedHealthcare"

I haven’t failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

-Thomas Edison

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San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS)

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VOLUNTEERS

**We like to thank our Volunteers: Linda Levine, Michael Milford, Amir Hammoudeh, Nora Ng, Amar Hajj-Ahmad, Devan Gartman, Zach Bice, Shelly Gray, Emily Allen, and Jay Davis** for their dedication to conference planning.

**We would also like to thank: Hilton San Antonio Airport staff,** especially **Paula Doris, Terri Epperson, and Teresa Valenzuela**, in conference planning and making the event inclusive.

**The Texas SILC Staff thanks Council Members Jim Batchelor and Karen Swearingen for their dedication for helping to plan several conferences, including the 2016 Texas Statewide Independent Living Conference *Innovate.***

We hope we have not forgotten anyone. We are thankful for all of you and your participation in making *Innovate* a great success!

"If you ALWAYS DO what you ALWAYS DID, you will ALWAYS GET what you ALWAYS GOT."

-Albert Einstein

The Texas SILC thanks Hilton San Antonio Airport and Alamo Mobility for their assistance with accessible shuttles during the conference!

Hilton Hotels and Resorts logo.

Alamo Mobility logo.

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THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE INNOVATE CONFERENCE

Sponsors add: San Antonio Independent Living Services. Serving people with disabilities and their families, since 1981. 1028 S. Alamo, TX 78210, 210.281.1878 V/TDD, sailstx.org. For donations and sponsorship of community events contact: Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke, [kbrietzke@sailstx.org](mailto:kbrietzke@sailstx.org).

Sponsors add: REACH (Resource Centers on Independent Living). Emphasizing Abilities, Not Disabilities! Fort Worth 817-870-9082. Dallas 214-630-4796. Denton 940-383-1062. Plano 972-398-1111.

Sponsors add: bvcil (Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living). Advocacy, peer sport, independent living skills, information and referral, transitional services. Connecting people to the power of independence. 1869 Briarcrest Drive. Bryan, TX 77802. 979-776-5505. [info@bvcil.org](mailto:info@bvcil.org). [www.bvcil.org](http://www.bvcil.org).

Mounting Horizons logo

Sponsors add: Disability in Action. “Building Stronger Communities through the Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities. Leah Beltran, Executive Director. 317 N. Willis St. Abilene, Texas 79603. (325) 672-5460. [www.disabilityinaction.org](http://www.disabilityinaction.org).

Sponsors add: Rev up! Register! Educate! Vote! Make the Disability Vote count! [www.aapd.com/REVUP](http://www.aapd.com/REVUP).

SPONSORS

GOEHRING DENTAL

phone: (512) 892-8822

My name is Dennis Goehring, and I have been a practicing dentist in Southwest Austin for over 18 years. I treat a large number of patients with cognitive disabilities, patients who are medically compromised, and patients with phobias. I use a variety of methods to treat patient populations, and my office and staff are equipped and trained to provide specialized care for patients. Many dentists and their staffs find it difficult or are uncomfortable treating some populations due to the patients’ lack of cooperative behavior and cognitive ability. These issues in combination with the many health issues of some patient populations increase the risks associated with providing dental care. My goal is to inform you and other dentists and physicians in the area that I welcome referrals of such patients and hope you will consider my practice when referring.

The majority of patients with cognitive disabilities or phobias require IV sedation/deep sedation, which is a service available in my office. We are very efficient at providing the best dental care possible while maintaining a conservative approach focusing on disease control. This is a passion of mine and it is the way that I try to contribute to what is hopefully a betterment of our society.

If you ever need a second opinion or just another pair of eyes to review a case as it relates to dentistry, I would be happy to help in any way I can. In closing, I thank you for taking the time to read this letter and hope it finds you doing well. I also hope you would consider Goehring Dental for your referrals of patients with mental, physical, and medical challenges that are in need of dental care.

Sponsors add: Cigna. GET A MEDICAL PLAN WITH MORE BENEFITS TO HELP YOU LIVE A HEALTHIER LIFE At no cost to you. We are helping older adults and people with disabilities live healthier lives. That’s why you can count on us to make it easy – and give you more! Vision and dental, Gym Membership, Home Delivery Pharmacy, 24-hour Nurse Advice Line. Restrictions and limitations may apply to all value-added services. We’re here to help. Call Cigna today! 1-866-636-5688 (TTY 7-1-1). Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time. StarPlus.MyCignaHealthSpring.com. To join Cigna, call toll-free 1-800-964-2777. Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time. All Cigna products and Services are provided exclusively by or through operating subsidiaries of Cigna Corporation including HealthSprings Life & Health Insurance Company, Inc. The Cigna name, logos, and other Cigna marks are owned by Cigna intellectual Property, Inc.

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Add: ACCESSIBLE Fostering and inclusive and equitable environment.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE SPIL:

Take Our Survey on Independent Living: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TXSPIL

Submit Public Comments: SPIL@txsilc.org or by mail to 4319 James

Casey Street, STE 100, Austin, TX 78745.

UPCOMING ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS:

Are you interested in improving transportation in our State? Are you interested in learning more about transportation technology platforms, such as UBER and Lyft, that are accessible for Texans with disabilities? If so, the Texas State Independent Living Council is kicking off Transportation Works and is looking for individuals passionate about increasing accessible transportation in our great State to serve on the Project Advisory Committee.

Please contact Project Director Brian White at brian@txsilc.org or (512) 371-7353 if you are interested. Help build collaborative solutions and be an adviser on this innovative project.

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SILC logo

Continue to spread the word about innovations in Independent Living!

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