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for
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STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL



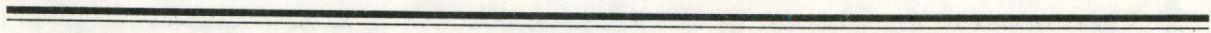
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*5-Year
Plan
for
Independent
Living
in Texas*

August 1991

STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL







STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

August 1, 1991

Dear TRC Commissioner Arrell & TCB Executive Director Westbrook:

As Chairperson of the State Independent Living Council, I am pleased to present this revised Five Year Plan for Independent Living in Texas. The Council has spent the past two years gathering input from consumers and agency representatives on the original plan's strong and weak points. The Council has used these comments in guiding the members in making the revisions included in this document.

The Council wishes to thank you for allowing Mel Fajkus of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and Jean Wimberly of the Texas Commission for the Blind to continue in their roles as liaisons to the Council. The Council wishes to thank Mickey Jacobs, planner with TRC, for her enthusiastic guidance, support, and creativity in assisting the Council in writing and revising the plan. The Council also expresses its appreciation to both agencies for the support of other staff and the reimbursement of expenses incurred by members of the Council.

The Council respectfully requests that both TRC and TCB promote the principles, goals and objectives of the Five Year Plan for Independent Living in Texas by following through on accomplishing assigned recommendations and by assisting in distributing copies of the plan to appropriate consumers and agency representatives.

Sincerely,

Charlotte A. Stewart
Chairperson

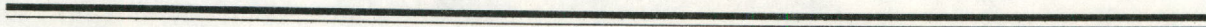


Table of Contents

Progress Report	1
Purpose of the Plan	3
Goals and Strategies for Independent Living	5
Appendix	
A. Mission and Role of the State Independent Living Council	11
B. Philosophy of Independent Living	13
C. Members of the State Independent Living Council	15
D. Texas Centers for Independent Living Funded by RSA and/or TRC	17
Glossary of Terms	19
Acronyms and Abbreviations	23
Bibliography	25



CONTENTS



Progress Report

This report provides a record of the State Independent Living Council activities to date.

The 1986 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 established the State Independent Living Council and mandated that the Council:

- ◆ Develop a five year plan for Independent Living within Texas,
- ◆ Provide guidance to state agencies affected by the act, and
- ◆ Consist of a membership majority of persons with disabilities, and/or parents or guardians of persons with disabilities.

Prior to the first meeting of the Council in January, 1988, the Executive Director of the Texas Commission for the Blind appointed three members and the Commissioner of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission appointed twelve members. The Council elected officers, established policies, and appointed liaisons to the two state agencies.

At subsequent 1988 meetings, the Council gathered information concerning disability and independent living issues through public comment by various organizations and state agencies. During this period, the Council developed a mission statement, key issues to be addressed in the plan, and a resolution on avoiding duplication of services.

In 1989, the Council developed the state plan and defined the ongoing role of the Council. The Council also developed resolutions on statewide coverage of services and transportation, expressed concern to the VIA Transit Authority of San Antonio about establishing accessible main line transit service, and prepared impact statements concerning Texas Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation and Texas Education Agency policies affecting independent living.

The Five Year Plan for Independent Living in Texas was printed and distributed in July of 1989. Since that time, the Council has met quarterly and gathered input from consumers and agency representatives on the plan. This input has been generated through public comment sessions at the meetings and from responses to the two questionnaires that were distributed to the recipients of the plan.

During the past two years, the Council had a logo designed by a University of North Texas graphic arts student, Eric Ottinger, recruited new members to fill vacancies, assigned members to act as liaisons with other agencies such as TDMHMR, TCD, the Texas Schools for the Blind and Deaf, and the National Council on Independent Living. In addition, the Council conducted orientations for new members, planned the development of a quarterly Council newsletter, updated the plan's mailing list, made changes to the Council's operating policies, and investigated its ongoing role in providing input to state agencies which administer independent living services.

The following revised Goals and Strategies for Independent Living reflect the input from public comment, changes in state and federal legislation and programs, and progress toward fulfilling the mission of the State Independent Living Council.

Purpose of the Plan

To develop a comprehensive, cross-disability, cross-agency assessment of independent living services, programs and organizations throughout Texas

To identify gaps and obstacles in independent living for persons with disabilities, and to give guidance and direction to agencies that provide independent living services to eliminate these gaps

To communicate the Council's priorities for independent living to state agencies that provide Title VII funded independent living services

Goals and Strategies for Independent Living

The following goals and strategies represent the consensus of the Council. They are based on input received from consumers and service providers.

Goals

- 1. Expand the service delivery system to make Independent Living opportunities and services available to all persons with disabilities, after determining the present and future needs for IL services across the state.**

Strategies to achieve this goal include:

- a. By the end of 1992, the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons will complete a demographic survey and needs assessment of persons with disabilities in the state. The Governor's Committee is also charged with updating the survey at least every two years. The IL Council will use the survey results in updating the plan.
 - b. Beginning in 1991, the IL Council will make recommendations annually to TRC on the best locations for IL centers through a Council liaison serving on the TRC Peer Review Panel. Input to TCB will go through a Council liaison working with TCB's review committee.
 - c. By FY 93, the centers, TRC, TCD, TDMHMR, TCB and TDHS will work together to provide services to unserved and underserved areas (particularly rural areas) through a network of IL centers, satellite centers, IL caseworkers, and IL services that cover all 254 counties.
- 2. Coordinate the provision of Independent Living Services among the IL Centers, public agencies and the private sector to optimize the use of available resources.**

Strategies to achieve this goal include:

- a. The Texas legislature will authorize and appropriate funds for a centralized automated case management system during the 73rd session to be held in 1993. This system would require state agencies and other service providers to share consumer/client information,

work together in planning to meet consumer needs, reduce duplication of services, and make more resources available to meet consumers' needs.

- b. By 1993, the public information offices of TRC, TCD, TDHS, TDMHMR, and TCB will create one information clearinghouse to inform consumers, families and the public about IL services available throughout the state. A central "Help Desk" staffed with a full-time reference expert and a toll-free telephone number will make this information more understandable and accessible to persons with disabilities, their families and the public.
- c. Beginning in FY 92, TRC, TCB, TCD, TDHS, and TEA will conduct joint program planning and appropriation requests, share facilities where feasible, and maintain regular communications among their consumer advisory committees.

3. Facilitate lifelong transition services for consumers.

Strategies to achieve this goal include:

- a. Beginning in FY 91, TRC, TCB, TEA, parents and consumers must advocate with the Texas legislature for continued and expanded funding for transition planning for students. Such planning must involve students, parents, local school districts, social service agencies and IL centers.
- b. By FY 96, the area agencies on aging should coordinate with local TRC, TCB, MHMR, TDHS, TCD and IL Centers to jointly plan and develop an array of services to meet the needs of adults with disabilities.

4. Encourage educational systems to provide appropriate educational and training opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Strategies to achieve this goal include:

- a. By FY 92, the Higher Education Coordinating Board will form a consortium of colleges, junior colleges and vocational schools to survey current rehabilitation curricula and take corrective action to ensure that rehabilitation and social services course work reflects the influence of the consumer movement and latest trends in service delivery.

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- b. Beginning in FY 93, TEA, HECB, TRC, TCB, IL centers, and educational service centers will provide ongoing training and technical assistance to primary and secondary schools and colleges about the disability rights movement, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the latest trends in service delivery.
 - c. Beginning in FY 92, TRC, TCB, TEA, HECB, IL Centers, and the Educational Service Centers will help schools make assistive technology available to students with disabilities to meet their educational needs.
 - d. Beginning immediately, TRC, TEA, TDMHMR, TCB, TCD, local school districts and the State Transition Task Force will work together to educate students, their families, the public, and the state legislature about transition programs.
- 5. Create a uniform evaluation tool to measure the effectiveness of IL services.**

Strategies to achieve this goal include:

- a. All Title VII Part B funded IL programs must adopt RSA Minimum Compliance Indicators as standards of performance as soon as the indicators are published. In addition, all other IL service providers should adopt the indicators as guidelines.
- b. Beginning in FY 92, all IL service providers should implement an annual consumer satisfaction survey and use the resulting feedback in program planning and evaluation.

6. Ensure adequate, stable funding of essential IL services.

Strategies to achieve this goal include:

- a. Beginning in FY 92, the Council, TRC, TCB and consumers will support reauthorization of the Rehab Act, to include restructuring the funding of IL centers from demonstration to formula grants.
- b. Beginning with the current legislative session, consumers, TRC and TCB will advocate for expanded funding for independent living attendant care, housing modifications, accessible transportation and rehabilitation engineering.

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- c. By FY 92, the Council will begin to provide input to TRC and TCB during LAR work sessions regarding program directions and funding requests. In addition, Council resolutions on specific issues will be shared with the TRC Commissioner and TCB Executive Director.
 - d. By FY 94, colleges and the National Society of Fund Raising Executives should provide technical assistance to IL Centers in developing fund-raising campaigns such as corporate sponsorships, endowments, grants, special events, and direct mail solicitations.

7. Enhance public awareness of the needs and rights of persons with disabilities.

Strategies to achieve this goal include:

- a. Beginning in FY 93, the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons will coordinate periodic public symposiums across the state to educate employers, consumers, families, providers of transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunications about:
 - ◆ Key ADA provisions
 - ◆ State and local disability-related legislation
 - ◆ Consumer rights and responsibilities
 - ◆ Avenues for legal assistance
 - ◆ Benefits such as Targeted Jobs Tax Credits and the Job Training & Partnership Act

Symposium of participants will include TRC, TCB, TDMHMR, TEC, TDHS and TCD.

- b. Beginning in FY 93, local IL Centers will conduct workshops and/or special events to educate their communities about IL services, the disability rights movement, People First language, universal design principles in housing construction, and equal citizenship of people with disabilities.
- c. The Directors Association of Texas Centers for Independent Living will work with local IL Centers to conduct an ADA workshop for consumers, families, service providers, and employers.

8. Promote the hiring of qualified persons with disabilities.

Strategies to achieve this goal include:

- a. By FY 93, all state agencies will have formal written policy statements regarding hiring qualified people with disabilities and will implement aggressive recruiting campaigns.
- b. By FY 93, the Council will request the Governor to issue an Executive Order mandating state agencies to implement recruiting campaigns to hire qualified people with disabilities.

Appendix A:
Mission and Role
Of the State Independent Living Council

Mission

The Independent Living Council shall provide guidance to develop and expand Independent Living concepts and programs throughout the state, and to promote independent living services for Texans with disabilities as mandated by Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Role

To fulfill its mission, the Council will:

- ◆ Give timely, effective input on Independent Living issues to state agencies that provide Title VII funded Independent Living services
- ◆ Promote the most efficient and effective use of funds available for Independent Living services and programs
- ◆ Serve as a resource to state and local organizations regarding Independent Living services and disability-related issues
- ◆ Expand the Independent Living concept to include all organizations that provide services to persons with disabilities
- ◆ Advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities
- ◆ Monitor the progress of the five-year state plan, annually review and update the plan, and submit results of this review to the involved state agencies.



Appendix B:
Philosophy of Independent Living

Independent Living (IL) is based on the philosophy that people with disabilities have the same rights and responsibilities as all other citizens and should have the opportunity to control and direct their own lives. They should be able to exercise choices about how, with whom and where they live.

Independent Living involves self-determination and the opportunity to explore options and pursue a chosen course of action. This includes the freedom to succeed and/or fail, and to learn from these experiences.

Environmental barriers can be as limiting as a specific disability itself. These barriers include negative attitudes, indifference and misconceptions, architectural barriers, communication obstacles, lack of client-oriented service delivery models and lack of consumer control. Therefore, programs that use the designation "Independent Living" should address these environmental barriers by assisting individuals with disabilities to expand their choices in the community and by assisting the community-at-large to expand its accessibility to those individuals.

Underlying Concepts

1. This nation is founded on the principle that each human life is sacred and inviolable: that all people "are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted . . ."
2. People with disabilities have an absolute right and a responsibility to participate fully and equally in society and to realize their fullest potential in the ways in which they choose to live, work, and play.
3. While the nation as a whole bears responsibility for all its members, initial responsibility for finding solutions to specific problems lies with the individual, his or her family and/or his or her legal representative.
4. Persons with disabilities, to the largest degree possible, should have the principal responsibility for solving their own problems and fulfilling their potential.

5. Government can and should provide guidance, coordination and assistance, and protection of the right of every person to equal treatment under the law. The private sector and the government should initiate, fund, administer and promote laws, regulations, policies and programs which assist persons with disabilities in their efforts to participate in society fully and equally with a maximum of independence, self-reliance and productivity.

6. The best solutions require individual initiatives by all persons and effective partnerships among individuals, families, communities, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and government at all levels.

7. Productivity occurs not only in paid employment and activities which generate financial gain, but also whenever people are making the most of their own lives and are contributing to society to the fullest degree possible.

8. Government and the private sector must cooperate to assure that adequate services and opportunities are provided without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or disabling condition, and that such services are provided to persons living in both urban and rural areas.

9. Disability-related programs shall be conducted with fiscal responsibility and sound management principles.

10. Disability is a universally common characteristic of the human condition; there is a substantial probability that most human beings will experience significant disability at some point in their lives.

Appendix C:
**Members of the
State Independent Living Council**

Charlotte Stewart, **Chair** (1992)*
Executive Director
REACH Independent Living Center
617 7th Avenue, Suite 304
Fort Worth, Texas 76104
(817) 870-9082

Judy Scott, **Vice-Chair** (1993)
American Foundation For the Blind
Dallas Regional Office
260 Treadway Plaza, Exchange Park
Dallas, Texas 75235
(214) 352-7222

Margaret Robinson, **Secretary** (1991)
4700 Virginia #118
Amarillo, Texas 79109
(806) 352-1500 - Work
(806) 353-3616 - Home

William E. Pyle, **Parliamentarian**
(1991)
8752 Aldwick Drive
Dallas, Texas 75238
(214) 343-0017



Luis Enrique Chew (1993)
8929 Viscount, Suite 101
El Paso, Texas 79925
(915) 859-5681 - Home
(915) 591-0800 - Work

Frankie Sawyer (1991)
6805 Mira Loma Lane
Austin, Texas 78723
(512) 928-4668

Jack Earwood (1992)
6029 Walraven Circle
Fort Worth, Texas 76133
(817) 292-6743 - Home

Mark Miller (1992)
P.O. Box 371
Wimberley, Texas 78676
(512) 847-9698

Bill Kessinger (1992)
1629 Mesquite
Orange, Texas 77630
(409) 745-3688 - Home
(409) 833-1485 - Work

Humberto Orozco (1992)
705 Miguel Hidalgo
San Juan, Texas 78589
(512) 781-7733 - Work
(512) 781-3193 - Home

Rena Ventura-Jackson (1993)
2702 N. Adams
Odessa, Texas 79762
(915) 366-7770 - Home
(915) 335-6346 - Work

Leroy Hill (1993)
North Tower, Suite 632
1200 Summit
Fort Worth, Texas 76133
(817) 332-2100 - Work

Kevin Tracy (1991)
Self Advocacy Program
Coordinator Association for
Retarded Citizens
833 Houston
Austin, Texas 78756
(512) 454-6694 - Work
(512) 452-5817 - Home

Michael Segal (1991)
7800 Fannin #4000
Houston, Texas 77054
(713) 669-0169 - Home
(713) 795-5999 - Work

Willie Welch (1993)
1600 Jones Street, #118
Arlington, Texas 76013
(817) 860-7296

Mel Fajkus, Ex-Officio Member
Texas Rehabilitation Commission
4900 North Lamar Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78751-2316
(512) 483-4133

Jean Wimberly, Ex-Officio Member
Texas Commission for the Blind
P.O. Box 12866
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 459-2584

*Indicates Length of Term (Term expires September 30)

Appendix D:
***Texas Centers for Independent Living
Funded by RSA and/or TRC***

ARCIL
**Austin Resource Center
for Independent Living**
5555 N. Lamar, Suite J125
Austin, Texas 78751
(512) 467-0744

DCIL
**Dallas Center
for Independent Living**
8625 King George, Suite 210
Dallas, Texas 75235
(214) 631-6900, 630-5411 TDD

DARE
**Disabled Ability Resource
Environment**
8929 Viscount, Suite 101
El Paso, Texas 79925
(915) 591-0800

HCIL
**Houston Center
for Independent Living**
7000 Regency Square Blvd., Ste. 160
Houston, Texas 77036
(713) 974-4621

LIFE
**Lifetime Independence
for Everyone**
4514 Englewood Avenue
Lubbock, Texas 79414
(806) 795-5433

PACILS
**Panhandle Action Center
for Independent Living Skills**
3608 S. Washington
Amarillo, Texas 79110
(806) 352-1500

REACH
**Rehabilitation, Education, &
Advocacy for Citizens with
Handicaps**
617 Seventh Avenue, Suite 304
Fort Worth, Texas 76104
(817) 870-9082, 654-9614 Metro,
877-1622 Fax, 870-9086 TDD

SAILS
**San Antonio
Independent Living Services**
5101 San Pedro
San Antonio, Texas 78212
(512) 734-9971

**Tri-County Awareness Association
Independent Living Center**
1501-C, Loop 304 East
Crockett, Texas 75835
(409) 544-2811

VAIL
**Valley Association
for Independent Living**
P.O. Box 5035
McAllen, Texas 78502-5035
425-7573



Glossary of Terms

Accessibility—Equal access to all areas of life, including, but not limited to, physical structures, legal rights, educational and employment opportunities, recreational pursuits, and transportation.

Advocacy—Efforts at the individual, community, state, or national levels to ensure legal and human rights, improve service delivery to persons with disabilities and encourage active participation by persons with disabilities in their own behalf.

Barrier—A physical, attitudinal, or perceived obstacle that prevents persons with disabilities from participating in society as equals with everyone else.

Center for Independent Living or Independent Living Center—A community-based, non-profit, non-residential program of services including, but not limited to, information and referral, independent living skills training, peer counseling, and advocacy provided to persons from at least three major disability groups. These services are designed to help persons with severe disabilities gain independence and to assist the community in eliminating barriers to independence.

Community—The general political, geographic, and societal boundaries of a neighborhood, town, city, county, etc.

Consumer—An individual with a physical, mental, and/or emotional disability who needs Independent Living services.

Consumer Control—The basic tenet of the Independent Living movement which means that, to the greatest extent possible, the individual with a disability is making the decisions. When it is not possible, a family member or other advocate may represent a consumer.

Consumer Movement—The social movement of persons with disabilities which advocates for consumer control and/or input into the service delivery system affecting their lives.

Disability—A physical, mental, developmental, and/or emotional impairment which interferes with one or more of life's major activities such as learning, communication, mobility, self and health care, socialization, employment, housing, and recreation.

Family Support—Ancillary services provided to the family of a person with a disability that may include information and referral, respite care, advocacy, and counseling.

Family Support Groups—Professional and peer counseling in a group setting for the families of persons with disabilities.

Handicap—Any physical, social, economic, educational, or attitudinal barrier which precludes full participation in chosen/preferred activities of a person with a disability, or integration into the community as a whole.

Independent Living—Control over one's life based on choices among acceptable options that minimize or eliminate reliance on others in making decisions and in performing everyday activities.

Independent Living Movement—A civil rights movement that advocates that persons with disabilities be provided appropriate support services, accessible environments and pertinent information, to become fully participating citizens of their community.

Independent Living Rehabilitation Services—A short-term non-vocational rehabilitation or treatment program designed to increase an individual's ability to function to the maximum level and which may be required at various points within that person's lifetime.

Independent Living Services—Any service necessary to enable persons with disabilities to live in the environment/community of their choice and which may or may not be lifelong in duration.

Independent Living Service Provider—Any individual, group, or organization which provides a consumer controlled service that helps a person with a disability obtain independence in the community.

Intervention—Intercession on behalf of a person with a disability to stop/slow down the progression of a specific disease, provide information and referral, provide support and counseling, etc.

Least Restrictive Environment—Allows a person with a disability to live his/her life with as few controls as the individual wants/needs.

"People First" Language—Parlance used by those in the independent living movement which refers to the individual first and the disability second; i.e., a person with cerebral palsy, an individual with a brain injury, an individual with a disability.

Texas Transition Task Force—An organization which promotes the effective transition of students with disabilities from school to adult life so they will have maximum opportunities to live and work in the community with their friends and neighbors.

Supported Employment—Ongoing assistance provided on the job to a person with a disability in the areas of job coaching, job accommodation/modification, employer/co-worker support.

Supported Options—Ongoing assistance provided to a person with a disability in many areas of living including housing, employment, daily living skills, and transportation.

Title VII, Parts A, B, & C—Sections of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, that provide funding for Independent Living Centers and services on the state level.

Transitional Living Program—A program that helps persons with severe disabilities move from comparatively dependent living situations to relatively independent living situations.

Transition Services—Adjustment assistance provided to persons with disabilities when they undergo major life changes, such as from school to the work place, or from institutional living to autonomous community living.

Universal Design Features—Architectural/structural design features such as 32-inch wide doorways that permit use of a building by a person with a disability who uses a wheelchair.



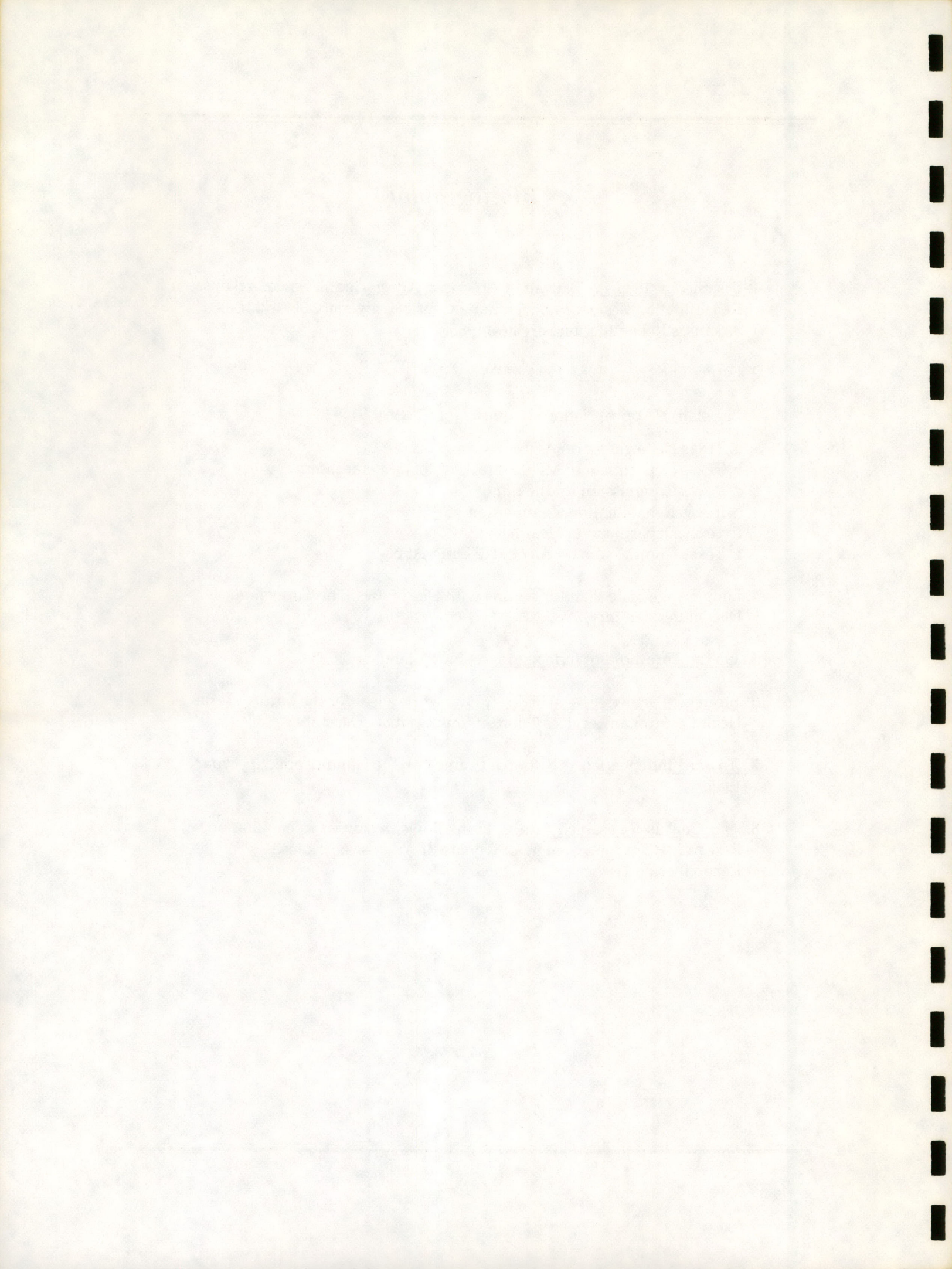
Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act	LIFE - Lifetime Independence for Everyone
ARCIL - Austin Resource Center for Independent Living	MR - Mentally Retarded
CIL - Centers for Independent Living	NSFRE - National Society of Fund Raising Executives
DARE - Disabled Ability Resource Environment	OBS/ILR - Older Blind Services/ Independent Living
DATCIL - Directors Association of Texas Centers for Independent Living	PACILS - Panhandle Action Center for Independent Living Skills
DCIL - Dallas Center for Independent Living	REACH - Rehabilitation, Education & Advocacy for Citizens with Handicaps
DHS - Department of Human Services	RSA - Rehabilitation Services Administration (federal)
ERS - Extended Rehabilitation Services	SAILS - San Antonio Independent Living Services
FY - Fiscal Year	SILC - State Independent Living Council
GCDP - Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons	STTF - State Transition Task Force
HCIL - Houston Center for Independent Living	TCB - Texas Commission for the Blind
HECB - Higher Education Coordinating Board	TCD - Texas Commission for the Deaf
HHSCC - Health and Human Services Coordinating Council	TDMHMR - Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
I&R - Information and Referral	TEA - Texas Education Agency
IL - Independent Living	TRC - Texas Rehabilitation Commission
ITS - Interagency Transition Services	TSB - Texas School for the Blind
JTPA - Job Training Partnership Act	TSD - Texas School for the Deaf
LAR - Legislative Appropriation Request	VAIL - Valley Association for Independent Living
LD - Learning Disability	VR - Vocational Rehabilitation



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If you would like to make comments, please feel free to contact any of the members of the *State Independent Living Council* listed on page 15-16 of this document.

