



Officers

President
Bruce Darling
Rochester, New York

Vice President
Sarah Launderville
Montpelier, Vermont

Secretary
Lou Ann Kibbee
Hays, Kansas

Treasurer
Darrel Christenson
Phoenix, Arizona

Regional Representatives

Chairperson
Sheri Burns
San Jose, California

Diversity Committee

Chairperson
Jessica Jimenez
Los Angeles, California

Members At-Large

Brian Peters
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Doug Toelle
Fairbanks, Alaska

Kim Gibson
Tucker, Georgia

Amity Lachowicz
Baltimore, Maryland

Emet Tauber
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Wilissa Thompson
Winnsboro, South Carolina

Youth At-Large

Eiryn Griest-Schwartzman
Columbia, Maryland

Regional Representatives

Region I
Steve Higgins
Bridgewater, Massachusetts

Region II
Chad W. Underwood
Cortland, New York

Region III
Vacant

Region IV
Kent Crenshaw
Montgomery, Alabama

Region V
Maureen Ryan
Madison, Wisconsin

Region VI
Julie Espinoza
Plano, Texas

Region VII
Roger Frischenmeyer
Hutchinson, Kansas

Region VIII
Candie Burnham
Denver, Colorado

Region IX
Sheri Burns
San Jose, California

Region X
Kimberly Meck
Seattle, Washington

Comments for CMS to consider for November 7 Open Door stakeholder session

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) threatens to violate the privacy and individual pursuit of liberty for people with disabilities who are federally mandated to comply. EVV threatens the principles of the independent living movement and erodes Consumer-Directed Service rights and responsibilities of consumers as sole employers. EVV was a late addition to the 21st Century Cures Act with serious underrepresentation of the disability community input throughout the policy process. For these reasons, the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) opposes EVV and is actively pursuing options to reverse compliance requirements.

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) must ensure disability rights and needs are heard, taken into consideration and provided priority in guidance documents, legislation and other communications.
- While holding this event satisfies the sense of Congress, NCIL strongly believes that CMS should have several more national stakeholder meetings to allow for evolved experience with how states are implementing EVV and whether new or different trends emerge that present onerous and/or harmful barriers to disabled people living in the community. Future stakeholder meetings with the disability community must allow for live communications from participants to CMS staff.
 - NCIL also believes that EVV businesses that are currently considered stakeholders are clearly in a conflict of interest and, in essence, are self-dealing more favorable conditions to the industry. We are requesting that they be excluded from the stakeholder input process for this reason.
 - NCIL requests a copy of all comments submitted in advance of the November 7 meeting be made available publicly.
- CMS should develop a “minimally burdensome” EVV standard. Any standard developed must: exclude GPS tracking software; exclude biometric data collection; offer delayed reporting; and offer multiple types of system with a focus on consumer choice. [*See California Department of Social Services proposed EVV framework as an acceptable example.*]
- Several states, most notably Ohio, went ahead with implementation of EVV programs that use GPS to track providers with little or no stakeholder

involvement. NCIL strongly requests that CMS require states to provide written accountability of stakeholder input including dates and locations, evidence of outreach to disability organizations/individuals with disabilities, samples of materials, program design used or under consideration and future strategy for continued community engagement.

- Complete NCIL EVV Principles and Goals attached.

NCIL would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input prior to the November 7, 2018 Open Door Forum on EVV. NCIL is a leading national disability rights organization, and the longest-running national cross-disability, grassroots organization run by and for people with disabilities. NCIL represents thousands of organizations and individuals across the United States including individuals with disabilities, Centers for Independent Living (CILs), Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs), and other organizations that advocate for the human and civil rights of people with disabilities throughout the country.