

MINUTES

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

QUARTERLY MEETING

March 26, 2010, Friday

11:45 – 2:00 p.m.

93 Gooding Ave, Suite 3

Bristol, RI 02809

Members present: Terrance Chapman; Kristen Connors, 1st Vice Chair; Rick Costa, Secretary; Elizabeth Graves, Chairperson; Margarita Grome; Ron Racine; Lorna Ricci; Barbara Rozul, Treasurer; Heidi Showstead, 2nd Vice Chair; Vanessa Volz; Mary Wambach, Leadership Development and Advocacy, Co-Chair.

Staff: Lisel Rockwood, Program Assistant.

Guests: Leo Canuel (PARI), Laurie Diorio (ORS);

Kathleen Samways, (ServeRI, AmeriCorps Program).

Interpreter: Dona Lombardi

1. Welcome and Introductions: Liz Graves welcomed all. Self introductions, person by person, were made.

2. Minutes of the December 11, 2009: previously sent.

A motion was made by Kristen Connors and seconded by Rick Costa to accept minutes as written. The vote passed unanimously.

For: Terrance Chapman; Kristen Connors; Rick Costa; Elizabeth Graves; Margarita Grome; Lorna Ricci; Barbara Rozul; Heidi

Showstead; Vanessa Volz; Mary Wambach. Against: none.

3. Audited financial statements for FFY 2009: Barbara Rozul reported that the audit was clean and the auditor reminded the Council that the contract with the office building owner would need to be renewed in June; and any expenses over 10% of the budget required a budget revision.

4. Committee Reports:

Leadership Development and Advocacy Committee: previously sent. Mary Wambach reported that a good amount of discussion was dedicated to the upcoming ADA celebration which will take place at the Warwick Mall on July 24th. Mary stressed the importance of maintaining liaisons especially with those that represent groups with mental health disparities. Mary also stated the committee had discussed the serious issue of funding.

Finance Committee: previously sent. Barbara Rozul added that the operating budget for this fiscal year was on track.

5. GAC Report: Liz Graves stated that she and Rick Costa had attended the Governor's Advisory Council for the Blind and Vision Impaired meeting and that there was very little new information to report.

6. SRC Report: Mary Wambach gave a short report on the last State Rehabilitation Council meeting.

7. Executive Director's report: none.

8. Chairperson's Report: Liz Graves stated that this last quarter has been challenging due to the illness of the Executive Director and the

writing of the new SPIL along with its funding negotiations. She reported that the Program Assistant has stepped in and has performed admirably and also helped with the mentoring webinar. The SPIL format and wording has changed from previous SPILs which has caused some difficulties. The final date for the rough draft of the new SPIL is April 9th and Liz asked those working on sections to please submit them to the office according to the timeline. The budget issue for the new SPIL is still not resolved. A motion was made by Kristen Connors and seconded by Rick Costa to accept the reports as written. The vote passed unanimously. For: Terrance Chapman; Kristen Connors; Rick Costa; Elizabeth Graves; Margarita Grome; Lorna Ricci; Barbara Rozul; Heidi Showstead; Vanessa Volz; Mary Wambach. Against: none.

9. Educational Presentation: Kathleen Samways from ServeRI presented a short video showing the many services provided by AmeriCorps, a federally funded domestic Peace Corps which engages full and part time volunteers in community service. Kathleen encourages people with disabilities to apply for AmeriCorps jobs and noted that stipends do not affect SSI benefits. Information can be obtained through the Serve Rhode Island website. www.ServeRhodeIsland.org

10. Update on ARRA Funds: Lorna Ricci reported that the Centers received an award letter for the Title VII Part C funds which can be used over a period of five years. OSILC has elected to use the funds over the next three years to support a part time staff for the outreach effort to the Native Americans and for existing staff. PARI will use

the funds over the next five years to enhance their computer capabilities. The Part B stimulus funds have not been received. Ron Racine stated he will be meeting with the Stimulus Committee within the next week. The funds are in the accounts, but an approval from the Office of Economic Recoveries is needed to release the funds.

11. Centers' Reports: Leo Canuel reported that PARI has used their Part B money to support a part time staff person involved in the Hispanic community effort which has expanded from approximately 6 consumers to 75 in a three year span. Leo also stated he would like the State of Rhode Island to sponsor a PCA training certificate program to include training in IL philosophy. Lorna Ricci reported that OSCIL has made a tremendous gain in the measurable outcomes from the current 704 Report made possible by a Tufts senior safety grant and additional Part B monies. This has also reduced the waiting list for home modifications.

12. SPIL 11-13 Goals & Objectives, Budget: The State Plan Committee has had several meetings to discuss the goals and objectives. A sub-committee met with Leo Canuel to address the formatting and wording needed to properly construct the SPIL. The next sub committee meeting is March 29th. Liz Graves read the rough draft for everyone's approval.

13. New Business: Mary Wambach requested an Ad hoc Committee be appointed to review the bylaws and possibly make changes to several different areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Costa

Secretary