

# **MINUTES**

## **STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL**

### **QUARTERLY MEETING**

**Friday, December 10, 2010**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Warwick Public Library**

**600 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI 02889**

**Members present: Madeline Colon; Rick Costa, Secretary; Elizabeth Graves, Chairperson; Margarita Grome; Anna Liebenow, Needs Assessment Committee, Co-Chair; Don Phelps; Ron Racine; Jack Ringland; Heidi Showstead, 1st Vice Chair; Vanessa Volz; Mary Wambach, Needs Assessment Committee, Co-Chair.**

**Staff: Camille Pansa, Administrator; Lisel Rockwood, Assistant to the Administrator.**

**Interpreter: Dona Lombardi**

**1. Welcome and Introductions: Liz Graves welcomed all. Self-introductions were made.**

**2. Minutes of the September 29, 2010: previously sent.**

**A motion was made by Heidi Showstead and seconded by Jack Ringland to accept the minutes as written. The vote passed unanimously. For: Madeline Colon; Rick Costa; Elizabeth Graves; Margarita Grome; Anna Liebenow; Don Phelps; Jack Ringland; Heidi Showstead; Vanessa Volz; Mary Wambach. Against: none.**

**3. 704 Report/Vote/Approval: preciously sent. Prior to a motion, Ron Racine stated that ORS, and also speaking for Steve Brunero, was uncomfortable with signing the 704 report as written, objecting to certain language in the Substantial Challenges section. He suggested that the report should reflect**

**a “challenging time due to budget issues, not the non-negotiating or legalities process”. A motion was made by Don Phelps and seconded by Rick Costa to approve the 704 report with the exception of the Substantial Challenges section and giving approval for the signatory representatives from SILC and DSU to work out this section then incorporate said revision into the final report. Members discussed optional language choices and voiced their opinions to the signatories. Liz Graves suggested that in the future, a different timeline could be established to start the negotiation process sooner based on when ORS was required to present their final budget to the Governor. Vote passed unanimously. For: Madeline Colon; Rick Costa; Elizabeth Graves; Margarita Grome; Anna Liebenow; Don Phelps; Jack Ringland; Heidi Showstead; Vanessa Volz; Mary Wambach. Against: none.**

**4. NCIL response to letter: Mary Wambach’s letter to Kelly Buckland, Executive Director of NCIL, addressing the recent lack of NCIL support and request for NCIL upcoming goals, was previously sent. Mary Wambach reported on Kelly Buckland’s response which took place via a teleconference call during the past Executive Committee meeting. Kelly stated that RSA has been narrowly interpreting the federal regulations for many years which are negatively impacting the**

**SILCs and that NCIL has been responsive by (1) seeking clarification from RSA and distributing RSA's response to NCIL's questions, (2) marching on RSA, (3) meeting with White House officials, and (4) drafting legislation. He stated that NCIL would continue to focus its efforts on the reauthorization of the Rehab Act in order to redefine the role and importance of the SILC and continue advocating for the establishment of an IL Administration within the federal government. Mary stated that based on Kelly's supportive response, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to continue its NCIL membership.**

**5. Needs Assessment Survey: Anna Liebenow reported that the Needs Assessment Committee (NAC) will be meeting on the following Monday to begin the development of a RISILC Needs Assessment survey. Various SILC surveys from other states will be used as a guide. The brief survey will be used only to gather the unmet IL needs in RI, not as an assessment tool. The importance of creating the survey in multiple accessible formats was cited. Mary Wambach invited all Council members to come to the NAC meeting and/or give input into the survey. The survey content is expected to be ready for a vote/approval at the March quarterly Council meeting. Once approved, the NAC will begin developing the various accessible formats.**

**6. Revision of Bylaws: current bylaws previously sent. Liz Graves reported that the Executive Committee will be working on revising the Bylaws so that they are in-line with the recent structure, role, and personnel changes. She invited Council members to send input to her or Camille Pansa and/or attend the February Executive Committee**

meeting to discuss the revisions. The Bylaws are expected to be completed and ready for vote/approval at the March quarterly Council meeting.

#### **7. Committee Reports:**

**Finance Committee:** previously sent. The Committee will meet every other month, or on a need basis. Camille Pansa reported that although the new contract for the FY 11-13 has not been received, the audit requirement has been removed from the boilerplate. She expects that the audit for the FY 2010 will be waived, but is still awaiting an official determination. Ron Racine explained that the delay in receiving the contract is statewide, not just a SILC issue, and was due to the DHS's lawyers who are still working on the contract language. Camille went on to report that she needed to borrow money from the bank line-of-credit to cover operating costs, stating that she has only just received the purchase order number and can now submit an invoice for the 1st quarter funds.

**Needs Assessment Committee:** previously reported (#5).

**State Plan Committee report / SPIL 11-13:** Liz Graves stated that the Needs Assessment Committee will continuously gather the needs to use when writing the next State Plan. She is very proud of the State Plan Committee for its ability to change midway through and still write the SPIL.

**Membership / Nominating Committee:** Anna Liebenow reminded members of the need to continuously 'grow' the SILC by recruiting new members. She requested, due to the reduction of staff hours, that members contact her directly via email or telephone with

**information about prospective volunteers.**

**8. GAC and SRC reports: previously sent.**

**9. Chairperson's Report: previously sent.**

**10. New business/old business: none.**

**11. Educational Presentation: Anna Liebenow, RISILC member and OSCIL's Outreach Specialist, presented on OSCIL's Outreach Program: Nursing Homes and Accessible Transportation. She also highlighted information from OSCIL's 704 report as requested by Lorna Ricci. Anna explained that although it is difficult to set up the initial meeting with nursing home staff and most have no knowledge of IL services, the staff she has met with has been very receptive. She spoke about the barriers to nursing home transition and the time-consuming process. Whereas assistive technology can be a quicker, housing wait lists, setting up supportive services, and home modifications can be a very lengthy process. Anna also attends various board meetings whose goal is to increase accessible transportation in RI by expanding the kinds of transportation offered.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Rick Costa**

**Secretary**