

MINUTES

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

QUARTERLY MEETING

Monday, June 20, 2011

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Warwick Public Library

600 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI

Members present: Leo Canuel; Madeline Colon; Kristen Connors, 2nd Vice Chair; Rick Costa, Secretary; Elizabeth Graves, Chairperson; Margarita Grome; Ron Racine; Lorna Ricci; Jack Ringland; Heidi Showstead, 1st Vice Chair; Mary Wambach, Needs Assessment Committee, Co-Chair.

Members absent: Christina Battista; Rui Goncalves; Anna Liebenow; Don Phelps; Tony Pierre; Barbara Rozul.

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

Interpreter: Toni Butland

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

2. Minutes of the March 23, 2011: previously sent.

A motion was made by Heidi Showstead and seconded by Kristen Connors to accept the minutes as written. The vote passed unanimously. For: Leo Canuel; Madeline Colon; Kristen Connors; Rick Costa; Elizabeth Graves; Margarita Grome; Lorna Ricci; Jack

Ringland; Heidi Showstead; Mary Wambach. Against: none.

3. Suggested dates for annual meeting: Wednesday, September 28; Monday, September 26; Friday, September 30: The annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 28th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Warwick Public Library pending the availability of the meeting room. A light lunch will be available prior to the meeting.

4. Vote to approve changes to RISILC Bylaws: The Bylaws were revised to reflect staffing changes and the addition of the Needs Assessment Committee due to the new funding level and responsibilities of the Council. Minor wording changes were made for clarity. A motion was made by Kristen Connors and seconded by Rick Costa to approve the Bylaws as revised. The vote passed unanimously. For: Leo Canuel; Madeline Colon; Kristen Connors; Rick Costa; Elizabeth Graves; Margarita Grome; Lorna Ricci; Jack Ringland; Heidi Showstead; Mary Wambach. Against: none.

5. Committee Reports:

Needs Assessment Committee: previously sent. Mary Wambach stated that the Needs Assessment Survey was a collaborative effort combining the committee's effort and input from the two Centers and ORS. Upon Council approval, the completed survey will be converted into several accessible formats including Spanish, Portuguese, Large Print, and Graphics. A motion was made by Kristen Connors and seconded by Jack Ringland to approve the survey as written.

The vote passed unanimously. For: Leo Canuel; Madeline Colon; Kristen Connors; Rick Costa; Elizabeth Graves; Margarita Grome; Lorna Ricci; Jack Ringland; Heidi Showstead; Mary Wambach.

Against: none.

Finance/Resource Committee: Madeline Colon reported that she, Barbara Rozul, and staff had met with our bookkeeper, Bob Houghton, to review all bank statements and spreadsheets. All financial expenditures are updated and balanced. A small surplus was reported which will be needed for the third year of the three year level funding plan.

State Plan Committee: Liz Graves reported that the next meeting will be held in the fall to write the 704 Report. She asked members to keep a record of all Council related activities and forward them to the State Plan Committee to include in the 704 Report.

Membership / Nominating Committee: previously sent. Camille Pansa reported that recruitment has been active and five new volunteers have joined the Needs Assessment Committee. All Council members will be receiving letters of intent on remaining on the Council and their interest on serving on selected Committees and officer positions.

6. GAC Report: previously sent. Liz Graves read her report aloud highlighting several areas of importance.

7. SRC Report: previously sent. Liz Graves read her report aloud highlighting several areas of importance.

8. Report on Youth Transitioning teleconference: Heidi Showstead stated the importance of CILs' involvement in youth transitioning. Many teens not aware of the services provided by the CILs. The conference recommended early intervention strategies that could be used by the CILs with regards to the services they can provide to

youth prior to them transitioning to adult services. Another focus of the conference was involving youths in their Individual Education Plans. The conference literature is on file at the RISILC office.

9. Chairperson's Report: previously sent. Liz Graves extended her appreciation to all members of the NAC for a job well done completing the survey. She also stated that we are coming to a close on our first year of the State Plan, and although there were many new and difficult changes and challenges, we were still online to accomplish our goals. Liz also stated that as a Council, we are all looking forward to the ADA celebration which is scheduled for July 22; and she thanked Mary Wambach for spearheading the event.

10. CILs' report on budget cuts and stimulus/ARRA funds: Lorna Ricci (OSCIL) reported that due to the ARAA funds, 131 home modification cases were completed. The remaining funds are encumbered and will be used for projects already in progress. The funds also enabled a new position to be created which is currently being filled by two people who share the job responsibilities.

Leo Canuel (PARI) reported that PARI's ARRA funds are also encumbered and are being used for Spanish speaking staff and home modifications. There is no current wait list on home modifications because of the lengthy time it takes to complete the process. There are usually 12 to 15 jobs in progress at the same time and last year's modifications are just now being completed.

Leo Canuel reported on several legislation issues such as the Reauthorization of the Sherlock Act. This Plan created a Medicaid buy-in plan for people with disabilities who wanted to be employed

but the cost was too substantial. Currently, the new legislation is close to being approved and will allow more people to become employed without losing access to their Medicaid benefits. Leo also reported on the concern and safety of persons with disabilities. A bill introduced by the Attorney General's Office would mandate background checks and specialized training for PCAs which would have devastating effects on the existing State PCA Program. The language of the revised bill has been changed and the safety of the State PCA Plan is intact. The Licensing of PCAs has been put on the back burner until next year's legislation session. The background checks will more than likely start this year.

11. Educational Presentation: none.

12. Old Business / New Business: none.

Rick Costa
Secretary