

Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC)  
**MINUTES 10/12/2016**

**October 12, 2016 --- 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.**

Indiana Government Center South  
Conference Center – Conference Room C  
402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**INSILC Members Present:** Fred Vaiana, Peri Rogowski, Bill Fama, Peter Ciancone, Thom Hayes, Bonnie Bomer, Cynthia Rockwell, Derek Deckman, Erin Hall, and Kevin Burk

**INSILC Members Absent:** Chris Cleveland

**Guests Present:** Theresa Koleszar, Tonya Resler, and Amber O’Haver

- I. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Fred Vaiana shared that he would be the meeting’s presiding officer as the Vice-Chairperson of the Council, noting that Chris Cleveland was unable to attend. He called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
- II. **Statement of the Chair:** The Code of Conduct was read aloud to the Council and members of the public audience by Vice Chairperson, Fred Vaiana. He reminded the public that there will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting. He reminded the council and public that the comments would be limited to five minutes and that the council does not have an obligation to respond to public comments. He reminded everyone that there is a code of conduct for the Council and for members of the public. He noted that if disruptive behavior occurs that there will be a warning from the meeting’s presiding officer and that this individual can then ask for removal of a disruptive party.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** INSILC Members and Guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. **Roll Call:** Tonya Resler (Program Director, FSSA IL Services), Theresa Koleszar (State Agency Rep., Non-Voting Member), Peri Rogowski (DSE liaison, Non-Voting Member), Bill Fama (Voting Member), Kevin Burk (Treasurer, Voting Member), Fred Vaiana (Vice-Chair, Voting Member), Amber O’Haver (INSILC Executive Director), Cynthia Rockwell (Secretary, Voting Member), Bonnie Bomer (State Agency Rep., Non-Voting Member), Peter Ciancone (Center Rep, Voting Member), Derek Deckman (Voting Member), Erin Hall (State Agency Rep., Non-Voting Member).
- V. **Additions to & Approval of the Agenda:** Fred Vaiana asked if there were any additions for the agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Peter Ciancone. The motion was seconded by Cynthia Rockwell and the motion was passed.
- VI. **Statement of the Chair:** A Statement of the Chair was given by Fred Vaiana from Chris Cleveland, apologizing for not being able to make it to the meeting.
- VII. **Approval of Minutes (9-14-16):** Fred Vaiana asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Derek Deckman. The motion was seconded by Peter Ciancone and the motion was passed.
- VIII. **Treasurer’s Report:** Kevin Burk gave the Treasurer’s Report and shared that details can be found in the documents that were provided to the Council. He went over the INSILC balance sheet and profit and loss statement for fiscal year 2016. There were no questions raised. A motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report was made by Bill Fama. The motion was seconded by Derek Deckman and the motion was passed.
- IX. **Old Business**

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- A. 501c3 Updated Plan of Action:** Amber O’Haver stated that they are still moving forward on the timeline they developed. Amber asked if there were any questions. Fred Vaiana asked for clarification that things are running on the timeline as planned. Amber confirmed that she is moving forward on the plan and timeline that the Council approved.
- B. SILC Congress Conference (January 17-20, 2017):** Amber O’Haver gave another reminder that INSILC members are welcome to attend the SILC Congress Conference. Both she and Cynthia Rockwell have received approval to attend. Chris Cleveland noted at last month’s meeting he is trying to adjust his schedule to also attend. Amber O’Haver reminded everyone that it takes 90 days or so to have the out-of-state travel forms completed, submitted and approved by the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services. Fred Vaiana asked about the state policy surrounding those who want to attend but also need a care giver. Amber explained that this would be considered an accommodation and explained how the state could approve and pay for the accommodation if a care giver is needed. Fred also asked about the availability of accessible rooms at the SILC Congress Conference hotel. Amber shared that she booked her room over a month ago at the designated conference hotel and noted that she booked the last room with a roll-in shower. She shared that they had trouble with the hotel understanding the concept of accessible rooms but that she’d work with Council members to make sure they were able to find alternatives for accessible rooms.
- C. INSILC Retreat:** Amber O’Haver stated that the Council voted to hold its retreat on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. She reminded the Council that the retreat is mandatory for ALL Council members, voting and non-voting. She also noted that this will be an intensive training retreat rather than a vacation-like retreat. It will most likely be held from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on both days. Council members will be receiving training from Paula McElwee, ILRU and Ann McDaniels, ED for the West Virginia SILC. Cynthia Rockwell asked if there was a location set for the retreat. Amber shared that it will be at Indiana Disability Rights (IDR) in Indianapolis and that the space/building is newly remodeled and very accessible. Amber will also be setting up a block of hotel rooms for Council members traveling from out of town and needing a hotel room and will notify the Council was arranged.

**X. New Business**

- A. Outreach/Marketing Vendor RFQ & Scope of Work:** Fred Vaiana stated that Chris Cleveland was slated to discuss this update and that he did not have the information to give an update for him. No others had information to share. Fred pointed out quote information in their packet that the council needed to vote on. Peter Ciancone stated that he would like to discuss the information document/information further. Peter asked what the cost for the vendor services were. Amber shared that the document isn’t a quote/bid they received, rather it was an RFQ and Scope of Work for needed services she would be sending to potential vendors to invite them to bid on the project. Fred explained that it is similar to a document for the opening of a bid process. After the explanation, Peter Ciancone acknowledged he now understood and motioned to approve the RFQ and Scope of Work document to invite vendors to bid on providing INSILC Outreach/Marketing Services. Cynthia Rockwell seconded the motion and the motion was passed. Amber added that she will be inviting Well Done Marketing,

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SmallBox, and Pivot Marketing to bid on the project. She requested that if any Council members had additional suggestions for vendor to please send their info her way.

- B. Postcards:** Amber O’Haver passed around INSILC postcards with the definition of Independent Living and basic information. She shared that she wants to connect with Bonnie about how to make these most accessible for people with visual impairments. Amber noted that they are working on developing an INSILC and Center specific postcard as well. There are plans to have a final draft of this at the next meeting.
- C. Disability Hot Topics, Issues & Discussion (Voting):** Amber O’Haver shared information about voter registration and early voting. She shared a condensed resource guide with information from various resources for people with disabilities in relation to voting, accessible voting places, who to contact if a polling location is inaccessible, and how and where to file a complaint, etc. Amber highlighted that there is a presidential candidate questionnaire in relation to disability and that it explains information about the candidate’s opinion on the “disability vote.” She also shared statistics on the number of people with disabilities and the impact the group can have on elections. Amber also provided information about voter identification laws and how they can often be barriers to people with disabilities. Peter Ciancone shared the work that his center does in working to help people register to vote, including getting identification and accessible voter machines. Fred Vaiana shared that transportation is likely a primary roadblock for people with disabilities. He also shared that they should look at making a reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities in relation to voter ID laws. Bill Fama shared that the IRS doesn’t have trouble getting money from anyone without a photo ID, so that surely they could figure out voter ID concerns. Bonnie Bomer shared that Indiana Disability Rights has videos on their websites for information on how to register to vote and that they will have attorneys on call to help make complaints for anyone having difficulties with access or casting their votes on election day. Fred Vaiana commented on the great opportunity of early voting for people with disabilities. Amber stated that she will post the voting resource guide on the INSILC website. Kevin Burk shared that he thinks outreach is a barrier, noting that many people don’t know their options in relation to early and absentee voting. Fred Vaiana warned that people should not assume that their polling place is accessible.

**XI. Updates, Reports, Comments**

**A. Executive Director Report:**

- a.** Amber O’Haver provided her ED report, noting that she sent it out to the Council in advance so they had time to review it prior to the meeting. She highlighted that DDRS hosted a listening session that she attended and that most people who attended were family members or providers and not people with disabilities. She stated that there was a lot of conversation around housing, its availability, safety, and integration. There was also conversation about navigating systems and putting together pieces from different programs and services to get the necessary and complete care.
- b.** INSILC ordered table display materials for exhibit tables/booths.
- c.** Anthem asked Amber to be the keynote speaker at their annual National Disability Employment Awareness Month to talk with their managers about hiring people with disabilities and how to create a disability-inclusive corporate

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culture within their company and detail why this is “good business” for Anthem and how/why people with disabilities make great employees.

- d. Based on the newly approved SPIL, INSILC is partnering with the Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities for their annual conference and the opportunity to support/provide independent living based sessions. Amber gave details on keynote speakers and IL advocacy track speakers for workshop/breakout sessions. They are also doing a session on “inspiration porn.” Each Center will be able to get an exhibitor table. Amber stated that it is always hosted at the Westin in downtown Indianapolis and this year it will be held for two full-days on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Peer Review Committee:** Bill Fama stated that there are no updates at this time.
- C. Outreach Committee:** Chris Cleveland was to present on the Outreach Committee but is not in attendance to do so. Amber O’Haver commented that the Outreach Committee is scheduled to meet next Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. but the meeting will be hosted as a conference call instead of an onsite meeting and for anyone interested in joining the committee/call to please contact her to get access to the conference line.
- D. SPIL (2017-2019) Committee:** Peter Ciancone said during the last meeting that he would initiate an email chain but that he has not yet had the time to get that started. He stated that he will get that going tomorrow morning. At this time Cynthia Rockwell took over running the meeting as Fred Vaiana had to leave early.
- E. Updates – DSE – Peri Rogowski:** Peri Rogowski shared information on research for Blind and Visually Impaired Services vending sites, collaboration on vocational training for blind high school students, VR’s annual symposium, and VA’s disability training and events. Peri asked about the annual 704 reports and Amber shared that the State-funded centers will be hearing from Amber, as INSILC will be coordinating and submitting the report under the new guidelines as opposed to the DSE. Peri also asked if they were planning to change the format and Peter commented that there won’t be changes this reporting year but that there may be some changes coming for 2017.
- F. Updates: Centers for Independent Living:**
- a. **The Will Center—Peter Ciancone—**Centers around the state are working on voting rights for their constituents. The WILL Center: One of their employees was accepted into the Partners in Policy program. They have received over \$10,000 in donations in the past two weeks.
  - b. **Everybody Counts and Everybody Counts North – Teresa Torres:** Shared that her Center’s primary concern is the ineffectiveness of the Council. She shared information about their Center working to improve public transit, working with the housing crisis in East Chicago Indiana area, and college support staff. Teresa asked what the Council is doing to impact the lives of people with disabilities.
- G. Public Comments:**
- a. **Lee Martin—Northwest Indiana, National Federation of the Blind Indiana Chapter Member**
    - i. Lee asked for support from the CILs for a program called NFB News Line. This is a program for the blind, visually impaired, and individuals with dyslexia. He would like to work together to get the program moving and to help their citizens across the state. He noted that the INSILC Vice-Chair, Fred Vaiana, was mistaken in stating that the programs at BOSMA

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supported people with I/DD and corrected that information, explaining that BOSMA's programs/services support those who are blind or visually impaired.

**b. Rene Jackson—Lake County**

- i. Rene commented on intersectionality being a part of people's life and not being a trend and noted that there are no people of color on the council. She also left written comment for the council.

**c. George Janiec — Lake County:** George Janiec inquired about the INSILC P&L statement. Amber responded that his questions could most likely be better address if they were submitted in to her in writing. He stated his questions are about sub-contractors, legal and professional fees, and other line item areas. He wanted to know more information. George provided spread sheets on population information and unit cost in relation to Centers and service area size. He suggested the Council look at how the population and money allocated effects the people that each Center serves. George shared that you can't exercise your first amendment right within fifty feet of the polls but that outside of this area, people can discuss candidates and issues.

**d. Sarah Wools – Student/Consumer with Everybody Counts North Program, (read a statement from Lorrell Kilpatrick):** The statement read aloud talked about an issue in East Chicago Indiana regarding the poisoning of residents from extended exposure of lead toxins in the soil. This has been effecting children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and elderly people. The city's response has been to evacuate a low income housing complex, which has forced people into inaccessible living conditions, assisted living facilities, homelessness, etc. She also commented about further information on intersectionality addressed at the last meeting and offered opinions on the racial demographic of the Council and the way the issue of Intersectionality was discussed at September's INSILC meeting.

**e. Adaria Kelly – Northwest Indiana:** Adaria expressed her concerns with the time limit given for public comment and the lack of details in the information included in meeting minutes related to public comment.

**f. Teresa Torres — Lake County:** Teresa provided additional information in relation to the population formula that George Janiec discussed. She provided additional information about minority populations/demographics. She asked again about what the Council is doing to impact the lives of people with disabilities.

**g. Kevin Burk:** Kevin asked the meeting's presiding officer, INSILC Secretary - Cynthia Rockwell, if he may address Ms. Torres. Cynthia Rockwell stated he may. He shared with Ms. Torres that he reviewed old meeting minutes regarding the tension he has exhibited between Ms. Torres and the Council and other Centers. He also noted that he as a new Council member has never been told not to listen to her or people from her center by any member of INSILC or it staff or the other Centers as Ms. Torres indicated during her public comment. They were informed and encouraged and welcomed to speak with her and any others to learn more information. He shared that he doesn't know the history of the Council and but that he knows they are committed and passionate in the work they are tasked to do. He respects the work Ms. Torres and her Centers and shared his thanks with

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her and asked to start new and make progress. He also noted that he wants to make it easier for people with disabilities moving forward and that when Ms. Torres and others speak, their issues could be brought forth in a more respectful, professional and appropriate manner. Ms. Torres stated that there is no moving forward and expressed her concerns with the public time limit. She said that the police will not keep them from using their voices and asked for the Council to care about the concerns they bring to it. She stated that she wants to see actions and outcomes.

- H. Adjournment:** Cynthia Rockwell motioned to adjourn. Peter Ciancone seconded the motion and it was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The next INSILC meeting is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C.