

Indiana Council on Independent Living (ICOIL)

Minutes of July 10, 2015

1:00-4:00 p.m.

ICOIL Members Present – Bonnie Bomer, Erin Hall, Leslie Hawker, Thomas Hayes, Al Piening, and Peri Rogowski.

Guests Present - Rebecca Anderson, Kristina Blankenship, Peter Ciancone, Chris Cleveland, Cindy Cox, George Getz, Brenna Giddings, John Guingrich, DeeAnn Hart, Kylee Hope, Renae Jackson, Kelly Johnson, Melissa Madill, David Nelson, Lisa Oliver, Beth Quarles, Shanida Sharp-Byrnes, Richard Simers, Carole Surratt-Bradley, Al Tolbert, and Teresa Torres.

Welcome and Call to Order

Chairperson Leslie Hawker called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

ICOIL Board Members and Guests recited the Pledge-of-Allegiance

Roll Call

ICOIL Members included: Bonnie Bomer, Erin Hall, Leslie Hawker, Thomas Hayes, Al Piening, and Peri Rogowski.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairperson Leslie Hawker began by stating that she wanted to add “Chair Comments” to the Agenda. A meeting guest asked that they add “Other Business” to the Agenda. It was moved and seconded to approve the Agenda with the additions stated above. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes from June 10, 2015

ICOIL member Dr. Al Piening motioned for approval of the Minutes. Meeting guest Ms. Teresa Torres asked the Chair if she could speak. Chairperson Hawker responded “yes” and informed everyone that she was going to have an ‘open’ meeting since it was just her and Dr. Al Piening on the Council and it wouldn’t be productive without the input from the audience.

Ms. Hawker started her Chair Comments by informing everyone that a group of interested stakeholders had secured the services of an attorney for the ICOIL and ICOIL, Inc. situation. She then passed out copies of the letter from Susan Severtson - that was addressed to her and to Kylee Hope, Director, BRS - to ICOIL and to the members of the public. Ms. Hope asked her who had retained the attorney, and Ms. Hawker stated, “interested stakeholders”. Ms. Hope asked Al Piening if he knew Ms. Hawker was retaining the attorney and he said “no”. So Ms. Hope asked her who the interested stakeholders were since Ms. Hawker didn’t

consult with the members of ICOIL, and she said, “You can just say me”. Ms. Hope then asked her for clarification as to her role in retaining the attorney and whether it was as a private citizen or as the Chair of ICOIL. Ms. Hawker initially said as a private citizen, but then said - but also as the Chair. She stated that she refuses to sign the contract with ICOIL, Inc. since she doesn’t agree with the Council’s passed motion of ICOIL, Inc. - as the fiscal intermediary contracted entity for the Council. Ms. Hope reminded attendees that a motion was seconded and passed during the June Meeting to adopt a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ICOIL and ICOIL, Inc. --- and that Chairperson Hawker was the only attendee with a dissenting vote. Ms. Hope inquired asking if the vote was correct. The response was affirmative.

Ms. Hawker mentioned that there is a problem in that the 990 Form states that ICOIL, Inc. is a Governor-Appointed board and that “you can’t just change it”.

Dr. Piening shared that this evidently was a mistake that could be corrected. Ms. Hawker responded that this “doesn’t go well with the IRS”.

Chairperson Hawker again stated that she would not put her name to an organization that did not exist and that she retained Attorney Susan Severton on her own. Ms. Hawker invited Ms. Severton to speak about ICOIL, Inc. at the August ICOIL meeting.

A lengthy discussion followed and comments by ICOIL Members and guests. A brief summary follows:

- Some attendees stated that Chairperson Hawker’s attorney should not speak and that an independent attorney representing ICOIL be sought.
- Ms. Hope reminded attendees that Ms. Hawker was the only ICOIL member at the June Meeting not in favor of a motion to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ICOIL and ICOIL, Inc. She added that no one requested additional facts on the matter.
- Ms. Hawker stated that this was one-side of the matter and that she would not sign the contract. She also emphasized that ICOIL is not autonomous and that she didn’t have access to ICOIL funds.
- During the discussion, a State Police Officer quietly entered the room to join the meeting.
- Ms. Hawker confronted state staff asking who requested the presence of the police officer. Ms. Peri Rogowski responded that we are in a government building and that this is a public meeting and Capitol Police are allowed in meetings.
- Ms. Torres asked the Police Officer who asked him to be at the meeting. He responded that his supervisor asked him to attend the meeting.
- Discussion continued with Chairperson Hawker stating that she was the Chair of ICOIL and that she preferred that the Police Officer not attend the meeting.
- One attendee asked why anyone would object to a Police Officer attending the meeting.

- The State Police Officer opted to leave the meeting and sit outside the door.

Council Business

Vacancy Appointments on Executive Committee – Chairperson Hawker shared that she has worked tirelessly to get people appointed to the Council, and that she calls the Governor’s Office daily. She shared that she wants to appoint a nominating committee and have an election of officers this fall.

Recommendations for New Council Members - Attendees shared suggestions of individuals they thought should be considered for appointment by the Governor. Chairperson Hawker shared that she hopes young and diverse individuals will also be considered.

NCIL Conference – Chairperson Hawker mentioned the upcoming National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) Conference. She plans to attend.

Ms. Hawker suggested that we invite NCIL Executive Director Kelly Buckland to the August ICOIL Meeting. Mr. Buckland is available to travel to Indiana August 13-14. Since the ICOIL Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, Chairperson Hawker suggested having the ICOIL Meeting on August 13 when Mr. Buckland is in town. Council member Dr. Piening and attendees generally agreed to change the August ICOIL Meeting date from August 12 to August 13.

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) – ACL is scheduled to visit Indiana August 10-14 when Mr. Buckland is in town. ACL Specialist, Elizabeth Akinola will represent them. She will attend the ICOIL meeting.

Ms. Rogowski stated that she hadn’t received any information from Mr. Buckland about his travel and that the state must make his travel arrangements which are normally a 60 day process per the State Travel Agency, but that we would do everything to accommodate the request.

NCIL Membership – Chairperson Hawker told attendees she was surprised to learn that ICOIL was not a member of the National Council on Independent Living and wanted to address that at a future meeting.

Statewide Needs Assessment

Chairperson Hawker suggested ICOIL have hearings across the state and listen to issues facing those residing in rural areas – issues such as transportation and employment. Dr. Piening agreed that his area of the state has these issues. Chairperson Hawker wants to input from Evansville and from other VR Areas across the state. She asked attendees to send Needs Assessment suggestions to her.

Chairperson Hawker shared needs of people she knew. Ms. Hope recommended that individuals contact the Center for Independent Living in their area of the state to address their needs, or send needs to her or to Ms. Rogowski.

Update & Report from Designated State Unit Representative

Ms. Rogowski shared the following update:

- The VR Rule Promulgation should be published in October.
- Training will be conducted on July 28th for New Provides about Rate changes.
- The revised Policy Manual has been published and is on the state website.
- CRP has finalized the Service Agreement.
- Vendor applications have been streamlined.
- We have new candidates for the Randolph Sheppard Vending Business.
- Blind and Visually Impaired Services has a request for proposals open for older blind services.

ICOIL Updates, Reports, & Comments

Communication and Collaboration (Live Streaming) – Chairperson Hawker expressed appreciation for Live Streaming of ICOIL Meetings.

Other Business – Ms. Torres shared her thoughts about changes to the June Meeting Minutes and asked for information that her attorney had requested.

Ms. Hope responded that since Ms. Torres’ attorney is involved we will respond via our attorney.

Ms. Torres continued to ask questions, point-out, and make requests concerning previous requests, timelines, an operating policy, federal law, legal matters, various allegations, new centers for independent living, perceived mistakes in meeting minutes, and BRS’s position on service delivery and funding.

Chairperson Hawker suggested bringing-up questions with the Administration for Community Living. She then suggested that she and Ms. Hope meet to discuss various matters of concern and indicated she is available after the VR Commission meeting later that week.

Ms. Torres asked for a timeline and closed by saying that if it’s brought up at the ACL meeting she will bring out all of their information.

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) – David Nelson, Center Director in Fort Wayne shared that their Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coalition has planned a press conference on July 24th to recognize the July 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Adjournment

Dr. Piening moved to adjourn the Meeting and Chairperson Hawker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Attendees were reminded that the next ICOIL Meeting would be Thursday, August 13th from 1:00 – 4:00 – instead of Wednesday, August 12th.
