

Indiana Council on Independent Living (ICOIL)

September 10, 2014
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Indiana Government Center South (IGCS), Conference Room C
402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana

Meeting Notes

Attendance: Bonnie Bomer, Peter Bisbecos, Peter Ciancone, Leslie Hawker, Dr. Allen Piening, Peri Rogowski (Designated State Unit Representative - DSU), and Eric Zagorac.

Guests: Rebecca Anderson, Lori Bennett (NFB), Jackie Evans, John Guingrich, Jama Gonzalez, Bill Harrison (NFB), Latosha Higgins, Ranae Jackson, Lee Martin (NFB), Jim McCormick, Teresa Reynolds, Chris Spinks, Debbie Spikes, Carole Surratt-Bradley, Al Tolbert, Teresa Torres, and Rudy Velasec.

I. Meeting Called to Order:

Board Chairperson Leslie Hawker called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees at 1:04 pm.

II. Roll Call:

Roll call was taken.

III. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Board members shared that they would like to have an American flag for board meetings.

IV. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

V. Approval of the August 13th Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the August 13th minutes. The motion passed.

VI. Update & Report from the Designated State Unit Representative

Peri Rogowski reported as follows:

- A. Nancy Young is expected to be out of the office for several weeks. Carole Surratt-Bradley will provide support while Nancy is out.
- B. Ms. Rogowski reported that the standard time for processing travel and stipend claims is 35 days. Board members must, however, submit the required forms and a copy of their social security card prior to claims being processed. Forms needed include: W-4, WH-4, and Direct Deposit .
- C. The contractual ICOIL Executive Director position is being reposted.

VII. Report from Standing Committees/Ad Hoc Committee

- A. Executive Committee-----Chairperson
Chairperson Hawker asked committee members to stay briefly after the meeting.
- B. Finance Committee-----Vacant
The Finance Committee did not have a report due to a vacancy in the office of Treasurer.
DSU Representative Peri Rogowski reported that ICOIL Travel and Stipends are taken out of the VR Budget.
- C. Marketing, Outreach/Membership Committee-----Peter Ciancone
The Marketing, Outreach/Membership Committee did not meet.
- D. Planning Committee-----Jama Gonzalez
The Planning Committee didn't have a report due to the absence of Committee Chairperson Jama Gonzalez.

Board members engaged in general discussion on the following topics:

- By Laws – Discussion primarily centered around how the new regulations may effect ICOIL’s By-Laws. The Council will review the By-Laws during a future meeting.
- 501c3 Status – The Council may explore the benefits of 501c3 Status.
- ICOIL Budget - The Council generally agreed that it may be wise to delay developing a 2015 Budget until the new Executive Director is appointed.
- Board Member Personal Liability – Brief concerns regarding board member liability were mentioned.
- Chairperson Hawker stated that the board needs to take the following seriously: By-Laws, State Plan, and the new Federal Law. She closed by stating “We’re being empowered and need to be ready.”

VIII. New Council Business

A. October Annual Meeting and Election of Officers -----Chairperson
Chairperson Hawker shared that board members Peter Bisbecos and Eric Zagorac volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee. The election of Officers will be conducted at the October meeting.

B. Update on Council Member Appointments-----Chairperson
Chairperson Hawker will continue to follow-up on ICOIL Board Member appointments and reappointments.

She encouraged ICOIL Board Members to attend the Pre-Board Meeting Education Sessions. Eric Zagorac attended the first education session conducted prior to today’s board meeting.

C. Presentation-----Lee Martin of
The National Federation of the Blind Newslite. Title: “Access to Information for People with Visual Impairments”
Chairperson Hawker introduced Lee Martin for his presentation on the National Federation of the Blind Newslite. Mr. Martin then introduced his colleagues, Lori Bennett and Bill Harrison.

The NFB provides access to information for those with visual challenges. It is the largest organization of its kind with a total of 50,000 members and 500 chapters. Indiana has five (5) NFB chapters. Nine newspapers in Indiana are available - via the NFB - to those with visual challenges. They provide access to three-hundred and forty (340) papers nationally and ten (10) papers internationally.

The NFB estimates that 9.3% of individuals in the United States cope with visual impairment. That includes an estimated seventy-thousand (70,000) in Indiana.

Lives have been saved by the NFB via their weather alerts. Students are able to use this resource for research. The service is totally FREE of charge and is available 24/7.

Mr. Martin stated that an estimated 70% of individuals with disabling conditions are unemployed. Education and literacy are tools that assist individuals with disabling conditions to find employment.

The NFB is currently establishing a network of libraries to support individuals with visual challenges.

Those with additional questions may contact Lee Martin at:
Lches@sbcglobal.net

IX. Update from Part B or Part C Center for Independent Living

A. Report - NCIL Conference, Washington, DC-----John Guingrich

Former ICOIL Board Member John Guingrich presented on the NCIL Conference. He reported that the conference was great and mentioned the following topics that were addressed: The Workforce Investment Act, Youth Transition Services, Resource Development and Advocacy, etc.

Several youth of high school and college age attended the conference.

John shared his concern that the USA is not “at the table” for the Convention on Rights of those with Disabilities. More information is available at: UN.org

B. CIL Update -----General Update

ICOIL members discussed the reauthorization of the rehabilitation act, expanding committees to include youth and youth board representatives, transition conferences for teenagers, etc.

Jim McCormick mentioned an advocacy program conducted in Richmond to teach self-advocacy to teens age 14-16. The hope is to let kids know that “You can be anything they want to be. You drive your own ship.”

Guest presenter Lee Martin mentioned teaching independence to kids and involving their parents. This can enhance attitude and education. He shared that “low expectations create obstacles.”

C. Independent Living Conference Report-----Peter Ciancone

The Conference covered Fee for Service Development for Youth Transition Programs.

D. Public Comments-----Various

Public comments were shared by Ms. Ranea Jackson and Ms. Teresa Torres of Everybody Counts. Others also provided comments.

E. Adjournment-----Chairperson

Chairperson Leslie Hawker adjourned the meeting.
