

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the
Indiana Council on Independent Living (ICOIL)
September 9, 2015
1:00 PM**

Location of Meeting:

Government Center South, Conference Room C
402 W. Washington St
Indianapolis, Indiana 46207

Present at Meeting:

ICOIL Members Present: Chris Cleveland, Peter Ciancone, Allen Piening, William Fama, Bonnie Bomer, Peri Rogowski, and Thomas Hayes

Guests Present: Al Tolbert, Kylee Hope, Chrissy Elzy, Amy Browning, John Guingrich, Jim McCormick, George Janice, Teresa Torres, Renae Jackson, and Tonya Resler

The regular meeting of the Indiana Council on Independent Living (ICOIL) was called to order at 1:00 PM on September 9, 2015 at Government Center South, Conference Room C by Chairperson Chris Cleveland.

I. Welcome and Call To Order

Chairperson Chris Cleveland welcomed new voting member, William "Bill" Fama.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

ICOIL Board Members and Guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Kylee Hope (DSE Non-Voting), Peri Rogowski (DSE Non-Voting Member), Thomas "Thom" Hayes (DSE Non-Voting Member), Allen "Al" Piening (Voting Member), Peter Ciancone (Voting Member), Chris Cleveland (Chairperson, Voting Member), Bonnie Bomer (Non-Voting Member), Bill Fama (Voting Member)

IV. Additions to the Agenda

No additions to the agenda.

V. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was distributed. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Peter Ciancone. The motion was seconded by Al Piening and passed.

VI. Statement of the Chair

Chairperson Chris Cleveland stated that public comments will be heard at the end of the meeting.

VII. Approval of the Minutes from July 8, 2015

Chairperson Chris Cleveland stated that the Minutes of July and August will be presented at next month's meeting.

VIII. Old Business

1). Needs Assessment:

Allen Piening acknowledges the help of Al Tolbert, Jim McCormick, and Erin Hall for their help in finalizing Leslie Hawker's draft of the Needs Assessment for the State Plan.

2). SIILC Request:

Amy Browning presented the request for Southeastern Indiana Independent Living Center (SIILC) to join the State Network of Independent Living Centers in Indiana which will allow SIILC to have their voices heard at the table and represent their region. Amy is the Executive Director for SIILC which serves 5 counties and is located in the Southeast corner of Indiana. They are awaiting a Request For Proposal (RFP), have had a support letter from ICOIL in the past, are prepared for recognition and states that they have done everything that is required in the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) including collaborating at least 3 years with another center. Amy thanked Al Tolbert and Jim McCormick for collaborating with SIILC for the last 7 years with Southern Indiana Center for Independent Living (SICIL) and the past 4 years with The Independent Living Center of Eastern Indiana (ILCEIN). She does not have any report but wants to know the next step in becoming recognized since there is no mechanism currently in the State of Indiana to become recognized. Peter Ciancone states that he appreciates her coming today. Through having observed and heard reports through the centers SIILC has collaborated with, it shows a clear working center in their area. Mr. Ciancone stated he is fully ready to accept the work that SIILC does but questions how to monitor and incorporate for the expansion of the Network of Centers as part of the State Plan. Peter turns to the Designated State Entity (DSE) for further input on how to incorporate SIILC. Kylee Hope stated there is a difference between funding and the expansion of centers and that this is something that needs to be dictated appropriately in the future State Plan that we are working on. It also depends, whether the center would be willing to abide by the assurances of the Federal law. At that point, it is not the DSE's decision to incorporate SIILC or not, it is determined by the State Independent Living Council (SILC) from Indiana Council on Independent Living (ICOIL) on whether or not they have met those assurances and whether to incorporate them. Chairperson Chris Cleveland stated the Board will take this next month to get the information on what is needed to get SIILC at the table and to be a part of the State Plan. Peter Ciancone highly recommended that SIILC be a part of the planning process for the State Plan. Amy Browning asked if

SIILC's inclusion could be addressed at the next meeting. Peter Ciancone says the board will be willing to consider that option as the centers she has collaborated with are strong advocates for SIILC's inclusion and this will be added to next month's agenda.

3). Public Hearing on State Plan:

Bonnie Bomer discusses 3 sites for the Public Hearing--South Bend, Indianapolis, and Evansville.

Peri Rogowski mentions using the next ICOIL meeting, 2nd Wednesday in October (10/14/15), for the Indianapolis site and Tonya Resler will check on getting the conference room at 8:00 am so that the Public Hearing can go before the ICOIL meeting at 1:00 pm.

Al Tolbert will host the Evansville site.

Al Piening has a date range of 10/15/15 to 10/21/15 and will have a date next week.

4). Others:

No additional Old Business was mentioned.

IX. New Business

1). ICOIL, Inc.:

Al Tolbert gave update on ICOIL, Inc. stating that there is a contract with the State in place. Additionally, ICOIL, Inc. is trying to get their website up-to-date along with getting the minutes after March 2015 that has been approved, posted. Also, they will bring a report and financial statement to the ICOIL meeting each month.

2). Membership:

Peter Ciancone gave an update on ICOIL's membership stating that currently there are ten members with five members having a disability. There is one application that has been pushed through to the Governor's Office and the board will wait a discreet amount of time and if needed will ask Ms. Akinola for her assistance so that ICOIL can become compliant with membership. Kylee Hope gave an update from the Governor's Office and stated that they have been very responsive to understanding the needs and is aware and ready to assist with membership.

3). State Plan (July 31, 2016):

Chairperson Chris Cleveland stated that the public hearings will be going on throughout October. The remaining months of this year will be used to work on the initial part of the State Plan with the Center Directors and ICOIL.

4). Open:

Chairperson Cleveland opened the floor for additional business to discuss. No additional business items were brought to the table.

X. Updates, Reports, Comments

A). Planning Committee:

Peter Ciancone stated that the SPIL Planning Committee met last week which is a part of the public hearings that will take place in north, central and southern Indiana in October. There are still some scheduling issues to work out but the intent is to conclude the public hearings in October. The Needs Assessment will be posted online and have copies available at the public hearings so individuals can complete the Needs Assessment document and provide input and comments to go towards the drafting of the State Plan. Next SPIL Planning Committee meeting has not been scheduled, at this time, but Peter stated they will have a better idea when to schedule the next meeting after dates have been finalized for the public hearings. Al Tolbert reminded everyone that there is a webinar tomorrow, September 10th, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5 and is open to the public. Peter Ciancone stated that it is sponsored by Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) and the fee is paid by ICOIL, Inc. so the more people we have to share the experience, the better.

B). Nominating Committee:

Peter stated that the Nominating Committee met to suggest a slate of officers to be voted on in the October meeting. The Nominating Committee nominated Chris Cleveland as Chair, Al Piening as Vice-Chair, and Peter Ciancone as Secretary/Treasurer.

C). DSE:

Peri Rogowski gave an update on the DSE.

Centers for Independent Living (CIL): Grants have been released to all CIL's and will be releasing contracts soon. Also, Division of Aging has been collaborating with the CIL's on No Wrong Door.

Blind Services: New class of licensed managers to be graduating next week and will be able to go to work very soon.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS): Request for Funding (RFF) is coming back and soon will be solidified with DHHS.

Older Independent Blind (OIB): RFP went out and selected 7 contractors to do itinerant services for OIB.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR): VR symposium for VR staff later this month.

Peter Ciancone asked in regards to Chapter 2 vendors about increased liability coverage. Peri Rogowski stated that this is one of the reasons for the delayed contracts; however, the liability coverage is exactly as it was previously.

D). Update: Centers for Independent Living:

Peter Ciancone stated that the CIL's have been working with Division of Aging, like Peri said, on the No Wrong Door. Division of Aging is still trying to implement language associated with the implementation of No Wrong Door and they are very pleased to discover that the CIL's have been advocating consumer-driven, consumer-based case management thought processes as Division of Aging has been agonizing over the language in their computer system to phrase what they are trying to say. Peter shared that there is a public hearing in Vincennes tomorrow that he will attend and stated that Becky Anderson from ATTIC may attend as well. Peter concluded with the statement that the CIL's are awaiting contracts to be released. Peri Rogowski stated that they will be very soon.

E). Public Comments:

Chris Cleveland stated that the floor is open for public comments and will allow 5 minutes for anyone to speak.

Rena Jackson approached the mic and stated that she had gone over the SPIL and a lot of things disturb her about it and the ICOIL board. She continued stating that the board is not geared toward helping people or the movement. People have died and lost things to get the movement where it is now; "Just like the Civil Rights Movement, this is a movement." Rena said that this Council does not seem to understand that. If people ask questions, they are downgraded and humiliated. The Council puts people on the board and do not train them and there is no direction. Ms. Jackson said this is disturbing the way the council is being run and then asks "If you are wondering why I have goggles, it's because I figured the shit's getting kinda deep; so I need to put goggles on. And, everybody else needs to put their boots on."

George T. Janick took the mic, stating all actions that this board has taken last month, this month and next month are illegitimate. A federal employee provided their own administrative advice, oversight, and empowerment; closing centers, etc. which is all unconscionable when the visit was for technical assistance guidance. He continued stating that he is bothered by DSE employees and their orchestrated maneuvering. Mr. Janick then formally requested a report from Elizabeth Akinola's visit.

Teresa Torres took the mic stating that she is wearing [her headband with spring-held balls on it] in honor of Susan Nussbaum, one of the founders of Access Living. She then continued stating that she finds the way the board is doing business to be very interesting since she hasn't heard anything about the methodology for outreach, training for the facilitators, the public hearing in Northwest Indiana or about the fact that council members are to be knowledgeable about independent

living. However, a swift and efficient meeting is very important. Ms. Torres noted that the council is very happy because [you] see a light at the end of the tunnel but [ICOIL] needs to be ready because it is a train coming right at [you] and thanked [ICOIL] for all the documentation needed and wished [ICOIL] luck moving forward.

Al Tolbert approached the mic and added that the Administrative Director position is posted on the website and to look for that and the responsibilities.

Teresa Torres added one last comment at the mic asking if, as the interviewing for this position are conducted, is the practice of asking the candidates of whether they are associated with Everybody Counts going to be continued? Thus far, she has five people willing to so attest. Also, Teresa asked who is doing the interviewing and the hiring and when does it start?

Chairperson Chris Cleveland thanked everyone. Teresa Torres wanted to know the answer and Mr. Cleveland stated this is a time for public comment. Ms. Torres stated that means two trips for an answer and this was a very efficient meeting.

F). Adjournment:

Al Piening moved to adjourn the meeting and Peter Ciancone seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

XI. Agenda and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 PM on October 14, 2015 at:

Indiana Government Center South

402 W. Washington St.

Indianapolis, Indiana 46207

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM by Chris Cleveland.

Please note: Individuals needing accommodations should contact Tonya Resler at tonya.resler@fssa.in.gov. Every effort will be made to accommodate anyone wishing to be a part of our meeting. At least 48-hour notice would be appreciated. Meetings will be live streamed at <http://www.webinar.in.gov/icoil>.