

**INDIANA STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (INSILC)
MINUTES**

June 08, 2016 – 1:00 p.m.

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

INSILC Members Present: Peri Rogowski, Bill Fama, Fred Vaiana, Chris Cleveland, Peter Ciancone, Cynthia Rockwell, Thom Hayes, and Bonnie Bomer

INSILC Members Absent: Al Piening, Erin Hall, Jama Gonzalez-Bennett, Leslie Hawker, and Beverly Harding

Guest Present: Theresa Koleszar, Amber O’Haver, Gaye Summitt, and Tonya Resler

- I. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Chairperson, Chris Cleveland, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** INSILC Board Members and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Roll Call:** Tonya Resler [Designated State Entity (DSE) Program Director, Guest], Theresa Koleszar (DSE Director, Guest), Peri Rogowski (DSE liaison, Non-Voting Member), Bill Fama (Voting Member), Fred Vaiana (Voting Member), Amber O’Haver (INSILC Executive Director), Chris Cleveland (Chairperson, Voting Member), Peter Ciancone (Treasurer, Voting Member), Cynthia Rockwell (Voting Member), Thom Hayes (State Agency Rep., Non-Voting Member), Gaye Summitt (State Agency Rep., Guest), Bonnie Bomer (State Agency Rep., Non-Voting Member)
- IV. **Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda for the meeting was distributed. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Fred Vaiana. The motion was seconded by Cynthia Rockwell and passed.
- V. **Statement of the Chair:** Code of Conduct was read aloud to the Council and audience by Chairperson, Chris Cleveland. He thanked Al Piening, Leslie Hawker, and Jama Bennett for their service on the Council. Chris concluded by thanking everyone, especially the Centers for Independent Living (CIL) Directors, who has worked on the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) by stating that it was done in months, rather than in years, and the amount of effort put into it was astonishing.
- VI. **Approval of Minutes (04-13-16):** Cynthia Rockwell made a motion to approve the minutes. Fred Vaiana seconded the motion and the motion was passed.
- VII. **Treasurer’s Report:** Peter Ciancone apologized for not having a treasurer’s report as he had trouble getting information. However, he reported that he will have two months reports at the July meeting.
- VIII. **Old Business**
 - A. **SPIL 2017-2019 FINAL Draft:** Amber O’Haver reported the changes, and referred to the sections of changes, that were made based on the comments of those that attended the Public Hearing on May 2, 2016 at the Indiana Government Center South and the written comments received from the organizations, agencies and individuals from the

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community. She stated that the Council received input and feedback regarding Section 1.2A, Objective A, Goal 3: Conduct Systems Advocacy in relation to Activity 1 & 2 to combine these to address and state that the Council will “Organize and conduct Independent Living and Disability Awareness events at the Statehouse.” instead of separating that out. That will allow the Council to determine how many events, and how often they occur, are necessary during the SPIL timeframe to accomplish Goal 3, Objective A. In the same section and goal, Objective B, C, D, E, and F an activity was added of “Participate on relevant committees, workgroups, focus groups, etc.” as they are created or are available to participate in and provide feedback related to those specific objectives. Another change is in Objective C in the same section, the words “and expansion of options” was added. An additional objective, Objective F, was added into the SPIL around transportation due to the feedback received in regards to the significant amount of barriers across the state that individuals with disabilities have to contend with when it comes to transportation and advocating for increased access and options to accessible and affordable transportation, particularly in rural areas. This objective was also added to the Part II: Narrative: Section 7 - Evaluation in the back of the SPIL to reflect this addition. The four newly created activities to the newly added objective was read aloud. The only other update made was to add the name change of Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services (IPAS) to Indiana Disability Rights (IDR). Amber thanked everyone for all of their support in getting the SPIL done. Chris Cleveland thanked Amber and asked for a motion to approve the submission of the SPIL to the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Cynthia Rockwell made the motion to approve the submission of the SPIL to ACL, Fred Vaiana seconded it, and the Council unanimously voted for the approval.

Chris asked Theresa Koleszar to come to the front to sign the Signature Page of the SPIL along with the CIL Directors. Theresa Koleszar [DSE, Bureau of Rehabilitation (BRS) Director], Chris Cleveland (INSILC Chairperson), Peter Ciancone [INSILC Treasurer, CIL Director: The Wabash Independent Living and Learning Center (The WILL Center)], Jim McCormick [CIL Director: Independent Living Center of Eastern Indiana (ILCEIN)], Becky Anderson (CIL Director: ATTIC), Beth Quarles (CIL Director: Future Choices), and David Nelson (CIL Director: The League) signed the Signature Page during this time period and after the meeting, Tammy Themel (CIL Director: accessABILITY) and Teresa Reynolds [CIL Director: Southern Indiana Center for Independent Living (SICIL)] signed the Signature Page since they were late and missed the period when the others signed it. The only CIL Director that did not sign was Teresa Torres (CIL Director: Everybody Counts and Everybody Counts North) and she was in attendance of the meeting.

B. SILC Training (following adjournment of meeting): Chris reminded everyone that the SILC Training will be following the meeting.

IX. New Business

A. INSILC Member Stipends: Chris stated that this agenda item will be skipped and that the Council will move to the next item (IX., B) on the agenda.

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B. RFA Southeastern Indiana: Bill Fama shared that the Peer Review Committee received one application for the posted Request For Application for Independent Living (IL) Services in southeastern Indiana. The application was received from the Southeastern Indiana Independent Living Center (SIILC). The Committee reviewed, evaluated, and scored their application accordingly last month. Members of the Peer Review Committee visited SIILC, met with their key personnel, Amy Browning-Varble and Chrissy Elzy, and discussed their application in more detail. Taking into consideration their application, the evaluation scores and information learned after the visit, the Peer Review Committee recommends to the full Council, awarding the RFA funds to the Southeastern Indiana Independent Living Center. Chris thanked Bill for his report and recommendation of the Peer Review Committee and opened to the Council for discussion. There was none and Chris asked for a motion to approve the Peer Review Committee’s recommendation to fund the Southeastern Indiana Independent Living Center. Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Peter, Fred seconded it and the motion was passed. Chris welcomed SIILC to the network of Centers.

X. Updates, Reports, Comments

A. Executive Director Report: Amber stated that she emailed April’s Executive Director Report last month and asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked and Amber highlighted a few topics of the May’s Executive Director Report that she emailed to the members. She is continuing to work with the SILC’s Technical Assistance through Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) to update Operational and Fiscal Policies and Procedures and the intent to have the fiscal piece ready for the Council to review prior to the July meeting. She will continue to work with them on the Operational, Policies and Procedures, and Bylaws. Amber touched on the INSILC partnership development and cultivation meetings that she had during the course of May, she met and called with various CIL Directors throughout May to build those relationships and develop new ones, and she met with the Executive Director and Communications Director for Indiana Disability Rights on the 5th to talk about opportunities for collaboration and building partnerships with the Centers and the Council. Amber called and spoke with the Director of BRS, Theresa Koleszar, a few weeks back and had a great conversation. She continued those conversations with Director of Specialized Services and Support Programs of BRS, Peri Rogowski, and the Program Director of Independent Living of BRS, Tonya Resler, and thanked them for their support and all that they do for IL around the State of Indiana. Amber attended the Commission Meeting and participated in their Housing-related Board Meetings and Development Committee Meetings. She has been working on developing a 120 day plan for internal use to show where the Council is at on the “To-Do’s and tasks” for the current SPIL we are in and will be sending it out soon. She has been working with Tonya to recreate, redraft, and update the INSILC forms. This will hopefully help to recruit new members and create an ongoing list of potential new members for recommendation to the Governor’s office. Amber has continued to do web postings, updates, and maintenance on the website.

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She has also been trying to recruit new members. Chris thanked Amber for all her hard work.

- B. Peer Committee:** Chris asked Bill if there were any further updates on the Peer Committee. Bill stated that there are none.
- C. Outreach Committee:** Chris stated that anyone interested in being in the Outreach Committee to please meet with him after the INSILC meeting and they can discuss further steps.
- D. SPIL (2017-2019) Development Committee:** Peter shared that the Development Committee is not done at this time; once it is turned over to ACL, the Council will see what changes, if any, are proposed and mandated. The Development Committee will standby to see how ACL directs the Council forward. Chris thanked him and the Development Committee for their hard work.
- E. Update—DSE:** Peri deferred her update to Theresa Koleszar as she has been knee-deep in the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA). Theresa introduced herself in more expanded detail of her job as the new BRS Director. She said that she is excited to be at the meeting today and to become more involved with INSILC and independent living. With WIOA, BRS is focusing on implementations of Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) and those very important services to students with disabilities and primarily still in high school. These are things that help students with a more seamless transition from school into whatever comes next for that individual with an employment focus such as career counseling to help identify a career path and to make sure that students are informed of the different types of career paths, technical types of jobs, other types of training, and trades. It also includes great emphasize in work-based learning opportunities. This is a critical piece to understand the value of work and the skills that go along with that. Theresa also talked about Section 511 and the limitations on subminimum wage components. This has a great focus on Youth which is different from Students. Students, in Indiana, are those that are 14-22 that have a disability and are still in school. While Youths are those that are 24 or younger with a disability regardless of whether they are or are not still in secondary school. So, Students are a subset of that broader Youth population. Which is an important distinction due to certain services and provisions that are only for Students (such as PETS) and some that are only for Youth (such as Section 511). One of the new elements and requirements to WIOA is pretty substantial in that Youths may not enter into the subminimum wage settings unless they participate in a number of activities first. This will give them access and opportunity to resources and services that could help them to move into integrated, competitive employment. But, if that doesn't work out for someone, they can still move into the subminimum wage settings. Activities that those individuals would have to participate in first, before going into a subminimum wage setting, include that they have received PETS as a student and have applied for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services.

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After applying for VR Services, they would then have either been determined not eligible for VR or have been determined eligible. If determined eligible, then they would have had to gone down the path of identifying an appropriate employment outcome, developing an employment plan with VR, and pursuing an employment with all the appropriate services and supports in place and then not successful in securing that outcome. All those items have to be completed and VR has to make sure that documentation supports that before taking an individual into a subminimum wage setting. She introduced Jonathan Kraeszig as the new Director of Youth Services who will help take the lead on some of these initiatives. Third focus is better use of technology and how to become more efficient with technology. BRS is expected to release a Request For Proposal (RFP) this month to begin that intensive process of developing and building a new case management system. Another RFP will, hopefully, be released this month to begin building a portal or claims payment system for VR vendors and providers to help facilitate the billing processes.

- F. Update—Centers for Independent Living:** Peter shared that he has been ill the last couple of weeks and has missed the opportunity to solicit other CIL Director's opinions but the WILL Center has been building wheelchair ramps and has maintained their partnership with Servants At Work (SAWs). Also, for the first time since Peter has been the Director, they have had success making INROADS in public schools in Vigo County. They have a new program that they call Project Employ. The purpose is to help Youth find what they need as they transition into adulthood. Peter then opened the floor to the other Center Directors to give an update.

Becky (ATTIC CIL Director) shared that they were able to partner with Helping Hands which is a disaster relief organization. They have built 5 ramps in the last month and a half. She also shared that they are moving on June 29th.

Teresa Reynolds (SICIL CIL Director) shared that they just finished Career Day with the junior high students. Statistics show that 1 in 4 persons could have a disability in adulthood. To help students understand this and put it into perspective, every student is given an egg. If the egg they receive shows that they have a disability, then that student will have to sit in a wheelchair, put on a blindfold, or use some other device to simulate a disability. Then after simulating a disability, they will go to booths and have to buy insurance or rent an apartment or something along that line. SICIL is also developing a learning garden that is similar to a community garden but their garden has ADA beds in them that are 4' wide by 16' long and you can reach half way across them to reach the plants. The garden has crushed gravel and it is easy to maneuver around. This has become a big success and it has all been donated through local grants so there has been no cost to SICIL. Teresa also shared that they have been working with the Ramp Up Program and has received an additional \$8,000 to help with building ramps.

David (The League CIL Director) stated that they are working with the hospitality industry to develop some things to make Ft. Wayne a destination point for tourism. Currently, the downtown area that has accessible restaurant, bars, and hotels where they meet the standards do not have the volume needed to host Paralympics events, or

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Riverfront development events, or festivals for people with disabilities. So they are working with a small group to help them figure this out and have already had a training with them. The League is also working with Old National Bank with their initiative to employ people with disabilities.

- G. Update—Other Agencies:** Bonnie Bomer thanked everyone for the recognition of the name change from IPAS to Indiana Disability Rights. They have been busy rebranding. They will be moving back to the Central Office in late summer or early fall. They are working with Employment First initiative that is trying to get Indiana onboard with Employment First. There is a study group to look at Employment First. Also, Kathy Lingard, who was their Coordinator has left the Agency. The Employment Team is now herself, Emily Munson as lead attorney, and Shari Stites.
- H. Public Comments:** Chris opened the floor to public comments. He stated that the Council has the choice to respond or not to respond to those comments and that anyone that chooses to speak will have 5 minutes.
- a. Renaé Jackson, Lake County, addressed concerns she had about the membership openings on the Council and the fact that she has put in an application twice and would like to know if she should resubmit. Chris answered that she should.
 - b. Teresa Torres, Lake County, addressed concerns of the fact there was no Treasurer’s Report provided or approved. She is also concerned about the funding formula that is currently being used. Another concern of hers is the current SPIL that has been written, how she feels that her center, Everybody Counts and Everybody Counts North, has been left out of the writing of it, and that it will be rejected by the federal government. Chairman, Chris Cleveland, stopped remarks due to the five minute time frame.
 - c. Lorrell Kilpatrick, Disability Resource Coordinator, had a question on where the meetings are publicized so she can help spread the word about the meetings. Amber O’Haver stated that it is on INSILC’s website and FSSA’s website.

- XI. **Adjournment:** Chris thanked everyone for their hard work on the SPIL and the Peer Review Committee. He then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bill Fama. The motion was seconded by Cynthia Rockwell and passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next INSILC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 13, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the Indiana Government Center South – Conference Room C.