

**NYS ILC COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLANS  
CONTRACT PERIOD: October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013**

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# 1. ALBANY

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Capital District Center for Independence  
Address: 845 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206  
Contract No.: C10969  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Laurel Lei Kelley, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Harold Conley, Board President

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. A local school district will make procedural changes to transition plans for students with disabilities to include developing information on PASS, ACCES-VR, Independent Living advocacy, and linkages to other community based agencies and organizations.
2. CDCI will establish a written arrangement whereby at least one NYS Correctional facility will offer on-site presentations on Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages as a regular part of the facilities residuum reduction program.
3. A local school district will ensure that an Independent Living History and philosophy awareness presentation either developed or indorsed by CDCI is instituted as part of an educational institution's academic curriculum.
4. A local school district will make procedural changes to ensure that Independent Living philosophy and healthy living options are presented to students in self contained settings.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. Establish a written arrangement whereby the local One-Stop Center will offer an on-site advocacy program for persons with disabilities.
2. There will be a measurable increase in the number of integrated employment preparation programs, such as internship programs, community work experience programs, and job readiness training programs for persons with disabilities.
3. At least one new business in the Center's service area will participate in a mentoring program through the Center's participation in the US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy in coordination with American Association of People with Disabilities Mentoring day.
4. Establish formal agreements whereby more community agencies have presentations to consumers and/or case workers about work incentives.

### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. There will be a change in procedure and policies, which will allow more people with disabilities, to leave long-term facilities and return/remain in the community.
2. As a result of providing technical assistance, at least one community agency will make a policy and procedural change to facilitate a more efficient referral process for community services, including Independent Living Center services, and resources.
3. As a result of collaborating with local agencies, at least one community agency will establish a new Peer Program to provide options for Living a healthier lifestyle through peer services to the disability community in the Capital Region.
4. At least one community agency will establish a Healthy living Program.

### **D. Commerce: Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of affordable integrated and accessible housing options for people with disabilities.
2. At least one Fire Department/ Police Department will modify its in-service training plan to include Disability Awareness & Sensitivity Training either developed, endorsed or conducted CDCI.
3. At least one Albany County agency or community-based provider/organization/trusted agent will change its outreach and marketing policies and procedures to more effectively communicate with vulnerable/special needs residents in order to promote inclusion and supply information about services.
4. At least one newspaper will make a policy and procedural change to report on accessibility for people with disabilities when reporting on local restaurants/eateries.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. At least one recreational facility/program will establish and post easily identifiable policies and procedures for consumers with disabilities to request and receive individual assistance ensuring equal service.
2. There will be a measurable increase in the number of integrated community social activities/venues that become accessible.
3. As a result of working cooperatively with other agencies, there will be an increase of integrated recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities.

### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of individuals with disabilities or Center staff serving on community boards/committees and task forces that previously had no or limited consumer/disability representation.
2. A local Board of Elections will change its poll workers training and related educational materials to include disability awareness and sensitivity training that is developed, endorsed or conducted by CDCI.
3. At least one municipality will pass appropriate legislation establishing and promoting the date of JULY 26TH as a day of celebration of the American with Disabilities Act.

4. Disaster preparation and relief plans addressing the needs and concerns of people with disabilities will be adopted by a local county.

## **2. AMSTERDAM**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Resource Center for Independent Living  
Address: 347 West Main Street, Amsterdam, NY 12010  
Contract No.: C10983  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Burt Danovitz, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Peter Lenz, Program Director  
Board President Authorization: Gary Scalzo

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Education Advocacy**

1. At least one local Committee on Special Education (CSE) committee will incorporate the New York State Independent Living Philosophy and History DVD as a regular part of disability awareness training for committee members.
2. In order to increase parental awareness of services for students with disabilities, a local public school district will add RCIL-Amsterdam's website and mission statement to its website, under the link for "Helpful Student Links for Parents" or "Community Resource Link for Parents" etc.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. At least one (1) area business will improve access for potential employees with disabilities.
2. A local One-Stop Center will incorporate "Sensitivity Training" developed or endorsed by RCIL-Amsterdam as part of its training procedure for all new employees.

##### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. At least one (1) area health care provider will improve accessibility for patients with disabilities.
2. There will be an increase in the number of local human services agencies or public health services that provide brochures and pertinent program information in accessible formats.

##### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of accessible businesses in the RCIL-Amsterdam service area.

2. At least one local Fire Department/Police Department will modify its in-service training plan to include Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Training either developed, endorsed, or conducted by RCIL-Amsterdam.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. As a result of the advocacy of RCIL-Amsterdam, at least one (1) place of worship will increase its access to persons with disabilities.
2. At least one recreational facility/program will establish and post easily identifiable policies and procedures for consumers with disabilities to request and receive individual assistance ensuring equal service.

### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. RCIL-Amsterdam will increase the number of consumers/staff that serve on community and statewide boards/committees/taskforces/ that have not had representation for people with disabilities.
2. A local Board of Elections will establish a procedure for voters to request American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters at their poll site and for local Board of Elections to provide them.

### **3. AUBURN**

#### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Independent Living Center:	Options for Independence
Address:	75 Genesee Street, Auburn, NY 13021
Contract Number:	C10981
Report Period:	October 1, 2012-September 30, 2013
Contact Person:	Gregory D. Guy, Executive Director
Board Chair Authorization:	Susan Gray, Chair, Board of Directors

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Educational Advocacy**

1. At least one school district in Cayuga or Seneca County will change its policy to allow Options for Independence to assist in the transition process of students.
2. At least one additional local school district will implement policies, procedures and/or practices resulting in the inclusion of assistive technology in Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities.
3. Options for Independence will establish a written arrangement whereby at least one NYS Correctional facility will offer on-site presentations on Independent Living Centers, ACCESS-VR, and agency linkages as a regular part of preparing inmates who are disabled for their transition back to the community.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. At least one major employer in Cayuga or Seneca County will incorporate Disabilities Awareness and Sensitivity training, conducted by Options for Independence staff, as an annual in-service program for all personnel.

##### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of local human service agencies and public health services that provide brochures and pertinent program information in accessible formats.
2. At least one health care provider in Seneca or Cayuga County will make its facility more accessible to patients with disabilities.
3. At least one local medical facility in Cayuga or Seneca County will make a policy and procedural change in how it identifies and refers patients who are deaf to community resources that include sign language interpretive services.

4. At least one local adult care facility in Cayuga or Seneca County will make its facility more accessible to residents with disabilities and their families.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. At least one restaurant or local catering establishment in Cayuga or Seneca County will improve access for people with disabilities through the physical modifications of its entrance(s), parking facilities and/or restrooms.
2. There will be a measurable increase in Cayuga or Seneca County in the accessibility of public right-of-ways, such as curb cuts, constructed for people with disabilities.
3. At least one local government in Cayuga County will change its policies and/or practices to provide for immediate and enhanced seasonal maintenance of sidewalks and curb cuts to facilitate greater accessibility
4. At least one local utility company will improve its customer service efforts directed toward both consumers and advocates by providing on-site representation and training in its policies and practices relevant to consumer billing and debt collection

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of accessible, municipal-sponsored cultural or recreational opportunities and/or facilities in Cayuga and/or Seneca County.
2. There will be an increase in the number of accessible faith-based organizations and institutions in Cayuga and/or Seneca counties.
3. There will be an increase in the number of accessible special events and gatherings held in Cayuga and/or Seneca County.
4. The accessibility of at least one existing recreational facility in Cayuga or Seneca County will be measurably enhanced.

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. At least one local government in Cayuga or Seneca counties will start providing its agenda(s) in an alternate format for/at publicly attended meetings.
2. There will be an increase in the number of consumers/staff/Board that serve on community and statewide boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.



## **4. BATAVIA**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Independent Living of Genesee Region  
Address: 113 Main Street, Suite #5, Batavia NY 14020  
Contract Number: C11001  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Douglas J. Usiak  
Board President Authorization: Dennis M. Kessel

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Educational Advocacy**

1. At least one college or university will incorporate an Independent Living Philosophy presentation, approved by Independent Living of Genesee Region, into its curriculum for professional preparation programs that work with persons with disabilities.
2. At least one local school district, BOCES, or Early Intervention Program will incorporate WNYIL's Independent Living Philosophy presentation into a training curriculum for its staff and/or parents.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. As a result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, a person with a disability will be appointed to a county workforce investment board that previously has not had representation from the disability community.
2. As a result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, a One-Stop Center will incorporate Independent Living Philosophy and/or disability benefits training either developed or endorsed by ILGR as part of its training for their staff in providing services for individuals with disabilities.
3. As a result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, one business within the service area will become complaint with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

##### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. As a result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, one medical facility will incorporate an Independent Living Philosophy presentation, approved by ILGR, into curriculum for its discharge planning staff.
2. As a result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, one community agency will change its policies and procedures to ensure individuals with disabilities are fully

informed about the availability of services available to help them transition from an institution to the community. This includes information about and applying for services related to Independent Living and the NYS Department of Health Nursing Facility Transition and Diversion (NFTD) Waiver.

3. As a result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, one health care provider will become compliant with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. As a result of the collaboration between Independent Living of Genesee Region and other community agencies, more accessible and integrated housing will be available for persons with disabilities.
2. As a result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, one first responder agency will incorporate training, approved by ILGR, on the needs of persons with disabilities in crisis or disaster.
3. As a result of the advocacy of the Independent Living of Genesee Region, at least one law enforcement agency will offer on-site disability sensitivity training, approved by ILGR, as a regular part of its training for employees.
4. As a result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, one public entity shall establish a consumer advisory council for persons with disabilities.
5. As a result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, one public entity shall become complaint with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. As the result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, one recreational facility shall become compliant with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. As the result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, one municipal or community-sponsored recreation program will become accessible for persons with disabilities.

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. Independent Living of Genesee Region will increase physical access to local polling places.

# 5. BINGHAMTON

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Southern Tier Independence Center  
Address: 135 East Frederick Street, Binghamton, NY 13904  
Contract No.: C10988  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Maria Dibble, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Linda Giese

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. The NYS Legislature or Congress will adopt a law defining the use of restraints in schools.
2. The NYS legislature will pass and the Governor will sign legislation prohibiting the use of aversives in private or publicly funded schools.
3. A local school district will change policies, procedures and or practices to provide appropriate use of Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS), Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBA) and/or Behavioral Interventions (BIP).
4. As a result of the advocacy efforts of STIC, a local school district will change one of its facilities' programs, services, policies, practices and/or procedures to offer or reflect a more integrated inclusive approach.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. Achieve a reallocation of employment related funding from sheltered to integrated employment programs on a statewide basis.
2. The Governor will sign a bill waiving the State's sovereign Immunity in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Rehabilitation Act section 504 cases.
3. ACCES-VR will end the statewide practice of inappropriately sending the majority of consumers to direct placement and will instead appropriately refer consumers to supported employment.
4. Congress will pass the TEAM Employment Acts (HR 602, 603, and 604) and the President will sign them.
5. Congress will pass the Fair Wages for Workers with Disabilities Act, and the President will sign it.

##### C. Health Care Advocacy

1. Increase the availability of medical and mental health services for children and/or adults with disabilities in the Center's service area.
2. Prevent any changes to the Medicaid program that restrict or limit eligibility, services and/or choice.
3. Achieve a measurable improvement in the communication, physical and programmatic accessibility of medical providers/facilities in the Center's service area.
4. NY will implement Community First Choice (CFC)
5. NY will pass legislation, adopt regulations, change practices, and/or implement policies/procedures to increase access to and use of consumer-directed models in community-based long term care, new waivers, and other programs and services as appropriate.
6. NY will develop and implement a new waiver that includes supports for people with co-occurring conditions and establishes integrated alternatives to segregated living and segregated day services for people with developmental and other disabilities.
7. NY DOH will Implement Interim Service Coordination as part of the NHTD waiver.
8. NYS will adopt an Olmstead Implementation Plan, which complies with the letter and spirit of the Supreme Court decision.
9. OPWDD and/or the Justice Center will make changes to regulations, policies, procedures and/or definitions that reduce the intrusive nature of incident reporting for people living in their own homes or with family in the community.
10. NY will implement an Ombudsperson Program as part of the 1115 Waiver amendments that will provide consumer education, advocacy, mediation, information and referral, etc.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. Achieve a measurable increase in the number of accessible local businesses, housing rental properties, apartments, and/or other accessible integrated housing opportunities in the Center's service area.
2. The governor will sign a bill to incorporate the housing provisions of Section 504 Rehabilitation Act into state law.
3. The Governor will sign a bill establishing standards for "visitability" for housing built with public funds.
4. The Governor will sign a bill putting Title II of the ADA into state law.
5. Broome County will restore recent cuts to BC Transit and/or other transportation programs.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of stadiums, auditoriums, theaters, parks and other recreational facilities that are accessible to people with all types of disabilities.
2. There will be an increase in the number of integrated social and recreational activities in our service area for people with disabilities.

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. The Governor will not sign S.6296/A.9178 which allows continued use of inaccessible lever voting machines in village, school and special district elections.

2. Political candidates and/or current political leaders will adopt policies that ensure that public hearings, rallies, and similar events are held in accessible locations.
3. Increase participation of individuals with disabilities and/or center staff on community, regional and state boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.

## **6. BRONX**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Bronx Independent Living Services  
Address: 4419 Third Avenue Suite 2C Bronx, NY 10457  
Contract No.: C10967  
Report Period: October 1, 2012- September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Brett Eisenberg- Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Calvin Solomon- President

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Education Advocacy**

1. A local school will change policies, procedures and or practices to provide appropriate use of assistive technology and augmentative communication devices with students in their educational setting.
2. A local school will make procedural changes to transition plans for students with disabilities to include developing information on PASS, ACCES-VR, Independent Living advocacy, and linkages to other community based agencies and organizations.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. Establish formal agreements whereby more community agencies have presentations to consumers about work incentives.
2. One area business will improve access for potential employees with disabilities.
3. At least one local employer will incorporate disability awareness/sensitivity training either developed or endorsed by BILS as part of its new employee training/orientation process.

##### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. At least one patient based facility will make the information being provided to the general public available in alternate formats.
2. Hospitals and rehabilitation center facilities will change their policies to include information on community resources, which allow people to remain in the community

##### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. BILS will increase accessibility to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III entities in the community.

2. At least one newspaper will make a policy and procedural change to report on accessibility for people with disabilities when reporting on local restaurants/eateries
3. Local catering halls and restaurants will improve access by making menus available in large print, and Braille.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. One social venue will become accessible to individuals with disabilities.
2. A local library will establish a book (or film) discussion program that meets periodically to explore disability literature and its portrayal of Disability Culture.
3. At least one area special event will improve access for people with disabilities.
4. At least one recreational facility/program will establish and post easily identifiable policies and procedures for consumers with disabilities to request and receive individual assistance ensuring equal service.
5. 'There will be an increase in the number of integrated recreational and social opportunities in Bronx County.

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. At least one local government (agency) in Bronx County will start providing agendas in an alternate format for/at publicly attended meetings.
2. An advocacy network/infrastructure is established with organized teams of trained consumer advocates available to address legislative issues as they arise.
3. There will be an increase in the number of consumers/staff that serve on community and statewide boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.

## **7. BROOKLYN**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Brooklyn Center For Independence Of The Disabled  
Address: 27 Smith Street, Suite 200, Brooklyn, NY 11201  
Contract No: C10968  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Joan Peters, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Warren Shaw

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Education Advocacy**

1. At least one school district will change its policies and procedures to incorporate parent information nights as an educational component for families with children with Individualized Education Program (IEP) and Rehabilitation Act section 504 plans.
2. A disabilities awareness tract either developed or endorsed by BCID will be incorporated as part of the school personnel-training curriculum in at least one school district.
3. In at least one school district, a student/parent advocacy network/infrastructure will be established with organized teams of trained consumer advocates available to address special education issues as they arise.
4. At least one Brooklyn school will increase its physical accessibility through the removal of existing barriers.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. At least one employment or job placement agency will change its recruitment process to eliminate questions that discriminate in regards to a person's disability.
2. The local office of the New York State Department of Labor will improve its access by installing Assistive Technology on site.
3. At least one union or business council will improve its access by providing materials in alternate formats and holding meetings at an accessible location.
4. One area business will improve access for potential employees with disabilities.

##### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. Increase access to health care services for people with mobility, visual, hearing, cognitive, and mental health disabilities.



2. New York City Human Resources Administration will change its policies and procedures to allow as many hours as needed of home care to avoid placement in nursing homes.
3. Increase accessibility at hospitals, clinics, private doctors' and dental offices to persons with disabilities e.g. examination table, dental chairs and mammography equipment.
4. At least one patient based facility will make the information being provided to the general public available in alternate formats for patients with disabilities.
5. At least one nursing home will improve its physical and programmatic access to increase its compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to increase the civil rights of its patients.
6. A nursing home will change its policies and procedures to include in its admission literature information about community supports available to maintain independence in the community.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. A private and/or a public retirement community will improve access by making its resident's handbook available in alternate formats.
2. Local catering halls and restaurants will improve access by making menus available in large print, and Braille.
3. Improve public and Para-transportation access in Brooklyn for inter-borough and inner-borough trips.
4. The New York City Department of Transportation will improve the access of all bus shelters (replace the white frosted strip on the edge of the glass with yellow and black alternating strips).
5. Increase the availability of accessible taxi and community car service in Brooklyn.
6. The New York City Police Department, Fire Department or other emergency first responder organization will modify its in-service training plan to include the training of all personnel on disability awareness and sensitivity for people with disabilities.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of integrated community social activities that become accessible.
2. There will be an increase in the number of recreation and fitness facilities and programs that are accessible to people with disabilities.
3. Increase the number of theaters providing closed captioning and audio description. Increase access to public parks, botanical gardens and museums.
4. At least one senior center will expand its physical and sensory access for members who are disabled.

## **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. Political candidates will adopt policies that ensure that meetings and rallies are held in accessible locations.
2. There will be an increase in the number of consumers/staff that serve on community and statewide boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
3. Political candidates will adopt policies that ensure that meetings, rallies and forums on disability rights and access issues are held in accessible locations.
4. The New York City Board of Elections will make inaccessible polling sites in Brooklyn compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines.

## **8. BUFFALO**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Western New York Independent Living  
Address: 3108 Main Street, Buffalo NY 14214  
Contract Number: C10996  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Douglas J. Usiak  
Board President Authorization: Dennis M. Kessel

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Educational Advocacy**

1. At least one college or university will incorporate WNYIL's Independent Living Philosophy presentation into its curriculum for professional preparation programs that work with persons with disabilities.
2. At least one local school district, BOCES, or Early Intervention Program will incorporate WNYIL's Independent Living Philosophy presentation into a training curriculum for its staff and parents.
3. One school will incorporate transition services, developed by WNYIL and their community partners (Examples Reality Fair, Accessible Job Fairs, or Mentoring programs) into their curriculum for students.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. As a result of the advocacy of WNYIL, at least one vocational program provider will integrate a training on Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act, created by the WNYIL into its services.
2. As a result of the advocacy of WNYIL, one consumer will be appointed to the Workforce Investment Board in Erie County that previously has not had representation from the disability community.
3. As a result of the advocacy of WNYIL, one community agency will become a new provider of employment services for persons with disabilities who are ex-offenders.
4. As a result of the advocacy of WNYIL, one New York State department will implement regulations that enhance the ability of persons with disabilities who are employed to access Home Health Services.

##### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. As a result of WNYIL's involvement on the Erie County Integrated Setting Committee, one county department will adopt policies, which will maximize the community inclusion of persons with disabilities.
2. As a result of the advocacy of WNYIL, one medical facility will incorporate WNYIL's Independent Living Philosophy presentation into its curriculum for its discharge planning staff.
3. As a result of the advocacy of WNYIL, the Veterans Administration will implement a Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPA) Program Option for Veterans with disabilities under its care.
4. As a result of the advocacy of WNYIL, one health care facility will provide Mental Health treatment services targeted to Senior Citizens.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. As a result of collaboration between WNYIL and other community agencies, more accessible and integrated housing will be available for persons with disabilities.
2. As the result of advocacy by WNYIL, para-transit scheduling services will be extended beyond normal business hours.
3. As a result of the advocacy of WNYIL, one first responder agency will incorporate training on the needs of persons with disabilities in crisis or disaster, created by the WNYIL.
4. As a result of the advocacy of WNYIL, one community agency will become a new provider of housing services for persons with disabilities who are ex-offenders.
5. As the result of the advocacy of WNYIL, at least one agency in the Family Court system will integrate Independent Living presentation, provided or approved by WNYIL, into their training for professionals working in Family Court.
6. As a result of the advocacy of WNYIL, consumer choice in selection and provision of Mental Health Services will be protected by the removal of Forced Outpatient Treatment regulations in New York State.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. As a result of the advocacy of WNYIL, at least one place of worship will increase its access to persons with disabilities.
2. As a result of the advocacy of WNYIL one area theatre will increase its access to or use of assistive listening devices.
3. As a result of the advocacy of WNYIL one area theatre will increase its access to or use of alternative formats.

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. As a result of advocacy by WNYIL, the City of Buffalo will modify its policy to allow for easy access to interpreters for Common Council and other public meetings sponsored by the City of Buffalo.
2. WNYIL will increase physical access to local polling places.

## **9. CORNING**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: AIM Independent Living Center  
Address: 271 East First Street, Corning, NY 14830  
Contract No.: C10965  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: René Snyder  
Board President Authorization: Sabrina Mineo-O'Connell

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Education Advocacy**

1. At least one High School in AIM's service area will increase its level of programming and/or physical access for students with disabilities.
2. At least one college in AIM's service area will incorporate a Disability Awareness component either developed or endorsed by AIM into their curriculum for students in the field of education or business.
3. A local school (Elementary, Middle or High School) will incorporate a disability awareness component either developed or endorsed by AIM into their programming.
4. At least one college or vocational school in AIM's service area will adopt a disability awareness component either developed or endorsed by AIM into their curriculum for nurses or other health care workers.
5. There will be an increase in opportunities for school aged persons living with a disability to participate in extracurricular school based activities such as sports teams, clubs, performances, etc.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. At least one local employer will change its recruitment policies and procedures to create new supported employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities.
2. There will be an increase in employment training opportunities in schools in AIM's service area.
3. As a result of cooperating with other agencies such as ACCESS-VR, BOCES, Work Force New York and/or other local agencies, AIM will establish an employment related Independent Living Skills training program for persons living with a disability supported by grant funding and/or self-sustaining fee-for-service agreements.
4. AIM will establish a contract with the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) to provide Supported Employment services.

5. At least one employer in the Center's service area will make documented changes in its employment policies and procedures to offer AIM services as a supplement to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) in relation to disability services for the employee or family members.

### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. AIM will establish a written agreement with at least one agency providing services to victims of crime, abuse or domestic violence to provide on-site Disability Awareness training for their staff.
2. At least one health care facility will make a policy and procedural change to adopt AIM's referral tool kit for residents with disabilities being discharged to facilitate successful integration into community living.
3. AIM will enter into a contract to provide Consumer Directed Personal Assisting Services in a county that is not contracted to provide those services.

### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. A diner, restaurant, bakery, or laundry in AIM's service area will become more accessible by installing a ramp, automatic doors or some other architectural improvement.
2. At least one local restaurant will provide its menu in an alternative format such as Braille, and make it available to its customers.
3. A local municipality will become more accessible by installing curb cuts in a public or business area.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. As a result of working with other agencies, there will be an increase in the number of integrated recreational opportunities in AIM's service area.
2. At least one special event in AIM's service area will become more accessible to persons living with a disability.

### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. At least one area agency serving people with disabilities will change its policies and procedures to adopt AIM's educational tool related to disability rights history as part of its voter registration materials provided to consumers to assist them in making an informed decision on registering to vote.
2. There will be an increase in the number of consumers/ staff that serve on community and statewide boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.

# 10. CORTLAND

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Access to Independence of Cortland County  
Address: 26 N. Main Street, Cortland, NY 13045  
Contract Number: C10972  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Mary E. Ewing, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Gail Bundy, Board Chair

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

1. At least one local school system or Committee on Special Education (CSE) will make a policy change in the development of transition plans for students with disabilities, so that plans will include information on independent living centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages.
2. The Cortland School District will incorporate in its curriculum an Access to Independence developed peer advocacy group for transition age youth with disabilities, including programs on topics such as: goal setting, independent living skills, self-advocacy and empowerment.
3. At least one school system will change its policies and procedures to have the community resource referral packet include information about independent living centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages to facilitate successful transitions from high school.
4. As a result of ATI's establishment of a youth transition partnership with an institute of higher learning, the institute of higher learning will establish a new program to address transition issues for youth with disabilities (i.e., mentoring, training, volunteering, and teacher training).
5. At least one school district will incorporate into its curriculum a Transition / Career Fair where students and parents can learn about opportunities available to students with disabilities after graduation.
6. State University of New York (SUNY) Cortland will increase the availability of accessible handicapped parking for students, professors and guests with disabilities.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. As a result of a partnership with the Cortland Works Career Center, the Career Center will establish a new program to offer computer training and service provider information to people with disabilities.

2. At least one agency, organization or business will incorporate an ATI developed or endorsed disability awareness and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) component into its staff training program.
3. The Cortland Works Career Center (One-Stop) will incorporate training sessions and workshops designed by ATI and focused on issues related to disability as they relate to the employment services that they offer the community.

### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. The number of health care providers who are universally accessible will increase.
2. A program will be established that will assist one or two consumers per year to return to the community from an institution.
3. Local medical facilities will provide sign language interpreter services to their patients.
4. Access to Independence will develop a written agreement with the Cortland Housing Assistance Council (CHAC) to provide lead and asbestos assessments, at no charge, to low income people with disabilities.
5. At least one new local healthcare facility will change their policies to include information on community independent living resources, which allow individuals to remain in the community.

### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. Increase the number of businesses that are fully accessible.
2. Increase the number of crosswalks in the City of Cortland which are fully accessible.
3. There will be a measurable increase in the number of government buildings that become fully accessible.
4. Cortland Transit will have at least two Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant buses; expanded service hours; and accessible, limited cross-county service.
5. There will be an increase in the number of affordable, integrated, and accessible housing options for people with disabilities.
6. At least one local police department will modify its in-service training plan to include disability awareness training, developed or endorsed by ATI, to all law enforcement personnel.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. There will be a measurable increase in the number of integrated social activities in the community for persons with disabilities.
2. There will be a measurable increase in architectural and communication access to social and recreational activities for people with disabilities in Cortland County.
3. There will be an increase in the number of special events and gatherings in Cortland County which are accessible to travelers, tourists and community members.
4. There will be a measurable increase in the number of faith-based organizations in Cortland County which are accessible to people with disabilities.
5. There will be at least one new accessible trail created for people with disabilities in Cortland County.



6. Opportunities for participating in integrated fitness programs in the community will be increased.
7. A local public transportation company will make available transportation for use by persons with disabilities to attend social activities that they previously could not attend.
8. At least one community recreational facility will increase its accessibility to allow for people with disabilities to enjoy its use.

**F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. There will be a measurable increase in the number of accessible polling sites in Cortland County.
2. There will be a measurable increase in the number of people with disabilities who serve on community or statewide boards, committees, and task forces which have not previously included representation from the disability community.
3. Disaster preparation and relief plans which address the needs and concerns of people with disabilities will be adopted by Cortland County.

# 11. DELAWARE

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Catskill Center For Independence  
Address: PO Box 1247, Oneonta, NY 18320  
Contract No.: C10970  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: C. Zachmeyer  
Board President Authorization: Don Gersch

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. Schools will add an independent living component either developed or endorsed by CCFI to their curriculum.
2. At least one school will make a procedural change that allows for a disability awareness class either developed or endorsed by CCFI to be taught as part of their curriculum.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. Physical and program access will improve throughout the local one stop system sites.

##### C. Health Care Advocacy

NONE

##### D. Commerce Advocacy

1. The Center will increase accessibility to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III entities in the community.

##### E. Social Advocacy

1. The Center will increase accessibility to places of worship.
2. The Center will increase accessibility to recreation facilities.

##### F. Citizenship Advocacy

1. At least one political candidate or incumbent will adopt a policy or make a procedural change to hold their meetings and rallies in accessible locations.

# 12. GLENS FALLS

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Glens Falls Independent Living Center, Inc. operating as  
Southern Adirondack Independent Living Center (SAIL)  
Address: 71 Glenwood Avenue, Queensbury, NY 12804  
Contract No.: C10976  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Karen A. Thayer  
Board President Authorization: David Bogue

### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

#### A. Education Advocacy

1. At least one (1) area school district will add disability awareness education and training developed or approved by SAIL to their curriculum.
2. At least one (1) area school district will change policies and procedures to add SAIL as a listed resource for students with disabilities to the information provided to students/families through the Committee on Special Education (CSE).
3. At least one (1) area school district will change policies and procedures to include staff from SAIL in transition planning activities.
4. At least one (1) area school district will add a Transition Fair where families and students can learn about community resources, employment supports, higher education supports and other services available for students with disabilities upon graduation.
5. At least one (1) area school district will adopt or change policies and procedures to add American Sign Language as a regular part of the menu of second language options for students.

#### B. Employment Advocacy

1. At least one (1) area employment agency will improve access for people with disabilities.
2. At least one (1) area business will improve access for potential employees with disabilities.
3. NYS Civil Service will change the designation for school aides for students with disabilities from "Handicapped Student Aide" to a designation either developed or endorsed by Southern Adirondack Independent Living Center.

#### C. Health Care Advocacy

1. At least one (1) area medical provider will improve accessibility for patients with disabilities.

2. As a NYS Department of Health (DOH) Regional Resource Development Center (RRDC), SAIL will increase the number of agencies providing services through the NYS Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver and Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NHTD) Waiver programs.
3. The NYS Department of Health (DOH) will make a policy change to allow Local Districts of Social Services and/or Area Offices for the Aging to become providers for the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NHTD) Medicaid Waiver Program.
4. The NYS Department of Health (DOH) will make a policy change to expedite enrollment into the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NHTD) Medicaid Waiver Program.
5. State agencies will change policies, practices and/or procedures to allow individuals with co-occurring psychiatric and other disabilities to receive appropriate mental health services.
6. NY will pass legislation and/or adopt regulations to increase access to and use of consumer-directed models of service for community-based long term care to ensure people with disabilities of all ages are served in the most integrated setting.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. There will be a measurable increase in affordable, accessible and integrated housing units for individuals with disabilities.
2. At least one (1) area Chamber of Commerce will make a policy and procedural change to routinely provide accessibility information for people with disabilities.
3. At least one (1) newspaper will make a policy and procedural change to report on accessibility for people with disabilities when reporting on local restaurants/eateries.
4. The downtown areas in the Saratoga, Warren, and Washington County region will become more accessible.
5. NYS will pass legislation establishing standards for “visitability” in State law to require all newly constructed single-family houses, townhouses and ground-floor units of duplexes and triplexes built with public funds to be made accessible.
6. NYS will pass legislation requiring disability awareness training for law enforcement and/or Fire Fighters.
7. At least one local law enforcement agency will change its in-service training plan to include crime victim’s awareness training, either developed or endorsed by SAIL, for all personnel.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. There will be a measurable increase in the number of accessible churches (houses of worship) that people with disabilities can attend.
2. There will be a measurable increase in the number of accessible outdoor recreational venues for individuals with disabilities.
3. At least one (1) area special event will improve access for people with disabilities.

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. There will be a measurable increase in the number of accessible polling sites for individuals with disabilities.

2. There will be a measurable increase in the number of Towns that hold Town Board Meetings in accessible venues.
3. Area Boards of Elections will incorporate a disability awareness training either developed or endorsed by the Southern Adirondack Independent Living Center to election workers.
4. Disaster preparation and relief plans addressing the needs and concerns of people with disabilities will be adopted by local counties.
5. There will be an increase in the number of consumers/staff that serve on community and local boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.

# 13. HARLEM

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Harlem Independent Living Center  
Address: 289 St. Nicholas Avenue, lower level  
NY, NY 10027  
Contract Number: C10977  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Christina Curry  
Board President Authorization: Vanessa Young

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. At least one low performing school district will change its policies and procedures to allow HILC to become a member of the transition team in order to provide transition assistance for all students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), to develop coordinated measurable annual goals and to coordinate transition services with outside agencies as per the State Performance Plan.
2. At least one school district will incorporate a transition event where families and students can come to learn about community resources, employment, higher education and other services available for students with disabilities upon graduation.
3. A local Committee on Special Education (CSE) will incorporate the New York State Independent Living History and Philosophy DVD as a regular part of disability awareness training for committee members.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. Establish a written arrangement whereby the local One-Stop Center will offer an on-site advocacy program for persons with disabilities.
2. At least one Employment Network will provide brochures and pertinent program information in accessible formats at every consumer orientation.
3. At least one employer will change its policies and procedures to ensure employees with disabilities are fully informed about the availability of and procedures for obtaining assistive technology and devices.

##### C. Health Care Advocacy

1. At least one community or governmental agency providing health care services to victims of crime, abuse, and domestic violence will improve its accessibility to people with disabilities.
2. A long-term facility will establish a formal agreement to allow HILC to conduct an on-going support group for its residents.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III entities that are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities in the center's service area.
2. The local public transit company will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all transit/driving personnel on disability sensitivity and awareness.
3. A private and/or a public reentrant housing community will improve access by making its resident's handbook available in alternate formats.
4. The NYC Dept of Transportation will install audio crossing signals and/or enhanced crosswalks for persons with visual disabilities in at least one major intersection within the Village of Harlem.
5. A business entity will become accessible by installing automatic door openers.
6. A local restaurant/business entity will add a ramp to the main entrance to accommodate people with disabilities.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. At least one community club or service organization will adopt a policy assuring that meeting places are fully accessible.
2. At least one senior center will expand its physical and sensory access for members who are disabled.

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. Political candidates will adopt policies that ensure that meetings and rallies are held in accessible locations.
2. There will be an increase in the number of consumers/staff that serve on community and statewide boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
3. At least one local government covering the village of Harlem will start providing agendas in an alternate format for/at publicly attended meetings.



# 14. HERKIMER

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc.  
Address: 401 E. German Street 2nd Floor, Suite 208  
Herkimer, NY 13350  
Contract No.: C10998  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Burt Danovitz, Ph.D., Executive Director  
David Lowitz, Operations Manager  
Board President Authorization: Gary Scalzo

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

1. At least one (1) area school district will add a Transition Fair event where families and students can learn about community resources, employment supports, higher education supports and other services available for students with disabilities upon graduation.
2. At least one (1) area school district will change policies and procedures to add RCIL-Herkimer and its Learning Disability Association (LDA) division as a listed resource for students with disabilities to the information provided to students/ families through the Committee on Special Education (CSE).
3. In order to increase parental awareness of services for students with disabilities, a local public school district will add the RCIL-Herkimer /LDA website and mission statement to their website, under the link for “Helpful Student Links for Parents.”

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodations to individuals with significant disabilities.
2. At least one agency, organization or business will incorporate an RCIL-Herkimer developed or endorsed disability awareness and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) component into its staff training program

##### C. Healthcare Advocacy

1. Long-term care facilities, Hospitals and rehabilitation centers will change their policies to include information on community resources, which allow people to remain in the community.

2. At least one local medical facility in Herkimer County will make a policy and procedural change in how it identifies and refers patients who are deaf to community resources that include sign language interpretive services.
3. As a result of collaborating with local agencies, at least one community agency will establish a new Peer Program to provide options for Living a healthier lifestyle through peer services to the disability community.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of affordable, integrated, and accessible housing options for people with disabilities in the Mohawk Valley.
2. At least one local catering establishment in Herkimer County will improve access for people with disabilities through the physical modifications of its entrance(s) and/or parking facilities.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. As a result of the advocacy of RCIL-Herkimer, at least one place of worship will increase its access to persons with disabilities.
2. Increase access to public parks and museums.

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. To increase the number of residents becoming aware of the Americans with Disabilities Act, at least one municipality in Herkimer County will pass appropriate legislation establishing and promoting a Day of Celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. Disaster preparation and relief plans which address the needs and concerns of people with disabilities will be adopted by Herkimer County.

# 15. ITHACA

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Finger Lakes Independence Center  
Address: 215 Fifth Street, Ithaca, NY 14850  
Contract No.: C10975  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Lenore Schwager  
Board President Authorization: Greg Gizewski

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

1. At least one school district in Tompkins County will change its policy to allow FLIC to assist in the transition process of students.
2. At least one Committee on Special Education (CSE) will make procedural changes to have transition plans include information on Independent Living and other community based agencies and organizations.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. At least one employer will adopt diversity policies and procedures, including policies and procedures which attract and employ people with disabilities.
2. At least one area business will change its recruitment process to eliminate questions that discriminate in regards to a person's disability.

##### C. Health Care Advocacy

1. There will be an increase in the number of medical facilities, doctor's offices, clinics and hospitals that improve physical and communication access for persons with disabilities.
2. FLIC will improve access to health care for women with disabilities in Tompkins County.

##### D. Commerce Advocacy

1. FLIC will increase Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance in the business community.
2. At least one accessible taxi will be available in Tompkins County.

##### E. Social Advocacy

1. There will be an increase in integrated recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.

2. FLIC will increase equal access to the performing arts in Tompkins County, including access to temporary events such as festivals.

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. Continue to make sure that polling places are truly accessible to all people with disabilities and that poll workers are trained in assisting people with disabilities.
2. FLIC will ensure that political candidates and/or current political leaders will adopt policies that ensure that meetings and rallies are held in accessible locations.
3. FLIC will increase the number of consumers/staff that serve on community boards and task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.

# 16. JAMESTOWN

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Southwestern Independent Living Center  
Address: 843 N. Main St., Jamestown, NY 14701  
Contract No.: C10989  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Marie Carrubba, James Grey  
Board President Authorization: Rita Carson

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. A local school district will make procedural changes to transition plans for students with disabilities to include developing information on a Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS), ACCES-VR, Independent Living advocacy, and linkages to other community based agencies and organizations.
2. One preschool in Chautauqua County will adopt a special needs coloring book either developed or endorsed by SILC into its curriculum.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. One-Stop Career Center in Jamestown will install an automatic door at the main entrance.
2. Establish a written arrangement whereby the local One-Stop Center will offer an on-site advocacy program for persons with disabilities.
3. SILC will establish a written memorandum of understanding with the local Department of Social Services to provide training regarding benefits planning on an ongoing and periodic basis to its office staff to ensure that working consumers who qualify for the Medicaid Buy-In will be appropriately reviewed under the Medicaid Buy-In rules and not the more stringent Medicaid eligibility requirements.

##### C. Health Care Advocacy

1. Center staff will serve on the New York State Department of Health nursing home transition and diversion waiver program advisory committee.
2. At least one local health care provider will change its policies to ensure individuals with disabilities are fully informed about the availability of long-term home care services, including information about funding such services.

#### **D. Commerce: Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III entities that are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities in the center's service area.
2. There will be an increase in the number of accessible pedestrian pathways in the city of Jamestown.
3. There will be an increase in the number of integrated accessible/adaptable housing units available to persons with disabilities.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of accessible municipal sponsored recreation opportunities and facilities.
2. At least one recreational facility or program will establish and post easily identifiable policy and procedures for consumers with disabilities to request and receive individual assistance ensuring equal service.

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. Chautauqua County Board of Elections will provide voter material in alternative formats.
2. There will be an increase in the number of consumers/staff that serve on community and statewide boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.

# 17. KINGSTON

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Resource Center for Accessible Living  
Address: 727 Ulster Avenue, Kingston, New York 12401  
Contract Number: C10982  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Susan J. Hoger, Chief Executive Officer  
Board President Authorization: Paul Scarpati

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

1. RCAL will establish a written agreement with one Ulster County Human Service organization or school district to offer on-site Special Education Advocacy Training. This will be a regular part of its staff training for professionals who work with high risk children.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

NONE

##### C. Health Care Advocacy

1. RCAL will increase the accessibility of health care providers in Ulster County.
2. RCAL will increase access to health insurance to persons with disabilities.

##### D. Commerce Advocacy

1. RCAL will increase the accessibility of businesses and for public facilities in Ulster County.

##### E. Social Advocacy

1. RCAL will increase accessible recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities.

##### F. Citizenship Advocacy

1. RCAL will cause inaccessible polling sites within Ulster County to be made accessible and usable by persons with disabilities.





# 18. LONG ISLAND

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Long Island Center for Independent Living  
Address: 3601 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 208  
Levittown, NY 11756  
Contract No.: C10978  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Patricia Moore, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Mary Ellen Lewis

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. A local University will change its policies and procedures to ensure students and alumni with disabilities are fully informed about its Department of Career Support and the procedures for obtaining services.
2. New York State Legislature will amend education law to include S595/A4760, an act permitting boards of education to grant parents or guardians, physically limited by a disability, the ability to obtain bus services for their children.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. A local One-Stop center will change its policies and procedures for referring customers to additional community services by making available informational materials on LICIL programs and services.
2. A member of LICIL's staff will be appointed to serve on a local Workforce Investment Board.
3. As the result of the recommendations of a newly established membership organization for professionals with disabilities on Long Island, at least one business in the Center's service area will make documented changes in its employment policies and procedures, to comply with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
4. New York State legislature will amend the vehicle and traffic law to permit licensing and employment of truck drivers who are deaf.

##### C. Health Care Advocacy

1. A community or governmental agency providing counseling services to victims of domestic violence will improve its access for persons with disabilities.

2. A local hospital will change its policies and procedures to ensure the availability of safe and convenient parking for patients with disabilities.
3. As a result of LICIL's HOS and the Alliance for Latinos with Disabilities (ALD) partnering with a local hospital, the hospital will change policies and procedures to eliminate language and cultural competency barriers that prevent Latinos and other non-English-speaking consumers from seeking out and effectively utilizing health care services.
4. A local physical rehabilitation center will add van accessible spaces with proper access aisles and standing signage, in order to provide van users with equal access to its services.
5. LICIL's HOS Director will become a member of the Empire Justice Public Advocacy Center's Language Committee in order to represent the interests of people with disabilities with respect to the committee's mission to eliminate language issues as barriers to accessing services vital to consumer health and welfare.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. A local fire district will adopt policies and procedures to include training of first-responders on safe and effective practices when evacuating people with disabilities during emergency situations.
2. New York State legislature will pass A4298/S2913 to amend transportation law as to the definition and registration of Mobility Dealers.
3. New York State legislature will pass the Ensuring Access to Quality Complex Rehabilitation Technology Act of 2012 so as to remove complex rehab equipment from the durable medical equipment benefit, establish standards to ensure the equipment is provided by professionals' permanently exempt complex rehab from competitive bidding, and remove the "in-home" restriction.
4. A local thrift store will re-stripe its current disabled parking spaces and cross hatches, add standing signage and install a curb cut in order for their customers to access its goods and services.
5. A local bank will re-stripe its disabled parking, add standing signage and install a curb cut at its entrance to provide customers with disabilities access to its goods and services.
6. A local shopping mall will increase and equally disburse its disabled parking spaces, to include proper access aisles and standing signage, so that customers with disabilities can enjoy equal access to its full array of goods and services.
7. A local bank will install a curb cut and add a ramp at its main entrance. Additionally, disabled parking spaces will be re-striped and appropriate standing signage added.
8. A local banquet hall will install a curb cut at its entrance to facilitate equal access to patrons with disabilities.
9. A local cosmetics retailer/salon will provide disabled parking spaces with standing signage, along with curb cut at the entrance of its business, in order to provide customers with disabilities the shortest accessible route from parking to entry.
10. A local retailer will provide disabled parking spaces with proper access aisles and standing signage and install a curb cut at its entrance so that customers with disabilities can access its goods and services.
11. A local pharmacy will remove metal bollards that currently block disabled parking spaces. Additionally, disabled parking spaces will be outfitted with appropriate standing signage.

12. A local home improvement store will reduce or eliminate a 1” rise at the entrance to its restrooms in order to provide equal access for customers with disabilities.
13. A local restaurant will install an automatic door opener at its entrance in order to increase access for customers with disabilities.
14. An area condominium complex will install a curb cut to provide homeowners with disabilities access to an adjacent parking lot by the shortest accessible route.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. At least one recreational facility or program will establish and post easily identifiable policy and procedures to request and receive individual assistance ensuring equal service for consumers with disabilities.
2. A local fitness facility will add disabled van spaces with cross hatches and regulation signage to their existing parking lot in order to increase accessibility for van users with disabilities.

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. At least one local elected official will establish a policy/procedure to make printed material available in alternative format when requested.
2. A local voting rights organization will establish policies and procedures to ensure that its voters’ information guide is available in alternative format upon request.
3. A county legislature will change its policies and procedures to ensure that documents posted on its websites will be made available in formats compatible with screen reader software used by citizens with visual impairments.

# 19. MANHATTAN

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Center For Independence Of The Disabled Of New York  
Address: 841 Broadway, Suite 301, New York, NY 10003  
Contract No.: C10971  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Susan Dooha, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Martin Eichel

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. At least one local school district will either change policies and procedures to comply with or demonstrate enforcement of the new NYS Dignity for All Students Act (signed into law September 2010, effective July 2012) and the recent cyberbullying legislative amendment (signed into law June 2012, effective July 2013).
2. The New York State Board of Regents will establish policies and procedures that will (i) integrate the Career and Technical Education (CTE) with ELA and Math Regents exams and substitute one of the Regents exam with a CTE assessment in order for a student with a disability to obtain a Regents diploma; (ii) consider safety net options such as Regents exam scoring variations, flexibility in selection of Regents exams, and substitution of required courses in order for students with disabilities to earn a local diploma.
3. CIDNY will establish written arrangements whereby a least five schools in New York City will offer on-site the Center's Strides program, a transition program for youth with disabilities who are bilingual and bicultural.
4. The New York City Department of Education will establish policies and procedures to address the issues of mental health needs of students in schools without excessive reliance on suspensions and emergency room visits.
5. As a result of advocacy by CIDNY and others in the community and evaluation of the practices of District Offices, the New York State Department of Education will adopt policies and procedures that ensure that the IEPs are developed within the 90 day time frame required by law.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. As a result of a White Paper jointly developed by the State Rehabilitation Council and ACCES-VR, ACCES-VR will adopt policies and procedures to increase the numbers of workers with disabilities that can fill “middle-skills” jobs in the economy.
2. ACCES-VR will amend the current vehicle modification policy to address developments in technology that affect vehicle use for individuals with disabilities seeking employment.

### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. As part of its implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the New York State legislature will establish a “Disability Navigators Program” and a “Consumer Assistance Program” that address the health coverage and care needs of people with disabilities.
2. At least one workforce training program established by the New York State Department of Health pursuant to New York State’s Medicaid 1115 Waiver program will institute disability literacy training components for its staff that are designed or endorsed by CIDNY and are approved by the federal government.
3. The New York State Department of Health will change policies and procedures for the Medicaid Redesign initiatives to correct any disparities in outcomes based upon disability.
4. New York will implement a Health Benefit Exchange: (i) capable of evaluating people for all possible Medicaid eligibility categories, including those in SSI-related forms of coverage, so that people with disabilities have equal access to the program; (ii) that requires current state insurance law-defined benefits to be maintained in policies sold inside and outside the Exchange in order to minimize adverse selection; (iii) that implements policies and procedures to decrease disparities in health care services and performance on the basis of race or ethnicity, primary language, gender and disability status.
5. New York will continue to require all Medicaid benefits defined in State public health and social services laws to be covered for newly Medicaid eligible individuals regardless of whether they are identified as “benchmark benefits” by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
6. The NYS Legislature will amend the 2011 State law regarding limits on Medicaid benefits and services, including physical therapy, to provide for a physician override of the limits when medically necessary.
7. The legislature will modify State insurance law to extend network adequacy and out-of-network requirements to all products in the health insurance market.
8. The legislature will pass legislation that ensures that consumers do not experience “surprise” medical bills for health plan out-of-network services.
9. Pursuant to the Affordable Care Act, New York State will design and implement the Community First Choice Option as the centerpiece to an aggressive Olmstead implementation strategy ensuring the right of individuals to be served in the most integrative setting.
10. New York State will enact a basic health plan that will serve people with incomes up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
11. The New York State Department of Health will adopt a policy and procedure for prequalifying immigrants’ residence and income eligibility for emergency Medicaid and for providing pre-emergency Medicaid services to uninsured individuals who have multiple chronic illnesses.

12. New York State will pass legislation to merge the individual direct pay and small group health insurance pools resulting in lower premiums for people who must purchase comprehensive coverage on their own.
13. New York State's managed long-term care program and its managed long-term care program for people with disabilities eligible for Medicaid and Medicare will, as a matter of contract, address Americans with Disabilities Act compliance of health plans and providers.
14. New York State's Health Improvement Plan for 2012-2017 will include provisions for improving the health status of people with disabilities.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. Commerce Advocacy Goal 1: The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) will restore the "health related priority" it had for housing applicants until 2007, which aided individuals with disabilities whose current living conditions presented a direct threat to their lives.
2. NYCHA and New York City Department of Homeless Services will modify procedures related to acceptance of housing placements to ensure that placements offered are accessible to people with disabilities and that refusal of inaccessible placements does not result in demotion on the housing placement list.
3. New York City will enact a Section 8 program similar to the federal Section 8 program to create more housing opportunities for very low income individuals with disabilities.
4. NYCHA will modify its policies and procedures to comply with federal guidance that requires that non-elderly disabled housing vouchers be used only by non-elderly disabled individuals.
5. As the result of collaboration with the New York State Division on Human Rights, volunteers will perform an access study of Manhattan restaurants, bars and coffee shops near accessible transportation hubs, at least four restaurants will improve their access.
6. As a result of the Center's efforts to assist individuals who are blind or have limited vision that are discriminated against based upon the use of service animals in public accommodations, a public accommodations discrimination complaint will be filed with the NYS Division of Human Rights or other appropriate authority and will be successfully settled.
7. The Legislature will pass legislation requiring local departments of social services to offer disability screening to all applicants for and recipients of public assistance.
8. The Legislature will pass legislation to require local departments of social services to determine if a public assistance recipient lacks child care, transportation, is exempt from work activities, or needs an accommodation for a disability or medical limitation before taking a negative case action or sanction against the recipient.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

NONE

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. The New York City Board of Elections (NYC BOE) will create an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance plan for all polling sites, with input from the disability

community. That compliance plan will be prominently displayed on their website and reviewed annually. The plan will be distributed to all polling site supervisors and deputies. The NYCBOE will monitor compliance with the ADA plan and report publicly after each election all poll sites that do not meet the plan's standards.

2. The New York City Board of Elections (NYC BOE) will as a matter of policy provide information on accessible entrances on their online polling site finder.
3. The New York City Board of Elections (NYCBOE) will create schematics for all poll sites that ensure that Ballot Marking Devices and scanners provide privacy for all voters. The Board will also provide regular training for poll site workers on proper set-up and disability etiquette for machine use.
4. The City of New York will amend its emergency response and preparedness plan to address the critical needs of people with disabilities during emergencies and disasters and in recovery.
5. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region II office in New York City will adopt policies and procedures that ensure all meetings in New York City are held in accessible buildings. Region II covers New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

## **20. MASSENA**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Massena Independent Living Center  
Address: 156 Center Street, Massena, New York 13662  
Contract No.: C10979  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Mr. Jeff Reifensnyder - Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Gail Santimaw

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Educational Advocacy**

1. The Massena Independent Living Center, Inc. will ensure that an Independent Living History & Philosophy awareness track either developed or endorsed by MILC is instituted as part of an educational institution's academic curriculum in the Center's area.
2. As a result of MILC advocacy, a local school district will change one of its facilities' programs, services, policies, and/or procedures to offer or reflect a more integrated and inclusive approach.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. At least one area business will improve access for potential employees with disabilities.
2. Change at least one Employment Services Provider policy toward enabling persons with disabilities greater access to the goods and services such as facilitating a more efficient process for referring customers to additional community services by routinely including in their community resource packet materials on MILC programs and services.
3. A Department of Social Service will change its policy to increase their compliance to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations relative to recipients of Welfare who are disabled and seeking employment.
4. At least one area employer will make its employment application available in alternative accessible format(s) for applicants with disabilities.

##### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. At least one institution will make a policy and procedural change in how it makes referrals to community resources, including Independent Living, during the discharge planning process to facilitate more successful transitions from the facility to the community.



2. Increase accessibility at hospitals, clinics, private doctor's offices and/or dental offices for persons with disabilities.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. The Massena Independent Living Center, Inc. will increase Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance in the business community.
2. A local law enforcement or first responder agency will modify its in-service training plan to include Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Training developed, endorsed, or conducted by MILC.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. Increase the number of integrated recreational activity opportunities for people with disabilities in the Center's area.
2. As a result of MILC advocacy, a recreational facility or community-sponsored recreation program will increase their Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of individuals with disabilities or Center staff serving on community boards/committees and task forces that previously had no or limited consumer/disability representation.
2. MILC will increase the number of accessible polling locations in Franklin County.

# 21. MIDDLETOWN

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name Of Center: Independent Living, Inc.  
Address: 66 Bennett Street, Middletown, NY 10940  
Contract No. C11003  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Persons: Stuart Kessler, Director Of Compliance & Program  
Operations And Suzanne Tremper, Director Of Programs  
Board President Authorization: Matthew Migliaccio

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

Advocate for systemic changes that result universal access to educational opportunities and related supportive services for children ages birth to 21, and to ensure a successful transition of students with disabilities from school to adult life. Continue to advocate for an end to educational services that segregate children with disabilities, denying them the right to equally choose, equally participate and equally benefit.

##### ACTIVITIES

- Advocate to reduce the incidence of segregated special education services for students with psychiatric disabilities by advocating for the adoption of the inclusive educational practices and demand responsive supportive services that enable these students to learn in regular classroom settings.
- Provide student self-advocacy training that will enable students to better understand their rights, options, choices concerning his/her education and transition to adult services.
- Advocate to eliminate harmful restraint and seclusion in schools.
- Advocate to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to make improvements to the individualized education program under that Act and facilitate the transition of children with disabilities to adulthood, and for other purposes.
- Advocate to amend the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 to provide assistance to States for development and implementation of an individual transition plan for each individual with a developmental disability in the State who is making the transition from the secondary school system into adulthood, and for other purposes.

##### OUTCOMES

1. One or more school districts in Orange County will institute a disability awareness track developed by ILI-Middletown as part of the school personnel-training curriculum.
2. One school district will change its policies and procedures to facilitate increased participation by students with disabilities in the Committee on Special Education (CSE) process.
3. The NYS Legislature will pass the (S. 2860), the Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act.
4. Congress will pass the THR 602 TEAM Education Act; and the President will sign it.
5. Congress will pass the THR 603 TEAM Empowerment Act; and the President will sign it.

## **B. Employment Advocacy**

Advocate for systemic changes that result in an end to segregated, sheltered workshops. Increase the capacity of persons with disabilities to obtain and retain competitive employment.

### ACTIVITIES

- Advocate for systemic changes that result in an end to segregated, sheltered workshops.
- Increase the capacity of persons with disabilities to obtain and retain competitive employment.
- Advocate for equality of employment for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Advocate for equality of employment for persons who are blind or visually impaired.
- Advocate for equality of employment for persons with developmental disabilities.
- Advocate for equality of employment for persons with significant psychiatric disabilities.
- Advocate for an increase in the availability of flexible, individualized supportive services (e.g. intensive vocational service coordination, flex funds, transportation and child care assistance) designed to address issues outside of work that directly bear upon placement stabilization.
- Advocate for increased participation by individuals with significant disabilities in the New York State Medicaid Buy-In for Working People with Disabilities Program which is designed to reduce or eliminate fear of losing important medical benefits when entering employment.
- IL, Inc. will advocate against efforts by NYSDOT and USDOT in prohibiting Deaf persons pursuing truck driver licensing, and encourage both NYS and USDOT to reconsider archaic policies and develop licensing procedures for Deaf truck drivers.
- Advocate to amend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to authorize grants for the transition of youth with significant disabilities to adulthood.

### OUTCOMES

1. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodations to persons who are deaf.
2. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodations to persons who are blind.
3. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodation to employees with developmental disabilities.
4. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable

accommodations to persons with significant psychiatric disabilities.

5. NYS Department of Transportation and US Department of Transportation will establish policies that allow Deaf persons to obtain truck driving licensure, thus expanding employment opportunities.
6. Congress will pass the HR 604 TEAM Employment Act and the President will sign it.

### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

Advocate for increasing the capacity of community-based supportive services to a level sufficient to enable persons presently confined to nursing homes and other restrictive settings, or at-risk of confinement, to return to, or remain in the community as an alternative to institutionalization – consistent with the Olmstead decision of 1999.

### ACTIVITIES

- Advocate to government agencies and other providers for the most integrated setting for people with disabilities when providing programs and services, including housing.
- Advocate for changes in local institutional policies and practices that will result in increased referrals to community based living options.
- Advocate with community organizations so as to produce a measurable increase in the number of such organizations referring consumers to the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services that have not previously done so.
- Advocate for improved access to health care services for individuals with disabilities who are victims of violence, crime, abuse and domestic violence.
- Advocate for changes in local mental health system policies and practices that refocus services on recovery and wellness
- Advocate for changes in the policies and practices of providers in the local mental health care system that will ensure equal access to mental health services by individuals who are Deaf.
- Advocate for the passage of the Community Choice Act in Congress.
- Advocate for passage of the Hearing Aid Bill requesting that NYS legislature require insurance companies doing business in NYS to provide hearing aid coverage policies as an alternative to more costly cochlear implants. Additionally, to support any NYS tax credits that can be provided to users of hearing aid devices.
- ILI, Inc. will inform and educate Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Managed Long Term Care organizations (MLTCs) of the nature and purpose of the CDPA Program.
- Advocate to establish a peer run organization to work directly with people with psychiatric diagnosis and/or substance abuse history incorporating person-centered planning that will improve the quality of life and achievement of personal goals.

### OUTCOMES

1. At least one local physician's office will improve physical and communication access for persons with disabilities.
2. A local health care facility will adopt a practice assuring the proper training of all personnel on disability sensitivity and awareness.

3. At least one community or governmental agency providing health care services to victims of crime, abuse, and domestic violence will improve its accessibility to people with disabilities.
4. At least one community or governmental agency providing mental health services will improve its accessibility to people who are Deaf.
5. At least one hospital or community health care center will change its policies and practices to ensure full access to health services by individuals who are Deaf.
6. One or more local departments of social services will establish an agreement with the independent living center to adopt an ongoing practice of providing periodic disability awareness training to all DSS personnel.
7. Congress will pass the Community Choice Act.
8. One or more behavioral health units at community hospitals will establish an agreement, and change their protocol, to enable on-site inpatient participation of Mental Health Peers regarding inpatient engagement and discharge planning to ensure reduction in recidivism of inpatient care and better consumer connection to community supports and resources.
9. One or more local departments of mental health, mobile mental health teams and hospital emergency departments will change policies and procedures to allow ILI-Middletown trained mental health peers to assist in hospital diversion initiatives and supports, thus reducing recidivism and first time psychiatric admissions.
10. One or more medical facilities will establish a policy requiring discharge planners to include ILI-Middletown's brochures in its discharge planning packets.
11. The Mobile Mental Health clinic will change policies and procedures to allow ILI-Middletown Peer Diversion Specialists to accompany clinicians during onsite interventions instead of being called after the triage/assessment are done the clinicians during onsite interventions instead of being called after the triage/assessment are done.
12. Orange Regional Medical Center will change policies and procedures to permit ILI-Middletown Peer Diversion Specialists in the ACCESS center of the hospital, so when a person is brought in they have immediate Peer support.
13. NY State will pass the Hearing Aid Bill requiring insurance companies to provide Hearing Aid Coverage and support NYS tax credits that can be provided to users of hearing aid devices.
14. ILI-Middletown, in collaboration with CDPAANYS (Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of NY State), will contract with individual Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Managed Long Term Care organizations (MLTCs) to provide Fiscal Intermediary services for individuals with CDPAP home care to maintain continuity of their current service
15. NYS will adopt an Olmstead Implementation Plan, which complies with the letter and spirit of the Supreme Court decision.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

Advocate for systemic changes that result in universal access to public transportation, public buildings, communication systems and other amenities. Increase the capacity of people with disabilities to engage in local marketplace activities including shopping, dining out, using recreational facilities and participating in community events by increasing the number of Title III entities that are accessible in the Orange County area.

## ACTIVITIES

- Advocate with local municipalities regarding the consistent enforcement of accessible/adaptable requirements in new construction.
- Provide ADA training and technical support to local code enforcement officials and or other municipal departments.
- Advocate for increased accessible housing options for persons with disabilities
- Advocate for compliance under the newly enacted state law and the ADA, requiring physical accessibility to local marketplace activities.
- Advocate for increased accessible transportation in the City of Middletown and seek to establish an accessible transportation program, including accessible transportation in all new city development planning and neighborhood development.
- Advocate with local legislators on transportation issues, including accessibility of taxis.
- Advocate for this legislation to become New York State law.
- Advocate with Orange County to have an agreement for Independent Living to assist the county to be in compliance with the ADA, through access to facilities, training to employees in all departments regarding disability awareness, and rebirth of the ADA Advisory committee.
- Advocate for funding to provide “Housing First” model living arrangements for individuals with psychiatric disabilities.
- Advocate with federal and state legislators on technology and accessibility bills in Congress and the state legislature, including Making Title II of the ADA part of state law.
- Advocate with state and federal legislators on housing issues for people with disabilities, including visitability, Section 504, and source of income legislation.
- Advocate for increased accessible housing options for persons with disabilities.
- Advocate for federal passage of HR 3101 (Communications and Video Accessibility Act) which will benefit countless Deaf residents of New York State with mandating all internet enabled telephone, computer and television products to be accessible including captioning requirements.

## OUTCOMES

1. There will be an increase in the number of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III entities that are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities in the Center's service area.
2. A local housing organization will establish an accessible housing program that makes home modification services available to residences throughout Orange County, with technical support provided under contract with the independent living center.
3. NYS will incorporate the housing provisions of Section 504 of the national Rehabilitation Act into State law.
4. NYS Legislature will establish standards for “visitability” in State law to require all newly constructed single-family house, townhouses and ground floor units of duplexes and triplexes built with public funds to be made accessible.
5. The NYS Legislature will pass the accessible taxi legislation.
6. At least one local landlord will make additional, accessible housing units available for persons with physical disabilities.
7. At least one local landlord will make additional, housing units available for persons with

psychiatric disabilities and/or substance abuse issues.

8. The County of Orange and the City of Middletown will adopt policies that enable individuals with disabilities in Middletown and County of Orange, to have and make accessible transportation choices.
9. The federal Passage of HR 3101, mandating that all internet enabled telephone, computer and television products be accessible including captioning requirements.
10. The Orange County Court system will establish the VetTrak program to identify and address combat-related issues faced by veterans that may result in behavioral health problems, dangerous, self-destructive behaviors, and lead to difficulties in transitioning to civilian life.

## **E. Social Advocacy**

Continue to advocate for systemic changes that result in an end to segregated, dead-end day programs, and the increased inclusion of people with disabilities in service and social clubs, special interest organizations, and other integrated community activities.

### ACTIVITIES

- Advocate to increase the number of community clubs and service organizations that are accessible by individuals with significant disabilities.
- Advocate with local municipalities to ensure that stadiums, auditoriums, parks and other public recreational facilities are fully accessible.
- Advocate for an increase in the number of integrated social and recreational activities in the community for persons with disabilities.
- Create integrated community activities that increase opportunity for people with disabilities to increase their self-sufficiency, wellness and self-worth.

### OUTCOMES

1. At least one community club or service organization will adopt a policy assuring that meeting places are fully accessible.
2. One or more community service organizations will establish a formal agreement with ILI-Middletown to provide disability awareness training for all of its members.
3. A municipal recreation department will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all personnel in the areas of disability awareness and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
4. A local health club/fitness center will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all personnel on disability sensitivity and awareness.
5. One or more community club or service organizations will create integrated community programs for the purpose of increasing the self-sufficiency, wellness and self-worth of individuals with disabilities.
6. There will be an increase in the number of integrated social and recreational activities in the community for persons with disabilities.

## **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

Advocate for systemic changes that result in universal voter access to polling places. Increase self-advocacy and leadership skills among youthful and adult citizens with disabilities.

### ACTIVITIES

- Advocate for the local Board of Elections to adopt policies and processes that ensure the training of all newly hired election officials about persons with disabilities at polling places, and the issues of accessibility at the polling site and at the machines.
- Advocate and provide means to help register the underserved and non-registered voters of Orange County, especially persons with disabilities.
- Advocate that more people with disabilities be registered to vote.
- Advocate for increased participation by individuals with significant disabilities on governing boards of community organizations responsible for making decisions affecting the lives of persons with disabilities, in the areas of employment, recreation, citizenship, education, housing, and health care that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
- Advocate with state legislators to pass legislation requiring all polling sites to be accessible and eliminating the waiver currently allowed in NYS elections law.
- Advocate for an increase in the participation of individuals with psychiatric disabilities on governing boards of community organizations responsible for making decisions about the funding of mental health services that previously have not had representation from the disability community.

### OUTCOMES

1. One or more political candidates will adopt policies that ensure that meetings and rallies are held in accessible locations.
2. The Orange County Board of Elections will establish policies and procedures to train poll workers on the accessible voting machines.
3. There will be an increase in the number of individuals with disabilities serving on community boards/committees and task forces that address issues that previously have not had consumer representation.



## 22. NEWBURGH

### NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

#### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name Of Center: Independent Living, Inc.  
Address: 5 Washington Terrace, Newburgh, NY 12550  
Contract No. C10974  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Persons: Stuart Kessler, Director Of Compliance & Program  
Operations And Suzanne Tremper, Director Of Programs  
Board President Authorization: Matthew Migliaccio

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

Advocate for systemic changes that result universal access to educational opportunities and related supportive services for children ages birth to 21, and to ensure a successful transition of students with disabilities from school to adult life. Continue to advocate for an end to educational services that segregate children with disabilities, denying them the right to equally choose, equally participate and equally benefit.

##### ACTIVITIES

- Will identify and promote transition processes that ensure that preschool children suspected of having a disability are referred, evaluated, and have eligibility determined by the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) within 30 school days of receipt of the parental request for evaluation.
- As the Mid-Hudson Regional Early Childhood Direction Center, we will continue to advocate for increasing access to early intervention and preschool education services by families of children with disabilities birth to age five, with emphasis on those residing in traditionally underserved and unserved neighborhoods in culturally diverse communities in Orange, Ulster, Dutchess and Sullivan Counties.
- Identify and promote typical early childhood settings that service preschool students with disabilities and increase the percent of children with IEPs who receive special education and related services with typically developing peers to meet and/or exceed the state target work plan for each year.
- Advocate to increase the number of parents and students actively participating in the IEP process in public school districts served by the Orange Ulster Board of Cooperative Educational Services, and in Parent trainings throughout Orange, Ulster, Dutchess and Sullivan Counties.

- Identify and promote processes that ensure children, who are found eligible, transition from early intervention to preschool special education services with an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthday.
- Continue to advocate, to reduce the incidence of segregated special education services for students with psychiatric disabilities by advocating for the adoption of inclusive educational practices and demand responsive supportive services that enable these students to learn in regular classroom settings.
- Provide training and technical assistance to families and CPSEs to increase parent and district skill in partnering for the success of preschool students with disabilities.
- ILI's ECDC, in coordination and collaboration with their regional Special Education Regional Associate, will provide regional forums to identify improvement activities and learning opportunities for CPSE chairpersons, preschool providers and families.
- Will advocate to increase the enforcement of the rights and responsibilities of schools under laws related to special education, especially Section 504 and IDEA. Specifically advocate with school administration and instructional staff to create effective Individual Education Program (IEP) and 504 Plans for students with disabilities at school districts throughout Orange County.
- Provide researched-based instructional programs to improve outcomes for preschool children with disabilities in areas of early literacy and communication, social-emotional skills and positive behaviors.
- Advocate to improve school districts' compliance with the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Parts 200 & 201 and support parents and students with Due Process when a school district has violated a requirement of Part B of IDEA.
- Provide student self-advocacy training that will enable students to better understand their rights, options, choices concerning his/her education and transition to adult services.
- Advocate with Orange County School Districts to provide collaborative efforts to ensure the equal dissemination of promotional materials and educational opportunities for the middle schools students who would like to participate in Independent Living's (LEAP) program: a Learning Enrichment Afterschool Program.
- Advocate that all educational interpreters be NAD/RID or NY State certified and are evaluated by a reputable interpreter agency for the appropriate level of skill necessary to efficiently and effectively interpret for all mainstream Deaf students.
- Advocate to eliminate harmful restraint and seclusion in schools.
- Advocate to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to make improvements to the individualized education program under that Act and facilitate the transition of children with disabilities to adulthood, and for other purposes.
- Advocate to amend the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 to provide assistance to States for development and implementation of an individual transition plan for each individual with a developmental disability in the State who is making the transition from the secondary school system into adulthood, and for other purposes.

## OUTCOMES

1. At least one school district in the counties served will change its policy to engage parents in a child's transition from Early Intervention to Preschool Special Education planning process.

2. One or more neighborhood-based organizations in culturally diverse community will establish a policy to include as part of its informational materials, information about disability and early intervention/education services in both English and Spanish.
3. A local school district will make policy and procedural changes in how it makes referrals to after school learning enrichment programs to facilitate increased participation by students with disabilities.
4. One or more school districts in Orange County will institute a disability awareness track developed by ILI as part of the school personnel-training curriculum.
5. One school district will change its policies and procedures to facilitate increased participation by students with disabilities in the Committee on Special Education (CSE) process.
6. To reduce NY State complaints and due process requests, one school district will make policy and procedural changes to improve its physical and program access.
7. One (or more) preschool(s) serving non-disabled children will develop and implement an integrated co-teaching program to serve children with disabilities.
8. At least one school district in the counties served will change or adopt policy that requires all sign language interpreters to be certified and evaluated prior to being hired to serve in the classroom.
9. The NYS Legislature will pass the (S. 2860), the Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act.
10. Congress will pass the THR 602 TEAM Education Act; and the President will sign it.
11. Congress will pass the THR 603 TEAM Empowerment Act; and the President will sign it.

## **B. Employment Advocacy**

Advocate for systemic changes that result in an end to segregated, sheltered workshops. Increase the capacity of persons with disabilities to obtain and retain competitive employment.

### ACTIVITIES

- Continue to advocate for a shift in funding that will provide greater financial incentives to programs and agencies providing integrated employment services, than to those operating sheltered, segregated employment programs.
- Will continue to advocate for the closure of sheltered workshops.
- Continue to advocate for an increase in the availability of supported work opportunities for persons with significant disabilities – that have historically been excluded from consideration as candidates for integrated employment.
- Continue to advocate for physical and procedural changes at One-Stops in the Cities of Newburgh and Middletown that facilitate increase participation by persons with significant disabilities.
- Continue to advocate for on-site advocacy services for persons with disabilities, at the local One-Stops.
- Continue to advocate for an increase in the availability of flexible, individualized supportive services (e.g. intensive vocational service coordination, flex funds, transportation and child care assistance) designed to address issues outside of work that directly bear upon placement stabilization.

- Advocate for increased participation by individuals with significant disabilities in the New York State Medicaid Buy-In for Working People with Disabilities Program which is designed to reduce or eliminate fear of losing important medical benefits when entering employment.
- Continue to advocate for a measurable increase in the number of competitive employment opportunities that are made available to persons with significant disabilities, by employers that have not previously hired persons with disabilities.
- Advocate for an ongoing collaboration with The Orange County Employment and Training Administration that will provide an annual job fair within Orange County that will highlight the benefits of hiring persons with disabilities to local employers.
- Advocate for equality of employment for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Advocate for equality of employment for persons who are blind or visually impaired.
- Advocate for equality of employment for persons with developmental disabilities.
- Advocate for equality of employment for persons with significant psychiatric disabilities.
- Provide orientation and training opportunities to transitioning special education students to help them to become familiar with ILI employment services and to jump start their transition plan.
- IL, Inc. will advocate against efforts by NYSDOT and USDOT in prohibiting Deaf persons pursuing truck driver licensing, and encourage both NYS and USDOT to reconsider archaic policies and develop licensing procedures for Deaf truck drivers.
- Advocate to amend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to authorize grants for the transition of youths with significant disabilities to adulthood.

## OUTCOMES

1. At least one local business will change its recruitment process so as to create new supported employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities.
2. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodations to persons who are deaf.
3. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodations to persons who are blind.
4. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodation to employees with developmental disabilities.
5. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with significant psychiatric disabilities.
6. ILI will establish a written agreement with at least one local school district to conduct an annual orientation presenting pertinent employment programs and services available to transitioning special education students.
7. NYS Department of Transportation and US Department of Transportation will establish policies that allow Deaf persons to obtain truck driving licensure, thus expanding employment opportunities.
8. Congress will pass the HR 604 TEAM Employment Act and the President will sign it.

## **C. Health Care Advocacy**

Continue to advocate for increasing the capacity of community-based supportive services to a level sufficient to enable persons presently confined to nursing homes and other restrictive settings, or at-risk of confinement, to return to, or remain in the community as an alternative to institutionalization – consistent with the Olmstead decision of 1999.

### ACTIVITIES

- Will advocate for changes in the local institutional policies and practices in the area of Long Term care needs assessment, and work in close collaborative effort with local government agencies.
- Will continue to advocate for appropriate funding for consumer directed personal care assistance services programs.
- Will continue to advocate for the closure of OPWDD Developmental centers and other state run institutions that have been previously designated for closure by the state.
- Will continue to advocate to government agencies and other providers for the most integrated setting for people with disabilities when providing programs and services, including housing.
- Continue to advocate for changes in local institutional policies and practices that will result in increased referrals to community based living options.
- Continue to advocate for changes in local institutional policies and practices that will result in significantly increasing the number of nursing home residents engaged in discharge planning.
- Continue to advocate for changes in local mental health system policies and practices that refocus services on recovery and wellness.
- Continue to advocate for changes in policies by local county departments of social services so as to provide self-directing consumers with control over their PA's work schedule(s).
- Continue to advocate with local county departments of social services to authorize as many hours as necessary, without restriction, to enable persons with disabilities to remain in the community of their choosing.
- IL, Inc. will advocate for consumers by organizing and attending a Fair Hearing session when an unjust ruling is submitted.
- Continue to advocate with community organizations so as to produce a measurable increase in the number of such organizations referring consumers to Consumer Directed Personal Assistance services that have not previously done so.
- Continue to advocate for changes in the policies and practices of providers in the local health care system that will ensure full access to health services by individuals who are Deaf.
- Continue to advocate for changes in the policies and practices of providers in the local mental health care system that will ensure equal access to mental health services by individuals who are Deaf.
- IL Inc. will advocate and position itself to be part of housing education and information through the Money Follows the Person program.
- Will continue to advocate and develop resource strategies related to facilitating nursing home transition and diversion. IL Inc. will actively participate as a service provider in this arena.
- Will continue to advocate for the passage of the Community Choice Act in Congress.
- IL, Inc. will advocate for passage of the Hearing Aid Bill requesting that NYS legislature require insurance companies doing business in NYS to provide hearing aid coverage policies

as an alternative to more costly cochlear implants. Additionally, to support any NYS tax credits that can be provided to users of hearing aid devices.

- ILI, Inc. will inform and educate Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Managed Long Term Care organizations (MLTCs) of the nature and purpose of the CDPA Program.
- ILI, Inc. will advocate to establish a peer run organization to work directly with people with psychiatric diagnosis and/or substance abuse history incorporating person-centered planning that will improve the quality of life and achievement of personal goals.

## OUTCOMES

1. One or more county departments of social services will adopt policies that enable self-directing individuals to schedule the hours authorized for Personal Attendant services at their own discretion.
2. At least one community or governmental agency providing mental health services will improve its accessibility to people who are Deaf.
3. At least one hospital or community health care center will change its policies and practices to ensure full access to health services by individuals who are Deaf.
4. One or more ILI staff will become a member of a key Long Term Care Task Force that will set the direction and tone of how the county will adopt changes from the state to provide Long Term Care services to the disability population and that previously has not had representation from the disability community.
5. At least one local physician's office will improve physical and communication access for persons with disabilities.
6. NYS Department of Health will change policies and procedures to establish Fair Hearing proceedings to ensure equity relating to community discharge from institutions.
7. One or more county departments of social services will adopt policies that enable individuals with disabilities in the Long Term Care services system, to make informed choices as to where they would like to reside.
8. A local health care facility will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all personnel on disability sensitivity and awareness.
9. One or more local departments of social services will establish an agreement with the independent living center to adopt an ongoing practice of providing periodic disability awareness training to all DSS personnel.
10. The Orange County Mental Health Department will establish an agreement with the independent living center to adopt an ongoing practice of providing periodic Deaf cultural awareness training to all mental health practitioners.
11. One or more county departments of social services will adopt policies that enable individuals with disabilities in the Long Term Care services system, to make informed choices as to where they would like to reside utilizing Money Follows the Persons (MFP) initiatives.
12. One or more county departments of social services will adopt policies that enable individuals with disabilities in the Long Term Care services system, to make informed choices as to where they would like to reside utilizing nursing home transition and diversion initiatives.
13. Congress will pass the Community Choice Act.
14. One or more behavioral health units at community hospitals will establish an agreement the Center, and change their protocol, to enable on-site inpatient participation of Mental Health Peers regarding inpatient engagement and discharge planning to ensure reduction in

recidivism of inpatient care and better consumer connection to community supports and resources.

15. NY State will pass the Hearing Aid Bill requiring insurance companies to provide Hearing Aid Coverage and support NYS tax credits that can be provided to users of hearing aid devices.
16. One or more local departments of mental health, mobile mental health teams and hospital emergency departments will change policies and procedures to allow ILI trained mental health peers to assist in hospital diversion initiatives and supports, thus reducing recidivism and first time psychiatric admissions.
17. ILI, Inc., in collaboration with CDPAANYS (Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of NY State), will contract with individual Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Managed Long Term Care organizations (MLTCs) to provide Fiscal Intermediary services for individuals with CDPAP home care to maintain continuity of their current service
18. NYS will adopt an Olmstead Implementation Plan, which complies with the letter and spirit of the Supreme Court decision.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

Continue to advocate for systemic changes that result in universal access to public transportation, public buildings, communication systems and other amenities. Increase the capacity of people with disabilities to engage in local marketplace activities including shopping, dining out, using recreational facilities and participating in community events by increasing the number of Title III entities that are accessible in the Orange County area.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

- Continue to advocate with local municipalities regarding the consistent enforcement of accessible/adaptable requirements in new construction.
- Provide ADA training and technical support to local code enforcement officials and or other municipal departments.
- Continue to advocate with federal and state legislators on technology and accessibility bills in Congress and the state legislature, including Making Title II of the ADA part of state law.
- Continue to advocate with state and federal legislators on housing issues for people with disabilities, including visitability, Section 504, and source of income legislation.
- Continue to advocate for increased accessible housing options for persons with disabilities.
- Continue to participate in the Orange County Housing Consortium which addresses homelessness and the housing crisis, especially for people with disabilities.
- Advocate for greater access to community amenities by persons who are Deaf.
- IL, Inc. will continue to advocate for increased accessible transportation in the City of Newburgh and seek to establish an accessible transportation program, including accessible transportation in all new city development planning and neighborhood development.
- Advocate for mass transit accessibility as Newburgh becomes a transportation hub.
- Continue to advocate for compliance under the newly enacted state law and the ADA, requiring physical accessibility to local marketplace activities.

- Continue to advocate with local legislators on transportation issues, including accessibility of taxis. Advocate for this legislation to become New York State law.
- Advocate with Orange County to have an agreement for Independent Living to assist the county to be in compliance with the ADA, through access to facilities, training to employees in all departments regarding disability awareness, and rebirth of the ADA Advisory committee.
- Advocate with Orange County so the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan for Orange County is brought up-to-date (from 2002).
- Advocate with Orange County so the ADA advisory committee is rejuvenated and becomes active with at least one representative from Independent Living.
- ILI will advocate for federal passage of HR 3101 (Communications and Video Accessibility Act) which will benefit countless Deaf residents of New York State with mandating all internet enabled telephone, computer and television products to be accessible including captioning requirements.
- Advocate for funding to provide “Housing First” model living arrangements for individuals with psychiatric disabilities.

## OUTCOMES

1. There will be an increase in the number of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III entities that are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities in the Center's service area.
2. The NYS Legislature will pass the accessible taxi legislation.
3. At least one municipal police department will establish a written agreement with the Center that implements the ongoing practice of providing Deaf and disability awareness as part of the training/orientation for law enforcement officers.
4. A local housing organization will establish an accessible housing program that makes home modification services available to residences throughout Orange County, with technical support provided under contract with the independent living center.
5. At least one local landlord will make additional, accessible housing units available for persons with physical disabilities.
6. The County of Orange and the City of Newburgh will adopt policies that enable individuals with disabilities in Newburgh and County of Orange, to have and make accessible transportation choices.
7. Independent Living will establish a written agreement with Orange County to conduct scheduled trainings for all county departments regarding disability awareness training.
8. Independent Living will establish a written agreement with Orange County to provide training on compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act to improve access to their facilities
9. ILI will become a member of the re-enacted Orange County Americans with Disabilities Act advisory board that previously has not had representation from the disability community.
10. Orange County DSS brochures for the Americans With Disabilities Act/grievance policy will be printed so that they are available in large print and Braille.
11. Orange County DSS will make environmental improvements for access at their various sites.
12. Orange County will update its Americans With Disabilities Act Self Evaluation and Transition Plan (originally drafted in November 2000).



13. Orange County DSS will establish policies and procedures to improve access specifically for consumers with sight disabilities and hearing disabilities.
14. The federal Passage of HR 3101, mandating that all internet enabled telephone, computer and television products be accessible including captioning requirements.
15. The Orange County Planning Commission will purchase and utilize hybrid busses for county transportation that will include a sounding device to announce bus arrival as an accommodation for people with visual impairments.
16. NYS will pass legislation establishing standards for “visitability” (H.R. 2353) into State law
17. NYS will incorporate the housing provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act into state law.

## **E. Social Advocacy**

Continue to advocate for systemic changes that result in an end to segregated, dead-end day programs, and the increased inclusion of people with disabilities in service and social clubs, special interest organizations, and other integrated community activities.

### ACTIVITIES

- Continue to advocate for changes in funding policies and practices as necessary to encourage the creation of an on-going, “free-market” driven process for providing individuals receiving day services the opportunity to evaluate and, potentially change service providers based upon individually determined criteria.
- Continue to advocate for changes in funding policies and practices as necessary to create incentives for day service providers to develop integrated community based program models and eliminate segregated day services.
- Continue advocating to increase the number of community clubs and service organizations that are accessible by individuals with significant disabilities.
- Continue to advocate with local municipalities to ensure that stadiums, auditoriums, parks and other public recreational facilities are fully accessible.
- Create integrated community activities that increase opportunity for people with disabilities to increase their self sufficiency, wellness and self worth.

### OUTCOMES

1. At least one community club or service organization will adopt a policy assuring that meeting places are fully accessible.
2. One or more community service organizations will establish a written agreement with ILI to provide disability awareness training for all of its members.
3. A municipal recreation department will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all personnel in the areas of disability awareness and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
4. A local health club/fitness center will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all personnel on disability sensitivity and awareness.
5. There will be an increase in the number of integrated social and recreational activities in the community for persons with disabilities.

## **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

Advocate for systemic changes that result in universal voter access to polling places. Increase self-advocacy and leadership skills among youthful and adult citizens with disabilities.

### ACTIVITIES

- Continue to advocate for the local Board of Elections to adopt policies and processes that ensure the training of all newly hired election officials about persons with disabilities at polling places, and the issues of accessibility at the polling site and at the machines.
- Continue to advocate for an increase in the participation of individuals with significant disabilities on governing boards of community organizations responsible for making decisions about the funding of disability services that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
- Continue to advocate for increased participation by individuals with significant disabilities on governing boards of community organizations responsible for making decisions affecting the lives of persons with disabilities, in the areas of employment, recreation, citizenship, education, housing, and health care that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
- Continue to advocate and provide means to help register the underserved and non-registered voters of Orange County, especially persons with disabilities.
- Continue to advocate with state legislators to pass legislation requiring all polling sites to be accessible and eliminating the waiver currently allowed in NYS elections law.
- Continue to advocate with the Orange County Board of Elections and local municipalities to ensure that ballot marking devices and the accessible voting machines are fully used in 2011 and 2012. Continue to advocate with the Orange County Board of Elections and local municipalities to achieve 100% polling place accessibility.
- Advocate that all polling sites in Orange County remain accessible.
- Continue to advocate that the accessible voting machines for 2011 and 2012 elections will be available and monitored by knowledgeable election poll workers, so that people with disabilities are able to vote privately and independently.
- Continue to advocate that more people with disabilities be registered to vote.
- Conduct voter awareness presentations at Self Advocacy workshops.
- Work with collaborative local agencies to provide a Candidates Forum for the upcoming elections in part to finalize and publicize positions on disability related issues
- Advocate for an increase in the participation of individuals with psychiatric disabilities on governing boards of community organizations responsible for making decisions about the funding of mental health services that previously have not had representation from the disability community.

### OUTCOMES

1. One or more political candidates will adopt policies that ensure that meetings and rallies are held in accessible locations.

2. The Orange County Board of Elections will establish policies and procedures to train poll workers on the accessible voting machines.
3. There will be an increase in the number of individuals with disabilities serving on community boards/committees and task forces that address issues that previously have not had consumer representation.
4. The Orange County Board of Elections will have no inaccessible locations listed on its polling sites.
5. ILI will establish a written agreement whereby the Orange County Board of Elections will offer at ILI (on-site) accessible voting machine training for disability support groups.

## **23. NIAGARA FALLS**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Independent Living of Niagara County  
Address: 746 Portage Rd., Niagara Falls, NY 14301  
Center Number: C10999  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Douglas J. Usiak  
Board President Authorization: Dennis M. Kessel

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Education Advocacy**

1. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, one post-secondary educational institution will integrate Independent Living Philosophy training either developed or endorsed by ILNC, into its academic programs.
2. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, one school district will add an independent living philosophy program, either developed or endorsed by ILNC, into its academic curriculum.
3. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, one school district will integrate a disability awareness training program either developed or endorsed by ILNC into its employee training program.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, Niagara County one-stop services will be more accessible to persons with disabilities.
2. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, one business will become compliant with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
3. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, one New York State department will implement regulations that enhance the ability of persons with disabilities who are employed to access Home Health Services.

##### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. As a result of advocacy of ILNC, one community agency will establish a new Peer Program to provide recovery-oriented peer services to the community.
2. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, one hospital will change its policies and procedures to provide training on access to interpreter services to its employees.
3. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, one County Department of Social Services will incorporate Independent Living Philosophy either developed or endorsed by ILNC to the

Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPA) Medicaid Home Services Program and allow consumer choice of personal care aides.

4. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, the Veterans Administration will implement a Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPA) Program Option for Veterans with disabilities under its care.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. As a result of the advocacy of the ILNC, the NYS Commissioner of Jurors Office for Niagara County will incorporate a training program either developed or endorsed by ILNC on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Jury Duty as a regular part of its staff training.
2. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, more accessible and integrated housing opportunities will be available to persons with disabilities.
3. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority will extend paratransit scheduling services beyond normal business hours.
4. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, one business will be compliant with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, one outdoor event will become compliant with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act. GOAL:
2. As the result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Niagara County, one municipal or community-sponsored recreation program will become accessible for persons with disabilities

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. As a result of the advocacy of the ILNC, one polling place will become accessible to persons with disabilities.

## **24. OLEAN**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Directions in Independent Living  
Address: 512 West State Street, Olean, New York 14760  
Contract No.: C10973  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Leonard Liguori  
Board President Authorization: Marcella Richmond

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Education Advocacy**

1. A school in the Center's catchment area will adopt DIL's Disability Sensitivity Awareness training.
2. A peer run advocacy network/infrastructure will be established in the Center's catchment area with organized teams of trained volunteer advocates available to address bullying issues as they arise.
3. An outside agency will establish a written agreement with DIL to provide training to its program participants on riding local bus service.
4. A community organization will change policies and procedures to regularly sponsor free sign language classes.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. A business with the center's service area will adopt a youth leadership/transition academy program that will be created or endorsed by Directions.

##### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. A community provider will create an Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and Panic/Anxiety Support Group (not currently in existence) for adults 18 years and over in the Center's service area.
2. YMCA will offer a peer run Mental Health fitness/recovery educational support group.

##### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. The Cattaraugus County Department of Social Services will make a policy and procedural change to facilitate a more efficient referral process for consumers to access community based living services, including Independent Living Center services.
2. The Lions Club of Olean will make a policy and procedural change to facilitate a more efficient referral process for community resources, including Independent Living Center services.
3. A local realtor or landlord will incorporate NYhousingserarch.gov on their website or in their brochures.
4. A community within the Center's catchment area will adopt a "Complete Streets" policy to improve safety, access, and mobility for all travelers regardless of age or ability.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. A Directions in Independent Living Staff member will become a contributing member of the Board of Directors of the Olean YMCA.
2. A local church will make a policy and procedural change in how it makes referrals for community resources to facilitate the integration of its parishioners in the community, including Independent Living Center services

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. A polling site will be made accessible in the Center's catchment area.

# 25. PLATTSBURGH

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: North Country Center for Independence  
Address: 80 Sharron Avenue, Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
Contract No.: C10980  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Andrew Pulrang, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Ted Graser, President

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. NCCI will establish a written arrangement whereby at least 1 North Country correctional facility will allow on-site presentations on Independent Living Centers, ACCESS-VR, and agency linkages as a regular part of preparing inmates who are disabled for their transition back into the community.
2. Establish a student advocacy network/infrastructure comprised of local high school students to address special education issues as they arise.
3. The Counseling Department of one area college will include Disability Awareness & Sensitivity training developed and/or presented by NCCI staff.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. At least one agency, organization, or business will incorporate NCCI developed or endorsed disability awareness and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) components into their staff training programs.
2. NCCI will establish a written arrangement with a local food shelf/soup kitchen to provide on-site outreach services including information and referral, benefits counseling, and information on employment support programs.

##### C. Health Care Advocacy

1. There will be an increase in the number of physician/dentist's offices, clinics, and hospitals that improve physical and communications access for people with disabilities.
2. NYS will adopt an Olmstead Implementation Plan that will comply with the letter and spirit of the Supreme Court decision.
3. One nursing facility will change policies and procedures to ensure individuals with disabilities are fully informed about availability of the NYS Department of Health Nursing



Facility Transition and Diversion (NFTD) Waiver including information about applying for such services.

**D. Commerce: Advocacy**

1. At least one Fire Department will modify its in-service training plan to include Disability Awareness & Sensitivity Training either developed, endorsed or conducted by NCCI staff.
2. At least one local bank will produce an audio-tape or CD-ROM version of its products and services brochure so that it is accessible for visually-impaired consumers.
3. The Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT) and the County Planning Department will improve access to rural para-transit users by acquiring a new bus.

**E. Social Advocacy**

1. The accessibility of recreational facilities in Clinton and/or Essex counties will be increased.
2. Increase the number of integrated community social events that become accessible to the disability community in Clinton and Essex County.
3. Increase access to public parks and museums.

**F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of consumer and/or NCCI staff that serves on a community or statewide board that previously has not had representation from the disability community.
2. The Clinton County Board of Elections will incorporate a disability awareness training, either developed or endorsed by NCCI, to train consumers and/or NCCI staff as election poll workers.
3. Candidates for political office will improve the access on their websites for persons with disabilities.

## **26. POUGHKEEPSIE**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Taconic Resources for Independence  
Address: 82 Washington St. Suite 214, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
Contract No.: C10991  
Report Period: October 1, 2012- September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Cynthia L. Fiore, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: John R. Vacca, Board President

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Education Advocacy**

1. At least one school district will incorporate a Transition Fair /Transition Night where families and students can come to learn about community resources, employment, higher education and other services available for students with disabilities upon graduation.
2. At least one school district will change its policies to engage all special education students and their parents in the Committee on Special Education (CSE) or transition planning process.
3. Taconic Resources for Independence will establish a written agreement with one Dutchess County Human Service organization to offer on-site Special Education Advocacy Training. This will be a regular part of its staff training for professionals who work with high risk children.
4. At least one local school system or Committee on Special Education (CSE) will make a policy and procedural change in the development of transition plans for students with disabilities to include information on Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, post-secondary education, other community based service agency and organization linkages, and benefits.
5. There will be an increase in the number of people with disabilities that serve on education related non-profit community based agency or organization boards, committees, and task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
6. At least one school district will implement a disability awareness program for students, designed and / or presented by TRI staff.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. There will be a measurable increase in the number of integrated employment preparation programs, such as internship programs, community work experience programs, and job readiness training programs for persons with disabilities.

2. At least one area business will change its application form to eliminate questions that discriminate concerning a person's disability.
3. At least one local employer will incorporate disability awareness/sensitivity training either developed or endorsed by Taconic Resources for Independence as part of its new employee training/orientation process.
4. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with psychiatric disabilities, developmental disabilities, and/or who are deaf.
5. The Dutchess County Board of Elections will change policies and procedures regarding its poll worker training to improve the access for people with disabilities applying for employment as poll workers.

### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. At least one nursing home, adult home, or assisted living facility in Dutchess County will make a policy and procedural change in how it identifies and refers residents who wish to leave the facility to community resources to facilitate successful transitions to the community.
2. A local Health Care facility will change its procedures to have information packets include materials on Independent Living Centers and Agency linkages to enhance its resources for women with disabilities.
3. Through TRI's advocacy efforts, at least one Dutchess County Hospital will change its policies and procedures to have information packets include information on Independent Living Center, ACCES-VR and agency linkages as a regular part of preparing patients who are disabled for their transition back to the community.
4. At least one community or governmental agency providing mental health services will improve its accessibility to people who are Deaf.
5. At least one hospital or community health care center will change its policies and practices to ensure full access to health services by individuals who are Deaf.

### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. As a result of TRI identifying parking lots that do not have proper Disable handicap parking and providing information on accessible parking space guidelines, at least one local parking lot will be brought up to code.
2. At least one grocery store in Dutchess County will install accessible technology in the self-service check-out line.
3. City Cab Company of Poughkeepsie will adopt policies and practices for drivers that ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
4. At least one American Legion post in our service area will install a ramp and/or other building modifications to improve access for persons who are disabled.
5. TRI will ensure that the City of Poughkeepsie Police Dept. and the Dutchess County Office of the Sheriff provide access to appropriate communication services and/or technology for people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

6. Dutchess County Courts and/or the Poughkeepsie City Court will improve access to appropriate communication services or technology for people who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of accessible recreational and/or social activities in Dutchess County.
2. At least one recreational facility/program will establish and post easily identifiable policies and procedures for consumers with disabilities to request and receive individual assistance ensuring equal service.
3. At least one Dutchess County entertainment entity such as a movie theatre and theatrical venue will provide accommodations for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Blind.
4. At least one movie theatre will install non-intrusive open/closed captioning to be available at every movie in the theatre for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. Dutchess County Political leaders will adopt policies that ensure meetings and rallies are held at accessible locations and there materials are in alternate formats when requested. TRI will ensure this is done by having elected officials sign a Pledge Letter stating their intent to be inclusive in the disability community.
2. Poughkeepsie ILC will ensure that disaster preparation and disaster relief plans address the needs and concerns of people with disabilities.
3. At least one local government (village/town) will establish policies and procedures for the provision of sign language interpreter services at Community Council meetings.
4. At least one local government (village/town) will install assisted listening devices for Community Council meetings.

## **27. PUTNAM**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Putnam Independent Living Services  
Address: 1961 Route 6, 2nd Floor, Carmel, New York 10512  
Contract No.: C10997  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Joe Bravo, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Shelley Klein

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Education Advocacy**

1. A disabilities awareness track either developed or endorsed by PILS will be instituted as part of the school personnel training curriculum in at least one school district in PILS' service area.
2. At least one school district will incorporate a transition event where families and students can come to learn about community resources, employment, higher education, and other services available for students with disabilities upon graduation.
3. A local school district BOCES, or Early Intervention Program, will incorporate an Independent Living Philosophy presentation either developed or endorsed by PILS into a training curriculum for its staff and parents.
4. To increase parental awareness of services for students with disabilities, a local school district will add WILC's website and mission statement to their website, under the link for "Helpful Student Links for Parents".
5. In at least one school district, a student/parent advocacy network/infrastructure will be established with organized teams of trained consumer advocates available to address special education issues as they arise.
6. At least one school system will change its policies and procedures to have the community resource referral packet include information about Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages to facilitate successful transition from high school.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of integrated employment preparation programs, such as internship programs, community work experience programs, and job readiness training programs for persons with disabilities.
2. PILS will establish a written arrangement with a local food pantry or soup kitchen to provide on-site outreach services including: information and referral, benefits advisement and

information about employment support programs for the disabled participants who desire the Center's assistance.

3. PILS will establish formal agreements whereby more community agencies have presentations to consumers about work incentives.

### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. A nursing home will change its policies and procedures to include in its admission literature information about community supports available to maintain independence in the community.
2. There will be an increase in the number of physician's offices, clinics, hospitals, and dental offices that improve physical and communication access for persons with disabilities, e.g. examination tables, dental chairs, mammography equipment, and American Sign Language Interpreters.
3. One medical facility will incorporate PILS' Independent Living philosophy presentation into its curriculum for its discharge planning staff.
4. Improve access to medical facilities, including accessible parking and interior access, such as restrooms and signage.
5. There will be an increase in the number of local human service agencies and public health services that provide brochures and pertinent program information in accessible formats.

### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. At least one restaurant will provide its menu in an accessible format.
2. The local public transit company will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all transit/driving personnel on disability sensitivity and awareness.
3. There will be an increase in the number of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III entities that are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities in the Center's service area.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. At least one community club or service organization will adopt a policy assuring that meeting places are fully accessible.
2. There will be an increase in the number of accessible faith-based organizations and institutions in Putnam County.
3. One community service organization will establish a formal agreement with PILS to provide disability awareness training for all of its members.

### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. Political candidates will adopt policies that ensure that meetings and rallies are held in accessible locations.
2. At least one village or town will establish policies and procedures that ensure focus groups, meetings and rallies for candidates are held in an accessible location.

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3. There will be an increase in the number of individuals with disabilities or Center staff serving on community boards/committees and task forces that previously had no or limited consumer/disability representation.

## 28. QUEENS

### NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

#### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Center For Independence Of The Disabled Of New York,  
Queens  
Address: 137-02A Northern Boulevard, Flushing, NY 11354  
Contract No.: C11000  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Susan Dooha, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Martin Eichel

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. At least one local school district will either change policies and procedures to comply with or demonstrate enforcement of the new NYS Dignity for All Students Act (signed into law September 2010, effective July 2012) and the recent cyberbullying legislative amendment (signed into law June 2012, effective July 2013).
2. The New York State Board of Regents will establish policies and procedures that will (i) integrate the Career and Technical Education (CTE) with ELA and Math Regents exams and substitute one of the Regents exam with a CTE assessment in order for a student with a disability to obtain a Regents diploma; (ii) consider safety net options such as Regents exam scoring variations, flexibility in selection of Regents exams, and substitution of required courses in order for students with disabilities to earn a local diploma.
3. CIDNY-QUEENS will establish written arrangements whereby a least five schools in New York City will offer on-site the Center's Strides program, a transition program for youth with disabilities who are bilingual and bicultural.
4. The New York City Department of Education will establish policies and procedures to address the issues of mental health needs of students in schools without excessive reliance on suspensions and emergency room visits.
5. As a result of advocacy by CIDNY-QUEENS and others in the community and evaluation of the practices of District Offices, the New York State Department of Education will adopt policies and procedures that ensure that the IEPs are developed within the 90 day time frame required by law.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. As a result of a White Paper jointly developed by the State Rehabilitation Council and ACCES-VR, ACCES-VR will adopt policies and procedures to increase the numbers of



workers with disabilities that can fill “middle-skills” jobs in the economy.

2. ACCES-VR will amend the current vehicle modification policy to address developments in technology that affect vehicle use for individuals with disabilities seeking employment.

### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. As part of its implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the New York State legislature will establish a “Disability Navigators Program” and a “Consumer Assistance Program” that address the health coverage and care needs of people with disabilities.
2. At least one workforce training program established by the New York State Department of Health pursuant to New York State’s Medicaid 1115 Waiver program will institute disability literacy training components for its staff that are designed or endorsed by CIDNY-QUEENS and are approved by the federal government.
3. The New York State Department of Health will change policies and procedures for the Medicaid Redesign initiatives to correct any disparities in outcomes based upon disability.
4. New York will implement a Health Benefit Exchange: (i) capable of evaluating people for all possible Medicaid eligibility categories, including those in SSI-related forms of coverage, so that people with disabilities have equal access to the program; (ii) that requires current state insurance law-defined benefits to be maintained in policies sold inside and outside the Exchange in order to minimize adverse selection; (iii) that implements policies and procedures to decrease disparities in health care services and performance on the basis of race or ethnicity, primary language, gender and disability status.
5. New York will continue to require all Medicaid benefits defined in State public health and social services laws to be covered for newly Medicaid eligible individuals regardless of whether they are identified as “benchmark benefits” by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
6. The NYS Legislature will amend the 2011 State law regarding limits on Medicaid benefits and services, including physical therapy, to provide for a physician override of the limits when medically necessary.
7. The legislature will modify State insurance law to extend network adequacy and out-of-network requirements to all products in the health insurance market.
8. The legislature will pass legislation that ensures that consumers do not experience “surprise” medical bills for health plan out-of-network services.
9. Pursuant to the Affordable Care Act, New York State will design and implement the Community First Choice Option as the centerpiece to an aggressive Olmstead implementation strategy ensuring the right of individuals to be served in the most integrative setting.
10. New York State will enact a basic health plan that will serve people with incomes up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
11. The New York State Department of Health will adopt a policy and procedure for prequalifying immigrants’ residence and income eligibility for emergency Medicaid and for providing pre-emergency Medicaid services to uninsured individuals who have multiple chronic illnesses.
12. New York State will pass legislation to merge the individual direct pay and small group health insurance pools resulting in lower premiums for people who must purchase comprehensive coverage on their own.

13. New York State's managed long-term care program and its managed long-term care program for people with disabilities eligible for Medicaid and Medicare will, as a matter of contract, address Americans with Disabilities Act compliance of health plans and providers.
14. New York State's Health Improvement Plan for 2012-2017 will include provisions for improving the health status of people with disabilities.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) will restore the "health related priority" it had for housing applicants until 2007, which aided individuals with disabilities whose current living conditions presented a direct threat to their lives.
2. NYCHA and New York City Department of Homeless Services will modify procedures related to acceptance of housing placements to ensure that placements offered are accessible to people with disabilities and that refusal of inaccessible placements does not result in demotion on the housing placement list.
3. New York City will enact a Section 8 program similar to the federal Section 8 program to create more housing opportunities for very low income individuals with disabilities.
4. NYCHA will modify its policies and procedures to comply with federal guidance that requires that non-elderly disabled housing vouchers be used only by non-elderly disabled individuals.
5. As the result of collaboration with the New York State Division on Human Rights, volunteers will perform an access study of Manhattan restaurants, bars and coffee shops near accessible transportation hubs, at least four restaurants will improve their access.
6. As a result of the Center's efforts to assist individuals who are blind or have limited vision that are discriminated against based upon the use of service animals in public accommodations, a public accommodations discrimination complaint will be filed with the NYS Division of Human Rights or other appropriate authority and will be successfully settled.
7. The Legislature will pass legislation requiring local departments of social services to offer disability screening to all applicants for and recipients of public assistance.
8. The Legislature will pass legislation to require local departments of social services to determine if a public assistance recipient lacks child care, transportation, is exempt from work activities, or needs an accommodation for a disability or medical limitation before taking a negative case action or sanction against the recipient.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

NONE

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. The New York City Board of Elections (NYC BOE) will create an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance plan for all polling sites, with input from the disability community. That compliance plan will be prominently displayed on their website and reviewed annually. The plan will be distributed to all polling site supervisors and deputies.

The NYCBOE will monitor compliance with the ADA plan and report publicly after each election all poll sites that do not meet the plan's standards.

2. The New York City Board of Elections (NYC BOE) will as a matter of policy provide information on accessible entrances on their online polling site finder.
3. The New York City Board of Elections (NYCBOE) will create schematics for all poll sites that ensure that Ballot Marking Devices and scanners provide privacy for all voters. The Board will also provide regular training for poll site workers on proper set-up and disability etiquette for machine use.
4. The City of New York will amend its emergency response and preparedness plan to address the critical needs of people with disabilities during emergencies and disasters and in recovery.
5. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region II office in New York City will adopt policies and procedures that ensure all meetings in New York City are held in accessible buildings. Region II covers New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

## **29. ROCHESTER**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center:	Regional Center for Independent Living
Address:	497 State Street, Rochester, New York 14608
Contract No.:	C10985
Report Period:	October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013
Contact Person:	Bruce E. Darling, President/CEO
Program Contact:	Marsha Sweet, Assistant Director of IL Programs
Board President Authorization:	Ray Kenney, Board Chair

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Education Advocacy**

1. At least one local school system or Committee on Special Education (CSE) will make a policy change in the development of transition plans for students with disabilities to include information on Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and community based service agency linkages.
2. There will be an increase in the number of people with disabilities that serve on education related non-profit community based agency or organization boards, committees, and task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
3. RCIL will have at least one Committee on Special Education (CSE) within the Center's service area incorporate the New York State Independent Living Philosophy and History DVD as a regular part of disability awareness training for Committee members.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. There will be a measurable increase in the number of integrated employment preparation programs, such as community work experience programs and job readiness training programs, for persons with disabilities.
2. New York State legislature will amend the vehicle and traffic law to permit licensing and employment of truck drivers who are deaf.
3. RCIL will establish a written agreement with local Veteran associations to provide work readiness and support programs for Veterans with disabilities.
4. At least one area business will improve access for employees, or potential employees, with disabilities.
5. At least one union or business council will improve its access by providing materials in alternative formats and holding meetings in an accessible location.

### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. A local medical facility will change policies and procedures to provide information packets on the youth services, youth transition and Independent Living services available through RCIL to their patients.
2. New York's implementation of Managed Long term Care will not result in a reduction of personal care and consumer directed personal assistance services to consumers, or force consumers into nursing facilities.
3. At least one local hospital will establish and follow policies and procedures for the provision of interpreter services.
4. A Long-term facility or rehabilitation center will change their policies to include information on community resources, which allow people to remain in the community.

### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of affordable, accessible, integrated housing options for people with disabilities.
2. Public and para-transportation access for Monroe County residents with disabilities will demonstrate measurable improvement.
3. At least two area businesses will improve access for potential consumers with disabilities with the provision of technical assistance equipment and/or ramps wider doors, and grab handle doorknobs etc.
4. One additional community based agency will establish an accessible housing program to provide home modifications needed to allow individuals with disabilities to remain independent in their own homes, with technical support provided through a written agreement with RCIL.
5. RCIL will ensure that the City of Rochester Police Department and the Monroe County Office of the Sheriff provide access to appropriate communication services and/or technology for people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.
6. Monroe County Courts and/or the Rochester City Court will improve access to appropriate communication services or technology for people who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing.
7. At least one television news or other program and/or internet service provider will change its policies and procedures to increase the provision of captioning services.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. RCIL will increase accessible recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities.
2. There will be an increase in the number of integrated social activities in the community for persons with disabilities and their family members.
3. At least one theatre will change its policies and procedures to increase the provision of captioning services.

### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. Full implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) will be achieved in New York State.

2. At least one local government (village/town) will establish policies and procedures for the provision of sign language interpreter services at Community Council meetings.
3. At least one village or town will establish policies and procedures that ensure focus groups, meetings and rallies for local candidates are held in an accessible format.
4. Increase the availability, provision and/or quality of captioning services in public hearings.

## **30. ROCKLAND**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Rockland Independent Living Center  
Address: 873 Route 45, Suite 108, New City, NY 10956  
Contract No.: C10986  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: George Hoehmann, Executive Director/CEO  
Board President Authorization: Audrey Rosenfield, President

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Education Advocacy**

1. One local school district or independent school will incorporate Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Training, developed by RILC, as part of its' staff in—service training curriculum.
2. A local high school or independent school will establish policies and procedures to conduct an annual Disability Awareness Day celebration, developed by RILC, to promote disability awareness for its students.
3. One local school will change its policies and procedures to incorporate parent information nights as an educational component for families with children with an Individual Education Plan.
4. A local school district will make procedural changes to transition plans for students with disabilities to include information on PASS, ACCES-VR, CBVH, RILC advocacy, and linkages to other community-based agencies and organizations.
5. One NYS Correctional facility will offer on-site presentations on Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages as a regular part of preparing inmates who have a disability for their transition back to the community.
6. BOCES or an Early Intervention Program in Rockland County will incorporate a Disability and Sensitivity Training/Independent Living Philosophy Presentation developed by RILC, into a training curriculum for its' staff and/or students' parents.
7. A local public school district will add RILC's website and mission statement to their website, under the link: "Helpful Student Links for Parents" to increase parental awareness of services for students with disabilities.
8. A student/parent advocacy network/infrastructure will be established in one school district to address special education issues as they arise.
9. One or more neighborhood-based organizations in a culturally diverse community will establish a policy to include, as part of its informational materials, information about disability and early intervention/education services in both English and Spanish.

10. A local school district will incorporate a transition event where families and students can come to learn about community resources, employment, higher education, and other services available for students with disabilities upon graduation.
11. A local high school that serves students classified with emotional disturbances will change policies and procedures to routinely provide information on various benefit programs.

## **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. One business will make changes to its employment policies and procedures to comply with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
2. One business in Rockland County will produce an audio accessible version of its employee handbook.
3. RILC, in affiliation with New York Employment Support Services, (NYESS), will establish a contract with the US Social Security Administration to serve as an Employment Network to provide employment services under the Ticket To Work Program.
4. One major employer in Rockland County will incorporate Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Training, conducted by RILC, as an annual in-service program for new personnel.
5. One business/employer will make its employment application available in large print for applicants who are visually impaired.
6. One Chamber of Commerce or other business membership organization in Rockland County will provide Disability Awareness Training to its members, provided by RILC.
7. A local food pantry or soup kitchen, in collaboration with RILC, will provide on-site outreach services, including but not limited to: information and referral, benefits advisement, and information about employment support programs for persons with disabilities who go to their facilities.
8. As a result of RILC and the NYS Office For People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) collaboratively working to change hiring policies, at least one company in Rockland County will change its hiring policies to become compliant with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
9. An employment agency will establish an outreach policy directed towards finding employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
10. At least one corporation in Rockland County will amend their diversity policies to include people with disabilities.
11. At least one Corporation will establish policies and procedures to reach out to people with disabilities for employment opportunities.

## **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. A long term care facility in Rockland County (hospital, nursing home or a rehabilitation center) will change its policies and procedures to include information on community resources, which will allow people (its' residents/patients) to transition to or remain in the community.
2. One community agency in Rockland County will make a policy and procedural change to facilitate a more efficient referral process for community services, including Independent Living Center services and resources.



3. A community agency in Rockland County will establish a Peer Program to provide options for living a healthier lifestyle to the community of people with disabilities in Rockland County.
4. A local nursing home will include a peer group to explore issues regarding community living as part of its community transition process.
5. A community agency in Rockland County will change its policies and procedures to ensure that the individuals with disabilities that they serve are fully informed about the services available to help them transition from an institution or remain in the community.
6. A Mental Health provider in Rockland County will increase the availability of psychiatric/evaluation and other mental health services (including services for consumers with dual diagnosis), as well as non-psychiatric diagnosis and evaluative medical services for children and/or adults with disabilities.
7. A patient-based facility in Rockland County will make the information being provided to the general public available in alternate forms.
8. Medical offices will create information about their services in an alternate form (i.e. large print, Braille and audio tapes).
9. At least one community or government agency providing health care services to victims of crime, abuse, and domestic violence will improve its accessibility to people with disabilities.
10. At least one community-based organization in Rockland County that refers consumers to Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPA) services will make a policy and procedural change to facilitate a more efficient referral process for CDPA services.
11. A health care provider in Rockland County will become compliant with Title II and/or Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
12. A Veteran's Affairs Hospital will change its policies and procedures to have information packets include information on RILC, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages as a regular part of preparing Veterans who have a disability for their transition back to the community.
13. An organization that supports individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia issues will change its policies, procedures and practices to ensure individuals and their family members are fully informed about available community services, RILC and CDPAP.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. One local media outlet will make a policy and procedural change to report on accessibility for people with disabilities when reviewing local restaurants/eateries.
2. One municipality in Rockland County will change its policies and procedures to ensure persons using their services that are Deaf or Hard of Hearing are fully informed about the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Visor Communication Cards.
3. The Rockland County Planning Department will change its project review policies and procedures to address compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) when offering recommendations and guidance to local municipalities and developers prior to project approval.
4. In Rockland County there will be an increase in the number of affordable, integrated and accessible housing options for people with disabilities.
5. One restaurant in Rockland County will provide its menu in an alternative format (i.e. large print) and make it available upon request to its clients who are visually impaired.

6. RILC will establish a written arrangement whereby a law enforcement agency will offer on-site disability sensibility training conducted by RILC as a regular part of its training curriculum for employees.
7. A private and/or a public retirement community will improve access by making its resident's handbook available in alternative forms.
8. One agency working in the Rockland County Family Court system will integrate an Independent Living Philosophy Presentation, either developed or endorsed by RILC, into their training for professionals working in Family Court.
9. One library in Rockland County will have computer programs installed enabling access for blind/low vision patrons.
10. At least one municipality will establish the position of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator and develop and publish an ADA grievance procedure and compliance policy.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. One public fitness facility in Rockland County will become accessible to persons with disabilities.
2. One playground in Rockland County will improve its access by installing a therapeutic and accessible piece of playground equipment to better serve persons with disabilities.
3. A recreational facility/program in Rockland County will establish and post easily identifiable policies and procedures for visitors/clients with disabilities to request and receive individual assistance ensuring equal service.
4. A local library will establish a book (or film) discussion program that meets periodically to explore disability literature and its portrayal of Disability Culture.
5. RILC will establish a written agreement with the Haverstraw Community Center for RILC to provide on-site Mental Health Recovery Social Support and "Drop In" services.
6. A municipal recreation department in Rockland County will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all personnel in the areas of disability awareness and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).
7. RILC will establish a program supported by grant funding and/or assigned human resources, to peer mentor individuals with disabilities and mental health disabilities to increase their participation in social and recreational activities/events.
8. One theater in Rockland County will change its policies and procedures to increase the provision of captioning services and/or ensure proper distribution of seating for wheelchair users.
9. A local public transportation company will provide accessible transportation to persons with disabilities enabling them to attend social activities that were previously inaccessible.

### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. The Rockland County Board of Elections will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of polling site workers to appropriately assist people with disabilities to participate in the voting process.

2. The Rockland County Board of Elections will change its outreach and marketing policies and procedures to more effectively reach persons with disabilities in order to promote inclusion and supply information about the voting process.
3. One transportation provider in Rockland County will change its policies and procedures to make its accessible vans and buses available to transport persons with disabilities to the polls on election days, and this will become an ongoing service.
4. A local government in Rockland County will routinely provide agendas in an alternate format for/at publicly attended meetings.
5. There will be an increase in the number of consumers/staff/Board that serves on community and statewide Boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
6. A local government agency will adopt Disaster Preparation and Relief Plans addressing the needs and concerns of people with disabilities.
7. The Rockland County Board of Elections will adopt a policy whereby poll site coordinators will routinely use a RILC developed check-list to ensure that the appropriate accessibility features are properly in place for each Election Day.

# 31. STATEN ISLAND

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Staten Island Center for Independent Living  
Address: 470 Castleton Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301  
Contract No.: C10990  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Lorraine De Santis, LCSW, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Anna Williams

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

###### GOAL 1

**Issue:** There are no trade schools on Staten Island for students with disabilities who graduate from High School and who may not be capable of passing remedial courses in college in order to gain entrance.

**Activities:** The executive director will collaborate with the Staten Island Parent to Parent Project Coordinator to advocate with local legislators to assist in beginning trade school programs on Staten Island for students after graduation from high school.

**Goal:** A vocational program or trade school will be opened on Staten Island that is integrated and accessible for person with disabilities.

###### GOAL 2

**Issue:** At the present time, only one school is allowing SICIL to provide input to Transition Coordinators and parents at the NYC department of Education.

**Activities:** The executive director will collaborate with Joanne Ward, Director of Parent to Parent to develop a power point a presentation to parents of special education students and transition coordinators preparing them for transition into adult life after high school using the independent living philosophy.

**Goal:** New York City Department of Education will change its policies and procedures to routinely include SICIL staff as well as materials on Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR

and community based services in the development of transition plans for students with disabilities.

### **GOAL 3**

**Issue:** Two of the three colleges on Staten Island provide information about SICIL'S Independent Living Philosophy while St. John's University does not.

**Activities:** The Executive Director will collaborate with St. John's University to provide presentations to college employees who work with individuals with disabilities and to students who are studying to enter into the field of providing services to individuals with disabilities.

**Goal:** All colleges on Staten Island will incorporate SICIL's Independent Living Philosophy presentation into its curriculum for staff and students in professional preparation programs that work with persons with disabilities.

### **GOAL 4**

**Issues:** Although some public libraries have computers equipped with JAWS, many library employees do not know how to instruct someone on its use.

**Activities:** The executive director will collaborate with the director of training for the public libraries to determine their needs and provide trainings.

**Goal:** SICIL will establish a written arrangement with at least two libraries to offer on-site computer trainings as a regular part of employee training.

### **GOAL 5**

**Issues:** At the present time, there is no act to amend the education law, in relation to instruction on the history of people with disabilities.

#### **Activities:**

- Although this bill was sponsored by Assemblyman Michael Cusick, it did not pass in the education committee because laws about curriculum cannot be passed through legislation, but must be put into place by the New York State Department of Education.
- The executive director will advocate for this curriculum with other stakeholders through the New York State Department of Education and with local principals of schools on Staten Island.

**Goal:** New York State legislature will pass legislation to promote greater awareness and understanding of people with disabilities by amending current NYS Education Law (Chapter 265 of the Laws of 2000) to require the NYS Education Department to make available to all students, grades kindergarten through twelve, suitable curriculum materials to aid in the instruction, understanding and acceptance of students with disabilities.

## **B. Employment Advocacy**

### **GOAL 1**

**Issue:** There are still some small businesses that aren't totally accessible.

**Activities:** The executive director will determine what businesses need modifications.

**Goal:** At least one area small business will become accessible for employees, or potential employees, with disabilities with the provision of a ramp, wider doors, grab handle doorknobs, etc.

### **Goal 2**

**Issue:** There are very few businesses on Staten Island that employ individuals with learning/developmental disabilities after they transition from high school.

**Activities:** The executive director will meet with Assemblyman Michael Cusick, who is chair of the Disabilities Committee and with Linda Baron, President of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce to encourage businesses to hire these individuals.

**Goal:** At least two businesses on Staten Island will change their policies to hire individuals who are transitioning out of high school.

## **C. Health Care Advocacy**

### **GOAL 1**

**Issues:** There is presently not enough oversight in facilities operated or licensed by OPWDD.

**Activities:** The executive director with the Advocacy Committee of the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council will advocate with local legislators to have Bill # A.6665/S.3067 (which requires that three unannounced visits be made to facilities each year) be signed into law.

**Goal:** New York State legislature will pass legislation that amends the current NYS Mental Hygiene Law to increase the frequency that visitation or inspections of facilities operated or licensed by the NYS Office For People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) must be made each year.

### **GOAL 2**

**Issues:** There is presently no developmental disabilities worker registry or mental health worker registry which would require providers of service to request criminal history information on certain prospective employees.

**Activities:** The executive director with the Advocacy Committee of the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council will advocate with local legislators to have Bill #A.6891/S.4768 (which states that providers of service will be required to request criminal history information on certain prospective employees and will also be required to submit to OPWDD a summary report of employees termination resulting from substantiated abuse or neglect. This report will be furnished to a prospective employer along with the criminal background check information.)

**Goal:** New York State legislature will pass legislation that amends the current NYS Mental Hygiene Law to establish a people with developmental disabilities registry and a mental health worker registry.

### **GOAL 3**

**Issue:** At the present time, there is no sensitivity training that is specific to individuals with autism and individuals who are dual diagnosed being offered in Island Hospitals for EMT staff.

**Activities:**

- The executive director will collaborate with at least both Island hospitals so that they will change their policies to include this training to their EMT staff.
- The executive director will provide this sensitivity training.

**Goal:**

- A Disability Awareness Training for First Responders developed by SICIL will be incorporated in training sessions to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) staff in Staten Island Hospitals.
- At least one Staten Island Hospital will change its policy to provide sensitivity training to its Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) staff.

### **GOAL 4**

**Issue:** There is not always appropriate psychiatric care for Individuals with disabilities that are dual diagnosed.

**Activities:**

- The executive director continues to be a member of the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council's Health and Clinical Committee.
- Members of that committee will continue to advocate for better psychiatric services with hospital administrators by continuing to offer sensitivity trainings.
- Members of the committee will advocate with legislators for funding for better psychiatric services.

**Goal:** Through the Health and Clinical Services Committee advocacy efforts, NYS Office For People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and other stakeholders will establish a specialized 24 hour mobile crisis unit on Staten Island.

## **GOAL 5**

**Issue:** Long term care facilities on Staten Island don't have support groups for residents.

**Activities:** The executive director will advocate with long term care facilities and SICIL staff will begin providing a support group for residents.

**Goal:** A long-term facility will change its policy to allow SICIL to conduct a support group for residents.

## **GOAL 6**

**Issue:** Discharge Planners at local hospitals do not routinely provide information about SICIL to patients with disabilities upon discharge.

**Activities:** The executive director will reach out to discharge planning units and provide them with brochures to include in their discharge planning packets.

**Goal:** At least one hospital will establish a policy requiring discharge planners to include SICIL's brochure in its discharge planning packets.

## **GOAL 7**

**Issue:** Bill # S.5249 by McDonald/A.7626 by Ortiz- Requires drug testing for potential employees of the Office of Mental Health and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. *Status:* Senate Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Committee; Assembly Mental Health Committee. This bill passed neither house and more advocacy efforts are necessary to have the bill re-introduced.

**Activities:** The executive director will advocate with local legislators to reintroduce this bill.

**Goal:** A bill that will require drug testing for potential employees of the Office of Mental Health and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities will be signed into law.

## **GOAL 8**

**Issue:** S.5257-A by Carlucci/A.7670-A by Weisenberg - Requires termination of an employee for a substantiated instance of sexual or physical abuse. *Status:* Senate Civil Service and Pensions Committee; Assembly Governmental Operations Committee PASSED NEITHER HOUSE

**Activities:** The executive director will advocate with local legislators to have this bill reintroduced and signed into law.

**Goal:** A bill requiring the termination of an employee for a substantiated instance of sexual or physical abuse will be reintroduced and signed into law.



## **GOAL 9**

**Issue:** S.4817 by Carlucci/A.7128 by Gunther - Requires video cameras to be placed in the entrance/exits of all facilities run by OPWDD. *Status:* Senate Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Committee; Assembly Mental Health Committee PASSED NEITHER HOUSE. IN COMMITTEE. DEAD.

**Activities:** The executive director will advocate with local legislators to have this bill reintroduced.

**Goal:** A bill that requires video cameras to be placed in the entrance/exits of all facilities run by OPWDD will be signed into law.

## **D. Commerce Advocacy**

### **GOAL 1**

**Issue:** At the present time, the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce does not have a policy whereby they routinely provide accessibility information or information about SICIL for people with disabilities.

**Activities:** The executive director will advocate with the president of the Chamber of Commerce to have them routinely provide accessibility information for individuals with disabilities.

**Goal:** The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce will make a policy and procedural change to routinely provide accessibility information and information about SICIL's services for people with disabilities.

### **GOAL 2**

**Issue:** There are many restaurants that do not provide menus in Braille.

**Activities:** The executive director will advocate with local restaurants to have their menus printed in Braille.

**Goal:** At least two more local restaurants will change their policies to provide menus in Braille and make it available to individuals who are blind.

### **GOAL 3**

**Issue:** There is currently no law requiring a sign at inaccessible building entrances, public toilets, and elevators giving directions to the nearest available accessible entrance or facility for persons with disabilities when such entrance or facility exists.

**Activities:** The executive director will advocate for a bill that will require a sign at inaccessible building entrances, public toilets, and elevators giving directions to the nearest available accessible entrance or facility for persons with disabilities when such entrance or facility exists.

**Goal:** A bill will be passed that will require a sign at inaccessible building entrances, public toilets, and elevators giving directions to the nearest available accessible entrance or facility for persons with disabilities when such entrance or facility exists.

## **E. Social Advocacy**

### **GOAL 1**

**Issue:** Outdoor social and recreational activities are not accessible for persons with disabilities and there are presently no efforts being made for inclusionary activities.

#### **Activities:**

- Executive Director will work on the Willowbrook Planning Committee to develop a plan for a state of the art, accessible center that will be completely accessible and will promote community inclusion
- The Committee will include stakeholders, including legislators from the community in order to encourage them to participate in the planning process and with funding for this project.
- The first step will be to invite stakeholders to assist in creating a totally accessible walking, running trail outside the perimeter of the Willowbrook Property.

#### **Goal:**

- Willowbrook Park on Staten Island will improve its architectural and communication access to people with disabilities.
- By July 2013, there will be a fully accessible walking, running trail around the perimeter of the Willowbrook Property.

### **GOAL 2**

**Issue:** Many recreational facilities/programs on Staten Island do not post policies and procedures for individuals with disabilities.

**Activities:** The executive director will advocate with recreational facilities to have them agree to post policies and procedures for individuals with disabilities.

**Goal:** At least one recreational facility/program will establish and post easily identifiable policies and procedures for individuals with disabilities to request and receive individual assistance ensuring equal service.

### **GOAL 3**

**Issue:** Some theaters in Staten Island do not provide closed captioning for individuals who are deaf/hard of hearing.

**Activities:** The executive director will advocate with local theaters to have them provide closed captioning.

**Goal:** At least one local theater will provide closed captioning and audio description.

## **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

### **GOAL 1**

**Issue:** Local Legislators are not always aware of the need to hold public meetings in accessible places.

**Activities:**

- Will meet with Legislators to educate them on the need to hold meetings in accessible places
- Will encourage Legislators to hold meetings at the SICIL building

**Goal:** At least two legislators will adopt policies that ensure that meetings and rallies are held in accessible locations.

### **GOAL 2**

**Issue:** High School students with disabilities are not taught self-advocacy and leadership skills.

**Activities:** The executive director will work with staff at the Hungerford School to provide a self advocacy group to high school students with disabilities.

**Goal:** SICIL will establish in at least one high school a student disability advocacy network/infrastructure with organized teams of trained consumer advocates available to address legislative civic issues as they arise.

## **32. SUFFOLK**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Self Initiated Living Options, Inc.  
dba Suffolk Independent Living Organization (SILO)  
Address: 2111 Lakeland Ave, Suite A Ronkonkoma, NY 11779  
Contract No C10987  
Report Period: October 1, 2012-September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Joseph M. Delgado  
Board President Authorization: Mary Ann Sciacca

#### **I. Community and Systems Advocacy Plan**

##### **A. Education Advocacy**

1. Two local school districts (one district on the west end and the other on the east end of Suffolk County) will incorporate an Independent Living Philosophy presentation either developed or endorsed by SILO into a training curriculum for its staff and parents.
2. SILO will establish in at least one high school a student disability advocacy network/infrastructure comprised of organized teams of trained consumer advocates to address special education issues as they arise.
3. Two local elementary schools will incorporate an annual disability awareness assembly into its curriculum
4. Two local school districts will implement policies, procedures and/or practices resulting in the inclusion of assistive technology information in Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities.
5. At least one school district will change its policies and procedures to incorporate parent information nights as an educational component for families with children with Individualized Education program (IEP) and Rehabilitation Act 504 plans.
6. A local Committee on Special Education (CSE) will incorporate the New York State Independent Living history and philosophy DVD as a regular part of disability awareness training for committee members.
7. SILO will establish a written arrangement whereby at least one NYS Correctional facility will offer on-site presentations on Independent Living Centers, ACCESVR, and agency linkages as a regular part of preparing inmates who are disabled to assist their transition back to the community.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. Establish a written arrangement whereby the local One-Stop Center will offer an on-site advocacy program for persons with disabilities.
2. SILO will establish a contract with the US Social Security Administration to serve as an Employment Network to provide employment Services under the Ticket To Work Program..
3. As a result of the advocacy of SILO, two Chamber of Commerce (one chamber on the west end and the other on the east end of Suffolk County) will integrate a disability awareness training either developed or endorsed by SILO to its members.

### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. A local health care facility will change policies and procedures to routinely include in its information packet material on community independent living resources, which allows individuals to remain in the community.
2. The local Department of Social Services will incorporate disability awareness/sensitivity training twice a year conducted by SILO as part of their training.
3. At least one patient based facility will make the information being provided to the general public available in alternate formats.

### **D. Commerce: Advocacy**

1. At least one Title III business will modify or construct an accessible website for people with disabilities.
2. As a result of the advocacy of SILO, at least one law enforcement agency will offer on-site disability sensitivity training either developed or endorsed by SILO as a regular part of its training for employees.
3. At least one newspaper will make a policy and procedural change to report on accessibility for people with disabilities when reporting on local restaurants/eateries.
4. There will be an increase in the number of integrated accessible/adaptable housing units available to persons with disabilities.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. At least one area special event will improve access for people with disabilities.
2. SILO will increase the number of integrated and accessible book clubs for people with disabilities.
3. There will be an increase in the availability of integrated and accessible recreational facilities for people with disabilities in Suffolk County.

### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. Increase participation of individuals with disabilities and/or center staff on community, regional and state boards/committees/task forces that previously not had effective representation from the disability community.
2. At least one area agency serving people with disabilities will change its policies and procedures to make its accessible vans and buses available to transport persons with

disabilities not affiliated with the agency to the polls on election days, and this will become an ongoing election day service.

3. The Suffolk County Board of Elections will incorporate a training program on disability sensitivity and awareness for its poll watchers that is developed, endorsed or conducted by SILO.
4. The Suffolk County Board of Elections will adopt a policy whereby poll site coordinators will routinely use a SILO-developed check-list designed to ensure that appropriate accessibility features are properly in place for each Election Day.

## 33. SULLIVAN

### NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

#### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name Of Center: Independent Living, Inc.  
Address: 10 Prince Street Suite 12, Monticello, NY 12701  
Contract No. C11002  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Persons: Stuart Kessler, Director Of Compliance & Program  
Operations And Suzanne Tremper, Director Of Programs  
Board President Authorization: Matthew Migliaccio

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

Advocate for systemic changes that result universal access to educational opportunities and related supportive services for children ages birth to 21, and to ensure a successful transition of students with disabilities from school to adult life. Continue to advocate for an end to educational services that segregate children with disabilities, denying them the right to equally choose, equally participate and equally benefit.

##### ACTIVITIES

- Advocate to reduce the incidence of segregated special education services for students with psychiatric disabilities by advocating for the adoption of inclusive educational practices and demand responsive supportive services that enable these students to learn in regular classroom settings.
- Provide student self-advocacy training that will enable students to better understand their rights, options, choices concerning their education and transition to adult services.
- Advocate to increase the number of parents and students actively participating in the IEP process in public school districts served by the Sullivan Board of Cooperative Educational Services.
- Advocate to increase the enforcement of the rights and responsibilities of schools under laws related to special education, especially Section 504 and IDEA. Specifically advocate with school administration and instructional staff to create effective Individual Education Program (IEP) and 504 Plans for students with disabilities at school districts throughout Sullivan County.
- Advocate to eliminate harmful restraint and seclusion in schools.

- Advocate to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to make improvements to the individualized education program under that Act and facilitate the transition of children with disabilities to adulthood, and for other purposes.
- Advocate to amend the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 to provide assistance to States for development and implementation of an individual transition plan for each individual with a developmental disability in the State who is making the transition from the secondary school system into adulthood, and for other purposes.

## OUTCOMES

1. One or more school districts in Sullivan County will institute a disability awareness track developed by ILI-Monticello as part of the school personnel-training curriculum.
2. One school district will change its policies and procedures to facilitate increased participation by students with disabilities in the Committee on Special Education (CSE) process.
3. At least one school district will change or adopt policy that requires all sign language interpreters to be certified and evaluated prior to being hired to serve in the classroom.
4. At least one school district will incorporate a bullying awareness sensitivity track for individuals with disabilities either developed or endorsed by ILI-Monticello.
5. Sullivan Community College will adapt a track on increasing awareness and acceptance for people with disabilities either developed or endorsed by ILI-Monticello.
6. One (or more) preschool(s) serving non-disabled children will develop and implement an integrated co-teaching program to serve children with disabilities.
7. The NYS Legislature will pass the (S. 2860), the Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act.
8. Congress will pass the THR 602 TEAM Education Act; and the President will sign it.
9. Congress will pass the THR 603 TEAM Empowerment Act; and the President will sign it.

## **B. Employment Advocacy**

Advocate for systemic changes that result in an end to segregated, sheltered workshops. Increase the capacity of persons with disabilities to obtain and retain competitive employment.

## ACTIVITIES

- Advocate for systemic changes that result in an end to segregated, sheltered workshops.
- Increase the capacity of persons with disabilities to obtain and retain competitive employment.
- Advocate for equality of employment for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Advocate for equality of employment for persons who are blind or visually impaired.
- Advocate for equality of employment for persons with developmental disabilities.
- Advocate for equality of employment for persons with significant psychiatric disabilities.
- Advocate for physical and procedural changes at One-Stops in Sullivan County that facilitate increase participation by persons with significant disabilities.
- Advocate for an increase in the availability of flexible, individualized supportive services (e.g. intensive vocational service coordination, flex funds, transportation and child care



assistance) designed to address issues outside of work that directly bear upon placement stabilization.

- Advocate for increased participation by individuals with significant disabilities in the New York State Medicaid Buy-In for Working People with Disabilities Program which is designed to reduce or eliminate fear of losing important medical benefits when entering employment.
- Advocate for a measurable increase in the number of competitive employment opportunities that are made available to persons with significant disabilities, by employers that have not previously hired persons with disabilities.
- Provide orientation and training opportunities to transitioning special education students to help them to become familiar with ILI employment services and to jump start their transition plan.
- IL, Inc. will advocate against efforts by NYSDOT and USDOT in prohibiting Deaf persons pursuing truck driver licensing, and encourage both NYS and USDOT to reconsider archaic policies and develop licensing procedures for Deaf truck drivers.
- Advocate to amend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to authorize grants for the transition of youths with significant disabilities to adulthood.

## OUTCOMES

1. ILI-Monticello will establish a written agreement with at least one local school district to conduct an annual orientation presenting pertinent employment programs and services available to transitioning special education students.
2. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodations to persons who are deaf.
3. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodations to persons who are blind.
4. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodation to employees with developmental disabilities.
5. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with significant psychiatric disabilities.
6. The Center will establish a written arrangement whereby the local One-Stop will distribute hand- outs and brochures for ILI-Monticello.
7. NYS Department of Transportation and US Department of Transportation will establish policies that allow Deaf persons to obtain truck driving licensure, thus expanding employment opportunities.
8. Congress will pass the HR 604 TEAM Employment Act and the President will sign it.

## **C. Health Care Advocacy**

Continue to advocate for increasing the capacity of community-based supportive services to a level sufficient to enable persons presently confined to nursing homes and other restrictive settings, or at-risk of confinement, to return to, or remain in the community as an alternative to institutionalization – consistent with the Olmstead decision of 1999.

## ACTIVITIES

- Advocate to government agencies and other providers for the most integrated setting for people with disabilities when providing programs and services, including housing.
- Advocate for changes in local institutional policies and practices that will result in increased referrals to community based living options.
- Advocate with community organizations so as to produce a measurable increase in the number of such organizations referring consumers to Consumer Directed Personal Assistance services that have not previously done so.
- Advocate for improved access to health care services for individuals with disabilities who are victims of crime, abuse, and domestic violence.
- Advocate for changes in local mental health system policies and practices that refocus services on recovery and wellness.
- Advocate with community organizations so as to produce a measurable increase in the number of such organizations referring consumers to Consumer Directed Personal Assistance services that have not previously done so.
- Advocate for changes in the policies and practices of providers in the local health care system that will ensure full access to health services by individuals who are Deaf.
- Advocate for changes in the policies and practices of providers in the local mental health care system that will ensure equal access to mental health services by individuals who are Deaf.
- Advocate for the passage of the Community Choice Act in Congress.
- ILI, Inc. will advocate for consumers by organizing and attending a Fair Hearing session when an unjust ruling is submitted.
- Advocate for passage of the Hearing Aid Bill requesting that NYS legislature require insurance companies doing business in NYS to provide hearing aid coverage policies as an alternative to more costly cochlear implants. Additionally, to support any NYS tax credits that can be provided to users of hearing aid devices.
- ILI, Inc. will inform and educate Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Managed Long Term Care organizations (MLTCs) of the nature and purpose of the CDPA Program.
- ILI, Inc. will advocate to establish a peer run organization to work directly with people with psychiatric diagnosis and/or substance abuse history incorporating person-centered planning that will improve the quality of life and achievement of personal goals.

## OUTCOMES

1. At least one local physician's office will improve physical and communication access for persons with disabilities.
2. A local health care facility will adopt a practice assuring the proper training of all personnel on disability sensitivity and awareness.
3. At least one community or governmental agency providing health care services to victims of crime, abuse, and domestic violence will improve its accessibility to people with disabilities.
4. At least one community or governmental agency providing mental health services will improve its accessibility to people who are Deaf.
5. At least one hospital or community health care center will change its policies and practices to ensure full access to health services by individuals who are Deaf.

6. One or more local departments of social services will establish an agreement with the independent living center to adopt an ongoing practice of providing periodic disability awareness training to all DSS personnel.
7. Congress will pass the Community Choice Act.
8. One or more behavioral health units at community hospitals will establish an agreement, and change their protocol, to enable on-site inpatient participation of Mental Health Peers regarding inpatient engagement and discharge planning to ensure reduction in recidivism of inpatient care and better consumer connection to community supports and resources.
9. One or more local departments of mental health, mobile mental health teams and hospital emergency departments will change policies and procedures to allow ILI-Monticello trained mental health peers to assist in hospital diversion initiatives and supports, thus reducing recidivism and first time psychiatric admissions.
10. One or more ILI-Monticello staff will become a member of a key Long Term Care Task Force that will set the direction and tone of how the county will adopt changes from the state to provide Long Term Care services to the disability population and that previously has not had representation from the disability community.
11. NYS Department of Health will change policies and procedures to establish Fair Hearing proceedings to ensure equity relating to community discharge from institutions.
12. ILI-Monticello will establish a written agreement with Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility to become part of the discharge plan to assist individuals to return to the community.
13. One or more community service organizations will establish a written agreement with ILI-Monticello to provide disability awareness training for all of its members.
14. NY State will pass the Hearing Aid Bill requiring insurance companies to provide Hearing Aid Coverage and support NYS tax credits that can be provided to users of hearing aid devices.
15. ILI-Monticello, in collaboration with CDPAANYS (Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of NY State), will contract with individual Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Managed Long Term Care organizations (MLTCs) to provide Fiscal Intermediary services for individuals with CDPAP home care to maintain continuity of their current service
16. NYS will adopt an Olmstead Implementation Plan, which complies with the letter and spirit of the Supreme Court decision.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

Continue to advocate for systemic changes that result in universal access to public transportation, public buildings, communication systems and other amenities. Increase the capacity of people with disabilities to engage in local marketplace activities including shopping, dining out, using recreational facilities and participating in community events by increasing the number of Title III entities that are accessible in the Sullivan County area.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

- Advocate with local municipalities regarding the consistent enforcement of accessible/adaptable requirements in new construction.

- Provide ADA training and technical support to local code enforcement officials and or other municipal departments.
- Advocate for increased accessible housing options for persons with disabilities.
- Advocate for compliance under the newly enacted state law and the ADA, requiring physical accessibility to local marketplace activities.
- Advocate with state and federal legislators on housing issues for people with disabilities, including visitability, Section 504, and source of income legislation.
- Continue to advocate for increased accessible housing options for persons with disabilities.
- Advocate for funding to provide “Housing First” model living arrangements for individuals with psychiatric disabilities.
- Advocate for increased accessible transportation in Sullivan County and seek to establish an accessible transportation program, including accessible transportation in all new city development planning and neighborhood development.
- Advocate with local legislators on transportation issues, including accessibility of taxis. Advocate for this legislation to become New York State law.
- Advocate for federal passage of HR 3101 (Communications and Video Accessibility Act) which will benefit countless Deaf residents of New York State with mandating all internet enabled telephone, computer and television products to be accessible including captioning requirements.

## OUTCOMES

1. There will be an increase in the number of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III entities that are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities in the center's service area.
2. A local housing organization will establish an accessible housing program that makes home modification services available to residences throughout Sullivan County, with technical support provided under contract with the independent living center.
3. At least one local landlord will make additional, accessible housing units available for persons with physical disabilities.
4. At least one local landlord will make additional, housing units available for persons with psychiatric disabilities and/or substance abuse issue.
5. Sullivan County Department of Family Services will make environmental improvements for access at their various sites.
6. The federal Passage of HR 3101, mandating that all internet enabled telephone, computer and television products be accessible including captioning requirements.

## **E. Social Advocacy**

Continue to advocate for systemic changes that result in an end to segregated, dead-end day programs, and the increased inclusion of people with disabilities in service and social clubs, special interest organizations, and other integrated community activities.

## ACTIVITIES

- Advocate to increase the number of community clubs and service organizations that are accessible by individuals with significant disabilities.

- Advocate with local municipalities to ensure that stadiums, auditoriums, parks and other public recreational facilities are fully accessible.
- Advocate for an increase in the number of integrated social and recreational activities in the community for persons with disabilities.
- Create integrated community activities that increase opportunity for people with disabilities to increase their self sufficiency, wellness and self worth.

## OUTCOMES

1. At least one community club or service organization will adopt a policy assuring that meeting places are fully accessible.
2. One or more community service organizations will establish a formal agreement with ILI-Monticello to provide disability awareness training for all of its members.
3. A municipal recreation department will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all personnel in the areas of disability awareness and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
4. A local health club/fitness center will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all personnel on disability sensitivity and awareness.
5. One or more community club or service organizations will create integrated community programs for the purpose of increasing the self-sufficiency, wellness and self-worth of individuals with disabilities.
6. There will be an increase in the number of integrated social and recreational activities in the community for persons with disabilities.

## **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

Advocate for systemic changes that result in universal voter access to polling places. Increase self-advocacy and leadership skills among youthful and adult citizens with disabilities.

## ACTIVITIES

- Advocate for the local Board of Elections to adopt policies and processes that ensure the training of all newly hired election officials about persons with disabilities at polling places, and the issues of accessibility at the polling site and at the machines.
- Advocate and provide means to help register the underserved and non-registered voters of Sullivan County, especially persons with disabilities.
- Advocate that more people with disabilities be registered to vote.
- Advocate that all polling sites in Sullivan County remain accessible.
- Continue to advocate that the accessible voting machines for 2012 and 2013 elections will be available and monitored by knowledgeable election poll workers, so that people with disabilities are able to vote privately and independently.
- Continue to advocate that more people with disabilities be registered to vote.
- Work with collaborative local agencies to provide a Candidates Forum for the upcoming elections in part to finalize and publicize positions on disability related issues

## OUTCOMES

1. One or more political candidates will adopt policies that ensure that meetings and rallies are held in accessible locations.
2. The Sullivan County Board of Elections will establish policies and procedures to train poll workers on the accessible voting machines.
3. There will be an increase in the number of individuals with disabilities serving on community boards/committees and task forces that address issues that previously have not had consumer representation.
4. The Sullivan County Board of Elections will have no inaccessible locations listed on its polling sites.

# 34. SYRACUSE

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: ARISE  
Address: 635 James St., Syracuse, N.Y. 13203  
Contract No.: C10964  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Nina Lutz  
Board President Authorization: Tania Anderson

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. With technical assistance from ARISE, at least one local school district or school will change its policies and procedures to incorporate an annual, student-centered Disability Awareness and Sensitivity event or project for students of all abilities.
2. Increase number of educational facilities that provide access improvements to facilities and/or appropriate and fair access to instruction, programming and internal policies and procedures.
3. At least one (1) local school or school district will change its transition planning policies and/or procedures or establish a transition planning committee; which will include parents of students with disabilities and/or staff members from Center for Independent Living in the transition planning process.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. Increase supported employment opportunities and availability for underserved communities, outside the Syracuse Metropolitan area of Onondaga, Oswego and Madison Counties.
2. At least one (1) area business will change its policies regarding the rights of employee's with disabilities and procedures for obtaining reasonable accommodations.
3. At least one local business will make documented changes in its employment policies and procedures to comply with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

##### C. Health Care Advocacy

1. At least one (1) physician or dentist office will include a sign language policy in their standard operating procedures.
2. Improve access to medical facilities, including accessible parking and interior access, such as restrooms and signage.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of accessible parking lots (public and private) in Onondaga, Oswego and Madison Counties.
2. Improve public and Para-transportation access in Onondaga County.
3. ARISE will increase Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance in the business community.
4. Achieve a measurable increase in the accessibility of public right-of-ways in the Center's service area such as curb cuts constructed for people with disabilities.
5. There will be an increase in the number of affordable, accessible, integrated housing options for people with disabilities.
6. At least one (1) television, news, radio, newspaper and/or internet service provider will change its policies and procedures to adapt to "people first language" and/or increase the provision of captioning services.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. At least one (1) area recreation facility will improve access for people with disabilities.
2. At least one (1) area special event will improve access for people with disabilities.
3. At least one (1) theater will change its policies and procedures to increase the provision of captioning services and/or ensure proper distribution of seating for wheelchair users.

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. Increase participation of individuals with disabilities and/or center staff on community, regional and state boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had effective representation from the disability community.



## **35. TROY**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley  
Address: 15-17 Third Street, Troy, NY 12180  
Contract No.: C10992  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Denise A. Figueroa  
Board President Authorization: Sean Turley, Board President

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEM ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Education Advocacy**

1. A school district will make procedural changes to transition plans for students with disabilities to include developing information on PASS, ACCES-VR, Independent Living advocacy, access to assistive technology and linkages to other community based agencies and organizations.
2. A written agreement will be established for ILCHV to conduct a disabilities awareness track as part of the school personnel training curriculum in at least one school district in the Center's service area.
3. At least one school district will change its policies and procedures to incorporate parent information nights as an educational component for families.
4. Congress will pass the Keeping All Students Safe Act, HR 1381. This bill will create standards to limit the use of physical restraint and seclusion on children, by establishing safety standards in schools that will be similar to those already set in place by hospitals and other community-based facilities. It also will prohibit mechanical restraints and other restraints that restrict breathing.
5. One local college will incorporate a course on the history of disability rights movement developed and designed by staff of ILCHV.
6. ACCES-VR will change its policy to provide funding for sign language interpreters for deaf adults in General Educational Development (GED) preparation classes.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. A local one-stop will implement programs and or procedures that allow for greater access to services by people with all disabilities.
2. A local one-stop will incorporate disability awareness/sensitivity training either developed or endorsed by ILCHV as part of their training procedures for all new employees.

3. ILC staff will establish a written memorandum of understanding with the NYS Department of Labor to conduct outreach and benefits advisement to consumers applying for DOL services.

### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. At least one local hospital will establish and follow policies and procedures for the provision of interpreter services.
2. The Center will increase physical and communication access within health care facilities including physicians' offices, clinics and hospitals.
3. At least one local hospital will incorporate disability awareness/sensitivity training either developed or endorsed by ILCHV as part of their training procedures for all new employees.

### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of integrated accessible/adaptable housing units available to persons with disabilities.
2. .Secure passage of Bill Number: A4406: An Act to amend the general municipal law, in relation to providing for improved access to taxicabs for persons with disabilities. Purpose of the Bill: To require that by 2014 all new taxis in New York City are fully accessible to people with disabilities.
3. There will be an increase in the number of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III entities that are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities in the Center's service area.
4. New York State will incorporate the housing provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act into state law.
5. New York State will incorporate the provisions of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in New York State law.
6. Secure passage of New York State legislation, Assembly Bill A.1121 (Bing) and Senate Bill S.83 (Squadron), to make discrimination by landlords based on a tenant's source of income illegal under the State Human Rights Law.
7. NYS Legislature will establish standards for "inclusive design" in State law to require all newly constructed residential housing built with public funds to be made accessible.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of social and recreational facilities that comply with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the Center's service area.
2. Gold's Gym will change its marketing policies and procedures to more effectively reach persons with disabilities in order to promote inclusion and supply information about its accessible programs and services.

### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. Bring Rensselaer and Columbia County into compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

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2. One county Board of Elections in the center's service area will incorporate materials on access for people with disabilities either developed or endorsed by ILCHV into its poll site workers training curriculum and poll site surveying instruments.

## **36. UTICA**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Resource Center for Independent Living  
Address: 409 Columbia Street, P.O. Box 210  
Utica, NY 13503-0210  
Contract No.: C10984  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Burt Danovitz, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Gary Scalzo

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Educational Advocacy**

1. At least one school district will incorporate a transition Fair /Transition Event where families and students can come to learn about community resources, employment, higher education and other services available for students with disabilities upon graduation.
2. At least one area school district will change policies and/or procedures to include staff from RCIL in transition planning activities.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. There will be a measurable increase in the number of integrated employment preparation programs, such as internship programs, community work experience and job readiness training programs for persons with disabilities.
2. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodations to individuals with significant disabilities.
3. RCIL will establish a new employment service program for people with disabilities in the Center's service area supported by grant funding and/or self-sustaining fee-for-service agreements.

##### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. At least one health care facility will change its policies and procedures to provide more residents access to waivers or similar supports that will enable them to leave the institution and return to the community.
2. A nursing home will establish policies and procedures to include as part of its community transition process a peer group to explore issues regarding community living.

3. At least one nursing home will make a policy and procedural change to facilitate a more efficient referral process for community based living services.

#### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of affordable, integrated, and accessible housing options for people with disabilities in the Mohawk Valley.
2. As a result of the Mohawk Valley Asset Building Coalition (EITC Tax Program), at least one community-based tax preparation program will improve its physical and program access for persons with disabilities.

#### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. As a result of working cooperatively with other agencies, there will be an increase in integrated recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities.
2. There will be a measurable increase in the number of integrated social activities in the community for persons with disabilities.
3. A local library will establish a book (or film) discussion program that meets periodically to explore disability literature and its portrayal of Disability Culture.

#### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. Disaster preparation and relief plans addressing the needs and concerns of people with disabilities will be adopted by local counties.
2. Increase the availability, provision and/or quality of captioning services in public hearings.
3. RCIL will increase the number of consumers/staff that serve on community and statewide boards/committees/taskforces/ that have not had representation for people with disabilities.
4. RCIL will continue to make sure that polling places are truly accessible to all people with disabilities and that poll workers are trained in assisting people with disabilities.

# 37. WATERTOWN

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Northern Regional Center for Independent Living  
Address: 210 Court Street, Suite 107, Watertown, NY 13601  
Contract No.: C10993  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Brenda Company  
Board President Authorization: Ronald Griffin

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. At least one school will change its policies and procedures to incorporate parent information nights as an educational component for families with children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and Rehabilitation Act section 504 Plans.
2. At least one school in Jefferson and/or Lewis Counties will establish a written agreement with NRCIL to provide Mind Merge, an inter-active program for disability awareness training in the classroom 6 times per year.
3. At least one low performing school district will change its policies and procedures to allow the Center to become a member of the transition team in order to provide transition assistance for all students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), to develop coordinated measurable annual goals, and to coordinate transition services with outside agencies as per the State Performance Plan.
4. A local school district will make procedural changes to transition plans for students with disabilities to include developing information on a Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS), ACCES-VR, Independent Living advocacy, and linkages to other community based agencies and organizations.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. As a result of NRCIL's Disability Mentoring Day events, at least one employer will change its recruitment policies and procedures to create new integrated employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.
2. NRCIL will establish a contract with the US Social Security Administration to serve as an Employment Network to provide employment services under the Ticket To Work Program.
3. There will be a measurable increase in the number of integrated employment preparation programs, such as internship programs, community work experience programs, and job readiness training programs for person with disabilities.

4. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with psychiatric disabilities, developmental disabilities, and/or who are deaf.

### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. At least one long-term care or healthcare facility will change its policies to include information about community supports available to maintain independence in the admission literature.
2. NRCIL will establish a written arrangement whereby the staff of at least one local hospital emergency room will receive disability awareness training, especially around mental health issues.
3. At least one long-term care or healthcare facility will change its policies and procedures to allow the Center to conduct a support group for individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury at its facility.
4. At least one long-term care or healthcare facility will change its policies and procedures to allow the Center to conduct a support group for individuals with Muscular Dystrophy at its facility.

### **D. Commerce: Advocacy**

1. NRCIL will increase accessibility to at least one business, agency or public entity in Jefferson and Lewis County.
2. As a result of NRCIL's advocacy and education efforts, at least one housing developer will change its policies and procedures to require that visitability features are included into all new single-family housing that is built.
3. A private and /or a public retirement community will improve access by making its residents' handbook available in alternate formats.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of integrated community social activities that are accessible.

### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. The Lewis County Board of Elections will incorporate disability awareness training either developed or endorsed by NRCIL for its poll workers.
2. There will be an increase in the number of consumers/staff that serve on community and statewide boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
3. Disaster preparation and relief plans addressing the needs and concerns of people with disabilities will be adopted by local counties.

## **38. WHITE PLAINS**

### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Westchester Independent Living Center  
Address: 200 Hamilton Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601  
Contract No.: C10995  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Joe Bravo, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Shelley Klein

#### **I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN**

##### **A. Education Advocacy**

1. At least one school district will incorporate a transition event where families and students can come to learn about community resources, employment, higher education, and other services available for students with disabilities upon graduation.
2. At least one school district will incorporate in its curriculum a WILC developed peer advocacy group for transition age youth with disabilities, including programs on topics such as: goal setting, Independent Living skills, self-advocacy, and empowerment.
3. A disabilities awareness track either developed or endorsed by WILC will be instituted as part of the school personnel training curriculum in at least one school district in WILC's service area.
4. To increase parental awareness of services for students with disabilities, a local school district will add WILC's website and mission statement to their website, under the link for "Helpful Student Links for Parents".
5. At least one school system will change its policies and procedures to have the community resource referral packet include information about Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages to facilitate successful transition from high school.

##### **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of integrated employment preparation programs, such as internship programs, community work experience programs, and job readiness training programs for persons with disabilities.
2. WILC will establish a written arrangement with a local food pantry or soup kitchen to provide on-site outreach services including: information and referral, benefits advisement and information about employment support programs for the disabled participants who desire the Center's assistance.



3. Local NYS Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) office will provide disability sensitivity training either developed or endorsed by WILC as a regular part of their training procedures to their employees.
4. WILC will establish formal agreements whereby more community agencies have presentations to consumers about work incentives.

### **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. At least one community or government agency providing health care services to victims of crime, abuse, and domestic violence will improve its accessibility to people with disabilities.
2. A nursing home will change its policies and procedures to include in its admission literature information about community supports available to maintain independence in the community.
3. There will be an increase in the number of physician's offices, clinics, hospitals, and dental offices that improve physical and communication access for persons with disabilities, e.g. examination tables, dental chairs, mammography equipment, and American Sign Language Interpreters.
4. One medical facility will incorporate WILC's Independent Living philosophy presentation into its curriculum for its discharge planning staff.
5. Improve access to medical facilities, including accessible parking and interior access, such as restrooms and signage.
6. There will be an increase in the number of local human service agencies and public health services that provide brochures and pertinent program information in accessible formats.

### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. At least one restaurant will provide its menu in an accessible format.
2. One local business or not-for-profit agency will install a TTY, Video Telephone system or Relay services.
3. There will be an increase in the number of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III entities that are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities in the Center's service area.
4. There will be an increase in the accessibility of public right-of-ways, such as curb cuts, constructed for people with disabilities.
5. There will be an increase in the number of affordable, integrated and accessible housing options for people with disabilities.
6. At least one newspaper will make a policy and procedural change to report on accessibility for people with disabilities when reporting on local restaurants/eateries.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. At least one community club or service organization will adopt a policy assuring that meeting places are fully accessible.
2. There will be an increase in the number of accessible faith-based organizations and institutions in Westchester County.
3. One community service organization will establish a formal agreement with WILC to provide disability awareness training for all of its members.

## **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. Political candidates will adopt policies that ensure that meetings and rallies are held in accessible locations.
2. At least one village or town will establish policies and procedures that ensure focus groups, meetings and rallies for candidates are held in an accessible location.
3. There will be an increase in the number of individuals with disabilities or Center staff serving on community boards/committees and task forces that previously had no or limited consumer/disability representation.

# 39. YONKERS

## NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES-VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name Of Center: Westchester Disabled On The Move  
Address: 984 North Broadway Suite LL-10, Yonkers, NY 10701  
Contract Number: C10994  
Report Period: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013  
Contact Person: Melvyn R. Tanzman, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Gail Cartenuto Cohn

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

##### GOAL 1

**Issue:** To facilitate the transition of students from secondary education to employment, community services and/or post secondary education.

##### Proposed Activities:

- Through individual and group education and training, as well as a public information campaign in the Greenburgh-North Castle UFSD, and the New Rochelle school districts, students and parents will be empowered to participate more fully in CSE meetings and in the development of an IEP that reflects the student's transition goals.
- Through the Project Search Program WDOMI staff will collaborate with school district personnel in the New Rochelle and Greenburgh-North Castle School Districts and parent representatives to develop and implement new practices that will ease referrals for community services such as VESID and OMRDD, as well as encouraging greater involvement by students and parents at CSE meetings.
- Through participation in Project Search, WDOMI will promote this as a model for transition with NYSED, OPWDD, DCMH, and other State Agencies
- WDOMI Staff will follow-up with graduating seniors from Project Search to ensure an appropriate transition is taking place.
- WDOMI will endeavor to provide independent living services to transitioning youth including but not limited to housing and benefits advisement

##### Goals:

1. There will be a change in New Rochelle and Greenburgh-North Castle school district policies and procedures that will facilitate referrals to community based services including: facilitating follow-up with graduating seniors by WDOMI staff.

2. The New Rochelle and Greenburgh-North Castle school districts will establish policies and procedures to conduct training sessions designed to increase the involvement of students and families in Committee on Special Education (CSE) meetings and Individualized Education Program (IEP) development.
3. A self-advocacy curriculum designed for individuals with disabilities and focusing on decision making, goal setting, risk management, and Leadership will be part of the curriculum for Project Search in the New Rochelle and Greenburgh North Castle school districts.

## **GOAL 2**

**Issue:** Increase employment related experiences for high school students.

### **Proposed Activities:**

- Conduct pre-employment workshops with High School Students with disabilities in the Project Search Project.
- Participate in a workplace immersion model for high school seniors in Project Search.

### **Goals:**

1. There will be an increase in the number of school based integrated employment preparation programs, such as internship programs, work experience programs, and job readiness training programs, for high school students with disabilities.
2. There will be a change in New Rochelle and Greenburgh-North Castle school district policies and procedures that will facilitate integration of work experiences with school.

## **B. Employment Advocacy**

### **GOAL 1**

**Issue:** Increase the knowledge of the business community regarding the availability of persons with disabilities as potential employees.

### **Proposed Activities:**

- Educational presentations will be made to business groups including Chambers of Commerce and local employers.
- Internships and job shadowing outreach will familiarize more employers with people with disabilities as employees

### **Goals:**

1. Three to four Westchester employers that have not previously hired people with disabilities will initiate policies to hire qualified applicants with disabilities.

### **GOAL 2**

**Issue:** Facilitate employment for people with disabilities through Work Incentives Planning

**Proposed Activities:**

- Publicize the availability of benefits advisement
- Make public presentations regarding benefits advisement
- Provide direct assistance to consumers seeking employment to facilitate a plan to maintain necessary benefits.

**Goals:**

1. Establish formal agreements whereby more community based agencies have presentations to consumers about work incentives.
2. As a result of market benefits advisement provided by the Center, the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) Program and/or the NYS Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) will make policy and procedural changes to facilitate a more efficient referral process for community based employment services, including Independent Living Center services, and resources.

**C. Health Care Advocacy****GOAL 1**

**Issue:** Advocate at State and Local levels to implement a plan to move individuals from institutional to most integrated settings.

**Proposed Activities:**

- Continue participation in discussions and negotiations with the State Department of Health and the Governor's Office to ensure effective implementation of Community First Choice
- Educate discharge planners, nurses, providers and county Department of Social Services staff about alternatives to institutional placement and Consumer Directed Personal Assistance.
- Offer training groups to consumers interested in the CDPA Program
- Develop a CDPA Worker registry for use as a resource by CDPA participants

**Goals:**

1. At least one nursing home will make a policy and procedural change to have information packets include material about the NYS Department of Health Nursing Facility Transition and Diversion (NFTD) Waiver.
2. At least one institution will change its procedures and/or policies to allow more people with disabilities to transition from institutions into integrated community living.
3. As a result of WDOMI's educational efforts, there will be a documented increase in the number of consumers utilizing the second Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPA) program in Westchester County operated by the partnership called Concepts of Independent Choices of Westchester and that number will be sustained to a stable foundation.
4. At least one Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPA) program in Westchester County will make its list of workers willing to participate in CDPA available in accessible formats and/or on its website.

**GOAL 2**

**Issue:** Assure that health and mental health services available to People with Disabilities are maintained and expanded in scope.

**Proposed Activities:**

- Advocate for the maintenance/expansion of Federal and State-wide Medicaid redesign that protects and expands health and mental health services available to people with disabilities.
  - a. Maintenance of Federal Medicaid Budget without a block grant
  - b. EPIC Expansion
  - c. Maintenance of NYS Medicaid eligibility standards
  - d. Assure consumer rights in a community based Long Term Care program that is moving towards Managed Long Term Care.
  - e. Assure the capacity of MLTC programs to provide Consumer Directed Personal Assistance services from fiscal intermediaries that are committed to CDPA and independent from traditional home care agencies
- Assist Medicaid recipients in Westchester County make the transition to mandatory Medicaid Managed Care while maintaining essential services.
- Speak at MRT Team Meetings regarding the impact of proposed changes on people with disabilities
- Meet with Department of Senior Services and Programs in Westchester County to ensure that their New York Connects I&R service adequately serves people with disabilities

**Goals:**

1. Prevent any changes to the Medicaid program that restrict or limit eligibility, scope of services and choice.
2. An advocacy network/infrastructure is established with organized teams of trained consumer advocates available to address Medicaid Redesign issues as they arise.
3. Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS) will establish a disability advisory group to review the information and services offered to people with disabilities and improve these services.

**GOAL 3**

**Issue:** Managed Care Organizations must be educated to better serve people with disabilities under mandatory Medicaid Managed Long Term Care

**Proposed Activities:**

- Meet with MCOs serving Westchester County to discuss issues and negotiate service agreements with Independent Living Centers
- Advocate for greater independent oversight statewide of the transition to Managed LTC

**Goals:**

1. WDOMI will establish at least one contract with a regional Managed Care Organization (MCO).
2. NYS will via legislation and/or regulation will establish and fund a state-wide network to advocate for consumers transitioning into mandatory Medicaid Long Term Care (LTC).

## **D. Commerce Advocacy**

### **GOAL 1**

**Issue:** Increase the ability of people with disabilities to engage in local economic and market place activities such as area restaurants, retail shops and transportation services.

#### **Proposed Activities:**

- Educate and train consumers about accessibility requirements.
- Continue to advocate for acceptable resolutions in active complaints.
- Identify new ADA compliance issues.
- Educate e-merchants about standards for accessible web sites

#### **Goals:**

1. A minimum of two businesses will improve accessibility.
2. At least one e-merchant will improve the accessibility of its website.

### **GOAL 2**

**Issue:** Increase the effectiveness, accessibility and consumer friendliness of the County Para-transit, fixed route transportation system and other transportation services in Westchester County.

#### **Proposed Activities:**

- Participate and provide leadership in the County's Para-transit advisory council.
- Advocate for accessible taxis in Westchester County and the use of taxis as an alternative to paratransit vans when possible
- Survey fixed route buses for ADA Compliance and communicate with County regarding necessary changes

#### **Goals:**

1. A minimum of one taxi company will have at least one accessible cab.
2. Westchester County will expand the service area of its Para-transit pilot program called "Bee-Line Taxi" by utilizing taxis as an alternative to Vans when feasible.

### **GOAL 3**

**Issue:** Increase the availability of accessible housing units for people with disabilities.

#### **Proposed Activities:**

- Conduct education and advocacy that will focus on the Fair Housing Act and HUD 504 requirements.
- Develop a collaborative relationship with county, state, and local housing and legislative officials.
- Collaborate with other not for profits to propose new housing projects.

- Review and comment on Comprehensive Plans at the State, County and local levels
- Develop new housing initiatives at the local level under the Money Follows the Person Grant.

**Goals:**

1. Housing options for people with disabilities will increase by WDOMI securing the passage of State legislation to develop a housing trust fund and/or a state housing subsidy targeted to people with disabilities.
2. Westchester County Legislature will amend an accessible design bill where all, rather than 50% of housing funded by the County will meet basic access requirements.
3. One or more integrated and accessible housing projects for people with disabilities will be developed in Westchester with the active participation of WDOMI.
4. WDOMI will, with the cooperation of State and local housing agencies and local developers, change the practices of at least one developer to ensure full compliance with US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 504 requirements including set aside apartments of 5% for people with mobility impairments and 2% for people who are either visually impaired or hearing impaired. The developer will increase the percentage of such set-aside apartments actually occupied by eligible tenants with disabilities.
5. Public Housing Authorities in Westchester County will implement policy changes that will facilitate the availability of affordable accessible housing for people leaving institutions.
6. The NYS Legislature will pass legislation mandating accessible design in State assisted 1-3 family housing.
7. At least one housing program in Westchester County that provides financial assistance will change its policies and procedures to make available housing subsidies for transitioning youth.
8. NYS Legislature will pass a law protecting against discrimination in housing based on Source of Income.
9. Westchester County Board of Legislators will pass a law protecting against discrimination in housing based on Source of Income.

**E. Social Advocacy**

**GOAL 1**

**Issue:** Increase the ability of people with disabilities to engage in local recreational activities by monitoring ADA compliance at these facilities.

**Proposed Activities:**

- Educate and train consumers about accessibility at all recreational facilities.
- Conduct at least one survey of ADA compliance at a recreational facility.

**Goals:**

1. There will be an increase in the number of integrated community social activities that become accessible.

**F. Citizenship Advocacy**



## **GOAL 1**

**Issue:** Increase consumer's knowledge of issues and legislation that impact people with disabilities.

### **Proposed Activities:**

- Publish a center newsletter twice a year.
- Build the systems advocacy network.
- Hold one or more issue forums to educate consumers and their supporters.

### **Goals:**

1. An advocacy network/infrastructure will be established with organized teams of trained consumer advocates to address civic issues as they arise.
2. One or more websites that facilitate active citizen participation in public policy advocacy will become accessible as the result of input from WDOMI.

## **GOAL 2**

**Issue:** Improve polling place accessibility and voter registration in Westchester County and New York State.

### **Proposed Activities:**

- Work with the Board of Elections Advisory Committee to find solutions to the problem of access to polling sites.
- Continue active voter registration campaign.

### **Goals:**

1. The Westchester County Board of Elections will incorporate a training program on disability sensitivity and awareness for its poll workers that is either developed, endorsed or conducted by WDOM.
2. The Westchester County Board of Elections will establish policies and procedures for voters to request American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters at their poll site and for the BOE to provide them.
3. The Westchester County Board of Elections will provide voter material in alternative formats.