

**NYS ILC COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLANS**  
**CONTRACT PERIOD: October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015**

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# **1. ATI**

## **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:	C010972
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Chad W. Underwood, Chief Executive Officer
Board President Authorization:	Larry Pfister, 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, so that plans will include information on independent living centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages.
2. At least one school district will change its policies and procedures to include in its community resource referral packet information about independent living centers, ACCES-VR and other agency linkages.
3. 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).
4. 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.
5. State University of New York (SUNY) Cortland will increase the availability of accessible handicapped parking for students, professors and guests with disabilities.
6. At least one school district will incorporate information about ATI services or IL into their website, newsletter and/or school year calendar.

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

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. At least one local business in the Center's service area will make documented changes in its employment policies to comply with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

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

1. 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.
2. ATI will develop a program, in collaboration with the Cortland County Area Agency on Aging, to perform safety assessments in the homes of individuals with disabilities and senior consumers.
3. ATI will sign a contract with at least one managed care organization to provide services for people with disabilities.
4. At least one hospital, nursing facility or physician's office will incorporate as part of its training for medical personnel a disability awareness curriculum either developed or endorsed by ATI.
5. There will be an increase in the number of health care providers that are universally accessible.

### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of businesses that are fully accessible.
2. There will be an increase in the number of crosswalks in the City of Cortland which are fully accessible.
3. There will be an 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.
7. There will be an increase in the number of public eating establishments that are accessible to people with disabilities.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of integrated social activities in the community for persons with disabilities.
2. There will be an 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 an 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. There will be an increase in the number of opportunities for people to participate in integrated fitness programs in the community.
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.
9. At least one local taxi company will make an accessible taxi available to persons with disabilities in the Cortland community to attend social, recreational and leisure activities that they previously could not attend.

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

1. There will be an 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.
2. Cortland County will adopt disaster preparation and relief plans which address the needs and concerns of people with disabilities.
3. As a result of ATI advocacy, at least one new national law (based on NCIL priorities) will be passed which benefits the rights of people with disabilities.
4. As a result of ATI advocacy, at least one new New York State law (based on NYAIL and NYSILC priorities) will be passed which benefits the rights of people with disabilities.
5. As a result of ATI advocacy, a local (County or municipal) law will be passed which benefits the rights of people with disabilities.

## **2. AIM**

### **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 St, Corning, NY 14830
Contract No.:	C010965
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015
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**

NO GOALS ESTABLISHED

##### **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. 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

### **3. ARISE**

#### **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.: C010964  
Report Period: October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015  
Contact Person: Nina Lutz  
Board President Authorization: Tania Anderson

#### **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.

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

1. Increase supported employment opportunities and availability for underserved communities, outside the Syracuse Metropolitan area of Onondaga, Oswego and Madison County.
2. There will be an increase in the availability of flexible, individualized supported 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.
3. There will be an 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.
4. At least one area employer will make its employment application available in alternative accessible formats for applicants with disabilities.
5. As a result of ARISE's community education to businesses regarding the availability of persons with disabilities as potential employees, at least one business will change its policies and procedures to comply with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
6. An employment agency will establish an outreach policy directed towards finding employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

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

1. At least one medical facility will incorporate disability awareness/sensitivity training either developed or endorsed by ARISE as part of their training procedures for all new employees.

2. Improve access to medical facilities, including accessible parking and interior access, such as restrooms and signage.

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

1. Improve public and Para-transportation access in Onondaga County.
2. ARISE will increase Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance in the business community, including parking areas.
3. 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.
4. There will be an increase in the number of affordable, accessible, integrated housing options for people with disabilities.
5. 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. 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.

#### **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 representation from the disability community.
2. Political candidates and elected officials will adopt policies that ensure that meetings and rallies are held in accessible locations.



## **4. ARISE-A**

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

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

IL Service Center:	ARISE-A (Auburn)
Address:	75 Genesee Street, Auburn, NY 13021
Contract Number:	C010981
Report Period:	October 1, 2014-September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Gregory D. Guy, Director
Board President Authorization:	Tania Anderson

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

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

1. With technical assistance from ARISE-A, 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. There will be an increase in the 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. ARISE - A will establish a written arrangement whereby a NYS Correctional facility or County/Local Jail will offer ACCES-VR and other agency linkages as a regular part of preparing inmates who are disabled for transition back to the community.
4. At least one local school district will provide enhanced Disability Awareness by incorporating as a regular part of its curriculum presentations by ARISE-A of the “Kids on the Block” program.
5. At least one (1) area shelter will change its policies and procedures to routinely provide information about Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages that nurture financial independence for people with disabilities.

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

1. Establish formal agreement(s) whereby ARISE-A will provide community agencies with presentations to consumers about work incentives and SSDI / SSI.
2. Establish a written arrangement with a local food pantry or soup kitchen to provide on-site outreach services including: information about employment support programs, benefits advisement, and information and referral for individuals with disabilities.
3. Increase supported employment opportunities and availability in rural and/or underserved communities

##### **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 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/or procedural change in how it identifies and refers patients who are deaf to community resources that include sign language interpretive services.

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

1. At least one restaurant or local catering establishment will improve access for people with disabilities through the physical modifications of its entrance(s), parking facilities and/or restrooms.
2. At least one local government/organization will change its policies and/or practices to provide for immediate and/or improved accessibility with regard to sidewalks and curb cuts.
3. At least one business/agency/organization will change its policies and/or practices to provide for immediate and/or improved accessibility with regard to sidewalks and curb cuts.
4. There will be increased access to affordable, accessible, integrated housing options for people with disabilities.
5. A public facility will enhance accessibility through installation of automatic door openers.

#### **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/procedures to increase captioning services.
4. At least one local company will make an accessible taxi available to persons with disabilities to attend social, recreational or leisure activities they previously could not attend.

#### **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. A local Board of Elections will change policy/practice to ensure its polling sites are fully accessible and poll workers are fully trained in assisting people with disabilities.
3. There will be an increase in the number of consumers and/or staff that serve on community and statewide boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.

## **5. BILS**

### **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, 2014 - September 30, 2015  
Contact Person: Brett Eisenberg - Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Barbara Linn

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

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

1. In order to increase parental awareness of services for students with disabilities, a local public school will add the BILS website address and mission statement to their website, under the link for "Helpful Student Links For Parents."
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. At least one area employment agency will improve access for people with disabilities.
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.

##### **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
3. At least one health care provider will make its facility more accessible to patients with disabilities.

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

1. Local catering halls and restaurants will improve access by making menus available in large print, and/or Braille.

2. A local restaurant/business entity will add a ramp to the main entrance to accommodate people with disabilities.
3. BILS will increase Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance in the business community.

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

1. One social venue will become accessible to individuals 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.
3. There will be an increase in the number of integrated recreational and social opportunities in Bronx county.
4. One community service organization will establish a formal agreement with BILS to provide disability awareness training for all of its members.
5. Local recreational facilities 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. At least one local government (agency) in Bronx county will start providing agendas in an alternate format for/at publicly attended meetings.
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.

## **6. BCID**

### **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:	C010968
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Joan Peters, Executive Director
Board President Authorization:	Heidi Hirschfeld

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

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

1. At least one school district or Early Intervention Program will change its policies and procedures for referring families to additional community services by making available informational materials on Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages.
2. At least one school district or Early Intervention Program, will incorporate an Independent Living Philosophy presentation, either developed or endorsed by BCID, into a training curriculum for its staff and parents.
3. At least one Brooklyn school will increase its physical accessibility through the removal of existing barriers.

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

1. At least one union or business council will improve its access by providing materials in alternate formats and holding meetings at an accessible location.
2. One area business will improve access for potential employees with disabilities.
3. Establish formal agreements whereby more community agencies have presentations to consumers about work incentives.

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

1. Increase access to health care services for people with mobility, visual, hearing, cognitive, and mental health disabilities.
2. Increase accessibility at hospitals, clinics, private doctors' and dental offices to persons with disabilities e.g. examination table, dental chairs and mammography equipment.
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. Local catering halls and restaurants will improve access by making menus available in large print, and Braille.
2. Improve public and Para-transportation access in Brooklyn for inter-borough and inner-borough trips.
3. At least one television, news, radio, newspaper and/or internet service provider will change its policies and procedures to adapt to “person first language” and/or increase the provision of captioning services.
4. Increase the availability of accessible taxi and community car service in Brooklyn.
5. At least one business district in Brooklyn will adopt a “disability friendly” policy for community restaurants and businesses to encourage business owners to provide accommodations to customers with disabilities.
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.

#### **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. The New York City Board of Elections will make inaccessible polling sites in Brooklyn compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines.

## **7. CDCI**

### **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.:	C010969
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Laurel Lei Kelley, Executive Director
Board President Authorization:	Harold Conley

#### **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 Independent Living advocacy, and linkages to other community based agencies and organizations.
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. At least one college or university will incorporate an Independent Living Philosophy presentation, approved by Capital District Center for Independence, into its curriculum for professional preparation programs that work with persons with disabilities
4. At least one college 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.
5. 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.
6. At least one school district will incorporate a Parent Informational Fair Night where families and students can come to learn about community resources, education and other services available for students with disabilities in pre-kindergarten-12th grades.
7. 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
8. A local school district will make procedural changes ensure that Independent Living philosophy and healthy living options are presented to students in self-contained settings.

##### **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 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.
3. Establish a formal agreement whereby more community agencies have presentations to consumers and/or case workers about work incentives.
4. CDCI 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.

### **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.
5. CDCI will create a Wellness Center supported by grant funding and/or assigned human resources.
6. One or more CDCI 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.

### **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 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. 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. A community organization within the Center's service area will establish an ongoing after school social and recreational program targeting children with disabilities that is accessible and integrated and that meets on a regular basis.
4. 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 consumer/disability representation.
2. 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.
3. Disaster preparation and relief plans addressing the needs and concerns of people with disabilities will be adopted by a local county.
4. A community youth service organization will establish a written agreement with CDCI to provide disability awareness training for all of its members.

## **8. CCFI**

### **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.:	C010970
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015
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 Center's service area.

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

NO GOALS ESTABLISHED

##### **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.

## **9. CIDNY-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.:	C010971
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Susan Dooha, Executive Director
Board President Authorization:	Martin Eichel

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

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

1. CIDNY will establish written arrangements whereby a least three schools in New York City will offer on-site the Center's Strides program, a transition program for youth with disabilities including those who are bilingual and bicultural or their families are bilingual and bicultural.
2. 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.
3. Through CIDNY's formal complaint and advocacy, the NYC Department of Education will change its policy regarding the use of quiet rooms as discipline for youth with disabilities to limit its use to occasions when an individual is a danger to themselves or others.

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

1. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will enact and implement an Employment First policy.
2. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will enact and implement a paid sick leave policy that will enable people with disabilities to retain employment.
3. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will enact and implement a policy that requires State contractors to employ people with disabilities.
4. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will enact and implement a policy that will incentivize workplace wellness programs that are inclusive of employees with disabilities.
5. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will incorporate language that includes people with disabilities under the Minority/Women Business Employment law.
6. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will create tax incentives to small businesses to encourage employment of people with disabilities.

7. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will waive the State's sovereign immunity, the sovereign immunity of all instrumentalities and political subdivisions of the State for violations of the ADA and the Fair Labor Standards Act.
8. ACCES-VR will issue a Technical Assistance Brief for District Offices on serving individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system that will lead to a change in practices resulting in a demonstrated increase in services for this population.
9. ACCES-VR will amend its 1994 Technical Assistance Brief for District Offices on serving individuals with HIV in the vocational rehabilitation system to bring about a change in practices resulting in a demonstrated increase in services for this population.

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

1. The New York State Health Benefit Exchange will adopt policies and procedures regarding the enrollment of the non-MAGI (modified adjusted gross income) population (e.g. Medicaid Buy-in, Medicaid Spenddown, elderly and disabled, Cancer Services Program, and several other categories).
2. New York State will pass legislation that adopts the ACCESS Board standards created pursuant to the Affordable Care Act for accessible diagnostic medical equipment.
3. New York State will establish a Health Benefit Exchange Office of Civil Rights that implements policies and procedures to decrease disparities in health care services and performance on the basis of race, ethnicity, primary language, gender and disability status.
4. The New York State Legislature will amend the 2011 state law regarding limits on Medicaid benefits and services including physical therapy, to provide physician override of the limits when medically necessary.
5. The legislature will pass legislation that ensures that consumers do not experience "surprise" medical bills for health plan out-of-network services.
6. New York State will enact a basic health plan that will serve people with incomes up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
7. 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.
8. New York State's Health Benefit Exchange will adopt policies and procedures related to discrimination based on race, ethnicity, primary language, gender and disability status.
9. At least one managed long-term care plan in New York State will amend its policies to reflect its obligation pursuant to the ADA to provide reasonable accommodations.
10. The New York State Legislature will adopt legislation that will give access to a clear and convenient override process when medically in the best interests of a patient.
11. The New York State Legislature will pass legislation that closes the loophole that allows insurance plans to require that people get their medications through mail order pharmacies and ensures that New Yorkers have the option to access their medications from a retail pharmacy.
12. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will enact and implement a policy to increase the community-based health care workforce to serve people with disabilities in the community.

### **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. As the result of collaboration with the New York State Division on Human Rights and volunteers to perform an access study of Manhattan restaurants, bars and coffee shops near accessible transportation hubs, at least four restaurants will improve their access.
4. The Legislature will pass legislation requiring local departments of social services to offer disability screening to all applicants for and recipients of public assistance.
5. 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.
6. Through CIDNY’s advocacy, AFFH (Affirmatively Further Fair Housing) will be adopted by US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) so that their policies do not discriminate against people with disabilities.
7. As a result of CIDNY’s advocacy and development of a disability friendly district policy statement, one business district in Manhattan will adopt a “disability friendly” policy for community restaurants and businesses to encourage business owners to provide accommodations to customers with disabilities.
8. As a result of collaboration between CIDNY and Green Markets, AAR will accept Green Market cross street addresses to bring riders to farmers’ markets across the city.
9. Through CIDNY surveys and assessments, NYC food banks, pantries and soup kitchens will include accessibility information and documentation requirements on their website listing and will provide alternate formats and other accommodations for information and registration at their sites.
10. As a result of CIDNY surveys and assessments, the City will correct curb cut violations in at least one major Manhattan business district and establish and implement a policy for assessing all city curb cuts and performing any necessary remedies to make them ADA compliant.
11. As a result of CIDNY advocacy based on curb cut surveys, at least one Manhattan business district will adopt a “curb cut accessibility” policy for local businesses to ensure that they do not block curb cuts for persons with disabilities at their intersections.
12. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will create and implement a Legal Services program that will: (i) increase access to affordable legal services for people with disabilities; (ii) increase attorneys’ and Judges’ awareness of the functional needs of people with disabilities and the legal issues facing them; (iii) increase the availability of pro-bono legal services available to people with disabilities.

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

NO GOALS ESTABLISHED

#### **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 will adopt a policy to provide language boards at every polling site to ensure that people who are Deaf have a way to communicate with poll site workers.
3. The City of New York will amend its emergency response and preparedness plan to ensure that all shelters accommodate people with disabilities during emergencies and disasters and that recovery services are accessible to people with disabilities.

## 10. CIDNY-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:	80-02 Kew Gardens Road, Kew Gardens, NY
Contract No.:	C011000
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Susan Dooha, Executive Director
Board President Authorization:	Martin Eichel

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. CIDNY-Queens will establish written arrangements whereby a least three schools in New York City will offer on-site the Center's Strides program, a transition program for youth with disabilities including those who are bilingual and bicultural or their families are bilingual and bicultural.
2. 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.
3. Through CIDNY-Queens formal complaint and advocacy, the NYC Department of Education will change its policy regarding the use of quiet rooms as discipline for youth with disabilities to limit its use to occasions when an individual is a danger to themselves or others.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will enact and implement an Employment First policy.
2. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will enact and implement a paid sick leave policy that will enable people with disabilities to retain employment.
3. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will enact and implement a policy that requires State contractors to employ people with disabilities.
4. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will enact and implement a policy that will incentivize workplace wellness programs that are inclusive of employees with disabilities.
5. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will incorporate language that includes people with disabilities under the Minority/Women Business Employment law.

6. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will create tax incentives to small businesses to encourage employment of people with disabilities.
7. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will waive the State's sovereign immunity, the sovereign immunity of all instrumentalities and political subdivisions of the State for violations of the ADA and the Fair Labor Standards Act.
8. ACCES-VR will issue a Technical Assistance Brief for District Offices on serving individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system that will lead to a change in practices resulting in a demonstrated increase in services for this population.
9. ACCES-VR will amend its 1994 Technical Assistance Brief for District Offices on serving individuals with HIV in the vocational rehabilitation system to bring about a change in practices resulting in a demonstrated increase in services for this population.

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

1. The New York State Health Benefit Exchange will adopt policies and procedures regarding the enrollment of the non-MAGI (modified adjusted gross income) population (e.g. Medicaid Buy-in, Medicaid Spenddown, elderly and disabled, Cancer Services Program, and several other categories).
2. New York State will pass legislation that adopts the ACCESS Board standards created pursuant to the Affordable Care Act for accessible diagnostic medical equipment.
3. New York State will establish a Health Benefit Exchange Office of Civil Rights that implements policies and procedures to decrease disparities in health care services and performance on the basis of race, ethnicity, primary language, gender and disability status.
4. The New York State Legislature will amend the 2011 state law regarding limits on Medicaid benefits and services including physical therapy, to provide physician override of the limits when medically necessary.
5. The legislature will pass legislation that ensures that consumers do not experience "surprise" medical bills for health plan out-of-network services.
6. New York State will enact a basic health plan that will serve people with incomes up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
7. 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.
8. New York State's Health Benefit Exchange will adopt policies and procedures related to discrimination based on race, ethnicity, primary language, gender and disability status.
9. At least one managed long-term care plan in New York State will amend its policies to reflect its obligation pursuant to the ADA to provide reasonable accommodations.
10. The New York State Legislature will adopt legislation that will give access to a clear and convenient override process when medically in the best interests of a patient.
11. The New York State Legislature will pass legislation that closes the loophole that allows insurance plans to require that people get their medications through mail order pharmacies and ensures that New Yorkers have the option to access their medications from a retail pharmacy.
12. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will enact and implement a policy to increase the community-based health care workforce to serve people with disabilities in the community.

### **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. As the result of collaboration with the New York State Division on Human Rights and volunteers to perform an access study of Queens’s restaurants, bars and coffee shops near accessible transportation hubs, at least four restaurants will improve their access.
4. The Legislature will pass legislation requiring local departments of social services to offer disability screening to all applicants for and recipients of public assistance.
5. 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.
6. Through CIDNY-Queens advocacy, AFFH (Affirmatively Further Fair Housing) will be adopted by US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) so that their policies do not discriminate against people with disabilities.
7. As a result of CIDNY-Queens advocacy and development of a disability friendly district policy statement, one business district in Queens will adopt a “disability friendly” policy for community restaurants and businesses to encourage business owners to provide accommodations to customers with disabilities.
8. As a result of collaboration between CIDNY-Queens and Green Markets, AAR will accept Green Market cross street addresses to bring riders to farmers’ markets across the city.
9. Through CIDNY-Queens surveys and assessments, NYC food banks, pantries and soup kitchens will include accessibility information and documentation requirements on their website listing and will provide alternate formats and other accommodations for information and registration at their sites.
10. As a result of CIDNY-Queens surveys and assessments, the City will correct curb cut violations in at least one major Queens’s business district and establish and implement a policy for assessing all city curb cuts and performing any necessary remedies to make them ADA compliant.
11. As a result of CIDNY-Queens advocacy based on curb cut surveys, at least one Queens’s business district will adopt a “curb cut accessibility” policy for local businesses to ensure that they do not block curb cuts for persons with disabilities at their intersections.
12. The Governor will either sign into law legislation or issue an executive order that will create and implement a Legal Services program that will: (i) increase access to affordable legal services for people with disabilities; (ii) increase attorneys’ and Judges’ awareness of the functional needs of people with disabilities and the legal issues facing them; (iii) increase the availability of pro-bono legal services available to people with disabilities.

## **E. Social Advocacy**

NO GOALS ESTABLISHED

## **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 will adopt a policy to provide language boards at every polling site to ensure that people who are Deaf have a way to communicate with poll site workers.
3. The City of New York will amend its emergency response and preparedness plan to ensure that all shelters accommodate people with disabilities during emergencies and disasters and that recovery services are accessible to people with disabilities.

# 11. DIL

## 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.:	C010973
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 –September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Leonard Liguori
Board President Authorization:	Marcella Richmond

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. A college or trade school or vocational institution will adopt Directions in Independent Living's disability awareness training to use as training for their students on a yearly basis.
2. A school in the center's service area will adopt a tutoring program for academic intervention and/or after school program for students with disabilities.
3. An organization in the center's service area will change policies and procedures to regularly sponsor a deaf group for young adults and/or youth.
4. A local school in the center's service area will have an accessible parking area.
5. Olean School District will adopt and include a resource guide developed by Directions in Independent Living to be used by parents for their children in special education classes.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. An agency in the center's service area will make a policy and procedural change to facilitate a more efficient referral process of consumers who are looking for employment services or SSA work incentive information to Independent Living Center services, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages.

##### C. Health Care Advocacy

1. Olean General Hospital or another health care institute will make a policy and procedural change to facilitate a more efficient referral process of Mental Health and/or traditional patients to Independent Living Center services, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages.

##### D. Commerce Advocacy

NO GOALS ESTABLISHED

##### E. Social Advocacy

1. A public recreational area will implement accessible parking under current ADA standards.

**F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the accessible voting sites in the center's service area.

## **12. FLIC**

### **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.:	C010975
Report Period:	October 1, 2014– September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Jan Lynch
Board President Authorization:	Kathryn Wunderlich

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

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

1. At least one school district in Tompkins County will change its policy or procedure to routinely include FLIC staff 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. A local organization providing sheltered employment services will change policies and procedures to transfer employment support funding from segregated to integrated programs.

##### **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 through full accessibility.
2. There will be increased availability of local transportation options for individuals with disabilities in the Center's region.
3. There will be an increase in the number of integrated and accessible housing choices available for people with disabilities in Tompkins County.

## **E. Social Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in integrated recreational opportunities for people with disabilities in the community.
2. FLIC will increase equal access to municipally sponsored recreation events and facilities.

## **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. Continue to make sure that polling places are fully 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.

# 13. HILC

## 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: C010977  
Report Period: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015  
Contact Person: Christina Curry  
Board President Authorization: Vanessa Young

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. 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.
2. A local high school will incorporate a yearly disability awareness assembly into its curriculum.
3. 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.
4. At least one college-level teacher education course will incorporate content designed and / or presented by HILC staff.

##### 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.
4. Establish formal agreements whereby more community agencies have presentations to consumers about work incentives.
5. One business will produce an audio/taped version of its employee handbook.

##### 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. At least one local medical facility 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 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.

#### **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. A private and/or a public reentrant housing community will improve access by making its resident's handbook available in alternate formats.
3. 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.
4. A business entity will become accessible by installing automatic door openers.
5. A local restaurant/business entity will add a ramp to the main entrance to accommodate people with disabilities.
6. A local municipality will adopt policies and/or procedures resulting in increased installation and/or maintenance of local curb cuts.
7. At least one additional restaurant will provide its menu in an accessible format.

#### **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.
3. One or more community service organizations will establish a formal agreement with HILC to provide disability awareness training for all of its members.
4. 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. 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.
4. Disaster preparation and relief plans addressing the needs and concerns of people with disabilities will be adopted by New York City Community Board 10.

# 14. ILCHV

## 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.:	C010992
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Denise A. Figueroa
Board President Authorization:	Sean Turley

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS 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 program options toward graduation, 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. Congress will pass and the President will sign into law the Keeping All Students Safe Act, HR 1893 and S2036. This bill will create standards to limit the use of physical restraint and seclusion of 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.
4. At least 1 school district in Columbia County will collaborate with ILCHV to establish policies and procedures related to discipline of students without excessive reliance on suspensions and PINS referrals.
5. ILCHV will establish a written agreement with Columbia County to offer on-site Special Education Advocacy Training to Law Guardians. This will be offered twice a year for law guardians who work with high risk children with disabilities.
6. ILCHV will establish a written agreement with one human services organization to offer on-site Special Education Advocacy Training. This will be offered twice a year for its staff training for professionals who work with high risk children.

##### 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. New York State will establish a small business tax credit for the employment of people with disabilities. A.570 (Cusick) and S.1907 (Addabbo)  
The tax credit created by this legislation would provide an incentive for small businesses to hire individuals with disabilities, increasing the opportunities for New Yorkers with disabilities to achieve gainful employment and self-sufficiency.
4. New York State will adopt an Employment First policy for People with Disabilities.

### **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.
4. New York State will adopt changes to the Nurse Practices Act to create Advanced Home Health Aides who can be certified to do services currently required by licensed nurses in non-certified settings. This will make it possible to fully implement Community First Choice in NYS

### **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 legislation to require access to taxicabs for persons 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.
8. The City of Troy will adopt a "Complete Streets" policy.
9. ADA policy in the City of Troy.
10. ADA policy for the Troy police department

### **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. A fitness center 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).
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.

# 15. ILGR

## 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: C011001  
Report Period: October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015  
Contact Person: Douglas J. Usiak  
Board President Authorization: Dennis M. Kessel

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education 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 ILGR'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, one Workforce Investment Board in the ILGR service counties will implement ILGR's Independent Living Philosophy presentation into a training curriculum for its members.
2. As a result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, a one One-Stop Center will incorporate a training, approved by ILGR on Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Independent Living Philosophy and/or disability benefits training as part of its training program for their staff and participants.
3. As a result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, one business within the service area will create employment policies compliant 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 the Center, 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 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.
3. As a result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, one community agency will become a new provider of housing services for persons with disabilities who are ex-offenders.
4. As a result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, one community agency will become a new provider of barrier-removal services (i.e. ramps) for persons with disabilities.

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

1. As a result of the advocacy of Independent Living of Genesee Region, one area theatre will increase its access to or use of assistive listening devices.
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. As a result of advocacy by Independent Living of Genesee Region, one community committee, commission, task force, or advisory Council (previously unrepresented by the community of persons with disabilities) will obtain such representation.
2. Independent Living of Genesee Region will increase physical access to local polling places.
3. As a result of advocacy by Independent Living of Genesee Region, one county Board of Elections within the ILGR service area will implement a training on use of accessible ballot marking devices, approved by ILGR, for polling place workers within that county.

# 16. ILNC

## 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:	C010999
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015
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, one business will become compliant with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. 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) Services Option for Veterans with disabilities under its care.

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

1. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, more accessible and integrated housing opportunities will be available to persons with disabilities.
2. As a result of the advocacy of ILNC, the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority will extend paratransit scheduling services beyond normal business hours.
3. 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.
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 ILNC, one polling place will become accessible to persons with disabilities.
2. As a result of advocacy by ILNC, one community committee, commission, task force, or advisory Council (previously unrepresented by the community of persons with disabilities) will obtain such representation.



## 17. ILI-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.	C011003
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
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. Education Advocacy

##### ACTIVITIES

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.

- 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.
- Advocate for the inclusion of Independent Living, Inc. brochures and information in the community resource materials provided to transition age youth in Orange County school districts.

- 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 County.
- 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.
- 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.

## 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.
6. One or more community agencies, working with transition aged youth, will change policy and procedure to include ILI-Middletown staff in transition planning activities.
7. One or more school districts in Orange County will change policy and procedures to include information about Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages in the community resource materials provided to transition aged students with disabilities.
8. At least one school district in Orange County will change policy and procedure and include ILI-Middletown staff in transition planning activities.
9. At least one school district in Orange County will change policy and procedures to include students with psychiatric disabilities in regular classroom settings with appropriate support services.

## **B. Employment Advocacy**

### 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 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 youths 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**

### ACTIVITIES

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.

- 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 measureable 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 peer run programs 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 medical facilities will establish a policy requiring discharge planners to include information about Independent Living Centers and agency linkages in its discharge planning packets
9. 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.
10. 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
11. The ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) Team will change policies and procedures to allow an ILI-Middletown Mental Health Peer to accompany clinicians during community interventions.

## **D. Commerce Advocacy**

## ACTIVITIES

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.

- 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.
- Advocate for “Complete Streets” design in City of Middletown to make community safer and accessible to all users.

## 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. NYS and local transportation agencies in Orange County will adopt a "Complete Streets" policy to make the streets safer and accessible to all users.

## **E. Social Advocacy**

### **ACTIVITIES**

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.

- 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**

### **ACTIVITIES**

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.

- 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 previously have not had consumer representation.

## 18. ILI-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. C010974  
Report Period: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015  
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. Education Advocacy

##### ACTIVITIES

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.

- 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 60 calendar 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.
- IL's ECDC, in coordination and collaboration with local school districts and county preschool coordinators, 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.
- Advocate for the inclusion of Independent Living, Inc. brochures and information in the community resource materials provided to transition age youth in Orange County school districts.

## 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 and provide transportation 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.
12. At least one school district in Orange County will change policy and procedures to include information about Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages in the community resource materials provided to transition aged students with disabilities.
13. At least one school district in Orange County will change policy and procedure and include ILI staff in transition planning activities.
14. At least one school district in Orange County will change policy and procedures to include students with psychiatric disabilities in regular classroom settings with appropriate support services.

## **B. Employment Advocacy**

### 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.

- 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.
- Advocate with employers to provide electronic employment applications in an alternate, accessible format that are appropriate for applicants with disabilities.

## 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.
9. At least one employer will make their electronic employment application available in alternate, accessible formats that are appropriate for applicants with disabilities.

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

#### **ACTIVITIES**

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.

- 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 and state 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 peer run program 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. One or more Managed Long Term Care Organizations (MLTCs) and/or Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) 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.

11. One or more Managed Long Term Care Organizations (MLTCs) and/or Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) 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
12. Congress will pass the Community Choice Act.
13. 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.
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. 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.
16. 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
17. Reach One (and the agencies in the Mid-Hudson Recovery Center partnership) will establish Peer Advocacy Advisory Boards within each county (Orange, Ulster, Dutchess, Rockland) to provide recommendations to state and local Offices/Departments of Mental Health for implementation into current policies and practices.

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

##### ACTIVITIES

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.

- 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.
- Advocate to end landlord discrimination against potential tenants who receive rental subsidies and other subsidies that are included in their source of income.

## 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.
18. NYS will make discrimination by landlords based on a tenant’s source of income illegal under State Human Rights Law.

## **E. Social Advocacy**

### **ACTIVITIES**

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.

- 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.
- Advocate for increased utilization of Individual and Community Supports (ICS) in Orange County so that individuals shall have the responsibility and ability to choose more inclusive, integrated service options.

### **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**

### ACTIVITIES

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.

- 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 2013 and 2014. 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.
- Advocate to establish Peer Run Advisory Boards within each county (Orange, Ulster, Dutchess and Rockland) to provide recommendations to state and local Offices/Departments of Mental Health for changes in current policies and practices.

## 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 previously have not had consumer representation.
4. The Orange County Board of Elections will have no inaccessible locations listed on its polling sites.

# 19. ILI-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.	C011002
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
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. Education Advocacy

##### ACTIVITIES

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.

- 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.
- Advocate for the inclusion of Independent Living, Inc. brochures and information in the community resource materials provided to transition age youth in Sullivan County school districts.
- 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 Sullivan County.

## 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.
10. At least one school district in Sullivan County will change policy and procedures to include information about Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages in the community resource materials provided to transition aged students with disabilities.
11. At least one school district in Sullivan County will change policy and procedure and include ILI-Monticello staff in transition planning activities.
12. 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.

## **B. Employment Advocacy**

## 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 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 include hand- outs and brochures for Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages in the community resource materials.
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.
9. At least one local employer will make documented changes in its employment policies and procedures to comply with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a result of participating in an annual job fair jointly conducted by ILI-Monticello and Sullivan Works One-Stop Center.

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

#### **ACTIVITIES**

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.

- 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 and state 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.
- IL, Inc. will advocate for consumers by organizing and attending a Fair Hearing session when an unjust ruling is submitted.
- Advocate for the 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. One or more community service organizations will establish a written agreement with ILI-Monticello to provide disability awareness training for all of its members.
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-Monticello, in collaboration with CDPAANY (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. One or more local or state run psychiatric hospitals will establish an agreement, and change their protocol, to enable ILI Monticello Peer Diversion Specialists to provide support and integration to community resources, and reduce recidivism of inpatient care.

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

##### ACTIVITIES

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.

- 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.
7. ILI-Monticello will establish an accessible transportation program, including accessible transportation in all new planning and development throughout Sullivan County, supported by grant funding and/or self-sustaining fee-for-service agreements.

## **E. Social Advocacy**

### **ACTIVITIES**

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.

- 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**

### **ACTIVITIES**

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.

- 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 previously have not had consumer representation.
4. ILI-Monticello will continue to ensure that the Sullivan County Board of Elections will have no inaccessible locations listed on its polling sites.

## **20. LICIL**

### **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.:	C010978
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Patricia Moore, Executive Director
Board President Authorization:	Lynette Perez

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

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

1. A local school CSE will make a policy change in the development of transition plans for students with disabilities so that plans will include information about Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages.
2. A local school district will modify its practices and procedures so that the parents' information packet will be distributed prior to CSE meetings.
3. A local school will change its policies and procedures to incorporate a "Parents' Information Night" as an educational component for families of children with IEPs or Rehabilitation Act Section 504 plans.
4. At least one school in Nassau County will increase its accessibility through the removal of existing architectural or programmatic barriers to equal access.

##### **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 Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages.
2. One area business will improve access for potential employees with disabilities.
3. At least one major employer will incorporate a Disability Awareness training, either developed, endorsed or conducted by LICIL as an annual In-Service Training program for all personnel.

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

1. A local hospital will adopt a policy to identify, serve and be accountable for properly meeting the specific needs of its patients with disabilities.
2. A local hospital will change its staff training policies and procedures to include disability awareness materials, either developed or endorsed by LICIL.

3. A local healthcare provider will increase access by implementing use of accessible exam equipment.
4. A local healthcare provider will increase access by implementing use of appropriate methods of alternative communications.

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

1. The proper standing signage will be added to designated disabled parking spaces throughout Nassau County.
2. A local township will increase the accessibility of public rights of way by adding curb cuts.
3. Within Nassau County a municipality will establish a policy for regular snow removal from curb cuts, bus stops and disabled parking spaces to improve access for persons with disabilities.
4. As a result of LICIL advocacy, a local transportation provider will increase equal access to information about its services through the use of technology.
5. A local business in the Center's service area will increase its accessibility through the removal of existing architectural, programmatic or policy-related barriers to equal access.

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

1. 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.
2. A fitness center 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. 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.
2. 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.
3. Disaster preparation and relief plans addressing the needs and concerns of people with disabilities will be adopted by a local municipality.
4. A community youth service organization will establish a written agreement with LICIL to provide disability awareness training for all of its members.
5. At least one civic group will establish policies and procedures to increase communications access by making one of its key printed materials available in Alternative Format.

## **21. MILC**

### **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.:	C010979
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015
Contact Person:	Jeff Reifensnyder
Board President Authorization:	Gail Santimaw

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

##### **A. Education 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. 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 transition 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 service 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 consumer/disability representation.
2. MILC will increase the number of accessible polling locations in Franklin County.

## **22. NCCI**

### **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, New York 12901
Contract Number:	C010980
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 - September 30th, 2015
Contact Person:	Robert Poulin
Board President Authorization:	Ted Graser

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

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

1. At least 1 college or university will incorporate NCCI's Independent Living Philosophy presentation into its curriculum for professional preparation programs that work with people with disabilities.
2. A local university will change its policies and procedures to ensure that its students and alumni with disabilities are fully informed about its Department of Career Support and the procedures for obtaining services.

##### **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. At least one employer will make a policy and procedural change to comply with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a result of the recommendations of a community supportive employment committee established by NCCI comprised of stakeholders in the employment field.

##### **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. 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 its services to disabled consumers by requiring its transit employees to go through disability awareness and etiquette training conducted by NCCI staff

#### **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.



## **23. NRCIL**

### **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.:	C010993
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Brenda Campany
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. 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.
3. 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 routinely provide information about community supports available to maintain independence and for NRCIL to regularly conduct presentations about community support services.
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 mental health disorders at their facility.
4. At least one senior living center will change its policies and procedures to allow NRCIL to conduct a support group and training programs for healthy living.

### **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. 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.
2. Disaster preparation and relief plans addressing the needs and concerns of people with disabilities will be adopted by local counties.
3. The Jefferson County Board of Elections will provide voter material in alternative formats.

## **24. PILS**

### **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.:	C010997
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Joe Bravo, Executive Director
Board President Authorization:	Shelley Klein

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

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

1. 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".
2. As a result of PILS advocacy, a local school will change its facilities' programs, services, policies, and/or procedures to offer or reflect a more integrated and inclusive approach.
3. PILS will establish a written agreement with one human services 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 PILS, ACCES-VR, postsecondary education, other community based service agency and organization linkages, and benefits.

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

1. 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.
2. PILS will establish formal agreements whereby more community agencies have presentations to consumers/professionals about work incentives.
3. Putnam County DSS Employment & Training Department will change policy and procedures to include in its personnel training a Disability Sensitivity Training with a specific focus on Mental Health and Development Disabilities collaboratively developed by PILS and other service providers (NYAPRS, MHA) to increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

##### **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 local human service agencies and public health services that provide brochures and pertinent program information in accessible formats.
3. At least one local pharmacy will change policy and procedures to routinely provide talking prescription labels for their customers who are visually impaired.

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

1. At least one restaurant will provide its menu in an accessible format.
2. 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.
3. There will be an increase in the number of affordable, integrated and accessible housing options for people with disabilities.
4. As the result of PILS efforts to assist individuals with disabilities whose transportation options are severely limited to obtain services, at least one community services provider will establish a written agreement to bring their services to PILS and/or an alternate accessible location on the county's existing paratransit route on a regular basis.

#### **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. At least one recreational facility will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all personnel on Disability Sensitivity and Awareness.

#### **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 consumer/disability representation.
2. The Putnam 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 PILS
3. The Putnam County Board of Elections (BOE) 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.
4. The Putnam County Board of Elections will provide voter material in alternative formats.

## 25. RCIL-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, NY 14608
Contract No.:	C010985
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Bruce Darling, President / CEO
Program Contact:	Rebecca Payton, Assistant Director of IL Programs
Board President Authorization:	Shelly Perrin, Board Chair

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. At least one school district will incorporate RCIL's Youth for Integration through Education, Leadership, and Discovery (Y.I.E.L.D) program into their curriculum.
2. There will be an increase of people with disabilities that serve on education related boards, committees, and tasks forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
3. At least one Early Intervention Program will incorporate RCIL's Independent Living Philosophy presentation into a training curriculum for its staff and parents.
4. At least one community health care based training program will adopt a disability awareness Independent Living philosophy component developed by RCIL into its curriculum for its health care workers.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. A local federal contractor or subcontractor will make documented changes in its employment policies and procedures to comply with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
2. New York State legislature will amend the vehicle and traffic law to permit licensing and employment of truck drivers who are deaf.
3. As a result of the Center's efforts to identify employers that discriminate against deaf job applicants, an employment discrimination complaint will be filed with the NYS Division of Human Rights, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) or other appropriate authority and will be successfully settled.

##### C. Health Care Advocacy

1. NYS will implement the Community First Choice option by amending state law to allow certain medical tasks be performed by advanced-trained home health attendants.

2. The US Congress will pass the Community Integration Act and the President will sign it into law.
3. A local nursing facility or rehabilitation center will change policies and procedures to routinely provide information about community resources, including Independent Living services to their residents.

#### **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 five 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. 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.
5. 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 and/or bubble interpreting.
6. The County of Monroe will create and implement an emergency communication policy that incorporates interpreting and captioning in its public information dissemination.
7. RCIL will ensure that local law enforcement agencies revise their policies and procedures for interact and communicate effectively with people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

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

1. There will be an increase in the number of integrated social activities in the community for persons with disabilities and their family members.
2. At least one theater will change its policies and procedures to increase the provision of captioning services.
3. Increase the accessibility of social events in the community by increasing the availability of sign language interpreters and live captioning.
4. RCIL will establish a program supported by grant funding and/or assigned human resources to assist people with disabilities to participate in social and recreational activities/events.

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

1. Full implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) will be achieved in New York State.
2. At least one constituted county political party in Monroe County will adopt, within its bylaws, a provision for the accessibility of meetings, rallies and other events.
3. Increase the availability, provision and/or quality of captioning services in public hearings.

## **26. RCAL**

### **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:	CO10982
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Susan J. Hoyer, Chief Executive Officer
Board President Authorization:	Paula Kindos-Carberry

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

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

1. At least one employer in RCAL's service area will make documented changes in its employment policies to comply with Title I of the ADA

##### **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.

## **27. RCIL-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.:	C010983
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Zvia McCormick, Executive Director
Board President Authorization:	Michael Wade

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

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

1. A local elementary school will incorporate a yearly disability awareness assembly into its curriculum.
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".

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

1. At least one (1) agency, organization, or business will incorporate RCIL-Amsterdam developed or endorsed Disability Awareness and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) components into their staff training programs.
2. At least one (1) area business will improve access for potential employees with disabilities.

##### **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 availability of medical and mental health services for children and/or adults with disabilities in RCIL-Amsterdam's service area.
3. Increase accessibility at hospitals, clinics, private doctors' offices and/or dental offices for persons with disabilities.

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

1. As a result of RCIL-Amsterdam advocacy, at least one (1) public eating establishment will make improvements to increase accessibility.



2. At least one (1) local catering hall and/or restaurant will improve access by making menus available in large print, and in Braille.
3. At least one (1) Fire Department will modify its in-service training plan to include Disability Awareness & Sensitivity Training either developed endorsed, or conducted by RCIL-Amsterdam staff.

**E. Social Advocacy**

1. At least one (1) community recreational facility will increase its accessibility to allow people with disabilities to enjoy its use.
2. Opportunities for participating in integrated fitness programs in the community will be increased.

**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. Disaster preparation and relief plans which address the needs and concerns of people with disabilities will be adopted by Montgomery or Fulton County.

## 28. RCIL-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
Address:	401 E. German Street 2nd Floor, Suite 208 Herkimer, NY 13350
Contract No.:	C010998
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Zvia McCormick, Executive Director David Lowitz, Operations Manager/Herkimer Site Director
Board President Authorization:	Michael Wade

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. At least one (1) school in RCIL-Herkimer's service area will increase its level of programming and/or physical access for students with disabilities.
2. At least one (1) school will incorporate in its curriculum an RCIL-Herkimer 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. In order to increase parental awareness of services for students with disabilities, a local public school district will add the RCIL/LDA website and mission statement to their website, under the link for "Helpful Student Links for Parents."

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. One-Stop Career Centers will establish a protocol within policies and procedures for including work incentives planning and assistance services in employment plans developed by Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries.
2. At least one (1) 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. As a result of the advocacy of RCIL-Herkimer, one (1) medical facility will incorporate an Independent Living Philosophy presentation either developed or endorsed by RCIL-Herkimer into its curriculum for its discharge planning staff.
2. One (1) or more RCIL-Herkimer 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.

3. RCIL-Herkimer 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

#### **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 the result of the advocacy of RCIL-Herkimer, at least one (1) Family Court system will integrate an Independent Living presentation, provided or approved by RCIL-Herkimer, into their training for professionals working in Family Court.

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

1. A village, town or city in the Center's catchment area will improve the access of a recreational facility to people with disabilities
2. As a result of working cooperatively with other agencies, there will be an increase of integrated recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities.
3. A local health club/fitness center will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all personnel on disability sensitivity and awareness.

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

1. The Herkimer County Board of Elections will have no inaccessible locations listed on its polling sites.
2. There will be an increase in the number of consumers and/or staff that serve on community and statewide boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.

## **29. RCIL-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
Contract No.:	C010984
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Zvia McCormick, Executive Director
Board President Authorization:	Michael Wade

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

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

1. At least one (1) 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 (1) 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. RCIL 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 disabled participants who desire the Center's assistance.
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. One (1) 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.
2. RCIL Utica 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.

3. As a result of the advocacy of RCIL, one (1) medical facility will incorporate an Independent Living Philosophy presentation either developed or endorsed by RCIL into its curriculum for its discharge planning staff.

#### **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. Increase the number of businesses that are fully accessible.

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

1. There will be an increase in the number of therapeutic and accessible gardens in the community for persons with disabilities.
2. There will be an increase in the number of recreation and fitness facilities and programs that are accessible to people with disabilities.

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

1. There will be an increase in the number of consumers and/or staff that serve on community and statewide boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
2. 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.

## **30. RILC**

### **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.:	C010986
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	George Hoehmann
Board President Authorization:	David Goldwasser

#### **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. A 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 (IEP).
4. A 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, NYSCB, and agency linkages.
5. One NYS Corrections 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. Board of Cooperative Education Services (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. At least one school district will incorporate information about RILC services into their website, newsletter, and or school year calendar.
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 disabilities 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.
12. A local school district that serves students with disabilities in conjunction with RILC will establish a program supported by grant funding and/or assigned human resources to offer work readiness and other supports to address the Career Development Occupational Studies (CDOS) requirement and better prepare student with disabilities aging out of the educational system to enter the work force.

## **B. Employment Advocacy**

1. One business will make changes to its employment policies and procedures to comply with Title 1 of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).
2. One business in Rockland County will produce an accessible version of its employee handbook.
3. 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.
4. One business/employer will make its employment application available in an accessible format for applicants with disabilities.
5. One Chamber of Commerce or other business membership organization in Rockland County will provide Disability Awareness Training to its members, provided by RILC.
6. As a result of RILC and the NYS Office of 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 1 of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).
7. An employment agency will establish an outreach policy directed towards finding employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
8. At least one corporation will establish policies and procedures to improve outreach to people with disabilities for employment opportunities.
9. RILC will establish a formal agreement whereby more community agencies have presentations to consumers about work incentives.
10. 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 people with disabilities.
11. RILC will establish a written arrangement with a local food pantry to provide on-site outreach services including information and referral, benefits advisement, and information about employment support programs for people with disabilities.
12. RILC will establish a written agreement with local Veteran associations to provide work readiness and support programs for veterans with disabilities.

## **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 local nursing home will include a peer group to explore issues regarding community living as part of its community transition process.
4. 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.
5. 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 diagnoses), as well as non-psychiatric diagnosis and evaluate medical services for children and/or adults with disabilities.
6. A patient-based facility in Rockland County will make the information being provided to the general public available in alternate formats.
7. Medical offices will create information about their services in an accessible format.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. A health care provider in Rockland County will become compliant with Title I and/or Title III of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).
11. A Veteran's Affairs Hospital will change its policies and procedures to have information packets which 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.
12. 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 the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP).
13. RILC will establish a contract to provide Consolidated Supports and Services through the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

#### **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. The Rockland County Planning Department will change its project review policies and procedures to address compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) when offering recommendations and guidance to local municipalities and developers prior to project approval.
3. In Rockland County there will be an increase in the number of affordable, integrated and accessible housing options for people with disabilities.
4. One restaurant in Rockland County will provide its menu in an accessible format.
5. RILC will establish a written arrangement whereby all law enforcement agencies will offer on-site disability sensitivity training conducted by RILC as a regular part of its training curriculum for employees.
6. A private and/or a public retirement community will improve access by making its resident's handbook available in accessible formats.



7. 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.
8. At least one municipality will establish the position of an Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Coordinator and develop and publish an ADA grievance procedure and compliance policy.
9. The Rockland County Legislature will adopt an ordinance, sponsored by RILC that prohibits source of income discrimination in public housing facilities throughout the County.
10. 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.
11. As a result of a collaborative effort by RILC and local law enforcement to raise awareness about accessible parking abuse, a police department or sheriff office will enact and implement policy and procedures to improve reporting of violations to insure that accessible parking regulations are followed and those violations are addressed in an appropriate manner.

#### **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 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).
5. RILC will establish a program supported by grant funding and/or assigned human resources, to peer mentor individuals with disabilities to increase their participation in social and recreational activities/events.
6. 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. A local government in Rockland County will routinely provide agendas in an accessible format for/at publicly attended meetings.
4. 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.

5. A local government agency will adopt Disaster Preparation and Relief Plans addressing the needs and concerns of people with disabilities.

# 31. SAIL

## 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 operating as  
Southern Adirondack Independent Living Center (SAIL)  
Address: 71 Glenwood Avenue, Queensbury, NY 12804  
Contract No.: C010976  
Report Period: October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015  
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.
4. There will be a measurable increase in the number of small businesses that implement Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) policies for employees with disabilities.
5. SAIL will establish with at least one employment entity a written agreement to provide computer training.

##### 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. 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.
4. 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.
5. Prevent any changes to the Medicaid program that restrict or limit eligibility, services, and/or choice.

#### **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 on 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.
8. There will be a measurable increase in the number of small businesses that implement Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) policies for patrons with disabilities.
9. At least one local municipality will amend its Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Plan to increase the number of Compliance Officers identified and registered.

#### **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.
4. There will be a measurable increase in accessible and integrated social, recreational and leisure events that promote Mental Health Wellness.
5. There will be a measurable increase in the number of community organizations that incorporate training in disability etiquette for their recreation staff either developed or endorsed by SAIL.

6. There will be a measurable increase in the number of accessible recreation opportunities and facilities.

**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.
6. Political candidates and elected officials will adopt policies that ensure that meetings and rallies are held in accessible locations.

## **32. STIC**

### **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.:	C010988
Contract Year:	October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Maria Dibble, Executive Director
Board President Authorization:	Rena Kovac

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

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

1. The NYS Legislature or Congress will adopt a law defining the use of restraints/seclusion in schools.
2. 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).
3. As a result of STIC's advocacy efforts, 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. Increase the availability of integrated employment options and services for people with disabilities in the Center's service area.
2. Achieve a reallocation of employment related funding from sheltered to integrated employment programs on a statewide basis.
3. NY will establish an "Employment First" Policy for people with Developmental and other disabilities.
4. 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.
5. The governor will sign a bill granting higher tax credits to businesses that hire people with disabilities.
6. The governor will sign a bill to add disability-owned businesses to the Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise program.
7. The Governor will sign a bill to establish a position of Section 55-b and c Coordinator.
8. 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, mental health and related 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/or services as appropriate.
6. 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 or integrated and/or accessible housing options in the Center's service area.
2. The Governor will sign a bill establishing standards for "visitability" for housing built with public funds.
3. The Governor will sign a bill putting Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into state law.
4. Broome County will restore recent cuts/services to Broome County Transit and/or other transportation programs.
5. NY will pass legislation, adopt regulations, change practices, and/or implement policies/procedures that will reduce the use of solitary confinement for people with disabilities in NY prisons/jails.

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

1. There will be an increase in the number of stadiums, auditoriums, theaters, parks and/or 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 the Center's service area for people with disabilities.

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

1. The state law which allows continued use of inaccessible lever voting machines in village, school and special district elections will not be renewed past its sunset date of 2015.
2. As a result of STIC advocacy, the revised Broome County Emergency Plan will include provisions that address the specific needs of people with disabilities and the final plan that is posted on the county website will be accessible to people with all types of disabilities.
3. As a result of a public relations campaign developed and implemented by STIC, at least one municipality in Broome County will pass appropriate legislation establishing and promoting a Day of Celebration of the passage of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), the anniversary of the Olmstead decision, or the closures of institutions.

4. 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.



## **33. SILC**

### **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.:	C010989
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Marie Carrubba, James Grey
Board President Authorization:	Rita Carson

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

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

1. In order to increase parental awareness of services for students with disabilities, a local public school district will add SILC's website and mission statement to its website, under the link for "Helpful Student Links for Parents" or "Community Links for Parents" etc.
2. 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. Establish formal agreements whereby more community agencies have presentations to consumers and/or case workers about work incentives.
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. There will be an increase in the number of local human service agencies or public health services that provide brochures and pertinent program information in accessible formats.
2. 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 applying for

services related to Independent Living and the NYS Department of Health Nursing Facility Transition and Diversion (NFTD) Waiver.

3. 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 a measurable increase in Jamestown in the accessibility of public right-of-ways, such as curb cuts constructed for people with disabilities.
2. 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.
3. There will be an increase in the number of accessible pedestrian pathways in the city of Jamestown.
4. There will be an increase in the number of integrated accessible/adaptable housing units available to persons with disabilities.
5. At least 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 community club or service organization will adopt a policy assuring that meeting places are fully accessible.
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.
3. There will be at least one new accessible trail created for people with disabilities in Chautauqua County

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

1. At least one local elected official will establish a policy/procedure to make printed materials available in alternative format when requested.
2. Chautauqua County Board of Elections will provide voter material in alternative formats.
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.

## 34. SICIL

### 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.:	C010990
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
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:** At the present time, only three Staten Island schools are allowing SICIL to provide input to Transition Coordinators and parents at transition meetings.

**Activities:** The executive director will reach out to more individual transition coordinators to encourage them to use SICIL staff when developing transition plans for students.

**Goal:** At least two more high schools will change their policies and procedures to routinely include SICIL staff in the development of transition plans for students with disabilities.

##### GOAL 2

**Issues:** Although Workforce 1 Career Center has computers equipped with JAWS, many Workforce 1 employees do not know how to instruct someone on its use.

**Activities:** The executive director will collaborate with the director of training for workforce 1 to determine their needs and provide trainings.

**Goal:** SICIL will establish a written arrangement with Workforce 1 Career Center to offer on-site computer trainings as a regular part of employee training.

##### GOAL 3

**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.
- Due to advocacy efforts, Assemblyman Cusick's chief of staff is working with several stakeholders, changing the language of the bill and it will be presented to the education committee again.

**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.

#### **GOAL 4**

**Issues:** At this time, there is only one elementary school that incorporates a disability awareness component either developed or endorsed by SICIL into their programming.

**Activities:** The executive director will advocate with elementary school principals to incorporate a disability awareness component either developed or endorsed by SICIL into their programming.

**Goal:** At least two more elementary schools will incorporate a disability awareness component either developed or endorsed by SICIL into its programming.

#### **GOAL 5**

**Issue:** The local Committee on Special Education (CSE) does not routinely use the New York State Independent Living Philosophy and History DVD as a regular part of disability awareness training for committee members.

**Goal:** At least one local (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. Efforts are ongoing.

### **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.

### **GOAL 3**

**Issue:** At this time, food pantries on Staten Island have not had SICIL staff members on site to provide outreach services to individuals with disabilities.

**Activities:** The director will advocate with directors of food pantries to encourage them to have SICIL staff on site to provide outreach services.

**Goal:** SICIL 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 individuals with disabilities who will benefit from the Center's assistance.

## **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 Richmond University Medical Center for first responder staff.

**Activities:** The executive director will collaborate with administration at RUMC so that they will change their policies to include this training to their first responder staff.

**Goal:**

- A Disability Awareness Training for First Responders developed by SICIL will be incorporated in training sessions to first responders.
- Richmond University Medical Center 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 Richmond University Medical Center do not routinely provide information about SICIL to patients with disabilities upon discharge.

**Activities:** The executive director will reach out to the discharge planning unit at Richmond University Medical Center and provide them with brochures to include in their discharge planning packets.

**Goal:** Richmond University Medical Center will establish a policy requiring discharge planners to include information about community services, including Independent Living Center services and resources, in its discharge planning packets.

## **GOAL 7**

**Issue:** At this time, Richmond University Medical Center does not have a Peer Program in place that matches inpatients with persons we recruit and educate for peer mentoring.

**Activities:** The executive director will collaborate with hospital administrators to develop a Peer Mentoring Program

**Goal:** As a result of collaborating with Richmond University Medical Center, they will establish a new Peer Mentoring Program to match inpatients with persons SICIL recruits and educates for peer mentoring.

## **GOAL 8**

**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 9**

**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 10**

**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.

**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.

## **Goal 11**

**Issue:** Outreach to veterans has not been successful in the past, and veterans are not taking advantage of services provided by SICIL.

**Activities:** The director will advocate with Commander Jim Wassmuth at the VFW Libetti Post to invite Veterans to take advantage of our services, especially peer support groups.

**Goal:** The VFW Libetti Post will make a policy and procedural change to facilitate a more efficient process for referring veterans with disabilities to community resources, including Independent Living Center services.

## **GOAL 12**

**Issue:** Richmond University Medical Center does not provide sensitivity training for their staff that would improve the care of individuals with disabilities during their hospital stay.

**Activities:** Director will advocate with hospital administration to change their policies and provide sensitivity training to their staff.

**Goal:** Richmond University Medical Center will change its staff training policies to routinely provide disability sensitivity training for staff to improve the care of individuals with disabilities during their hospital stay.

## **D. Commerce Advocacy**

### **GOAL 1**

**Issue:** There are many restaurants on Staten Island 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 2**

**Issue:** It has been reported that a local senior living facility, The Esplanade, is discriminating against individuals with disabilities

**Activities:** The executive director made a formal complaint to the Fair Housing Justice Center.

**Goal:** As a result of the Center's advocacy efforts to assist individuals with disabilities who are being discriminated against by a luxury senior living facility (The Esplanade), a discrimination complaint filed with the Fair Housing Justice Center will be successfully settled with a change in the discriminatory practices of this facility.

## **GOAL 3**

**Issue:** At this time, there is no policy in Staten Island that provides for the use of cards that drivers who are deaf can present to police officers when they are pulled over to explain that they are deaf and are not being uncooperative.

**Activities:** The executive director will advocate with Assemblyman Cusick to pass a local law to provide for the routine use of cards of this kind.

**Goal:** The borough of Staten Island will pass legislation to require the routine use of information cards to assist in communication during a traffic stop between a police officer and a driver who is deaf or hard of hearing.

## **GOAL 4**

**Issue:** It has come to our attention that at the present time, The Staten Island Ferry Terminal is not equipped to inform individuals who are deaf/hard of hearing of changes in the ferry boat schedules.

### **Activities:**

- The executive director will meet with ferry boat administrators to discuss ways, such as visual "looping" or other means of communicating information to deaf/hard of hearing individuals to be in compliance with the ADA laws regarding ways to correct this problem.

**Goal:** The Staten Island Ferry Terminal will improve access to appropriate communication services or technology for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing to inform them of changes in the ferry boat schedules.

## **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:** The State owned Willowbrook Property on Staten Island will improve its architectural and communication access to people with disabilities.

### **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.

## **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:** Elected officials do not routinely make printed material available in alternative format when requested.

**Activities:** The executive director will advocate with local officials to establish a policy/procedure to make printed material available in alternative format when requested.

**Goal:** At least one local elected official will establish a policy/procedure to make printed material available in alternative format when requested.

### **GOAL 3**

**Issue:** The Staten Island Board of Elections does not have absentee ballots printed in Braille available for individuals who are blind or visually impaired voters who request them.

**Activities:** The executive director advocated with Assemblyman Michael Cusick to sponsor Bill A06195 which provides that absentee ballots for all elections shall be made available in Braille upon request of a blind or visually impaired voter

**Goal:** NYS legislature will pass A06195 to provide that absentee ballots for all elections shall be made available in Braille upon request of a blind or visually impaired voter

### **GOAL 4**

**Issue:** The Staten Island Board of Elections does not have voting materials printed in Braille available for individuals who are blind or visually impaired voters who request them.

**Activities:** SICIL staff will advocate with the administration of the S.I. Board of Elections to have voting materials printed in Braille available.

**Goal:** Staten Island Board of Elections will change its policy to have voting materials printed in Braille available for individuals who are blind or visually impaired voters who request them.

## **35. SILO**

### **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 dba Suffolk Independent Living Organization
Address:	2111 Lakeland Ave, Suite A Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
Contract No	C010987
Report Period:	October 1, 2014-September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Joseph M. Delgado
Board President Authorization:	Mary Ann Sciacca

#### **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. 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. 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.
4. A local school district 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 college or university will incorporate an Independent Living Philosophy presentation, approved by Suffolk Independent Living Organization, into its curriculum for professional preparation programs that work with persons with disabilities.
6. A local elementary school will incorporate a yearly disability awareness assembly into its curriculum.
7. 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.
8. At least one school district will change its policy to engage parents in their child's school, Committee on Special Education (CSE), and Individualized Education Program (IEP) development process at an earlier point in the child's education.
9. As a result of SILO's establishment of a youth transition partnership with an institute of higher learning, the institute of high learning will establish a new program to address transition issues for youth with disabilities (i.e., mentoring, training, volunteering, and teacher training)

10. As a result of the advocacy of SILO, a school will enact and implement policies and procedures to improve 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.
11. 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. Physical and program access will improve throughout the local one-stop system sites.
2. Establish a written arrangement whereby the Suffolk County One-Stop Center will offer an on-site advocacy program for person with disabilities.
3. At least one major employer in Suffolk County will incorporate Disability Awareness and Sensitivity training, conducted by SILO staff, as an annual in-service program for all personnel.
4. At least one area employer will make its employment application available in large print for applicants who are visually impaired.
5. SILO 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.
6. There will be a reallocation of employment related funding from sheltered to integrated employment programs.
7. 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.
8. One or more employers will modify an established policy or practice to provide reasonable accommodations to person with psychiatric disabilities, developmental disabilities, and/or who are deaf.

## **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. At least one community agency providing health care services to veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan will improve its access to veterans with disabilities to facilitate their reentry.
2. As a result of the advocacy of SILO, one medical facility will incorporate SILO's Independent Living Philosophy presentation into its curriculum for its discharge planning staff.
3. Improve access to medical facilities, including accessible parking and interior access, such as restrooms and signage.
4. At least one local hospital, nursing home or rehabilitation center will change its policies and procedures to allow the Center to conduct at its facility a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) support group on Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) waiver services and/or living within the most restricted setting within their community.
5. 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.

6. 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. The local public transit company will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all transit/driving personnel on disability sensitivity and awareness.
2. There will be a measurable increase in Suffolk County in the accessibility of public right-of-ways, such as curb cuts, constructed for people with disabilities.
3. At least one Fire Department/ Police Department will modify its in-service training plan to include Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Training developed, endorsed or conducted SILO.
4. At least one additional restaurant in Suffolk County will provide its menu in an accessible format.
5. There will be an increase in the number of affordable accessible, integrated housing options for people with disabilities as a result of working with Brookhaven Town.
6. There will be an increase in the number of American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III entities that are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities in the center's services area.
7. A private and/or public retirement community will improve access by making its resident's handbook available in alternate formats.
8. Suffolk County will pass legislation establishing standards for "visitability" in State law to require all newly contracted single-family houses, townhouses and ground-floor units of duplexes and triplexes built with public funds to be made accessible.
9. 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.
10. The proper standing signage will be added to designate disabled parking spaces through Suffolk County.
11. At least one area Chamber of Commerce will make a policy and procedural change to routinely provide accessibility information for people with disabilities.

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

1. One local little league field will improve 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.
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.
4. As a result of working cooperatively with other agencies, there will be an increase of integrated recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities.
5. There will be an increase in the number of accessible faith-based organizations and institutions in Suffolk County.
6. A community organization within the Center's service area will establish an ongoing after school social and recreational program targeting children with disabilities that is accessible and integrated and that meets on a regular basis.
7. A local health club/fitness center will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all personnel on disability sensitivity and awareness.

## **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 in Suffolk County will start providing agendas in an alternate format for/at publicly attended meetings.
4. One or more community service organizations will establish a written agreement with SILO to provide disability awareness training for all of its members.
5. There will be an increase in accessible polling sites within the Center's service area. A grass-roots peer run structured advocacy group will be established within the Center's service area to address statewide and local issues affecting people with disabilities and the community. Whenever possible these goals will be integrated with the center's priority and system change goals.

## **36. TRI**

### **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.:	C010991
Report Period:	October 1, 2014- September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Cynthia L. Fiore, Executive Director
Board President Authorization:	John R. Vacca

#### **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) on 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/Consultation. 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 tasks 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.
7. At least one school district will change its policies and procedures to make auditorium and school board meetings accessible for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing by routinely providing accessible hearing devices and/or interpreters.
8. In order to increase parental awareness of services for students with disabilities, a local public school district will add TRI website to its website, under a link for “Helpful Student Links for Parents” or “Community Resources Link for Parents” etc.



9. In order to increase parental/student's awareness of services for individuals with disabilities, a local college will add TRI's website link to its website, under a link for "Helpful Student Links" or Community Resources Link for Students with Disabilities" etc.
10. At least one college in Dutchess County will change its policies and procedures to incorporate TRI's Independent Living Skills Curriculum for the preparation in transitioning from Higher Education to entering the work force.

## **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 or employment agency 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 or hard of hearing.
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 individuals 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 and/or Hard of Hearing.
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 and/or Hard of Hearing.
6. As a result of participating in a health consortium coordinated by TRI, at least one health care facility will change policies and procedures to improve its access for individuals who are Deaf and /or Hard of Hearing.

## **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/retail store in Dutchess County will install accessible technology.
3. Cab companies which operate in Dutchess County 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 and/or Hard of Hearing.
6. Dutchess County or Municipality Courts will improve access to appropriate communication services or technology for people who are Deaf and/or Hard-of-Hearing.
7. In order to increase awareness of the Center's services local government and/or human service agencies will add TRI's website to its own website, as a link for "Community Service Agencies" or "Resources" etc.
8. At least one municipality that previously did not have the position of Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Coordinator will establish the position to coordinate the municipality's efforts to comply with Title II of the ADA.

#### **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 and/or 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 and/or Hard of Hearing.
5. There will be an increase in the number of accessible playgrounds in Dutchess County.

#### **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. TRI will ensure that disaster preparation and disaster relief plans for Dutchess County residents 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 and/or assisted listening devices at Community Council meetings for the Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing.

## 37. WDOM

### 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:	C010994
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – Sept. 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Melvyn R. Tanzman, Executive Director
Board President Authorization:	Gail Cartenuto Cohn

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

**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
- 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.
- WDOMI will promote workplace immersion as a model for transition with NYSED, OPWDD, DCMH, and other State Agencies
- WDOMI Staff will follow-up with graduating seniors from Project 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 or another School District 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.

**Issue:** Students with disabilities, their families, and school staff require training and education regarding best practices for Emergency preparedness for people with disabilities.

**Proposed Activities:**

- Students, parents and school district staff will be educated regarding Emergency Preparedness for students and staff with disabilities..

**Goals:**

1. At least one School District will improve policies and procedures to assure the health and safety of students and staff with disabilities in the event of an emergency

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

**Proposed Activities:**

- Conduct pre-employment workshops with High School Students with disabilities
- Participate in a workplace immersion model for high school seniors
- Establish a Travel Training Component
- Establish a Business Advisory Council for the Westchester Collaborative effort

**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.
3. As a result of Project Search, a Business Advisory Council will be established with at least three members to develop integrated employment opportunities for transitioning high school seniors.

**B. Employment Advocacy**

**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
- Establish new business relationships through Project BAC

**Goals:**

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

**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**

**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, navigating Managed Long Term Care 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

- Outreach to Managed Care Plans to offer ILC services including but not limited to: ADA Compliance, Benefits Advisement to plan members, Member Education Programs
- Participate in NYSOFA'S Systems Integration Workgroup on Options Counseling to ensure that the NY Connects Resource Directory reflects the resources available to meet the needs of younger people with disabilities. Inclusion of IL, Benefits Advocacy and consumer directed options will be assured

### **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 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.
5. New York States Long Term Care Resource Directory will include the resources available to meet the needs of younger people with disabilities. Inclusion of IL, Benefits Advocacy and consumer directed options will be assured

**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. Participate in a navigator program which will increase the number of New Yorkers with disabilities who have adequate health insurance
  - e. Assure consumer rights in a community based Long Term Care program that is moving towards Managed Long Term Care.
  - f. 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
  - g. Participate in a Navigator Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities that facilitates Medicaid Eligibility
- 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 (DSPA) will establish a disability advisory group to review the information and services offered to people with disabilities and improve these services

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

**Proposed Activities:**

- Meet with MCO's 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 and the Fully Integrated Duals Advantage Program

**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**

**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.
  1. Ridge Hill Shopping Center
    - a. Increase the availability of free on-street parking within Ridge Hill including spaces that can be utilized by those who utilize lift equipped vans.
- Educate e-merchants about standards for accessible web sites

**Goals:**

1. A minimum of one business complex will improve accessibility.

2. At least one e-merchant will improve the accessibility of its website.

**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.
3. Mandate the use of seat belts and shoulder harnesses on all paratransit vehicles
4. Simplify and improve para-transit procedures.
  - a. Require drivers to make efforts to identify blind consumers at pick-ups including having dispatchers telephone the consumers.
  - b. Establish a waiver of reauthorization of medical need for consumers whose physical needs are not expected to change.

**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.
- Conduct outreach to Housing Developers/Managers and establish collaborations to facilitate increased housing options for people with disabilities.

**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.

## **E. Social Advocacy**

**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**

**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.
- Endeavor to establish a Mayors Disability Advisory Committee in Yonkers NY

### **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.
3. A Yonkers Mayor Advisory Committee on Disability will be recognized and meet regularly

**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.
- Work with Board of Elections regarding the handling/processing of votes on Ballot Marking Devices
- 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.
4. The Westchester County Board of Elections will change its policies and procedures to handle and process ballots cast with Ballot Marking Devices in the same manner as any other ballots.

## **38. WILC**

### **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, New York 10601
Contract No.:	C010995
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015
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 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 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. One local college will incorporate a class on the history of the Disability Rights Movement developed and designed by WILC staff.
4. A school 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. 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".
6. 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 WILC, ACCES-VR, postsecondary education, other community based service agency and organization linkages, and benefits.
7. At least one school district's office of Special Education, Pupil Personnel, or Special Education PTA/PTO will change its policies and procedures to routinely offer training for parents, professionals and students on the CPSE/CSE or transition process.
8. One or more schools 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.
9. A community organization will change policies and procedures to regularly sponsor free sign language classes.

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

1. There will be an increase in the number of integrated employment preparation programs, such as internship/volunteer programs, community work experience programs, mentoring 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. WILC will establish formal agreements whereby more community agencies have presentations to consumers about work incentives.
4. A Disability Awareness Track either developed, endorsed or conducted by WILC will be instituted as part of the personnel training curriculum in at least one social service agency in the Center's service area.
5. At least one major employer will change staff training policy and procedures to routinely include a presentation on the benefits of hiring persons with disabilities either developed, endorsed or conducted by WILC.
6. At least one major employer will incorporate a Disability Awareness and Sensitivity training either developed, endorsed or conducted by WILC as an annual In-Service Training program for all personnel.

### **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. A local domestic violence agency will change its policies, procedures and/or practices to provide appropriate use of assistive technology and augmentative communication devices for survivors in their setting.
4. As a result of working cooperatively with other agencies and creating a coalition, a hospital emergency department in Westchester County will change policies and procedures to permit the provision of Peer Run Hospital Diversion Respite services for Mental Health consumers.
5. At least one local pharmacy will change policy and procedures to routinely provide talking prescription labels for their customers who are visually impaired.
6. At least one local community-based Domestic Violence agency will change policy and procedures to include a disability sensitivity training either developed, endorsed or conducted by WILC as a regular part of their employee training procedures.

### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. At least one restaurant will provide its menu in an accessible format.
2. 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.
3. There will be an increase in the accessibility of public right-of-ways, such as curb cuts, constructed for people with disabilities.
4. There will be an increase in the number of affordable, integrated and accessible housing options for people with disabilities.

5. There will be an increase in the availability of accessible taxi and community care service in Westchester County.
6. At least one transportation vendor will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all transit/driving personnel on Disability Sensitivity and Awareness.

**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. \*At least one recreational facility will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all personnel on Disability Sensitivity and Awareness.
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. 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 consumer/disability representation.
2. As a result of an awareness campaign developed and implemented by WILC in collaboration with community partners, at least one municipality in Westchester County will pass appropriate legislation establishing and promoting a Day of Celebration of the passage of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

## **39. WNYIL**

### **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:	C010996
Report Period:	October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015
Contact Person:	Douglas J. Usiak
Board President Authorization:	Dennis M. Kessel

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

##### **A. Education 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 district will change its policies and procedures to become compliant with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act when providing instruction for students with disabilities.

##### **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, the Workforce Investment Board in Erie County will incorporate WNYIL's Independent Living Philosophy presentation into a training curriculum for its members.
3. 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 the advocacy of WNYIL, there will be a measurable increase in the provision of appropriate and coordinated support services for people served by both the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the New York State Office of Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

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) Services Option for Veterans with disabilities under its care.
4. As a result of the advocacy of WNYIL, one program providing services in the children's mental health system will incorporate WNYIL's Independent Living Philosophy presentation into its training curriculum for participants and staff.

#### **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 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.

#### **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.
3. As a result of advocacy by WNYIL, one community committee, commission, task force, or advisory Council (previously unrepresented by the community of persons with disabilities) will obtain such representation.