

**NYS ILC COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLANS  
CONTRACT PERIOD: October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016**

**Table of Contents**

1. Access to Independence of Cortland County (ATI-Cortland)
2. Action Toward Independence (ATI-Sullivan)
3. AIM Independent Living Center (AIM)
4. ARISE-Syracuse (ARISE-Syracuse)
5. ARISE-Auburn subsidiary (ARISE-Auburn)
6. Bronx Independent Living Services (BILS)
7. Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled (BCID)
8. Capital District Center for Independence (CDCI)
9. Catskill Center for Independence (CCFI)
10. Center for Disability Rights (CDR)
11. Center for Independence of the Disabled of New York-Manhattan (CIDNY-Manhattan)
12. Center for Independence of the Disabled of New York-Queens subsidiary (CIDNY-Queens)
13. Directions in Independent Living (DIL)
14. Finger Lakes Independence Center (FLIC)
15. Harlem Independent Living Center (HILC)
16. Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley (ILCHV)
17. Independent Living, Inc.-Newburgh (ILI-Newburgh)
18. Independent Living, Inc.-Middletown subsidiary (ILI-Middletown)
19. Independent Living, Inc.-Sullivan subsidiary (ILI-Sullivan)
20. Long Island Center for Independent Living (LICIL)
21. Massena Independent Living Center (MILC)
22. North Country Center for Independence (NCCI)
23. Northern Regional Center for Independent Living (NRCIL)
24. Regional Center for Independent Living (RCIL-Rochester)
25. Resource Center for Accessible Living (RCAL)
26. Resource Center for Independent Living-Utica (RCIL-Utica)
27. Resource Center for Independent Living-Amsterdam subsidiary (RCIL-Amsterdam)
28. Resource Center for Independent Living-Herkimer subsidiary (RCIL-Herkimer)
29. Rockland Independent Living Center (RILC)
30. Southern Adirondack Independent Living (SAIL)
31. Southern Tier Independence Center (STIC)
32. Southwestern Independent Living Center (SILC)
33. Staten Island Center for Independent Living (SICIL)
34. Suffolk Independent Living Organization (SILO)
35. Taconic Resources for Independence (TRI)
36. Westchester Disabled On the Move (WDOM)
37. Westchester Independent Living Center (WILC)
38. Putnam Independent Living Services-WILC subsidiary (PILS)
39. Western New York Independent Living (WNYIL)
40. Independent Living of Genesee Region-WNYIL subsidiary (ILGR)
41. Independent Living of Niagara County-WNYIL subsidiary (ILNC)

# 1. ATI-CORTLAND

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

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Access to Independence of Cortland County (ATI)  
Address: 26 North Main Street, Cortland, NY 13045  
Contract No.: C012367  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Chad W. Underwood, Chief Executive Officer  
Board President Authorization: Dr. Judy K. C. Bentley, Board Chair

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

1. At least one local school system or Committee on Special Education (CSE) will make a policy change in the development of transition plans for students with disabilities, so that plans will include information on independent living centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages.
2. 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. At least one school district will incorporate information about ATI services or IL into their website, newsletter or student handbook.

##### 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. 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.
3. At least one area business will improve access for potential employees with disabilities.
4. At least one area business will change its recruitment process to eliminate questions that discriminate in regards to a person's disability.

5. ATI 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. 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. Cortland Transit will have at least two Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant buses; expanded service hours; and accessible, limited cross-county service.
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 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 the number of special events and gatherings in Cortland County which are accessible to travelers, tourists and community members.
3. There will be an increase in the number of faith-based organizations in Cortland County which are accessible to people with disabilities.
4. There will be at least one new accessible trail created for people with disabilities in Cortland County.
5. At least one community recreational facility will increase its accessibility to allow for people with disabilities to enjoy its use.

### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. There will be 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, at least one local (County or municipal) law will be passed which benefits the rights of people with disabilities.

## **2. ATI-SULLIVAN**

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

#### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Name of Center: Action Toward Independence  
Address: 309 E. Broadway, Suite A, Monticello, NY 12701  
Contract No.: C012610  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Stephen McLaughlin, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Linda Aumick

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

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

1. At least one local school system or Committee on Special Education (CSE) will change its policies and procedures for the development of transition plans for students with disabilities to include information on Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and community-based service agency linkages.
2. There will be an increase in the number of consumers and/or Center staff that serve on education related boards and/or committees that previously have not had representation from the disability community.

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

1. ATI will establish a written agreement with an employment or job placement agency to provide onsite benefits advisement services to its consumers with disabilities.
2. One business or agency will change policies and procedures to provide benefits advisement to job applicants with disabilities before they begin employment.
3. Through ATI's participation in the Pathstone Senior Employment program, there will be an increase the availability of competitive employment opportunities, outside of ATI, for seniors with disabilities by employers that have not previously hired seniors with disabilities.
4. There will be an increase in the number of consumers and/or Center staff that serve on employment related boards and/or committees that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
5. ATI will establish a written agreement with the local Department of Labor Programs to provide a Work Based Learning Site for disadvantaged youth.

##### **C. Healthcare Advocacy**

1. At least one long or short term care facility will change its policies and procedures to ensure patients with disabilities are fully informed about the availability of home care services, including information about funding such services.

2. As a result of community education and training to promote awareness and prevention of suicide conducted by ATI, at least one community agency providing suicide prevention services will improve its accessibility to people with disabilities.
3. ATI will establish a written agreement with at least one emergency response agency that works with youth to offer regular onsite Youth Mental Health First Aid Trainings for its staff.
4. At least one nursing home, adult home, or assisted living facility will make a policy and procedural change to facilitate a more efficient referral process for community based living services, including Independent Living Center services and resources.
5. At least one community agency serving individuals who have Alzheimer's disease will improve its accessibility to people with disabilities.
6. At least one community health education organization will improve its accessibility to people with disabilities.

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

1. There will be an increase in the number of affordable, accessible and integrated housing units available to persons with disabilities.
2. Sullivan County will establish a transportation plan that will increase the availability of transportation to people with disabilities.
3. At least one local Chamber of Commerce will change its policies and procedures to routinely include in the information packet provided to employers material on the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities.
4. The Sullivan County Department of Family Services will make changes to the Home Energy Assistance Program HEAP (HEAP) to improve access for applicants for benefits who are disabled.

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

1. There will be an increase in the availability of integrated and accessible recreational facilities and venues.
2. At least one social or recreational facility will change its policies and procedures to allow the Center to regularly conduct an onsite support group for individuals with disabilities.

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

1. Increase participation of individuals with disabilities and/or center staff on civic related community, regional and state boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
2. ATI will participate in Emergency Preparedness committees or taskforces that previously have not had representation from the disability community to address the needs and concerns of people with disabilities during a natural or manmade disaster.
3. At least one local government in Sullivan County will start providing its agenda(s) in an alternate format for/at publicly attended meetings.

### **3. 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.: C012376  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: René Snyder, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Sabrina Mineo-O'Connell

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

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

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

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

1. At least one local employer will change its recruitment policies and procedures to create new supported employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities.
2. There will be an increase in employment training opportunities in schools in AIM's service area.
3. As a result of cooperating with other agencies such as ACCES-VR, BOCES, Workforce NY and/or other local agencies, AIM will establish an employment related Independent Living Skills training program for persons living with a disability supported by grant funding and/or self-sustaining fee-for-service agreements.
4. At least one employer in the Center's service area will make documented changes in its employment policies and procedures to offer AIM services as a supplement to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) in relation to disability services for the employee or the family members.

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

1. AIM will establish a written agreement with at least one agency providing services to victims of crime, abuse or domestic violence to provide on-site Disability Awareness training for their staff.
2. 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.



## 4. ARISE-SYRACUSE

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

#### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: ARISE  
Address: 635 James St., Syracuse, NY 13203  
Contract No.: C012368  
Contract Period: October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Tom McKeown, Executive Director  
Program Contact: Nina Lutz, Director of Independent Living Services for Onondaga and Madison Counties  
Board President Authorization: Tania Anderson

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

1. At least one school district will incorporate a transition event where families and students can come to learn about community resources, employment, higher education and other services available for students with disabilities upon graduation.
2. In order to increase parental awareness of services for students with disabilities, a local public school will add the ARISE website address to their website, under the link for "Helpful Student Links For Parents."
3. At least one school will make a procedural change that allows for a disability awareness class either developed or endorsed by ARISE to be taught as part of their curriculum.

##### 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).

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

1. 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.

## **5. ARISE-AUBURN SUBSIDIARY**

### **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 No.:	C012369
Report Period:	October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016
Contact Person:	Tom McKeown, Executive Director
Program Contact:	Catherine Budlong, Auburn Director
Board President Authorization:	Tania Anderson

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

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

1. With technical assistance from ARISE-A, at least one college in ARISE-A's service area will incorporate a Disability Awareness component either developed or endorsed by ARISE-A into their curriculum for students in the field of education or business.
2. A local school (Elementary, Middle or High School) will incorporate an enhanced disability awareness component including the "Kids on the Block" program developed by ARISE-A into their programming.

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

1. As a result of collaboration with ARISE-A, a community agency will establish a formal agreement to provide presentations either developed or endorsed by ARISE-A to consumers and/or case workers about work incentives.
2. As a result of advocacy by ARISE-A, one business will produce an audio/taped version of its employee handbook.

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

1. As a result of advocacy by ARISE-A, at least one new local healthcare facility will change their policies to include information on community independent living resources, which allow individuals to remain independent in the community.
2. As a result of advocacy by ARISE-A, one medical facility will incorporate an Independent Living Philosophy presentation, approved by ARISE-A, into curriculum for its discharge planning staff.

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

1. As a result of advocacy by ARISE-A, at least one local business will increase the number of adequate, well-designed, accessible parking spaces for their patrons with disabilities.
2. With technical assistance from ARISE-A, at least one local restaurant or catering hall will improve access by providing its menu to customers in an alternative format such as large print or Braille.

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

1. As a result of advocacy by ARISE-A, there will be an increase in the number of opportunities for people to participate in integrated fitness programs in the community.
2. One community service organization will establish a formal agreement with ARISE-A to provide disability awareness training for all of its members.

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

1. At least one municipality will pass appropriate legislation establishing and promoting the date of July 26<sup>th</sup> as a day of celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. ARISE-A will continue to ensure that polling places are fully accessible to all people with disabilities and that poll workers are trained in assisting people with disabilities.

## **6. 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.: C012370  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Brett Eisenberg, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Barbara Linn - President

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

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

1. 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.
2. As a result of BILS'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).
3. 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.
4. 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."

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

1. 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).
2. There will be a measurable increase in the number of integrated employment preparation programs, such as internship programs, community work experience programs, and job readiness training programs for persons with disabilities.
3. At least one business in the Center's service area will make documented changes in its employment policies and procedures.

##### **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. BILS will sign a contract with at least one managed care organization to provide services for people with disabilities.
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. There will be an increase in the number of businesses that are fully accessible.
2. There will be an increase in the number of affordable, integrated, and accessible housing options for people with disabilities.
3. There will be an increase in the number of public eating establishments that are accessible to people with disabilities.
4. Local catering halls and restaurants will improve access by making menus available in large print, and/or Braille.

#### **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.

#### **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. A local Board of Elections will change its poll workers training and related educational materials to include disability awareness and sensitivity training that is developed, endorsed or conducted by BILS.
3. There will be a measurable increase in the number of accessible polling sites in Bronx County.

## **7. 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.: C012371  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Joan Peters, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Heidi Hirschfeld

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

##### **A. Educational 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.
4. At least one nursing home will improve its physical and programmatic access to increase its compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to increase the civil rights of its patients.

5. A nursing home will change its policies and procedures to include in its admission literature information about community supports available to maintain independence in the community.

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

1. 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 and elected officials 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.
4. New York City will adopt disaster preparation and relief plans which address the needs and concerns of people with disabilities.



## **8. 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.: C012372  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Laurel Lei Kelley, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Kim Verner, Board President

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

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

1. At least one school district will change its policies and procedures to include in its community resource referral packet information about independent living centers, ACCESVR and other agency linkages.
2. At least one school district will incorporate information about CDCI services or IL into their website, newsletter and/or school year calendar.
3. 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 CDCI will provide community agencies with presentations to consumers about work incentives and SSDI / SSI.
2. 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.
3. New York State will adopt an Employment First policy for People with Disabilities.
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. At least one senior living center will change its policies and procedures to allow CDCI to conduct a support group and training programs for healthy living.

2. As a result of providing technical assistance, at least one community agency will make a policy and procedural change to facilitate a more efficient referral process for community services, including Independent Living Center services, and resources.
3. As a result of collaborating with local agencies, at least one community agency will establish a new Peer Program to provide options for Living a healthier lifestyle through peer services to the disability community in the Capital Region.
4. At least one community agency will establish a Healthy living Program.

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

1. The proper standing signage will be added to designate disabled parking spaces throughout Albany and Schenectady County.
2. There will be an increase in the number of affordable integrated and accessible housing options for people with disabilities.
3. A private and/or a public retirement community will improve access by making its resident's handbook available in alternative formats.

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

1. 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.
2. There will be an increase in the number of faith-based organizations in Albany and Schenectady County which are accessible to people with disabilities.
3. There will be an increase in the number of opportunities for people to participate in integrated fitness programs in the community.
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. As a result of CDCI advocacy, at least one new national law (based on NCIL priorities) will be passed which benefits the rights of people with disabilities.
2. As a result of CDCI advocacy, at least one new NYS law (based on NYAIL and NYSILC priorities) will be passed which benefits the rights of people with disabilities.
3. Disaster preparation and relief plans addressing the needs and concerns of people with disabilities will be adopted by a local county.

## **9. 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 13820  
Contract No.: C012373  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: C. Zachmeyer, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Don Gersch

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

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

1. At least one local county health or social service department will change their policies to allow as many hours as needed of self-directed home health care to avoid placement in nursing homes.

##### **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.

# 10. CDR

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

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Center: Center for Disabilities Rights  
Address: 497 State Street, Rochester NY 14608  
Contract No.: C012609  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Bruce Darling, President / CEO  
Program Contact: Rebecca Payton, Assistant Director of IL Programs  
Board President Authorization: Roberta Wallach

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

1. At least one community health care based training program will adopt a disability awareness Independent Living philosophy component developed by CDR into its curriculum for its health care workers.
2. At least one local school system or Committee on Special Education (CSE) will make a policy change in the development of transition plans for students with disabilities to include bilingual information on Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and community-based service agency linkages.
3. There will be an increase in the number of people with disabilities and/or center staff that serve on education related non-profit community based agency or organization boards, committees, and task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. As the result of a social media campaign conducted by CDR, at least one business will change its policies and procedures to stop paying subminimum wages and to pay employees with disabilities a competitive wage.
2. As a result of CDR's efforts to identify employers that discriminate against disabled job applicants, an employment discrimination complaint will be filed with the NYS Division of Human Rights, U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC) or other appropriate authority and will be successfully settled.
3. At least one employment or job placement agency will incorporate into its curriculum a new peer-written, user friendly guide developed by CDR to educate employees with disabilities about their rights under Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

##### C. Health Care Advocacy

1. 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.
2. At least one Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) Plan will contract with CDR to provide nursing facility transition and diversion services.
3. The local Regional Resource Development Center (RRDC) will change its policies and procedures to routinely provide information on Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NHTD) Medicaid Waiver applicants.
4. A County Department of Social Services will change its policies and procedures regarding the Verification of Deposits for individuals using a trust in order to stop people with disabilities having their Medicaid deactivated at the beginning of the month and being placed at risk of losing their services.
5. NYS will amend state law to allow certain medical tasks be performed by advanced-trained home health attendants.
6. The US Congress will pass the Disability Integration Act; and the President will sign it.
7. CDR will prevent legislation legalizing assisted suicide from passing in New York State.
8. As the result of a peer, web-based campaign to discourage disabled people from committing suicide conducted by CDR, at least one community agency providing suicide prevention services will improve its accessibility to people with disabilities.
9. At least one domestic violence shelter will change its policies and procedures and/or physical environment to accommodate women with disabilities who are victims of domestic violence.

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

1. One local housing complex will create a written agreement with CDR to provide core IL services on site.
2. A State agency will change its Trust Account reporting policies and procedures to establish a cost savings report that will monitor the savings to the State when individuals are utilizing a Trust Account.
3. NYS will pass a state law to allow for a tax credit for homeowners who make modifications that will make their home visitable.
4. Rochester City Council will pass a visitability ordinance; and the Mayor will sign it.
5. Public and para-transportation access for Monroe County residents with disabilities will demonstrate measurable improvement.
6. At least five area businesses will become compliant with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act to improve access for people with disabilities.
7. As a result of CDR's efforts to identify accessibility violations by public accommodations, an accessibility discrimination lawsuit or complaint will be filed with the NYS Division of Human Rights and will be successfully settled.
8. The City of Rochester will amend ordinances and increase code enforcement of sidewalk snow removal to improve sidewalk accessibility in the winter.

#### **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 church will change its physical environment or practices to be more accessible and welcoming to people with disabilities.

3. An advocacy network/infrastructure is established with organized teams of trained consumer advocates available to address social, recreational and leisure issues as they arise through blogs to be shared on social media.

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

1. There will be an increase in individuals with disabilities and/or center staff serving on boards, focus groups, and ad hoc committees that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
2. At least one area agency serving people with disabilities will change its policies and procedures to make its accessible vans and buses available to transport persons with disabilities not affiliated with the agency to the polls on election days, and this will become an ongoing election day service.

# 11. 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 in New York  
Address: 841 Broadway, Suite 301, New York, NY 10003  
Contract No.: C012374  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Susan Dooha, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Martin Eichel

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

1. 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.
2. 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 a paid sick leave policy that will enable people with disabilities to retain employment.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

##### 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's legislature will pass and the Governor will sign into law legislation that adopts the ACCESS Board standards created pursuant to the Affordable Care Act for accessible diagnostic medical equipment.
  3. The New York State Legislature will amend the 2011 state law, and the Governor will sign it, regarding limits on Medicaid benefits and services including physical therapy, to provide physician override of the limits when medically necessary.
  4. New York State will pass legislation, and the Governor will sign it, 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.
  5. 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.
  6. 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.
  7. The New York State Legislature will adopt legislation, and the Governor will sign it, that will give access to a clear and convenient override process for drug therapy protocols when medically in the best interests of a patient.
  8. The New York State Legislature will pass legislation, and the Governor will sign it, 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.
  9. The New York State Legislature will pass legislation, and the Governor will sign it, that prohibits health care plans from removing a prescription drug from a formulary or changes the cost sharing tier during the enrollment year.
  10. The New York State Legislature will pass legislation, and the Governor will sign it, that extends the transition period during which Health Plan enrollees may continue to receive services from a provider who is dropped from the network from 60 or 90 days to one year.
  11. New York state will amend the State invitation to health plans to strengthen its Network Adequacy Standards to include minimum appointment availability times.
  12. The New York State Legislature will pass legislation and the Governor will sign into law a requirement that health plans in New York State will provide coverage for prosthetic devices that are intended for medically necessary habilitative and rehabilitative purposes.
  13. The New York State Legislation will pass legislation and the governor will sign into law the establishment of an Advanced Home Health Aide program.

#### **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. As a result of CIDNY's litigation, 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 that will result in one restaurant becoming accessible.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. As a result of CIDNY's litigation, New York City's Department of Homeless Services will implement policies and procedures requiring staff to provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities in New York City homeless shelters.
9. As a result of passage of Intro 749 by the New York City Council and it being signed into law by the Mayor, New York City will provide a 100% accessible taxi fleet by 2020.
10. As a result of New York City Council legislation amending the Administrative Code and the Mayor signing it into law, the Department of Transportation shall repair curb ramps that have not been properly maintained by business owners and charge them for the repair with penalties attached.
11. As a result of CIDNY's participation in litigation, *Picaro v Goldfarb*, the federal court will order and the New York City Department of Buildings will require landlords taking elevators out of service on a long-term basis to provide reasonable accommodations pursuant to the ADA.

## **E. Social Advocacy**

NO GOALS

## **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. New York City will ensure that all evacuation centers and co-located shelters are fully accessible to people with disabilities and will provide information on locating shelters in alternate, accessible formats on their website and upon request.

## **12. CIDNY-QUEENS SUBSIDIARY**

### **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 in New York-  
Queens  
Address: 80-02 Kew Gardens Road, Kew Gardens, NY 11415  
Contract No.: C012375  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Susan Dooha, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Martin Eichel

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

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

1. 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.
2. Through CIDNY-QUEENS'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 a paid sick leave policy that will enable people with disabilities to retain employment.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

##### **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's legislature will pass and the Governor will sign into law legislation that adopts the ACCESS Board standards created pursuant to the Affordable Care Act for accessible diagnostic medical equipment.
3. The New York State Legislature will amend the 2011 state law, and the Governor will sign it, regarding limits on Medicaid benefits and services including physical therapy, to provide physician override of the limits when medically necessary.
4. New York State will pass legislation, and the Governor will sign it, 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The New York State Legislature will adopt legislation, and the Governor will sign it, that will give access to a clear and convenient override process for drug therapy protocols when medically in the best interests of a patient.
8. The New York State Legislature will pass legislation, and the Governor will sign it, 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.
9. The New York State Legislature will pass legislation, and the Governor will sign it, that prohibits health care plans from removing a prescription drug from a formulary or changes the cost sharing tier during the enrollment year.
10. The New York State Legislature will pass legislation, and the Governor will sign it, that extends the transition period during which Health Plan enrollees may continue to receive services from a provider who is dropped from the network from 60 or 90 days to one year.
11. New York state will amend the State invitation to health plans to strengthen its Network Adequacy Standards to include minimum appointment availability times
12. The New York State Legislature will pass and the Governor will sign into law a requirement that health plans in New York State will provide coverage for prosthetic devices that are intended for medically necessary habilitative and rehabilitative purposes.
13. The New York State Legislation will pass legislation and the governor will sign into law the establishment of an Advanced Home Health Aide program.

#### **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. As a result of CIDNY-QUEENS's litigation, 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 that will result in one restaurant becoming accessible.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. As a result of CIDNY-QUEENS 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.
7. As a result of CIDNY-QUEENS 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.
8. As a result of CIDNY-QUEENS's litigation, New York City's Department of Homeless Services will implement policies and procedures requiring staff to provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities in New York City homeless shelters.
9. As a result of passage of Intro 749 by the New York City Council and it being signed into law by the Mayor, New York City will provide a 100% accessible taxi fleet by 2020.
10. As a result of New York City Council legislation amending the Administrative Code and the Mayor signing it into law, the Department of Transportation shall repair curb ramps that have not been properly maintained by business owners and charge them for the repair with penalties attached.
11. As a result of CIDNY-QUEENS's participation in litigation, *Picaro v Goldfarb*, the federal court will order and the New York City Department of Buildings will require landlords taking elevators out of service on a long-term basis to provide reasonable accommodations pursuant to the ADA.

## **E. Social Advocacy**

NO GOALS

## **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. New York City will ensure that all evacuation centers and co-located shelters are fully accessible to people with disabilities and will provide information on locating shelters in alternate, accessible formats on their website and upon request.

# 13. 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, NY 14760  
Contract No.: C012377  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 –September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Leonard Liguori, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Marcella Richmond

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational 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

##### 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.



# 14. 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.: C012378  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 –September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Jan Lynch, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Kathryn Wunderlich

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

1. At least one school district will incorporate information about FLIC services or Independent Living (IL) into their website, brochures, newsletter and/or school year calendar.
2. At least one school district will incorporate a transition event where families and students can come to learn about community resources (including FLIC services), 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 FLIC, into its curriculum for professional preparation programs that work with persons with disabilities.
4. FLIC will establish a written arrangement with at least one school to provide an on-site student self-advocacy training program that will enable students to better understand their rights, options, choices concerning their education and transition to adult services.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. At least one area employer will make its employment application available in alternative accessible formats for applicants with disabilities.
2. Establish an MOU with a local food pantry or soup kitchen to provide on-site outreach services including: information about Independent Living Centers, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages that nurture financial independence through employment for people with disabilities including benefits advisement and information and referral for individuals with disabilities.

##### 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 patient-based facility will make the information being provided to the general public available in alternate formats.

3. At least one local dental and health care provider office will improve physical and communication access for persons with disabilities.
4. At least one nursing home will change its procedures to include in its admission literature, information about community supports available to maintain independence in the community.

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

1. There will be an increase in the number of crosswalks in the city of Ithaca which are fully accessible.
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. There will be an increase in the number of integrated and accessible housing choices available for people with disabilities in Tompkins County.
4. A local municipality will adopt policies and/or procedures in increased installation and/or maintenance of local curb cuts.

#### **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. A fitness center will change its marketing procedures to effectively reach persons with disabilities in order to promote inclusion and supply information about its accessible programs and services.

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

1. Continue to make sure that polling places are fully accessible to all people with disabilities.
2. The Tompkins County Board of Elections will establish procedures to train poll workers on accessible voting machines.
3. As a result of FLIC advocacy, the revised Tompkins County Emergency Plan will include provisions that address specific needs of people with disabilities and that the final plan will be posted on the county website and be accessible.

# 15. 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  
New York, NY 10027  
Contract No.: C012380  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Christina Curry, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Vanessa Young

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

1. At least one area high school will incorporate a New York State Independent Living History and Philosophy DVD training provided by HILC, with assistance from the Manhattan Community Board 10 education subcommittee, as a regular part of disability awareness training for Committee on Special Education (CSE) members, high school personnel and/or students
2. 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.
3. At least one college-level teacher education course will incorporate content designed and / or presented by HILC staff.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. At least one Employment Network will provide brochures and pertinent program information in accessible formats at every consumer orientation.
2. 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.
3. Establish formal agreements whereby more community agencies have presentations to consumers about work incentives.
4. 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 Department 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 Manhattan Community Board 10.

# 16. 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.: C012381  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Denise A. Figueroa, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Sean Turley, Board President

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEM ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational 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. 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.
3. 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.
4. At least one school district will incorporate information about ILCHV services or IL into their website, newsletter and/or school year calendar.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. New York State will establish a small business tax credit for the employment of people with disabilities.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

5. The Governor will sign into law an amendment to the Education Law to provide communication support services as a vocational rehabilitation service in order to improve the ability of consumers to secure gainful and meaningful employment outcomes. (Currently, A05141).

### **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. The NYS Legislature will pass legislation to require access to taxicabs for persons with disabilities; and the Governor will sign it.
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. The NYS Legislature will pass 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; and the Governor will sign it.
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 an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) policy.
9. The Troy police department will adopt an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) policy.
10. The City of Troy will adopt a snow removal policy to improve access to sidewalks and streets during inclement winter weather.
11. NYS will adopt legislation that requires parity between fixed route and paratransit fares.

### **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.

# 17. 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.: C012382  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Douglas Hovey, Executive Director  
Program Contact: Suzanne Tremper, Director of Programs  
Board President Authorization: Charles Walwyn III

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational 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.
- Advocate to increase parental awareness of ILC services for students with disabilities to support and promote community integration.
- Advocate for students with disabilities, in out of school placements, to equally participate and have access to school district web based programming, sports and social events.
- Advocate for children in homeless shelters or temporary housing to receive necessary supports and services that will allow them to live a healthy and productive lives.

## **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 or Congress will adopt a law defining the use of restraints and seclusion in schools and the Governor or President respectively will sign it.
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.
1. 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.
2. At least one school district in Orange County will change policy and procedure and include ILI staff in transition planning activities.
3. At least one school district in Orange County will add ILI's website and mission statement to their website, under the link for "Parent links and resources"
4. At least one school district in Orange County will change policy and procedures to provide students with disabilities, in out-of-school placement, equal participation and have access to school web-based programming, sports and social events.
5. One or more community organizations providing emergency shelter will establish an agreement with ILI- Newburgh to provide parent orientation on child development and positive guidance and discipline for parents and children as an intervention that addresses associated experiences of children who are homeless.

### **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.
- Advocate for Federal contract employers to fulfill Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, to establish 7% utilization goal for qualified individuals 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.
10. At least one employer, with Federal contracts of more than \$10,000, will change its employment policies and demonstrate enforcement of these policies to ensure an increase in the number of employees with significant disabilities hired as a result of training and support provided by Newburgh-ILI.

### **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 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 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. 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 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; and the President will sign it.
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, and the Governor will sign it, 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. IL, Inc., 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

#### **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.
- ILI-Newburgh will continue to advocate for increased accessible public transportation in Orange County.
- Continue to advocate for compliance under the previously 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.
- ILI-Newburgh will continue to assist the county to be in compliance with the ADA, through access to facilities, training to employees regarding disability awareness, and the ADA.
- Advocate with Orange County to update the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (from 2002).
- Advocate for agencies to provide a policy of “Housing First” providing 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.
- Advocate for ILI-Newburgh to provide consultation for the renovation and restoration of the Orange County Government Center.

## **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; and the Governor will sign it.
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 maintain 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. One or more Orange County municipalities will adopt policies that enable individuals with disabilities 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. Orange County Department of Social Services (DSS) brochures for the Americans With Disabilities Act/grievance policy will be printed so that they are available in large print and Braille.

10. Orange County will update its Americans With Disabilities Act Self Evaluation and Transition Plan (originally drafted in November 2000).
11. Orange County Department of Social Services (DSS) will establish policies and procedures to improve access specifically for consumers with sight disabilities and hearing disabilities.
12. The Orange County Planning Commission will purchase and utilize hybrid buses for county transportation that will include a sounding device to announce bus arrival as an accommodation for people with visual impairments.
13. NYS will pass legislation establishing standards for “visitability” (H.R.2353) into State law.
14. NYS will incorporate the housing provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act into state law.
15. NYS will make discrimination by landlords based on a tenant’s source of income illegal under State Human Rights Law.
16. As a result of ILI-Newburgh providing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) consultation, the Orange County Government Center will improve its accessibility.

## **E. Social Advocacy**

**ACTIVITIES:** Continue to advocate for systemic changes that control resources necessary to engage in integrated and community based social, recreational, special interest organizations, and other integrated community activities for people with disabilities.

- 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 waiver services that will allow individuals to participate in person-centered planning that provides choice and individualizes 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-Newburgh 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 the community youth organizations to include youth with disabilities in programs and provide individualized modifications and accommodations, as needed.

## **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 to help shape the content and character of the organization that previously have not had consumer representation.
4. The Orange County Board of Elections will have no inaccessible locations listed on its polling sites.
5. A community youth service organization will establish a written agreement with ILI-Newburgh to provide disability awareness training for members.

# 18. ILI-MIDDLETOWN SUBSIDIARY

## 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: 441 East Main Street, Middletown, NY 10940  
Contract No.: C012383  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 31, 2016  
Contact Person: Douglas Hovey, Executive Director  
Program Contacts: Daniel Hutting Middletown Manager and  
Suzanne Tremper, Director of Programs  
Board President Authorization: Charles Walwyn, III

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational 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 for students with disabilities, in out of school placements, to equally participate and have access to school district web based programming, sports and social events.

## **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 legislation defining the use of restraint and seclusion in schools; and the Governor will sign it.
4. Congress will pass THR 602 TEAM Education Act; and the President will sign it.
5. Congress will pass 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 Middletown-ILI 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 provide students with disabilities, in out-of-school placement, to equally participate and have access to web based programming, sports and social events.

## **B. Employment Advocacy**

**ACTIVITIES:** Advocate for systemic changes that result in an increased 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 youth with significant disabilities to adulthood.
- Advocate for on-site advocacy services at community food distributions sites to increased capacity of people with disabilities to obtain and retain employment.

## **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.
7. ILI-Middletown will establish a written agreement with a local food pantry or soup kitchen to administer job development skills, job training and benefits advisement to participants to increase the number of participants who gain employment.

## **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.
- ILI-Middletown will advocate and educate the Orange County Judicial system on Disability sensitivity; particularly to persons with psychiatric disabilities, to recognize the need for treatment instead of incarceration.
- Advocate with Orange County Correctional Facility to allow on-site participation of ILI-Middletown Peer Recovery Specialists regarding engagement of inmates with psychiatric diagnosis and discharge planning to ensure reduction of recidivism
- Advocate with Orange County Department of Mental Health and Mobile Mental Health to include ILI-Middletown Peer Diversion Specialist as First Responders.

## **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 (DSS) 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; and the President will sign it.
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 Legislature will pass the Hearing Aid Bill, and the Governor will sign it, 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. Orange County Correctional Facility will change policy and procedure to allow on-site participation of ILI-Middletown Peer Recovery Specialists regarding engagement of inmates

with psychiatric diagnosis and discharge planning to ensure reduction of recidivism of incarceration and promote better connections to community supports and resources.

12. Orange County Department of Mental Health and Mobile Mental Health will adopt a policy to include ILI-Middletown Peer Diversion Specialist as First Responders to 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 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 “Complete Streets” design in City of Middletown to make community safer and accessible to all users.
- Advocate with City of Middletown to ensure state and federal funding is available to support families and individuals face with eviction, foreclosure, and homelessness.

#### **OUTCOMES**

6. 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.

7. 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.
8. NYS will incorporate the housing provisions of Section 504 of the national Rehabilitation Act Into State law
9. 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.
10. The NYS Legislature will pass the accessible taxi legislation; and the Governor will sign it.
11. At least one local landlord will make additional, accessible housing units available for persons with physical disabilities.
12. At least one local landlord will make additional, housing units available for persons with psychiatric disabilities and/or substance abuse issues.
13. 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.
14. NYS and local transportation agencies in Orange County will adopt a "Complete Streets" policy to make the streets safer and accessible to all users.
15. The City of Middletown will change its policies and procedures to ensure families are fully informed about the funding to decrease and eliminate foreclosure, eviction and homelessness and the procedures for obtaining it.
16. At least one court in the Orange County Judicial system will change its policies and procedures to improve treatment for people with psychiatric disabilities and provide treatment options in place of incarceration.

## **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 Middletown-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. 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 with community agencies to increase awareness of the challenges faced by Community youth; 14-21, and develop solutions to the barriers will result in positive youth development.

## **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. As a result of Middletown-ILI establishing an interagency coalition and its establishment of a strategic outreach plan for youth ages 14-21, at least one community agency serving youth will change its policies and procedures to ensure access to self- advocacy, self- determination and responsible decision making skills resulting in responsible adult citizens.

# 19. ILI-SULLIVAN SUBSIDIARY

## 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.: C012384  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Douglas Hovey, Executive Director  
Program Contacts: Nora Shepard, Monticello Manager and  
Suzanne Tremper, Director of Programs  
Board President Authorization: Charles Walwyn, III

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational 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.
- Advocate with the Sullivan County Correctional facilities to allow on-site participation of Sullivan ILI staff regarding engagement of inmates with disabilities and discharge planning to ensure reduction of recidivism.
- Advocate for children in foster care system to receive necessary supports and services that will allow them to live a healthy and productive adult life.

## **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 on 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; and the Governor will sign it.
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.
13. At least one Sullivan County Correctional Facility will change policy and procedure to allow on-site participation of Sullivan-ILI to provide engagement of inmates with disabilities and discharge planning to ensure the reduction of recidivism and promote better connections to community supports and resources in transition to returning to the community.

14. Sullivan County Department of Family Services will establish an agreement with ILI-Sullivan to provide systemic life skills orientation for children, ages 14-21, as a preventative intervention that addresses associated experiences of children in foster care.

## **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
- Advocate for on-site advocacy services for persons with disabilities at local One Stops.
- Advocate for on-site advocacy services at community food distributions sites to increased capacity of people with disabilities to obtain and retain employment.

## **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.
10. Sullivan Works One-Stop will establish a written agreement with ILI-Sullivan to assist individuals with disabilities with independent living skills in preparation for work.
11. At least one community food distributions site will establish a written agreement with ILI-Sullivan to provide on-site advocacy services to increase the capacity of people with disabilities to obtain and retain employment.

### **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.
- ILI, 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 (DSS) 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; and the President will sign it.
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, and the Governor will sign it, 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 CDPAANYS (Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of NY State), will contract with individual Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Managed Long Term Care organizations (MLTCs) to provide Fiscal Intermediary services for individuals with CDPAP home care to maintain continuity of their current service.
15. 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 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 agencies to provide a “Housing First” policy of living arrangements for individuals with 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 and for this legislation to become New York State law.

#### **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. 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
- Advocate for an increase in the participation of individuals with significant disabilities on not-for profit governing boards to participate in making decisions about the content and character of the organization.

### **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. ILI-Monticello will continue to ensure that the Sullivan County Board of Elections will have no inaccessible locations listed on its polling sites.
4. One or more boards of not-for-profit agencies will include individuals with psychiatric disabilities to help shape the content and character of the organization that previously did not have representation from the disability community.

## 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.: C012385  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Joan Lynch, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Lynette Perez

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

1. At least one school district will incorporate information about LICIL services or IL into their website, newsletter and/or school year calendar.
2. At least one college or vocational school in LICIL's service area will adopt a disability awareness component either developed or endorsed by LICIL into their curriculum for nurses or other health care workers.
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. A local college or university will incorporate a Poll Site Inspection training, either developed, endorsed or conducted by LICIL, within a class as part of its Disability Studies (or related) Program.
5. At least one school or institution for higher learning 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 area business will change its recruitment process to eliminate questions/procedures that discriminate in regards to a person's disability.

##### C. Health Care Advocacy

1. Hospitals and rehabilitation center facilities will change their policies to include information on community resources, which allow people to remain in the community.
2. At least one institution will make a policy and procedural change in how it makes referrals to community resources, including Independent Living, during the discharge planning process to facilitate more successful transitions from the facility to the community.
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.
5. A local hospital will adopt a policy to identify, serve and be accountable for properly meeting the specific needs of its patients with disabilities.

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

1. There will be an increase in the number of consumers/staff that serve on commerce-related community boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
2. A local township will increase the accessibility of public rights of way by adding curb cuts.
3. The proper standing signage will be added to designated disabled parking spaces throughout Nassau County.
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 community recreational facility will increase its accessibility to allow for people with disabilities to enjoy its use.
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. As a result of LICIL working cooperatively with other agencies, there will be an increase of integrated recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities.
4. As a result of LICIL advocacy, there will be an increase in social programming for persons with psychiatric disabilities within Nassau County.

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

1. As a result of LICIL's involvement in an advisory committee, the Nassau County Office of Emergency Management will amend its emergency response and preparedness plan to address the critical needs of people with disabilities during emergencies, disasters and in recovery.
2. A local Board of Elections will change its poll workers' training and related educational materials to include disability awareness and sensitivity training that is developed, endorsed or conducted by LICIL.
3. A community youth service organization will establish a written agreement with LICIL to provide disability awareness training for all of its members.

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

# 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, NY 13662  
Contract No.: C012386  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Jeff Reifensnyder, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Gail Santimaw

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

1. 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 a Department of Social Service Policy directed at increasing their compliance to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations relative to recipients of Welfare.
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 transitions from the facility to the community
2. Increase accessibility at hospitals, clinics, private doctor's offices and/or dental offices for persons with disabilities.

##### D. Commerce Advocacy

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

### **E. Social Advocacy**

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

### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of individuals with disabilities or Center staff serving on community boards/committees and task forces that previously had no 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, NY 12901  
Contract No.: C012387  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 - September 30th, 2016  
Contact Person: Robert Poulin, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Ted Graser

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

##### **A. Educational 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.: C012388  
Report Period: Oct 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Aileen Martin, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Ronald Griffin

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

##### **A. Educational 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 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.
3. 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.
4. One low performing school district will incorporate NRICL as part of its transition team, to provide Youth Advocacy Leadership and Empowerment (YALE) in order to meet the school's CDOS requirements for 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.

##### **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. 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. As a result of NRCIL becoming an integral part of at least one Performing Provider System, the Provider System will change its policies and procedures to create a health care delivery system in the service region that integrates behavioral and primary care with a focus on evidence-based medicine and population health management.
3. 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.
4. At least one senior living center will change its procedures to allow NRCIL to conduct a support group and training programs for healthy living.
5. NRCIL will be invited to serve on two internal review committees for facilities licensed either under NYS PHL Article 28 or 31.

#### **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 efforts to identify parking lots in Jefferson and Lewis Counties out of compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) in regards to reserved spaces and to provide information on accessible parking space guidelines to property owners, there will be an increase in the number of parking lots with adequate, well-designed, handicapped accessible parking spaces.
3. The Watertown CitiBus system will extend city bus hours by four per week.
4. As a result of NRCIL's advocacy and education efforts, the NYS Legislature will pass legislation, and the Governor will sign it, that will require visitability be included into new public housing built in New York.
5. A private and/or a public retirement community will improve access by making its residents' handbook available in alternate formats.
6. As a result of NRCIL's advocacy and education efforts, Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise procurement regulations will include disability as a classification under the definition of minority to encourage growth of small businesses owned by people with disabilities in New York.

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

1. There will be an increase in the number of integrated community social activities that are accessible.
2. As a result of NRCIL working collaboratively with other community agencies to develop and host an annual Mental Health Awareness Walk in Jefferson and Lewis County, at least one social club or recreational facility will increase access to its programs and services for people with mental health diagnosis.

#### **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 or Lewis County Board of Elections will provide voter material in alternative formats.

## **24. 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.: C012389  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
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. Educational Advocacy**

1. At least one additional school will incorporate RCIL's Youth Leadership curriculum, D3: Disability Rights, Disability Culture, Disability Pride into their curriculum.
2. At least one area High School will change its policies and procedures to regularly conduct the annual graduation ceremony at an accessible venue to accommodate students who use wheelchairs.
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. At least one area employment agency will improve access for people with disabilities.
2. New York State legislature will amend the vehicle and traffic law to permit licensing and employment of truck drivers who are Deaf.
3. 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 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 three 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 Monroe County.
2. Increase the availability, provision and/or quality of captioning services in public hearings.

## **25. 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, NY 12401  
Contract No.: CO12390  
Report Period: October 01, 2015 - September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Susan J. Hoyer, Chief Executive Officer  
Board President Authorization: Paula Kindos-Carberry

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

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

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

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

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.

## **26. 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.: C012391  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Zvia McCormick, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Michael Wade

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

##### **A. Educational 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. To increase parental awareness of services for students with disabilities, a local school district will add a link to RCIL's website to its "Parent/Student Resource's" page.
3. 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.

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

1. 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.
2. Increase supported employment opportunities and availability in rural and/or underserved communities.
3. RCIL 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.
4. RCIL will establish a written agreement with a local Veterans Center to provide work readiness and support programs for veterans with disabilities.

##### **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. At least one local community-based Domestic Violence agency will change policy and procedures to include a disability sensitivity training developed, endorsed, or conducted by RCIL as a regular part of their employee training procedures.

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

1. RCIL will increase accessibility to at least one business, agency or public entity in Oneida County.
2. There will be an increase in the number of affordable, accessible, integrated housing options for people with disabilities.
3. RCIL will establish a written agreement with a local housing developer to make available our supports and services as requested by residents of apartment complexes.
4. At least one local police department will modify its in-service training plan to include disability awareness training, developed or endorsed by RCIL, to all law enforcement personnel.

#### **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. Increase access to public parks and museums.
3. At least one community club or service organization will adopt a policy assuring that meeting places are fully accessible.

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

1. At least one local legislator will adopt policies that ensure that meetings and rallies are held in accessible locations.
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.
3. At least one municipality will pass appropriate legislation establishing and promoting the date of JULY 26TH as a day of celebration of the American with Disabilities Act.



## **27. RCIL-AMSTERDAM SUBSIDIARY**

### **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.:	C012392
Report Period:	October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016
Contact Person:	Zvia McCormick, Executive Director
Program Contact:	Joe Franco, RCIL Amsterdam Director
Board President Authorization:	Michael Wade

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

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

1. At least one area school district will incorporate a regularly scheduled Transition Day 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 local school district will incorporate presentations on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Independent Living Philosophy conducted by RCIL-Amsterdam staff as a regular part of disability awareness training to students in each school within the district.
3. Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) will change its policies and procedures to ensure parents of students with disabilities are routinely informed about the availability of benefit advisement services and procedures for obtaining them.
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.

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

1. RCIL-Amsterdam will establish a written agreement with at least one local school to conduct orientation and training sessions to transitioning special education students that will be seeking employment to help them become familiar with employment services within the community.
2. 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.
3. At least one area Work Force Solutions Center will incorporate training sessions and workshops designed by RCIL-Amsterdam and focused on disabilities related to employment.

4. At least one area employer will make its employment application available in large print for applicants who are visually impaired.
5. RCIL-Amsterdam 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.

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

1. At least one medical facility or nursing home will establish a policy requiring discharge planners to routinely provide information about Independent Living Centers and agency linkages in its discharge planning packets.
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. At least one local medical facility will make available sign language interpreter services to their patients.
4. A local hospital will change its staff training policies and procedures to include disability awareness materials either developed or endorsed by RCIL-Amsterdam.

### **D. Commerce Advocacy**

1. A local housing authority 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 accessible housing.
2. The Montgomery/Fulton County Chamber of Commerce will make a policy and procedural change to routinely make available to its members accessibility information for people with disabilities.
3. At least one local police department will modify its in-service training plan to include disability awareness training, developed or endorsed by RCIL-Amsterdam, to all law enforcement personnel.
4. The local public transit company will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all transit/driving personnel on disability sensitivity and awareness.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. 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.
2. At least one area special event will improve access for people with disabilities.
3. There will be an increase in the number of stadiums, auditoriums, parks and other public recreational facilities that are fully accessible.
4. There will be an increase in the number of community clubs and service organizations that are accessible by individuals with significant disabilities.

### **F. Citizenship Advocacy**

1. There will be an increase in the number of polling sites that are accessible to all people with disabilities.

2. There will be an increase in the number of consumer/staff that serve on community and statewide boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.
3. The Montgomery County Board of Elections will incorporate a disability awareness training either developed or endorsed by the RCIL-Amsterdam to election workers.
4. As a result of working with the Montgomery County Emergency Management Team, at least one agency providing emergency services to persons with disabilities will establish a written agreement for RCIL-Amsterdam to conduct on-site training on safe evacuation preparedness.

## **28. RCIL-HERKIMER SUBSIDIARY**

### **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.: C012393  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Zvia McCormick, Executive Director  
Program Contact: Donna Gillette, RCIL Herkimer Director  
Board President Authorization: Michael Wade

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

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

1. At least one (1) school District or Early Childhood Program will incorporate an Independent Living Philosophy presentation either developed or endorsed by RCIL-Herkimer into a training curriculum for its staff and parents.
2. At least one college or university will incorporate an Independent Living Philosophy presentation, approved by RCIL-Herkimer, into its curriculum for professional preparation programs that work with persons with disabilities.
3. At least one Herkimer County school will change its policies and procedures to incorporate an annual Transition Fair where junior and high school students can come to learn about community resources, employment, higher education and other services available for students with disabilities upon graduation.
4. A local high school will incorporate a yearly disability awareness assembly into its curriculum.

##### **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. 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 US Social Security Administration (SSA) work incentive information to Independent Living Center services, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages.
3. At least one employer will adopt diversity policies and procedures, including policies and procedures which attract and employ people with disabilities.

##### **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. Bassett Healthcare will institute a policy to facilitate a more efficient referral process of patients with mental health disorders to Independent Living Center services and community resources to maintain independence in the community.
3. At least one local medical facility will make a policy or procedural change in how it identifies and refers patients who are Deaf to community resources that include sign language interpretive services.
4. At least one additional physician's office, clinic, or healthcare facility will improve physical or communication access for persons with disabilities.

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

1. There will be increased access to affordable accessible housing options for people with disabilities in the Mohawk Valley.
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. At least one additional restaurant will provide its menu in an accessible format.
4. One low-income, senior, or mixed housing unit will establish a referral process to connect tenants needing assistance and supports to stay independent and avoid unnecessary or premature nursing home placement.

#### **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. A local health or fitness facility will adopt a policy assuring proper training of personnel on how to offer exceptional assistance to individuals with disabilities to maximize opportunities for inclusion.
3. There will be an increase in the number of integrated social activities in the community for people with disabilities.
4. One or more community service organizations will establish a policy to provide disability awareness training for all of its employees.

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

1. At least one local government in Herkimer County will start providing their agenda(s) in an alternate format for/at publicly attended meetings.
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. 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.
4. Disaster preparation and relief plans which address the needs and concerns of people with disabilities will be adopted by Herkimer County.

## 29. 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.: C012394  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: George Hoehmann, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: David Goldwasse

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational 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 with a bi-lingual advocate 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 students with disabilities who are aging out of the education system to enter the workforce.

## **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. One medical facility that does not have accessible parking spaces will create appropriate parking spots for people with disabilities as per ADA regulations.
4. A local nursing home will include a peer group to explore issues regarding community living as part of its community transition process.
5. A community agency in Rockland County will change its policies and procedures to ensure that the individuals with disabilities that they serve are fully informed about the services available to help them transition from an institution or remain in the community.
6. A mental health provider in Rockland County will increase the availability of psychiatric/evaluation and other mental health services (including services for consumers with dual diagnoses), as well as non-psychiatric diagnosis and evaluate medical services for children and/or adults with disabilities.
7. A patient-based facility in Rockland County will make the information being provided to the general public available in alternate formats.
8. Medical offices will create information about their services in an accessible format.
9. At least one community or government agency providing health care services to victims of crime, abuse, and domestic violence will improve its accessibility to people with disabilities.
10. At least one community-based organization in Rockland County that refers consumers to Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPA) services will make a policy and procedural change to facilitate a more efficient referral process for CDPA services.
11. A health care provider in Rockland County will become compliant with Title I and/or Title III of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).
12. A Veteran's Affairs Hospital will change its policies and procedures to have information packets include information on Independent Living services, ACCES-VR, and agency linkages as a regular part of preparing Veterans who have a disability for their transition back to the community.
13. An organization that supports individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia issues will change its policies, procedures and practices to ensure individuals and their family members are fully informed about available community services, RILC and the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP).
14. RILC will establish a contract to provide Consolidated Supports and Services through the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).
15. The office of the Aging will change its policies and procedures to have informational packets include information on Independent Living services, Money Follows the Person, and agency linkages as a regular part of the intake process.
16. One agency that provides homebound meals will, with guidance from RILC, will change its policies and meal delivery procedures to better serve their clients who have mobility issues by providing additional training to volunteers.
17. At least one medical office will change its facilities and policies to insure privacy and respect while accommodating their patients with mobility issues.

#### **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, and the County Executive will sign into it into law, 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's 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.
12. One Real Estate Brokerage Firm will provide their rental application in large print.
13. A local municipality will provide accessible postings about opportunities for individuals with visual impairments.
14. A written arrangement will be established whereby a library will regularly offer on-site disability awareness training for its employees, conducted by RILC.
15. A local taxi company will adopt a staff training policy and procedures to routinely train and educate their staff on accommodating users of their services who have mobility issues with comfort, dignity and safety in mind.
16. One restaurant will adopt a staff training policy and procedures to routinely educate and train their staff concerning the acceptance of Service Animals in the facility. The restaurant will post signage to make this information available to their customers.

## **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.

## **30. 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  
Address: 71 Glenwood Avenue, Queensbury, NY 12804  
Contract No.: C012379  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Karen A. Thayer, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: David Bogue

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

##### **A. Educational 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.

##### **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. There will be a measurable increase in the number of small businesses that implement Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) policies for employees with disabilities.

##### **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 that will be signed by the Governor 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; and the Governor will sign it.
6. NYS will pass legislation requiring disability awareness training for law enforcement and/or Fire Fighters; and the Governor will sign it.
7. At least one local law enforcement agency will change its in-service training plan to include crime victim’s awareness training, either developed or endorsed by SAIL, for all personnel.
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 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.

# 31. 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.: C012396  
Contract Year: October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Maria Dibble, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Rena Kovac

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

1. The NYS Legislature or Congress will adopt a law defining the use of restraints and seclusion in schools; and the Governor or President respectively will sign it.
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. Through STIC's participation on the MISCC's Employment Committee, NY will implement 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 \*\*or establish a policy\*\* granting higher tax credits to businesses that hire people with disabilities.
6. The governor will sign a bill \*\*or establish a policy\*\* to add disability-owned businesses to the Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise program.
7. The Governor will establish a position of Section 55-b and c Coordinator.
8. Congress will pass the Transitioning to Integrate and Meaningful Employment (TIME) 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 and the Governor will sign it, 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/or other programs and/or services as appropriate.

#### **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. Broome County will restore recent cuts/services to its Transit and/or other transportation programs, and/or create new options.
4. NY will pass legislation and the Governor will sign it, 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/or 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.
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.
3. As a result of STIC's years of advocacy, as well as its services/programs that assist with institutional transitions, Broome Developmental Center will close.
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.

## **32. 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 Street, Jamestown, NY 14701  
Contract No.: C012397  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Marie Carrubba, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Rita Carson

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

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

1. 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.
2. To increase parental awareness of services for students with disabilities, a local school district will add SILC's website and/or Student Pocket Guide to their website under helpful student links for parents.
3. One preschool in Chautauqua County will adopt a special needs coloring book either developed or endorsed by SILC into its curriculum.

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

1. At least one Employment Network will provide brochures and pertinent program information in accessible formats at every consumer orientation.
2. At least one union or business council will improve its access by providing materials in alternate formats and holding meetings at an accessible location.
3. SILC 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. SILC will cause one major health facility or hospital to increase its physical access for persons with disabilities.
2. 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.



3. At least one Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPA) program in Chautauqua County will make its list of workers willing to participate in CDPA available in accessible formats and/or on its website.

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

1. A private and/or public retirement community will improve access by making its resident's handbook available in alternate formats.
2. At least one additional restaurant in Chautauqua County will provide its menu in an accessible format.
3. 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. SILC will establish a program to peer mentor individuals with disabilities and mental health disabilities to increase their participation in social and recreational activities/events supported by grant funding and/or self-sustaining fee-for-service agreements.
2. A local theater will improve its access to alternative communication formats (i.e. programs, etc.)
3. Increase access to public parks and museums.

#### **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 local government in Chautauqua County will start providing agendas in alternate format for/at publicly attended meetings.

# 33. 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, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Lorraine De Santis, 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, and the Governor will sign it, 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 are only two elementary schools that incorporate 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:** There are 9,000 children on Staten Island who have been diagnosed with Dyslexia and there is no school for children with Dyslexia on Staten Island. These children must travel to Brooklyn to go to school.

**Activities:** SICIL staff who are involved in the Staten Island Democratic Club are advocating with Assemblyman Michael Cusick to use one of the Catholic Schools that have been forced to close for a school for these children.

**Goal:** A school specifically for children with Dyslexia will be opened on Staten Island

#### **GOAL 6**

**Issue:** elementary schools do not mark Disability Awareness Week with any special educational programs regarding disability

**Activities:** The Executive Director will advocate with principals to have them change their policies to mark Disability Awareness Week with a special educational program regarding disability.

**Goal:** An elementary school will change Its policies and procedures to incorporate a regularly scheduled SICIL endorsed storybook reading and discussion event during Disability Awareness

Week to increase age-appropriate understanding and acceptance of disability among pupils in the second grade.

## **GOAL 7**

**Issue:** Only two high schools have their community resource referral packet include information and brochures about the Staten Island Center for Independent Living and its transition services.

**Activities:** The Executive Director will advocate with high school principals to get them to change their policies to include this information in their resource referral packets.

**Goal:** At least one school 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**

### **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 work with Assemblyman Michael Cusick 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, only one food pantry on Staten Island have not had SICIL staff members on site to provide outreach services to individuals with disabilities.

**Activities:** The Executive 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 another 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.

#### **GOAL 4**

**Issue:** No Staten Island businesses provide Disability Awareness and Sensitivity training to their employees.

**Activities:** The Executive Director will advocate with business owners to have them change their policies to provide Disability Awareness and Sensitivity training to their employees.

**Goal:** At least one major employer in Staten Island will incorporate Disabilities Awareness and Sensitivity training, conducted by SICIL staff, as an in-service to their employees.

#### **GOAL 5**

**Issues:** There are no businesses in Staten Island that provide their employee handbooks in Braille.

**Activities:** The Executive Director will advocate with businesses to have them let us print their handbooks in Braille.

**Goal:** One business in Staten Island will establish policies and procedures to print their employee handbook in Braille and to maintain a current version in Braille when the handbook is updated.

### **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, and the Governor will sign it, 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**

**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 3**

**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, Richmond University Medical Center will establish a specialized 24 hour mobile crisis unit on Staten Island.

**GOAL 4**

**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 5**

**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 6**

**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 7**

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

**Activities:** The Executive Director will advocate with local legislators to reintroduce this bill.

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

## **GOAL 8**

**Issue:** S.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 9**

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

**Activities:** The Executive 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 10**

**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:** Executive 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:** 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, which will be signed into law, 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 3**

**Issue:** The Family Court House is not accessible on Staten Island



**Activities:** SICIL staff will advocate with attorneys to make the Family Court House accessible.

**Goal:** The Family Court House on Staten Island will become accessible.

## **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.

### **GOAL 3**

**Issue:** Many senior centers do not have physical and sensory access for members who are disabled.

**Activities:** The Executive Director will advocate with senior centers to have them expand their physical and sensory access for members who are disabled.

**Goal:** At least one senior center will expand its physical and sensory access for members who are disabled.

## **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, and the Governor will sign it, 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.

## 34. 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  
d.b.a. Suffolk Independent Living Organization  
Address: 2111 Lakeland Avenue Ronkonkoma, NY 11779  
Contract No.: C012395  
Report Period: October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Joseph M. Delgado, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Mary Ann Sciacca

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Education Advocacy

1. At least five school districts in Suffolk County will change their policy to allow SILO to assist in the transition process of students.
  - a. Five local elementary schools will incorporate a yearly disability awareness assembly into their curriculum.
2. At least ten school districts will incorporate a transition event for families and students. The transition fair will present, the need for benefit advisement, community resources (i.e. ACCES-VR, OPWDD, OMH services), higher education opportunities 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. SILO will partner with four school districts to provide employment opportunities in integrated settings.
4. Five school districts will implement policies, procedures and/or practices resulting in the inclusion of assistive technology information in Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities.
5. Ten Committees 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.
6. At least one college or university will incorporate an Independent Living Philosophy presentation, approved by SILO, into its curriculum for professional preparation programs that work with persons with disabilities.
7. SILO will establish a written arrangement whereby at least one NYS Correctional facility will offer on-site presentations on Independent Living Centers, ACCESVR, and agency linkages as a regular part of preparing inmates who are disabled to assist their transition back to the community.

##### B. Employment Advocacy

1. SILO will establish a written arrangement whereby the local One-Stop Center will offer an on-site advocacy program for persons with disabilities.
  - a. The Suffolk County 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.
  - b. As a result of the advocacy of SILO, the Suffolk County One-Stop Center will incorporate an Independent Living Philosophy, developed or endorsed by SILO, into its agency policies, staff training or programs to provide greater access to services by people with disabilities.
  - c. One-Stop Career Centers will establish a protocol for including work incentives planning and assistance services in employment plans developed by Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries.
2. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, a person with a disability will be appointed to a county workforce investment board that previously has not had representation from the disability community.
3. One Employment Network will provide brochures and pertinent program information in accessible formats at every consumer orientation.
4. At least one major employer in Suffolk County will incorporate Disabilities Awareness and Sensitivity training, conducted by SILO staff, as an annual in-service program for all personnel.
5. At least one Suffolk County 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.
6. At least three small businesses in Suffolk County will improve access for potential employees with disabilities.
7. A Town Youth Board will change its policies and procedures to increase the availability of integrated employment preparation programs for youth with disabilities, such as internship programs, work experience programs, and job readiness training programs.
8. At least five businesses in Suffolk County will produce an audio/taped version of its employee handbook.
9. At least Five Suffolk County employers will make their employment application available in large print for applicants who are visually impaired.

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

1. Through SILO's advocacy efforts, 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. There will be an increase in 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.
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.

4. One or more of SILO's staff will become a member of the Suffolk County 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.
5. Through SILO's advocacy effort and participation on the Suffolk County Department of Social Services (DSS) Commissioner's Advisory Committee, the DSS will adopt policies that enable individuals with disabilities to have full accessibility to all services and housing opportunities.
6. Suffolk County Department of Social Services will make a policy and procedural change to ensure persons with disabilities receiving Medicaid are fully informed about (1) reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and (2) the eligibility and recertification process.
7. A Suffolk County Department of Social Services office will incorporate disability awareness/sensitivity training to its staff, developed by SILO.
8. A long-term facility will establish a formal agreement to allow SILO to conduct an on-going support group for its residents.
9. At least four medical facilities in Suffolk County will make a policy and procedural change in how they identify and refer patients who are deaf to community resources that include sign language interpretive services.
10. Through SILO's advocacy efforts, one major health facility or hospital will increase its physical access for persons with disabilities.
11. Through SILO's advocacy, Suffolk County will have an increase in the availability of medical and mental health services for children and/or adults with disabilities.
12. As a result of SILO 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.
13. An organization that supports individuals with Spinal Bifida or spinal cord injury issues will change its policies, procedures and practices to ensure individuals and their family members are fully informed about available community services at SILO.
14. Through SILO's advocacy effort, one health care facility will provide Mental Health treatment services targeted to Senior Citizens.
15. At least one health organization providing mental health services will change its policies and procedures to increase protections available to mental health consumers that ensure self-directed, person centered and recovery focused treatment.
16. As a result of collaborating with the University of Albany, SILO will establish a program supported by grant funding and/or assigned human resources to provide options for living a healthier lifestyle through self-management classes to the disability community in the Long Island Region.
17. Through SILO's advocacy efforts, there will be improvements in the physical and programmatic accessibility of medical facilities in Suffolk County.
18. Through SILO's advocacy efforts, there will be an increase in the number of physician's offices, clinics, hospitals, and dental offices that improve physical and communication access for persons with disabilities (i.e. examination table, dental chairs, mammography equipment and American Sign Language Interpreters).
19. Improved access to medical facilities, including accessible parking and interior access, such as restrooms and signage.

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

1. Through SILO's advocacy efforts, five Suffolk County restaurants will change their policies and provide to provide menus in Braille.
2. There will be an increase of at least five professional buildings that are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities in Suffolk County.
3. Suffolk County Transit will adopt a policy assuring the proper training of all transit/driving personnel on disability sensitivity and awareness.
4. There will be an increase in the number of integrated accessible/adaptable housing units available to persons with disabilities.
5. At least two Suffolk County realtors or landlords will incorporate NYhousingserarch.gov on their website or in their brochures.
6. There will be an increase in the number of accessible local businesses, housing rental properties, accessible apartments, etc.
7. A private retirement community will improve access by making its resident's handbook available in alternate formats.
8. As a result of working with the Suffolk County Transportation Legislative Committee, the local public transit company will expanded service hours and para-transit services.
9. As a result of working with the Suffolk County Department of Social Services, Homeless Shelters will change policies and procedures to accept people with service animals.
10. Builders and landlords will change their policies and procedures to increase the number of affordable, accessible, integrated housing options for people with disabilities.
11. There will be an increase in Suffolk County in the accessibility of public right-of-ways, such as curb cuts, constructed for people with disabilities
12. A village or town will install audio crossing signals and/or enhanced crosswalks for persons with visual disabilities in at least ten of its major intersections.
13. A Fire Department/Police Department will modify its in-service training plans to include Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Training developed, endorsed or conducted by SILO.
14. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, at least one agency in the Family Court system will integrate an Independent Living presentation, provided or approved by SILO, into their training for professionals working in Family Court.
15. At least five restaurants in Suffolk County will provide its menu in an accessible format.
16. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, a local restaurant will add a ramp to the main entrance to accommodate people with disabilities.
17. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, Suffolk County will improve the access of all bus shelters.
18. The Suffolk County Legislature will pass legislation to increase the availability of accessible taxi and community car service in Suffolk County.
19. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, a local municipality in Suffolk County will adopt a policy to post the monetary fine for disabled parking violations adjacent to parking signs.
20. At least one parking lot that does not have proper Disabled/handicapped parking will be brought up to code.
21. The Suffolk County Planning Department will change its project review policies and procedures to address compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) when offering recommendations and guidance to local municipalities and developers prior to project approval.
22. A County Chamber of Commerce will change its policy and procedures to routinely provide accessibility information for people with disabilities.
23. There will be a measurable increase in the number of government buildings that become fully accessible.

24. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, at least two American Legion Posts in Suffolk County will install a ramp and/or other building modifications to improve access for persons who are disabled.
25. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, at least two business owners will change their policies to reflect the rights of individuals with disabilities who use service animals.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, there will be an increase in the number of integrated community social activities that become accessible.
2. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, there will be an increase in the number of recreation, fitness facilities and programs that are accessible to people with disabilities.
3. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, there will be an increase in the number of accessible municipally sponsored recreation opportunities and facilities.
4. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, at least one recreational facility/program will establish and post easily identifiable policies and procedures for consumers with disabilities to request and receive individual assistance ensuring equal service.
5. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, there will be an increase in the number of theaters providing closed captioning or audio description.
6. As a result of working cooperatively with faith-based organizations, there will be an increase in the number of accessible faith-based organizations and institutions in Suffolk County.
7. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, there will be an increase access to public parks and museums.
8. As a result of working cooperatively with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, there will be at least one new accessible trail created for people with disabilities in Suffolk County.
9. As a result of working cooperatively with a municipal recreation department, policies will be adopted assuring the proper training of all personnel in the areas of disability awareness and the ADA.
10. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, a Suffolk County town 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.
11. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, one local little league field will improve its access to persons with disabilities.
12. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, at least one playground will improve its access by installing a therapeutic and accessible device to better serve persons with disabilities.
13. As a result of working cooperatively with faith-based organizations, 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. As a result of working cooperatively with the Suffolk Board of Elections, there will be an increase in the number of accessible polling sites.
2. There will be an increase in the number of SILO staff and volunteers who serve on community and statewide boards/committees/task forces that previously have not had representation from the disability community.

3. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, at least one local government in Suffolk County will start providing agendas in an alternate format for/at publicly attended meetings.
4. As the result of the advocacy of SILO, at least one local government (village/town) will establish policies and procedures for the provision of sign language interpreter services at Community Council meetings.
5. As a result of working cooperatively with one of the three Suffolk County contractually approved transportation companies, one transportation provider in Suffolk County will change its policies and procedures to make its accessible vans and buses available to transport persons with disabilities to the polls on election days, and this will become an ongoing service.
6. At least one municipality in Suffolk County will pass appropriate legislation establishing and promoting the date of July 25th as A Day of Celebration of The Americans with Disabilities Act.
7. A SILO staff member will be appointed to the County Emergency Planning Committee that previously did not have representation from the disability community.
8. The Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management will increase the access of its website to make available the online disaster preparation and relief plans which address the needs and concerns of people with disabilities.
9. An advocacy network/infrastructure will be established with organized teams of trained consumer advocates available to address legislative civic issues as they arise.
10. One or more websites that facilitate active citizen participation in public policy advocacy will become accessible to people with disabilities as the result of input from SILO.
11. SILO will establish, in at least one high school, a team of students with disabilities to provide advocacy and address legislative civic issues as they arise.



# 35. 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.: C012399  
Report Period: October 1, 2015- September 30, 2016  
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. 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.
3. 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 agencies and organization linkages, and benefits.
4. 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.
5. At least one school district will implement a disability awareness program for students, designed and / or presented by TRI staff.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. In order to increase parental/student’s awareness of services for individuals with disabilities, a local college will add TRI’s website link to it’s website, under a link for “Helpful Student Links” or Community Resources Link for Students with Disabilities” etc.

9. 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 Dutchess County agency will change its procedures to have information packets which include materials on Independent Living Centers and level one soft skills employment training to enhance its resources for individuals with disabilities.
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.
6. TRI will establish a written arrangement whereby the local One-Stop Center will offer an on-site advocacy program for persons with disabilities.

## **C. Health Care Advocacy**

1. At least one adult home and/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. Cab companies which operate in Dutchess County will adopt policies and practices for drivers that ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
3. At least one civic organization in the Center's service area will install a ramp and/or other building modifications to improve access for persons who are disabled.
4. TRI will ensure that a Dutchess County Police Department provides access to effective communication services and/or technology for people who are Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing.
5. Dutchess County or Municipality Courts will improve access to appropriate communication services or technology for people who are Deaf and/or Hard-of-Hearing.
6. 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.
7. 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 their 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.

## 36. 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 No.: C012400  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2016  
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 based 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 and other 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
- WDOM 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 ACCES VR and OPWDD, as well as encouraging greater involvement by students and parents at CSE meetings.
- WDOM will promote workplace immersion as a model for transition with NYSED, OPWDD, DCMH, and other State Agencies
- WDOM Staff will follow-up with graduating seniors from Project to ensure an appropriate transition s into most integrated settings is taking place in areas such as employment and housing.
- WDOM will endeavor to provide independent living services to transitioning youth including but not limited to housing and benefits advisement

##### Goals:

1. There will be an ongoing collaboration with New Rochelle and Greenburgh-North Castle and other School Districts to establish school district policies and procedures that will facilitate referrals to community based services including: facilitating follow-up with graduating seniors by WDOM staff.

2. A self-advocacy curriculum designed for individuals with disabilities and focusing on decision making, goal setting, risk management, and Leadership will be offered in New Rochelle and Greenburgh North Castle and other school districts

**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

**Goal:**

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.

**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
- Meet on a regular basis with Yonkers HR to review their employment initiative and to refer consumers for internships

**Goals:**

1. Three to four Westchester employers that have not previously hired people with disabilities will initiate policies to hire qualified applicants with disabilities.
2. The City of Yonkers will establish a model internship program for people 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
- Maintain a CDPA Worker registry for use as a resource by CDPA participants
- Participate in discussions regarding a new State Office for Community Living to integrate services for individuals who are Aging and/or disabled
- Actively assure that the rights and health of people in institutional settings are respected- apply for the Ombudsman Program for Westchester, Putnam and Rockland County

#### **Goals:**

1. Integration of all services provided to long term care inpatients including, Community Transition, Ombuds-program and peer counseling
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 WDOM'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. New York State's 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 Facilitated Enrollment Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities that establishes Medicaid Eligibility
- Assist Medicaid recipients in Westchester County make the transition to mandatory Medicaid Managed Care while maintaining essential services.
- Advocate for community Medicaid budgeting for individuals with a plan to leave institutional settings.
- 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 Health Related 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 raise awareness regarding the needs of people with disabilities
- Advocate for greater independent oversight statewide of the transition to Managed LTC and the Fully Integrated Duals Advantage Program

**Goals:**

1. WDOM will establish an Independent Consumer Advocacy program supported by grant funding.
2. NYS will adopt legislation and/or regulations that will strengthen the Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN) program by:
  - a. increasing accessibility for plan participants with disabilities among all managed care providers and networks;
  - b. permitting the use of accessible medical equipment in health care settings;
  - c. establishing NYS contract requirements for health care providers to evaluate and demonstrate ADA compliance with regard to access of all goods and services.

**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.
- Educate e-merchants about standards for accessible web sites

**Goals:**

1. A minimum of one business or publicly owned 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
- Monitor 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 advocates to increase affordable housing options.
- 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 WDOM 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 WDOM.
4. WDOM 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, and the Governor will sign it, 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, and the Governor will sign it.

## **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.

### **Goal:**

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 WDOM.
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.
- Advocate against the use of inaccessible voting equipment in local elections.
- Continue active voter registration campaign.

**Goals:**

1. 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.
2. The Westchester County Board of Elections will provide voter material in alternative formats.
3. 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.
4. Westchester County BOE will allow ballot marking devices to be used in local elections.

# 37. 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, NY 10601  
Contract No.: C012401  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
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 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.
2. One local college will incorporate a class on the history of the Disability Rights Movement developed and designed by WILC staff.
3. 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".
4. 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.
5. WILC will establish a written arrangement whereby at least one NYS Correctional facility's Specialized Mental Health Unit will offer on-site CBT (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) Programming on Disability Awareness, ACCES-VR, and community services as a regular part of preparing inmates who are disabled for their transition back to the community or their adjustment to their incarceration.

##### 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 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. 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. A nursing home will change its policies and procedures to post/routinely provide information about transition services in addition to Ombudsman Program information.
3. A nursing home will change its policies and procedures to provide regularly scheduled Center presentations on transition services at resident council meetings.
4. An advocacy network/infrastructure will be established with trained senior advocates available to address Long Term Care issues as they arise.
5. At least one organization providing Mental Health services will change its policies and procedures to increase protections available to Mental Health consumers that ensure self-directed, person centered, recovery focused treatment.
6. At least one long-term care or healthcare facility will change its policies and procedures to allow the Center to regularly conduct an onsite support group for individuals who are diagnosed with a serious/persistent mental illness.

### **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 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II entities that are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities in the Center's service area.
4. There will be an increase in the accessibility of public right-of-ways, such as curb cuts, constructed for people with disabilities.
5. There will be an increase in the number of affordable, integrated and accessible housing options for people with disabilities.
6. There will be an increase in the availability of accessible taxi and community care service in Westchester County.
7. At least one not-for-profit agency in White Plains, New York that serves persons with disabilities will incorporate WILC's Project Access Housing Database onto their website.

### **E. Social Advocacy**

1. 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. At least one disability affiliated organization in Westchester County will incorporate WILC's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Anniversary's social media tool (film) onto their agency website.

## **38. PILS-WILC SUBSIDIARY**

### **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, NY 10512  
Contract No.: C012402  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Joe Bravo, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Shelley Klein

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

##### **A. Educational 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. 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.
3. As a result of the efforts of a Putnam County group of professionals, an organization will establish an annual transition event that is aimed at professionals and parents from around the entire County to learn about county-wide resources, employment opportunities, and services for students with disabilities and that is supported by grant funding and/or assigned human resources.

##### **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 Department of Social Services (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.

4. Putnam County Department of Social Services (DSS) Medicaid 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. 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. A nursing home will change its policies and procedures to post/routinely provide information about transition services in addition to Ombudsman Program information.
3. A nursing home will change its policies and procedures to provide regularly scheduled Center presentations on transition services at resident council meetings.

### **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 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II entities that are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities in the Center's service area.
4. There will be an increase in the number of affordable, integrated and accessible housing options for people with disabilities.
5. 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. \*A local community club or social group will establish an outreach policy and procedures to more effectively reach persons with disabilities in order to expand their membership to include/integrate persons with disabilities into their activities.

### **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.

## **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 No.: C012403  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Douglas J. Usiak, Executive Director  
Board President Authorization: Dennis M. Kessel

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

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

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

# 40. ILGR-WNYIL SUBSIDIARY

## 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 No.: C012404  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Douglas J. Usiak, Executive Director  
Program Contact: Rae Frank, ILGR Director  
Board President Authorization: Dennis M. Kessel

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational Advocacy

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

# 41. ILNC-WNYIL SUBSIDIARY

## 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 Road., Niagara Falls, NY 14301  
Center No.: C012405  
Report Period: October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016  
Contact Person: Douglas J. Usiak, Executive Director  
Program Contact: Sarah Lanzo, ILNC Director  
Board President Authorization: Dennis M. Kessel

#### I. COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY PLAN

##### A. Educational 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.