The Independent Living Advisory Committee
Of the Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired
Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2017

The Meeting of the Independent Living Advisory Committee of the Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired was held on Thursday, April 6, 217 at the Biggs building in New Castle, DE at 11:00 in the morning.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Marsh; other responses to the roll call were Patti Addison, Blake Roberts, Katherine Bottner, Chantel Jackson Suzanne Howell, Ken Rolph, Dava Neumann Jill Morrison Melodye May, Alice Johnson. William Bartlett participated by phone. Absent were August Hazeur, Jessica Welch and Lynn Schneider.

Having no deletions, additions or corrections the minutes were adopted as dispatched.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deputy Director Newnam updated the committee on what has transpired in DVI. The State of Delaware is in a 300 million dollar deficit. There is a hiring freeze for the State of Delaware with the exception of the 24 hour facilities. DVI will be able to hire the teachers that have be requested. All travel has been suspended.

Dr. Kara Walker the new Cabinet Secretary for the State of Delaware has scheduled several Town Hall meeting with various topics. The first one will be held on April 17, 2017 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Springer Building. This town hall meeting will be regarding Disabilities.

Deputy Director Newnam introduce Jill Morrison. Jill Morrison's position is the Director of Community Relations. Jill's duties include tracking all complaints and concerns from the public and the consumers. Jill reports to the Director's office. Jill can be found in room 206 at the Biggs bldg.

Deputy Director Newnam reported Delaware Industries for the Blind (DIB) will be closing, due to financial issues, and DVI is working to place the workers from DIB.

The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) will be partnering with the Hospitability School which is housed here on the Herman Holloway Campus. This will allow some of our consumer to learn to cook, they are already working with the disabled community.

Deputy Director Newnam also reported Orientation and Mobility in conjunction with ILS worked with the New Castle Police Department in giving them an overview of the various eye diseases. This was also broadcasted on Channel 6 news. Another session is in the works to work with the State Police, Firefighters and EMT staff.

INDEPENDENT LIVING REPORT

Outreach
Veterans and Family Resource Fair
Brain Injury Conference
Home and Community Care Annual Conference
Food Bank of Delaware Conference

Upcoming Outreach
- 55+ Expo
- Food Bank of Delaware Resource Fair – New Castle and Milford
- Cape Henlopen Senior Center Health Fair
- Healthy Vision Night - DCM

Workshops
The Independent Living Team sponsored a labeling and organization workshop on March 17, 2017. The workshop educated participants on how to organize and identify a variety of household items, including clothing, personal items, and canned foods and cleaning supplies. Tips and techniques were shared with the group on how to use tactual markers, grouping skills and technology to identify various items. The participants were provided with a packet to organize documents, labels and several marking implements. All participants provided positive feedback.

Braille Club
On March 10th, ILS team members Joan Markow and Jean May facilitated the inaugural ILS Braille Club. This club was created to provide an enjoyable way for Braille students to practice their skills through playing games and other activities. This club also provides the participants with an outlet for social interaction and support. Three Braille students played BINGO and War in Braille and stated that the activities were entertaining as well as educational. The club members look forward to expanding their group. Our gardening club will resume in late spring or early summer. Other clubs that are being discussed are a cooking club and technology club.

Professional Development
The team is continuing their training in UEB. An onsite trainer will facilitate a UEB course on June 7th and 8th. Because of fiscal constraints, travel to ILS team members was denied.

Collaboration
Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities
DVI is partnering with DSSAPD to cost share outreach events to cover multiple populations and preserve funds.

A Matter of Balance Program
The Matter of Balance program, offered through Volunteer Delaware 50+, is a coach-led fall prevention program that addresses physical, social and cognitive factors that contribute to a crippling fear of falling. As many falls are preventable, the program also focuses on fall prevention strategies and safe ways to get up from a fall. Individuals who are visually impaired

are especially vulnerable to the devastating effects of falls due their loss of vison. A workshop is planned on Fall Prevention on July 28th.

Workshop on Advisory Groups
We are hosting an information session on Advisory and Advocate groups. This will be held at the Dover Library on June 16th.

Transition
Spring Break Transition Week
The Independent Living Unit, in partnership with DVI's Vocational Rehabilitation Unit, is continuing preparations to co-facilitate Spring Break Transition Activities with VR transition youth. Fifteen youth are tentatively planning to attend the event designed to introduce expanded core curriculum topics such as food preparation, money management, time management and organization. ILS will also accompany the youth to a restaurant to provide assistance and guidance with learning appropriate dining skills. The Spring Break Transition Week will be held from April 17th through April 21st.
A summer transition program is currently in the planning stages, involving a DVI units.

Initiatives for this year
Continue to Partner with DSSAPD to cost share outreach events.
Establish consumer driven community learning opportunities
Offer ongoing Transitional Programming for students
Support staff professional development

Personnel Updates
Jill Morrison, Constituent relations

Started last month
Statistics
IL - FFY17
Independent Living – 91, since October 1, 2016
FFY16-82 served during the same time period
Roughly 10% increase

Elderly - FF17
Elderly – 224, since October 1, 2016
FF16 – 242 served during the same time period
7% decrease

Communication, and IL goals such as signing name, operating appliances, talking books and reading mail largest categories

Blind Sight
Ken Roth, stated Blind Sight has no plans to move from the building they are in, the store is still up and running. The hours for the store are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00-2:30. Blind Sights program room is available for meetings. The newsletter has been updated and a mass mailing was just completed.

Old Business
Wayne brought up the subject of membership; this committee needs to rejuvenate. New members brings new ideas and suggestions.

The ILAC committee is willing to work with DVI to improve the communication with the clients of the Visually Impaired throughout the state.
Comments from the public
Suzanne Howell was glad to attend and looks forward to future meetings.

Next Meeting in June 13.2017 Smyrna State Service Center.

Motion to adjournment was made by Patti Addison and it was seconded by Ken Rolph
2nd Ken Rolph

Meeting adjourned at 12:41