

Independent Living Advisory Council (ILAC)  
BlindSight Delaware  
Meeting Minutes, December 11, 2018  
2915 Newport Gap Pike  
Wilmington DE 19808

**Present Attendees:** Wayne Marsh, Council Chairperson; Patti Addison, Council Vice-Chairperson; Melodye May, Division for the Visually Impaired; Jean May, Division for the Visually Impaired; Jill Morrison, Division for the Visually Impaired; Aderonke Koya, Independent Living Services Intern; Suzanne Howell, Council Member; Mary Marsh, Guest; Ken Rolph, Council Member; Kathryn Bottner, Council Member; and Debra Mills-Joe, Division for the Visually Impaired.

Call-in via telephone: Elisha Jenkins, Division for the Visually Impaired; Carol King-Ries, Council Member; and Lynn Snyder, Council Member; and Deb Bradl, Division for the Visually Impaired.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called by Wayne Marsh at 11:30 AM.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the September meeting were deferred for another date. Wayne Marsh motioned to approve the delay and Patti Addison seconded the motion.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Elisha Jenkins provided her report via telephone and reported that the Joint Finance Committee meeting will be on February 19, 2019 at 12:30 PM at Legislative Hall in Dover, Delaware.

There are no updates from the Sunset Committee.

### **Business Enterprise Program:**

The BEP is engaged with the Blind Vendors Committee, Office of Management and Budget, for a micro-market at the Carvel State Building. This will be the first micro-market in state offices.

The BEP and the Division of Public Health held taste-testing events throughout the state. The results from the taste-testing locations was that the majority of those surveyed indicated they enjoyed the healthy vending alternative options. The Healthy Vending analysis from November 2018 versus November 2017 is an approximate 4% increase in sales from last year.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation:**

The Division will sponsor an open house at the Porter State Service Center located at 509 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street on December 5, 2018. This will be the beginning of a partnership through the Governor's initiative, with other state entities to bring more services to the city of Wilmington. One of the Division's vocational rehabilitation counselors and business consultants will be on site at the Porter State Service Center every Wednesday to provide employment information, community resources, and other support services needed by the visually impaired population in the community. The open house provided the residents of Wilmington and State Service Center staff with an opportunity to learn what services are offered by the Division for the Visually Impaired.

### **Education and Orientation & Mobility:**

Congratulations are going out to Smyrna High School junior, Matt, who was selected to be a student presenter at the annual Delaware Transition Conference.

On November 20, 2018, there were seven Education students that were given the opportunity to show their independence in traveling and self-advocacy at Christiana Mall. These transition students' tasks were to make their own travel reservations for both to and from the mall, make a purchase while at the mall, meet at a specified time and place for lunch, and then return home. These exercises are conducted in order to better prepare students for transition from high school to life beyond graduation.

### Communications and Outreach:

The filming of the Vocational Rehabilitation marketing video has been completed. The filming sites were: the Milford State Service Center Annex, the Biggs Building on the Herman Holloway Campus in New Castle, and the Carvel State Office Building in Wilmington. The cast consisted of five consumers, four staff members, and one vendor as part of the interviewing process. The draft is expected to be completed within several weeks.

DVI created a one page information sheet for the Early Start to Supported Employment Program and a BEP Fact Sheet.

### General:

Satisfaction Surveys- DVI has developed six surveys (one for each Program Unit and a general agency overview) to determine satisfaction rates.

Carol King-Ries and Patti Addison inquired about the next meeting date(s) for the Joint Finance Committee. They both would like to attend and bring along other members from the Peer Support Groups, to show strength in numbers and to help support our programs.

## ILS Director's Report:

ILS-Funding remains a concern and as a result strategies for cutting costs for devices were examined.

- (a) place a cap on the yearly amount that can be spent on one consumer.
- (b) use a sliding scale.
- (c) other resources: use the BOLD Program and DATI or contact the local Lions Club

Jean May suggested that she participate in the next SILC meeting to educate the SILC members on what ILAC does. The website address for SILC is [www.desilc.org](http://www.desilc.org). SILC meets bi-monthly. The next meeting date is December 12, 2018 @ Michaels from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Aderonke Koya, an intern with DVI Independent Living Services, presented to the committee information regarding meal delivery services plans for the elderly and visually impaired.

Mrs. Koya stated that the meals are all pre-measured and orders can be customized for the consumer. It was suggested that this information be put into the DVI Newsletter.

## Blindsight Report:

Patti Addison attended the VA Hospital Peer Support group in Elsmere which started out with four members and is now up to 17 members.

Another new site for Peer Support Group is in the Summit in Pike Creek Senior Living Facility.

The Peer Support members will be compiling another cookbook and should be completed by September 2019 in large print.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Adjournment:

Wayne Marsh adjourned the meeting at 12:48 PM.

Patti Addison seconded the motion.

*Prepared by Debra Mills-Joe, Administrative Specialist I, Division f/t Visually Impaired*