

Executive Director Report
Rob Honan
State Independent Living Council
July 17/18, 2008

1. **Personnel Update**

- a. Along with Linda McClain, I interviewed seven outstanding candidates for the Executive Assistant position. We ended up choosing Barbara Hathaway. Her biography is attached.
- b. Her first day on the job was June 16, 2008.
- c. Major tasks so far include: learning Travel Voucher System, how to process bill/invoices, ordering food, securing hotels, and learning new Black Berry system.

2. **State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).** I am undertaking a variety of activities to advance the State Plan for Independent Living. The following are examples of my work since the April meeting.

a. **Deaf- Blind, Deaf, and Hard of Hearing IL Outreach Committee.**

Conducted a third meeting on My 27th to brainstorm additional ideas on how IL can work with this population. Charley Lane and Jeannette Murphy attended this meeting. The fourth meeting will take place on September 19, 2008. Implementation of some of the ideas discussed in meetings has begun.

In separate meeting, I met with Charley Lane, Ariel Belo (Hearing Speech Deafness Center- HSDC) and Susie Burdick (HSDC CEO) to discuss potential pilot project with dRC and HSDC in Bellingham and Everett. This continues the theme of expansion of Deaf and Hard of Hearing services to those in the IL community.

b. **Transportation-** On June 19, 2008 I was appointed to the Accessibility Advisory Committee (Department of Transportation). The aim of this advisory committee is to ensure that WDOT's facilities, programs and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

c. **Increasing Capacity/ Legislative.**

-Participated in two ACIL-WA conference calls

- Met with two different legislative committee groups

1. Cross-Agency (GCDE, DDC, DRW, TBI Council and SILC) meeting to discuss common legislative issues and strategies to work the legislature for the 2009 legislative session. Met on April 30, 2008.

2. ACIL-WA legislative group (DRW and DSB included) to discuss state funding for CILs strategies. We met on May 20 in person and June 19th via conference call.

d. **Assistive Technology.** I participated in one in-person meeting and one phone meeting as a member of the WATF (Washington Assistive Technology Foundation) board. I conducted one meeting as the recently elected vice chair of the WATF board. At the current time, the focus of WATF is continuing to provide loans to borrowers as well as to expand the Individual Development Account (IDA) so that individuals can save up to \$4,000 for assistive technology for work-related and training (leading to employment) opportunities.

e. **Deinstitutionalization.** The Roads to Community Living Collaborative Team met on July 8, 2008. The program, designed to move up to 660 individuals, is up and running and 28 individuals have either moved back to the community or are identified as participants ready to move into the community. Concerning Centers for Independent Living, there was discussion on agencies and individuals (this includes CILs) contracting with DSHS to provide “Community Choice Guide” services to individuals wishing to move from institutions to the community. The discussion primarily centered around hourly rates and what is appropriate for the agency to be able to perform the duties of the contract.

f. **Outreach to Native American Group.** Along with Lummi Nation, the SILC hosted Public Forum in Bellingham at the Northwest Indian College. Approximately 20 in attendance. Discuss centered on cultural aspects of being Native American and effective partnerships in service provision.

g. **Youth Leadership Forum.** I attended meeting on July 11, 2008. I will again take part in 2008 event as a Counselor (August 11-15).

3. **ADA Symposium-** I attended the symposium in St. Louis, MO. The focus was ADA updates, new technology, and employment trends.

4. **Thurston County LEAD**

- June 10-11. Closing retreat and graduation
- Book Group performed a Local TV News Skit that revolved around our chosen book, Get Your Ship Together (D. Michael Abrashoff)

5. **Position Papers.** I am working to update and improve these papers. Many or out of date and others need improvement before widespread dissemination of these position papers.

6 **Miscellaneous**

- May 19, 2008: Presented “Thank You Plaque” to Libby Winzer in Aberdeen.
- June 2, 2008. Took part in Strategic Planning with ACIL-WA
- June 17, 2008. Attended Home Care Quality Authority Quarterly meeting

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