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Folder Title:

CSAVR [Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation] [1997]

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

Fort Point Place — Suite 600

27-43 Wormwood Street

Boston, MA 02210—1616

WILLIAM F. WELD
GOVERNOR

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JOSEPH GALLANT
SECRETARY

ELMER C. BARTELS
COMMISSIONER

(617) 727-2172
Voice/TDD
1 (800) 245-6543
FAX (617) 727-1354

April 16, 1997

Mr. Lex Frieden,
Senior Vice President
The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research
1333 Moursund Street
Houston, Texas 77030

Dear Lex:

Thank you for your invitation to participate in the meeting in Washington, DC, with regard to independent living centers working with state VR agencies. It was good to see you and Mack again; you make quite a team.

With regard to the purpose of the meeting, I would suggest that ILRU play the following two roles:

1. To develop a menu of working relation opportunities between IL centers and VR agencies. This menu can be developed from the survey of things that are actually being done throughout the country and develop a strategy for their implementation.
2. That ILRU would provide technical assistance to VR agencies and IL centers who wish to build collaborative efforts. There the ILRU staff could provide technical assistance either through telephone conversation, videotapes, or actual onsite visits.

From the agenda that was developed, I see that you were interested in developing a task force from the people assembled in the room plus or minus others. Such a task force could be a good sounding board. Whether you wish to pull them together with onsite meetings or not is open, but at least there could be a telephone conference arrangement amongst people who wish to be part of that sounding board.

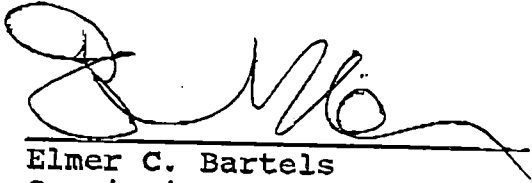
I certainly wish you well in the development of this idea. There is much to be done in building relationships between IL centers and VR

-2-

agencies. Whatever you can do to reduce the rhetoric and raise the responsibility would also be most supportive of building that relationship.

Again it was good to see, Lex, and best wishes in your important work.

Sincerely yours,



Elmer C. Bartels
Commissioner

ECB:tb

cc: Bobby Simpson, Director-Arkansas
Joe Owens, Executive Director-CSAVR
Jeannie Munro, President-CSAVR

"Common Ground" Feedback Form

Please complete and fax back this feedback form as soon as possible to Lex Frieden at (713) 799-7095

☐ The minutes look good.

☒ I have the following suggestions regarding the minutes:

too much introductory verbage

☐ The letter looks good. I will sign it.

☒ The letter has possibilities. I suggest the following:

concerned about statement regarding financial and personal
gain--although phrased positively, appears to indite unspecified
persons or organizations. A negative.

☐ I will never sign a letter of this sort.

☐ I believe this initiative should be conducted in the following way(s):

Be much more specific about outcomes. Spend time, as much as
necessary, defining them and agreeing upon them, then proceed.

Neutral facilitator. Strong skills in group work.
Feel free to attach marked up copies of the minutes or the letter.

Richard Petty, Mainstream
Name
1818 S University Ave
Address
Little Rock, AR 72204

7-14-97

Date

501-280-0012 501-280-9267
Telephone Number FAX Number

MetroWest**Center for Independent Living**

63 Fountain Street • Suite 504 • Framingham, MA 01701

V/TTY: (508) 875-785

FAX: (508) 875-835

FAX COVER SHEET

From: MetroWest Center for Independent Living
63 Fountain St., Suite 504
Framingham, MA 01701
(508) 875-7853 V/TTY
(508) 875-8359 FAX

Date: 7/7/97 no. of pages (incl. cover sheet) 2

To: Alex Frieden

Fax No: (713) 799-7095

Comments: _____

"Common Ground" Feedback Form

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☒ The minutes look good.

☐ I have the following suggestions regarding the minutes:

will send comments

☒ The letter looks good. I will sign it.

☐ The letter has possibilities. I suggest the following:

☐ I will never sign a letter of this sort.

☐ I believe this initiative should be conducted in the following way(s):

Feel free to attach marked up copies of the minutes or the letter.

Name Paul Spooner Date 7/7/97

Address MCIL, Inc

63 Fountain St. Suite 507 Framingham MA 01702

Telephone Number 508 875 7853 FAX Number 508 875 8359

Fax

To: Lex Frieden
Of: ILRU
Fax: 713-520-5785
Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.
Date: June 21, 1997

As requested . . .

From the desk of...

Robert E. Michaels
65 E. Kelly Lane
Tempe, AZ 85284-4066
602-961-0553
Fax: 602-961-0533

"Common Ground" Feedback Form

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☐ The minutes look good.

☒ I have the following suggestions regarding the minutes:

SEE MARKED UP MINUTES

☐ The letter looks good. I will sign it.

☒ The letter has possibilities. I suggest the following:

COLLABORATION CANNOT OCCUR UNTIL CILS OPERATE
ON AN EQUAL BASIS (I.E. ALL CILS ARE DIRECTLY
FUNDED). ADD A 4TH BULLET ENDORSING DIRECT
FUNDING OF ALL CILS.

☐ I believe this initiative should be conducted in the following way(s):

Feel free to attach marked up copies of the minutes or the letter.

Name BIO MICHAELS

Date 6/21/97

Address 65 E. KELLY LANE

TEMPE, AZ 85284-4066

Telephone Number (602) 961-0533

FAX Number (602) 961-0533

- the AND SOME VR people,*
- ▶ The absence, ~~at least as~~ viewed by ~~some~~ IL people, of an "equal" partnership between IL and VR which hampers collaboration--true collaboration can only occur between equal partners; and
 - ▶ The difference in "view" between IL and VR--IL tends to take the long-term view associated with achieving full rights and equal opportunity, while VR is often forced to look at the shorter term view associated with employment outcomes and quarterly measurable outcomes.
- The last observation about quarterly reporting of VR statistics gave rise to an interesting discussion of the dilemma faced by VR personnel. With the mandate that VR agencies give priority to serving people with the most significant disabilities, VR agencies find themselves devoting greater time and resources to individuals than had been the case prior to changes in the Rehabilitation Act. State agencies that do give priority to people with the most significant disabilities have seen marked reductions in the traditional outcome measure used to evaluate agency performance--successful case closures through employment. They have also seen costs per rehabilitation increase. To many, including some legislators, who are unaware of the impact of changes in the Rehab Act, reductions in numbers of successful closures and increases in per rehabilitation costs may appear to be due to poorer performance on the part of the VR agency rather than to changes in "case mix" that resulted from amendments to the Rehab Act.
 - The discussion following this analysis of the dilemma faced by VR moved on to the issue of funding. The point was made that funds available to support disability-related services are finite. Each time that re-authorization of the Rehab Act is necessary, IL and VR seem to get into conflict over funding. The discussion of differences often becomes public, and these public differences have the potential for reducing overall support for disability services and provide a tool for people who--for personal, economic, or political reasons--may be promoting reduced support for disability-related services. Squabbles over funding tend to pit one group against another. There is no effort to work out differences in a collaborative fashion and present a unified agenda and funding plan to legislators, policy makers, and others.
 - In closing the issue of funding, one participant noted that true collaboration cannot occur as long as the "parent-child" relationship that has characterized VR's dealings with IL prevails. It was suggested that the nature of the relationship might be changed in a positive manner if the VR agencies relinquished all control over IL funding. This suggestion elicited a response that something would be lost if no IL dollars flow through state agencies. The implications of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993--(which requires outcomes-based budgeting for Federal programs starting in FY 1999) were noted in this response. *DIDN UNDE STAND THAT CON MENT RE FERNED ON TO PART C.*
 - In bringing the meeting to a close, representatives of Federal agencies who attended the meeting suggested that, as a next step, a letter identifying "common ground" and potential areas of collaboration should be prepared for consideration by leaders of both IL and VR

Hyatt Regency Hotel
Bethesda, Maryland

April 9, 1997

Participant List

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919-733-7968 (fax)

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508-875-8359 (fax)

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McAlester, OK 74501
918-426-6220
918-426-3245

Doc Williams
RSA
500 United Nations Plaza
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-437-7840
415-437-7848 (fax)

WAITING TO HEAR FROM.

Jim Tuscher
Paraquad
311 North Lindbergh Blvd
St Louis, MO 63141
314-567-1558
314-567-1559 (fax)

*Tuscher's office
called & said he
couldn't make it*

Anne Weeks
Mountain State Centers for IL
821 Fourth Ave
Huntington, WV 25701
304-525-3324
304-525-3360

*Anne Weeks'
message was
given to Rony
for Lex to return
call, if he
wanted to*

*I faxed this out
per Lex without*

Don't know how

**Hyatt Regency Hotel
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304-525-3324
304-525-3360

*Tuscher's office
called + said he
couldn't make it.*

*Anne Weeks'
message was
given to Ropy
for Lex to return
call, if he
wanted to -*

*I faxed this list
per Lex without
Tuscher + Weeks
on it to John
Nelson*



FAX COVER SHEET

Gina McDonald
President/CEO

TO: Lex Frieden**Member Agencies:**FAX # 713-799-7095

**ILC of
Southcentral Kansas**
Wichita, KS
316/942-6300 Voice/TT

FROM: GINA MCDONALD

Independence, Inc.
Lawrence, KS
913/841-0333 Voice
913/841-1046 TT

DATE: 6-25-97# OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET 3

Independent Connection
Salina, KS
913/827-9383 Voice/TT

MESSAGE:

Please see attached.

LINK, Inc.
Hays, KS
913/625-6942 Voice/TT

The WHOLE PERSON, Inc.
Kansas City, MO
816/561-0304 Voice
816/531-7749 TT

**Topeka Independent
Living Resource Center**
Topeka, KS
913/233-4572 Voice/TT

**Southeast Kansas
Independent Living, Inc.**
Parsons, KS
316/421-5502 Voice
316/421-8551 TT

**KACIL
Capitol Office**
501 Jackson, Suite 450
Topeka, KS 66603
913/233/4550 Voice/TT
913/233-4231 Fax

"Common Ground" Feedback Form

Please complete and fax back this feedback form as soon as possible to Lex Frieden at (713) 799-7095

☒ The minutes look good.

☐ I have the following suggestions regarding the minutes:

☐ The letter looks good. I will sign it.

☒ The letter has possibilities. I suggest the following:

see attached

☐ I will never sign a letter of this sort.

☒ I believe this initiative should be conducted in the following way(s):

I'm not sure which initiative?

Feel free to attach marked up copies of the minutes or the letter.

Lina McDonald
Name

6-25-97
Date

1423 W. Crawford
Address
Salina Ks 67401

913-825-2675
Telephone Number

913-825-7029
FAX Number

"Common Ground" Feedback Form

The letter has possibilities. I suggest the following:

I believe that a letter of this sort may be more appropriate at a later time. I have the following concerns:

1. In spite of the fact that I may be signing this as an individual, I represent NCIL and KACIL in what I do. Therefore, I would feel the need to run this by at least the KACIL board before I could sign it. This is the benefits and the challenges of grass roots.
2. I am concerned by the fact that we all had to "take off" our NCIL hats at the meeting, when in fact, NCIL and CSAVR need to talk, not individual directors and VR Commissioners, although that also needs to occur. Bobby Simpson co chaired this meeting with you because he is the incoming President of CSAVR. So if we can't identify who we are, how can I agree on any common ground. I quickly became the NCIL President when it was time to set up a meeting. I am not concerned at the intent of why you wanted us to "take off our hats" but the truth is, if I signed this letter, my signature carries "all my hats". You even say in the second to last paragraph that "by signing this letter, the representatives of IL and VR commit themselves AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS
3. With regard to the three issues I have a concern that we were ignored with regard to direct funding of CIL's. Your minutes reflect the dialogue very well, but I am not sure many of the VR representatives heard or listened to those comments. Until we can agree on that, I cannot agree to saying that any more funding is needed, because in many states, we still have no authority over how that money is used. Further, until there are true consumer directed Title 1 services, I find it difficult to say that I agree that more money is needed for that program. I can agree that people with disabilities need access to employment opportunities, but I cannot agree that the traditional 110 program is the way to get there. It hasn't worked for seventy years, and "the times they are a changing".
4. In general I agree with the other two points on Accountability and Training.

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☒ The minutes look good.

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☒ The letter looks good. I will sign it.

☐ The letter has possibilities. I suggest the following:

☐ I will never sign a letter of this sort.

☒ I believe this initiative should be conducted in the following way(s):

The NCIL and CSAVR need to meet as equals and
carry out issues of common interest and agreements.

Feel free to attach marked up copies of the minutes or the letter.

Brenda Premo
Name
830 K Street Mall, Room 307
Address
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-445-3971 916-327-4567
Telephone Number FAX Number

June 25, 1997
Date

CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING OF SOUTHWESTERN PA
7110 PENN AVENUE
PITTSBURGH PA 15208
FAX #: (412) 371-9430
TEL #: (412) 371-7700

fax

TO:

Lex Frieden

FAX #:

(713) 799-7095

FROM:

Bill Chrisner

DATE:

6-30-97

SUBJECT:

Common Ground Feedback Form

PAGES TO
FOLLOW:

3

NOTES:

"Common Ground" Feedback Form

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☒ The minutes look good.

☐ I have the following suggestions regarding the minutes:

☒ The letter looks good. I will sign it.

☐ The letter has possibilities. I suggest the following:

See correction

☐ I will never sign a letter of this sort.

☐ I believe this initiative should be conducted in the following way(s):

Feel free to attach marked-up copies of the minutes or the letter.

W.D. Chrisner III

6-28-97

Name

W.D. Chrisner III, Pres. & Exec. Dir.

Date

Address

TRCIL; 7110 Penn Avenue; Pgh PA 15208

(412) 371-7700

(412) 371-9430

Telephone Number

FAX Number

"COMMON GROUND"

DRAFT

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

The purpose of this letter is to establish issues of concern to both the vocational rehabilitation community and the independent living community that may serve as "common ground" in developing working relationships that address more effectively the needs of persons with disabilities who are struggling for equality in our communities. This letter grew out of a meeting held in Bethesda, Maryland on April 9, 1997, involving people from state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies, centers for independent living (CILs), and statewide independent living councils (SILCs). Representatives of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), the National Council on Disability (NCD), and the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) also participated.

The meeting involved a great deal of constructive discussion around key issues related to IL and VR collaboration and barriers to effective collaboration. It also involved some healthy disagreement on issues that need to be brought forward and dealt with constructively if progress is to be made toward more effective collaboration. Key points of the meeting were summarized in minutes which are available to interested parties.

Identification of a few points of common concern to persons in both the IL and VR arenas is intended to provide a focus for continuing dialogue intended to bring these two critical components of the disability service system together in a manner which results in greater opportunities for people with disabilities ~~and the community~~. The three issues identified in this letter clearly emerged from the April 9 meeting as those on which IL and VR personnel could find some common ground in proposing legislative, regulatory, and operational strategies which benefit not only affected agencies and community organizations, but more importantly people with disabilities whom we serve.

Three issues emerged as those in which common ground can be identified and which can provide a focus for efforts to enhance collaboration between IL and VR. These are:

- **Funding:** Efforts must be made to expand the funding base so that the needs of people with disabilities can be addressed more effectively through enhancement of both service systems rather than at the expense of one component of the service system in order to benefit the other.
- **Accountability:** Strategies must be developed that provide a means for recognition of long-term gain, rather than simply short-term outcomes, and that recognize differential resource commitments that are required in order to address effectively the needs of persons who have varying levels of disability and access to different levels of community support.

- **Training:** Training initiatives should be developed and implemented which bring IL and VR people together in shared learning experiences which foster understanding of each others' views and perspectives and which heighten awareness of the demands made on personnel in job roles different from those with which we are familiar.

These three sets of issues provide "jumping off" points from which to begin developing a more comprehensive agenda for fostering IL-VR collaboration. As efforts progress, additional issues will be identified around which activity toward mutual benefit may be mounted.

ILRU will continue to provide support for activities targeting these issues, as well as others that may be identified by the leaders of the IL and VR communities. ILRU's role in this initiative will be one of facilitation and support, with responsibility for directing the efforts resting with IL and VR leaders who are designated to represent their respective agencies and organizations.

By signing this letter, the representatives of IL and VR agree to commit their support to continued effort to pursue these issues. Furthermore, by signing this letter, the representatives of IL and VR commit themselves and their organizations to act in a manner that puts the needs of people with disabilities ahead of the agendas or preferences of individuals or organizations whose primary interests may be related to financial gain or other benefit derived from service planning, delivery, or evaluation.

We the undersigned agree to move forward toward greater collaboration and service efforts designed to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

DRAFT