

MINUTES September 11, 2023

Present: Deanne Gagne, Tanja Blicher-Ucran, Rachel Ferreira, Rebecca Beaton, Andrew Lamson, Jason Harritos, Lisa Albert, Jill Merlin, Gilbert Sanborn, Nathan Jackson, Conor O'Brien, Zachary Gauthier, Joan Perates, Keith Wilcox

1. Welcome



Tanja welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

2. Mission Statement/Minutes



Rachel read the Mission Statement of the Coalition.



“The Coalition is for individuals with all disabilities to connect and talk about what is important in our lives and what we can do together to improve quality for all people! It is also an opportunity to become familiar with different services available from agencies in Rhode Island and learn what these agencies can do to support and meet the needs of individuals.”



Deanne read the April 2023 Minutes.



3. Presentation: ATAC (Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee) – Presented by Heather Schey, Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL)

Heather Schey is the current chair of the ATAC committee and uses the paratransit buses on a regular basis.

The Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) was originally formed in 1991 to meet the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to involve persons with disabilities in the planning process for the ADA Complementary Paratransit plan for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA).

The ATAC was remade as an advisory committee to RIPA, providing suggestions on the accessibility of all transportation services and other transportation related issues affecting people with disabilities.

The majority of ATAC members are persons with disabilities who use fixed-route and/or paratransit services, and since 2001 the Co-chairs have been RIPTA customers with disabilities. The ATAC members also include representatives of State, community based, and advocacy organizations serving people with disabilities.



4. Presentation: Talk About OSCIL (Ocean State Center for Independent Living) - Presented by Beth Pinkham, Associate Director, OSCIL

OSCIL is a consumer-controlled, community-based non-profit organization providing a wide range of programs and services to people with disabilities; to be integrated into the community and remain in their own home.

OSCIL has been around since 1988, and is a private, non-profit organization. It's the only Center for Independent Living (CIL) serving consumers in Rhode Island.

an initiative of the RI Developmental Disabilities Council

At the over 400 (CIL's) Nationwide they all have 5 Core Services:

Advocacy

Independent Living Skills

Information and Referral

Peer Support

Transition Services (Youth and Nursing Home)

OSCIL provides both individual and systems advocacy services.

Individual advocacy is assisting an individual with a disability to protect his or her rights or to fight for needed resources.

Through systems advocacy, OSCIL advances civil rights and equal access for all persons with disabilities on the local, state and federal level.

OSCIL teaches a wide range of **Independent Living Skills**. The skills training is tailored to meet the individual's needs.

The skills may include: budgeting, banking, household organization, using public transportation, basic computer training, and training in the use of adaptive equipment and services.

OSCIL is a contact point for people with disabilities, their families and the community to locate available services and products such as affordable, accessible housing, transportation options, adaptive equipment, support services, and more.

Information can be provided by phone, email, mail, and one-on-one to walk-ins to our Center.

Peer Support is provided by OSCIL with different group such as:

Youth with Disabilities



Spinal Cord Injury Group

Women with Disabilities



Traumatic Brain Injury Group

The opportunity to come together for socialization, updates on OSCIL's services & events, and presentations on a disability related topic.

OSCIL (Ocean State Center for Independent Living) has Transition Services.

Nursing Home Transition – OSCIL assists people who are self-directed to move from a nursing home setting to a less restrictive setting. Services may include help with finding accessible housing, securing personal care attendant services, etc.

OSCIL help to prevent people with disabilities from entering into nursing homes by working with them to obtain home modifications and assistive technology for them to stay in the community.

Youth Transition

OSCIL works with youth (ages 17 to 23) to develop skills to transition to community independence. They provide basic independent living skills training, address barriers to independence and promote peer support and outreach to area high schools.

an initiative of the RI Developmental Disabilities Council

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Services and Programs of OSCIL

Gift of Hearing -OSCIL works in collaboration with the Gift of Hearing Program at the University of Rhode Island (URI) Speech & Hearing Center to provide no or low-cost hearing aids to those eligible.



Fittings for the hearing aids are done by a licensed Audiologist through the University of Rhode Island

There are economic guidelines for this program. OSCIL staff will work with applicants to determine if they are eligible.

Personal Assistance Program (PCA)

This program provides services for those who need help with dressing, bathing, shopping, meal prep, or transportation to attend school or to keep a job, or otherwise be independent in the community.

OSCIL has a small PCA program for consumers who are not eligible or are over income for State programs including, Medicaid and the cost-share program.

OSCIL has many other Programs and Services.

Ocean State Center for Independent Living is located in Warwick, RI. Their website is: <https://www.oscil.org/>

See you in December 2023!!

5. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at about 3 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Date: MONDAY, December 4, 2023

Location: Warwick Public Library

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm



Minutes submitted by Tanja Blicher-Ucran