

CICIL Board Passes Braille School Resolution

Whereas The board of directors of the Central Iowa Center for Independent Living have adopted a mission statement "To empower persons with disabilities to control their lives." and

Whereas The board of directors of the Central Iowa Center for Independent Living believe in this mission statement as it relates to all programs involving persons with disabilities whether publicly or privately funded.

and

Whereas members of the board of regents of the state of Iowa have discussed the closure of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School in Vinton, Iowa and

In an effort to maintain the provision of high quality and successful education programs for K through 12 blind students in

the state of Iowa

Be it resolved therefore The board of the Central Iowa Center for Independent Living goes on record supporting the continuance of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School on its campus in Vinton, Iowa.

Christie Rushing President

March 14, 2006



Iowa
Braille
& Sight
Saving
School

CICIL Board of Directors Members and Terms of Service

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Contents

- Disability Inquiry
- Agency Spotlight
- Stella Medlin: New AARP Intern
- Calendar of Events
- Wellness Training
- "The Blooming Flowers"

CICIL Calendar Of Events for April, May, and June 2006

DATE	DAY	EVENT	TIME
April 4	Tuesday	Job Finders Peer Support Meeting	2:00 pm
April 25	Tuesday	Peer Support Meeting	2:00 pm
May 2	Tuesday	Job Finders Peer Support Meeting	2:00 pm
May 3	Wednesday	Living Well With A Disability	1:00 pm
May 10	Wednesday	Living Well With A Disability	1:00 pm
May 17	Wednesday	Living Well With A Disability	1:00 pm
May 23	Tuesday	Peer Support Meeting	2:00 pm
May 24	Wednesday	Living Well With A Disability	1:00 pm
May 29	Monday	Memorial Day	CICIL Closed
May 31	Wednesday	Living Well With A Disability	1:00 pm
June 6	Tuesday	Job Finders Peer Support Meeting	2:00 pm
June 7	Wednesday	Living Well With A Disability	1:00 pm
June 13	Tuesday	Board Meeting	Noon
June 14	Wednesday	Living Well With A Disability	1:00 pm
June 21	Wednesday	Living Well With A Disability	1:00 pm
June 27	Tuesday	Peer Support Meeting	2:00 pm

Disability Inquiry

Who can use CICIL's public computer work station? People with a disability are welcome to use CICIL's accessible work station. The computer work station is located in CICIL's lobby and features an accessible speech screen reading program for blind users. The computer work station is connected to the internet and can be used for research purposes as well as training.

The computer has been used by many people with disabilities over the years. The work station has been updated from time to time to work properly with current operating systems.

CICIL's staff assists consumers in learning how to use the computer. The computer work station is similar to those found in public libraries and internet coffee houses.

If you wish to schedule some time on the CICIL Public Computer Work Station please call Crystal to schedule access to the work station.

Wellness Training, May 3rd

Again this Spring CICIL will be presenting our Living Well With A Disability training program. This time the Living Well training will be presented each week for 8 weeks beginning at 1:00 on Wednesday May 3, 2006. The training site is Room 5 in the Student Union on the campus of Grandview College in Des Moines. This is the first time CICIL has offered the Living Well With A Disability training program on a college campus. The Student Union is accessible to people with disabilities and features a snack bar and student lounge.

If you are interested in learning more about the Living Well training or to register for the program, please call Angela Hutton at CICIL. Angela's phone number is 243-1742, extension 4.

This year we have a new Assistant Facilitator for the Living Well program. Our new Assistant Facilitator is Jeanette Reardon, a support staff here at CICIL who has been working as our receptionist.

Agency Spotlight

This issue we are highlighting Partners Unlimited. Partners Unlimited is an Arts organization which assist at risk youth and adults through the arts. Kelly Boon, the Executive Director, states that the Partners Unlimited organization has been serving individuals for over five years in the Des Moines and throughout the state. Partners Unlimited has served individuals who have been in the prison system and young individuals who

are at risk. The mission for Partners Unlimited is to "Transform lives through the arts" Partners Unlimited works with artists across the state and throughout the region. The need for this service is wide spread. If you would like to contribute or learn more about Partners Unlimited you can call Kelly Boon at (515)-778-0692 or you can visit Partners Unlimited website at www.partnersunlimited.org.

The Blooming Flowers

A Poem By Joan Haspray

For a long time I was on a plateau...
not happy-not low...you know.

But lately a little depression
lingered here...
not for any particular reason...
not enough to form a tear.

I went for a little walk to ease the tension...
of which helped... I'd like to mention.

April is almost blooming...
and my outlook usually has a fairly
positive ruling.

So, on this walk—with not talk...

I came across the highlight...
some spring flowers blooming...
what a magnificent sight!

It started easing the road's burden.
Spring is here!
Positive thinking should be certain.

So as I inhale the fresh air...
and as the plants are turning green...
here and there...

The flowers blooming although I'm in the city...
thrilled me and my negative outlook
now seemed silly.

Soon coats will all be shed...
The sun will warmly shine...
and they'll be many a vegetable
and flower bed.

The walk shined light on my eyes...
and the flowers blooming...
were surely a pleasant surprise.
So with any steps of life we take...
many flowers of success help
on a growing state...

From bitter to sweet...
grace we may meet!

SILC Observer

This new feature is highlighting activities and observations of the Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council often called SILC: Here is a public comment presented to the SILC meeting held on Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at the Iowa Department for the Blind:

March 15, 2006

Public comment from Frank Strong, Jr., speaking as a private citizen, to the Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council

There is good news and bad news here in Iowa concerning independent living.

The good news is that the spirit of Ed Roberts of self-help, consumer choice, and grassroots advocacy are alive and well.

The bad news is that only one third of Iowa is covered by centers for independent living. The bad news is that the council has not helped form any new centers for independent living in over eight years. The last center was formed when the now deceased John Taylor was chair. The bad news is that this council has repeatedly turned its back on Iowans with disabilities who have requested help to create a new center for independent living in an unserved area of the state. The bad news is that funds to provide services to Iowans with disabilities have been siphoned away from existing centers to create a bureaucracy. And this bureaucracy is prohibited from providing services.

Worst of all, the Council is somehow convinced that it is doing a "great" job. The bad news is that many Iowans, including this Iowan, believe that the only thing "great" about the Council is its "great" misunderstanding of its purpose and its great misrepresentation of the Independent Living Philosophy. Ultimately, this results in a "great" disservice to Iowans with disabilities.

Stella Medlin: New AARP Intern

CICIL has been working with the AARP Senior Employment Project for several years and has worked with a variety of interns. The newest intern working at CICIL through the AARP Senior Employment Project is Stella Medlin.



Stella is working 20 hours per week at CICIL as an Independent Living Specialist. Stella has many years of experience in office work. Stella has worked at Yellowstone National Park in Montana but is originally from Texas. Stella has also lived in Tennessee where she worked for an insurance company.

Stella enjoys country music, reading and crossword puzzles. Stella is a valuable addition to CICIL's workforce. Stop by and say Hi!



CICIL

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