

**RICAT Minutes**  
**Office of Rehabilitation Services**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conference Room**  
**40 Fountain Street ~ Providence, RI 02903**

**August 16, 2007**

Members present: Flo Ademi-Awosika, John Benevides, Jill Blaney, Joseph Murphy, Jeanne Panarace, Robert J. Perrello, Charles Pollock, Bill Robinson, Kim Wennermark.

Partners Present: ATAP Program Director Kat Grygiel; OSCIL Lezlee Shaffer, East Bay Educational Collaborative Lisa Labitt; Viviana Ciccia

- **WELCOME:**  
Meeting was called to order by Chairman Charles Pollock at 2:30 p.m.
- **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**  
Approval of Minutes was tabled. Quorum not met.
- **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**  
Charles Pollock welcomed and thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to be the Chairperson.
- **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - Membership/Outreach  
Jill stated that there are 13 consumers, 4 from state agencies, 5 professionals and currently we do not have any relatives, parent/guardians that are council members, in which 4 of the 5 have been set up for interviews already, but unfortunately there are not enough for a quorum right now so she suggested mailing out ballots with stamped return envelopes in order to get a better vote count. Currently there are three spots on the council that need to be filled and depending on how voting goes there might be an extra spot so we might be looking actually for five spots and four council members that will be a total of five spots available. Another thing that might be helpful is considering including membership renewals to the ones that are almost expiring. Some of them include Bill Robinson, Kerri Cicione, Harry Dunbar and Margaret Dunning although they have missed a couple of meetings. Jill will explore releasing them. This will leave the council with five empty spots. Out of the candidates, we have two relatives, who we really haven't had a relative in our council in a while and a professional that

was a former consumer. Jill is excited to know that the council is full of consumers considering we have to have 51% consumers, and we might even have more. She said that they were very enthusiastic and it had been a pleasure talking to them.

- Legislative

It was mentioned that there would be someone working on a ATAP display to explain how the group comes together. They want to have it ready by November 25<sup>th</sup> and November 27<sup>th</sup>. The partners came up with an idea for ATAP and RICAT to be @ a table @ the conference. A member suggested that we should also give a 3 week notice to people who would be interested in attending the meetings either by direct calling or emails. Charlie suggested that everyone should get and read the Brain Injury Resource Guide he felt it had an awful lot of information explaining benefits and an overview for the elders. It was a very informative brochure. He claims that when he got hurt there were different groups and different people that said they did this and that but when he got to the place they really didn't have anything to offer. It was very hard for him to actually find someone that could give him the whole scope of what is needed out in the field and how they can take care of you.

- Communications

On October 5<sup>th</sup> Charles will be attending a meeting at the Convention Center to talk about how he got injured 10 years ago but yet was able to become an artist. He will have twenty (20) of his pictures on display and available for sale. Will be talking to people about how he went through his motions to become an artist and be able to do a business out of it.

RICAT brochures were discussed. A couple of suggestions were made in regards to the brochures. Some members gave different opinions on how to make the brochure appear more informative, different pictures will be inserted along with more information on different committees that we deal with.

- Bylaws

Some members made a suggestion to add ex-chair to the executive committee. This will be brought up at our next RICAT meeting to see if we want to make a change.

- Partner Support

The committee has come up with a template to guide us when we do site visits. Talked about going to one agency to kind of do a pilot run using that template. TechACCESS has volunteered to be a pilot site for us so at this point. The partner support needs to come up with dates for TechACCESS, finalize the instrument we'll use and go out and use it to see if it works. Currently we are working with a volunteer agency; we just need to pull our committee together and in terms of the chair for partner support because we never got all together face to face to elect a chair.

- Project Director's Report:

Kat commented that Lezlee, Judy and herself took a look at the two Funding Source Database websites (Florida and Colorado) and felt that the Colorado site was much better and easier to navigate, much more user friendly. What they would like to do is approach Colorado to see what would be involved in purchasing that shell and then filling it basically with local data. Now another piece involved here is that some of the AT programs around the country are interested in doing something similar. So the folks that provide technical assistance for AT programs are going to be trying to see how many AT programs might be interested in purchasing that shell and then get some more data in terms of the cost. As of right now RI does not have a shell. What we have is the Disability Law Center and OSCIL and we don't really have an organized statewide web available package. So what we want to do is get a better handle on how much it might cost to purchase the shell rather than creating from scratch because it really seems like a good database.

- Next Meeting Date: October 18, 2007 @ 2:30 @ 40 Fountain Steet