

The Independent

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The Independent

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Bob Hand: Elected Chair of CFILC

RICV Executive Director Robert J. Hand was elected the chairman of the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers.

His term began in January this year. Bob's appointment as chair of CFILC puts RICV in a pivotal position in the state.

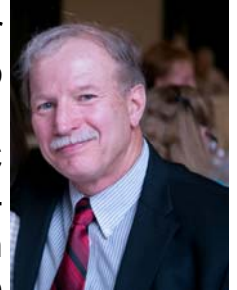
CFILC Executive Director Teresa Favuzzi says, "Bob is well-respected by his peers for his leadership and innovation. He has been elected to guide the direction of

CFILC over the next two years".

CFILC will be focused on building the capacity and sustainability of ILC programs in California and the nation, according to Teresa.

"We expect to play a key role in the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act on the national level, and we will be sponsoring legislation in Cali-

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Hired On The Spot!!!



Connie and Peter

When RICV consumer Peter Condos attended the RICV Job Club, he had no idea that his life would change dramatically! Employers from major and local business and companies present at

the Job Clubs.

This time it was the turn of Home Depot to make the presentation. Connie Harden, Associate support department supervisor for Home Depot retail outlet on Shaw Avenue was making the presentation. As the session progressed and she discussed the qualities they were looking for in employees, Connie found Peter was just right for the job. So, she hired him on the spot!

Bob At National Conference

RICV Executive Director Robert J. Hand attended the national Council of state administrators of vocational rehabilitation (CSAVR) conference this fall.

Mr. Hand was invited in the capacity of being the chair of the State Rehabilitation Council. He was one of the two vendor representatives at the conference and the only representative from the IL sector in the country.

All the remaining participants were from the Department of



From left: Milt, Michael and Bob

Rehabilitation.

The five day conference was held in San Diego from Nov. 10. Bob is seen in the picture with Milt Wright and Michael Yudin, acting assistant secretary, office of special education & rehabilitative services.

Volunteering



RICV I Challenge group led by BRIDGES Counselor Illeana Perez volunteered at the Community Food Bank cleaning, labeling, sorting and refurbishing thousands of donated books, grades K-12. These books will be donated back out to community centers, educational institutions. They were acknowledged by United Way in their newsletter.

NCIL Selects RICV Presentation For Conference

The National Council for Independent Living (NCIL) has selected RICV's proposal for presentation at the 2013 Annual Conference on Independent Living in Washington D.C.

In a letter to RICV Executive Director Robert J Hand, the NCIL conference sub committee said the presentation "Developing Community

Leaders", was chosen as one of the topics for the conference.

There were more than 40 proposals submitted to NCIL from all over the country.

The NCIL annual conference on Independent Living is an opportunity for new leadership, new ideas, and growth! The theme of the entire event will be regeneration, from

the perspectives of all the generations, communities, populations, and people that make the Independent Living Movement vibrant and powerful!

This year, the conference is titled Generation Annual Conference of Independent Living 2013.

The conference will be held in a few months in Washington D C.

Access Now Regional Power Summit



Participants at the Access Now Power Summit

identified issues that are like access, healthcare, education and transportation. Fresno City Council President

RICV in partnership with California Foundation for Independent Living Centers organized the first ever Regional Power Summit in Fresno on February 14 and 15.

The Access Now Regional Power Summit was aimed at creating an action plan on items surrounding persons with dis-

ability.

Overall, 60 consumers, advocates and ILC staff attended it.

Mary Jane Skjellerup, of Youth Leadership International spoke about the process of planning large campaigns and the amount of work that is required to make a campaign successful.

RICV intern Isaac Haney-Owens delivered a motivational speech accompanied by a video on autism.

Summit attendees

Blong Xiong and RICV Executive Director Robert J. Hand addressed the summit on February 15th.

Blong spoke about the City of Fresno's partnership with RICV on the Universally Accessible Park.

He also addressed some consumer concerns surrounding the park and other accessibility issues.

The summit ended with the consumers partnering with ILC staff to develop advocacy campaigns surrounding Transportation, Access and School Education.



Becca Imseis, FREED addresses the summit

Continued on Page 4

Regional

Access Now Regional Power Summit

Continued from Page 3

Each group made four goals pertaining to each topic, and developed a plan to accomplish each one of these goals.

The event was coordinated and facilitated by CFILC, RICV, FREED, ILSNC and ILCKC. It was



Joana and Becca Imseis

an honor for RICV to have hosted such an event!

RICV staff Systems



Councilman Blong Xiong

Change and Development Coordinator Coreen Campos, Community Organizer Joanna Zamora, Systems Change Advocate Samantha Sills, Advocacy Team Leader Agustina Lopez coordinated the event.

Shannon Simonelli, Fresno City ADA coordinator, DHSC Michelle Bronson and Advocates from other organizations participated in the event. University of Phoenix



Mary Jane Skjellerup

made available their facility free of charge for the summit.

www.centralvalleychs.org

Bob Hand: Elected Chair of CFILC

Continued from Page 1

fornia to modify the ILC funding formula in California to increase funding parity.

With Bob's leadership we will work with ILCs across California through a Peer Review process to build and sustain standard business practices, and support

center directors and staff to better meet the needs of people with disabilities throughout the state." she says.

CFILC is a state wide non profit trade organization comprised of over 25 ILCs. Its mission is to increase access and equal opportunity for people with disabilities by

building the capacity of Independent Living Centers.

Bob is also the chair of the State Rehabilitation Council, a post he has held for the 2nd consecutive year.

A warm welcome to Art Olvera, CEO of Life Goes On-Home Improvement to the RICV Board of Directors.

Leaders Without Limits in S. California



Training session

RICV has conducted yet another Leaders without Limits program.

This time it was held at Southern California Rehabilitation Services, in Downey on January 14th and 15th.

This is the third such program facilitated by RICV. It aims at training persons to conduct their own Community Leadership Academy classes.

The CLA is a program created by RICV to enable persons with disabilities to become active members of board and committees.

Systems Change and Development Coordinator Coreen Campos and Community Organizer Joanna Zamora facilitated the workshop.

As many as 10 per-

sons attended the training from different ILCs.

Staff from Dayle McIntosh Center, Rolling Start Center for Independent Living, Communities Actively Living Independent and Free attended the workshop.

“Availability of computers helped us do some interactive exercises,” Joanna said.

The workshop helped the participants to start their own Community Leadership programs.

RICV first conducted the Leaders Without Limits at the Berkeley ILC last year.

Currently, RICV has been receiving inquiries from several states in the country regarding the program. Foremost among them are Arizona, Arkansas and Alaska.



Coreen Campos

Youth Leadership

Darion Armstrong Huggins, is a volunteer at RICV and a member of Yo Disabled and Proud.

Darion who has cerebral palsy and a mild cognitive disability, is a great example of a youth leader.

He is currently scheduled to present at the Fresno City Transition to Independent Living and Education (TILE) program on how to live more independently.

What is special about Darion is how he is using his disability-related knowledge. He is now working on a blog that will assist college and high school students with information Assistive Technology. He feels that his own personal experience in terms of disabilities and knowledge of the needs and challenges faced by students will make the blog very useful and informative.

Darion is now enrolled in the Willow International College and hopes to transfer to Fresno State in two years. “I want to major in Computer Technology,” he says.



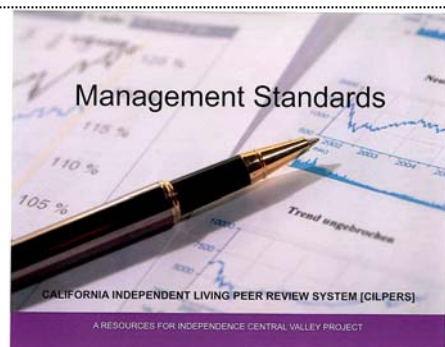
Resources for Independence Central Valley has been certified Center of Excellence in terms of management standards.

RICV was one of the five Independent Living Centers in the state that underwent this certification.

Director of Department of Rehabilitation Anthony Sauer

said in an email, "I appreciate the effort you and the others are putting forth to improve your Centers and

ILCs in California as a whole. I especially appreciate the risk that an ILC Executive Director takes when exposing them-



CILPeRS

California Independent Living Peer Review System

selves to their peers in order to gain insights to improve their Center's viability. "

RICV : Center of Excellence

Developed by RICV, this certification system is called California Independent Living Peer Review System for Independent Living Centers (CILPeRS) in the state.

The review assists ILCs to identify areas of business that they need to strengthen and areas that need improvement. As

part of the AB204/VII B grant that RICV received for this purpose, it has developed two handbooks.

Management standards, a comprehensive handbook on the subject was developed by Paula McElwee, former RICV Board member.

The Fundraising manual was developed by Executive Director of Marin County for Independent Living Eli Gelardin.

It focuses on ways and means that ILCs can generate funds for their general pot.

The Management Standards will soon be

distributed among the ILCs in the state.

Central Coast Center for Independent Living, Independent Living Center of Solano and Contra Costa Counties, Marin Center for Independent Living, Dayle McIntosh Center and RICV participated in the review. For more information contact Robert J. Hand on 559 221 2330.

TRAINED CILPERS REVIEWERS

Dolores Kollmer

[Executive Director

Dayle McIntosh Center]

Eli Gelardin

[Executive Director, Marin Center for Independent Living]

Elsa Quezada

[Executive Director Central Coast Center for Independent Living]

Robert J. Hand

[Executive Director, Resources for Independence Central Valley]

Susan Rotchy

[Executive Director, Independent living Resources of Solano and Contra Costa Counties]



Health Navigator Assistance Project

Where

Resources for Independence Central Valley (RICV)
3008 North Fresno Street,
Fresno, CA 93703
559-221-2330

What

Receive help navigating and understanding your CalViva Health/Health Net Medi-Cal Health Insurance,
Receive Health Education resources and
Health care self-management

Goal

Promote wellness, improve health &
increase insurance knowledge.

Contact RICV for more information.
Visit the office or call 559-221-2330

Understanding the Other Side

“When he realized I was gay, a dentist attending me came dressed like he was facing biological warfare. He was totally covered up. It struck home the fact that he was treating me differently because of my sexual orientation. That made me realize how important it is for persons with alternative sexual and gender orientation to have service professionals who are sensitive to them”. This poignant story and many others brought home the human face behind the loosely used terms to define persons belonging to this community.

In a very lively inter-

active session, Jeffrey Robinson, Clinical Supervisor with Fresno County Department of Mental Health trained RICV staff on “Gay 101”.

At the cultural competency and sensitivity training held in February, he presented vignettes of a large section of society that is only now coming loose from the shackles of societal distrust and igno-



Jeffrey Robinson, Clinical Supervisor



RICV staff Joanna assists

rance.

Dispelling commonly held stereotypes of LGBTQ community, Jeffrey talked about the struggles and challenges, and the achievements faced by the community.

<http://www.ricv.org/inspirationpark/>

Prepare For Emergencies

By Reyes Sandoval

Be prepared when disaster strikes-It could be a storm, flash floods, earthquake or a terrorist attack. Have a ‘Disaster supplies kit’ handy.

It is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. You may need to survive on your own after an emergency

and you may have to evacuate at a moment’s notice.

Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages. Now buying a kit already made can be a little expensive or you can put a kit together yourself by going to a 99¢ Store and making a kit to

fit your needs. You can buy these at the dollar store. Basic items would include first aid supplies including pain relief items; dry and canned food items; water; personal hygiene products; emergency equipment like flash light, multi function pocket knife, lighter, masks and scissors.

Action: Personal and Immediate

Piles of trash, cockroaches, rotting vegetables, dirty linen and towel, and the stench unbearable!

This was the challenge that RICV Independent Living Specialists faced.

They were on location, cleaning up Oliver's (not his real name) home.

An extremely obese person, Oliver had trouble functioning on a daily basis. His apartment was strewn with filth. He had not taken a bath in two months. And he was in danger of losing his Section 8 housing because of this.

Depression, in addition to his physical condition, rendered Oliver unable to do anything around the house.

"It takes him two hours just to walk up to the store on the corner to buy groceries," Jennifer explained.

When Jennifer heard that Oliver may



IL Specialist Jennifer Kungu cleaning the

apartment

lose his housing owing to the filth, there was no time to put a long term action plan in place. Oliver needed immediate help.

So, Jennifer with the help of other RICV staff, decided to clean up Oliver's house themselves.

AT Advocates Reyes Sandoval and Maria Olivarez agreed to help.

Armed with cleaning supplies and other items donated by RICV staff, the three jumped right in, personally cleaning Oliver's house. By the end of the day, Oliver's home was livable and met the apartment sanitation requirements. That personal touch and quick response saved Oliver his home!

Board of Directors

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Janice Brown

(Director, Services for Students with Disabilities CSUF)

Vice president

Selina Escobar

(Sr. Public Programs

Administrator,

HealthNet)

Secretary

Arthur M. Lopez (Retired Deputy Director, Department of Rehabilitation)

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Gayle Black

(Vice President, California Trust and Bank)

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Carol Rankin (Professor, CSUF)

Russell Ryan

(Attorney, Motschiedler, Michaelides, Wishon, Brewer & Ryan LLP)

Anthony Gracian

(Graduate, Fresno Pacific University)

Susan Thompson (Graduate, CSUF)

Frances Reyes Acosta (Consultant)

Christina Kraushar, (Patients Rights Advocate, Merced County)

Art Olvera

(CEO, Life Goes On-Home Improvement)

Appreciation

Fresno Advocacy Team

3rd Friday [2pm-4pm]

Joanna Zamora

[jzamora@ricv.org]

Job Club

Job Development Coordinator

Chandra Woods

[cwoods@ricv.org]

Peer Support Group

1st & 3rd Wednesday [2:00 pm-3:30 pm]

Barney Morris

[bmorris@ricv.org]

All above events held at

RICV Conference Room

2940 N. Fresno St.

Fresno, CA 93703

Merced Advocacy Team

United Way, 658 West Main St.

Merced, CA.

2nd Friday [2pm-4pm]

Visalia Advocacy Team

RICV, 220 Santa Fe Avenue,

Visalia, CA.

2nd Tuesday [2pm-4pm]

Central Valley Coalition for Human Services

3rd Thursday [3 pm]

At Central Valley Business Incu-

bator, 1630 East Shaw Avenue

#163, Fresno, CA 93710

www.centralvalleychs.org

Bowling for youth with disabilities

California State University Fresno.

Contact BRIDGES Counselor

Ileana Perez [iperez@ricv.org]

Community Leadership Academy

How to be an effective board member-

15 hour, five week module.

www.nationalcla.org

Coreen Campos

[ccampos@ricv.org]

Client Speak

I have been hired as a full time employee at the Marjorie Mason Center as a Victim Advocate for the Fresno Police Department. It was with all the support and dedication of the RICV staff, that I have a better future and a career that I can be proud of.

Everything that the program offered and helped me with, from helping me build my resume, to the cover and thank you letters, these were all fundamental to my being able to apply with self-assurance, and know that I am submitting a professional resume.

I am so blessed to be able to share my success as a consumer and to be able to accomplish the goal I had set forth for myself with the guidance and help of the Traci and Chandra.

Thank you so much Traci for always supporting me, and responding to all my questions and needs and for your encouragement. You are an amazing person.

Chandra, you are such an inspiration and your words of guidance and strength helped me push myself to do more than I thought I was capable of.

To the rest of the staff, I appreciate the feeling of an open arms environment and how warm and accepting you all are.

-Elvira Figueroa

- ◆ California Department of Managed Health Care has launched a portal to enable residents of California to resolve disputes on health plan's on-line.: http://healthhelp.ca.gov/aboutthedmhc/itn/itn_press.aspx.
- ◆ The state Department of Health Care Services has announced a new program to help move more Californians with disabilities out of long-term care facilities by offering rental assistance. <http://www.californiahealthline.org/articles/2013/2/13/calif-launching-rental-assistance-program-for-people-with-disabilities.aspx#ixzz2KnbG7KCT>
- ◆ The U.S. Department of Education (Department) has enacted new rules that make it easier for students who acquire a disability to get their federal student loans forgiven. <http://www.propublica.org/article/education-department-adopts-crucial-reform-for-disabled-borrowers>
- ◆ Kings View Behavioral Health System has launched the Central Valley Suicide Prevention Hotline (CVSPH). The hotline 1-888-506-5991 will serve Fresno, Madera, Merced, Mariposa and Stanislaus counties.
- ◆ Persons with speech and hearing disabilities can text 911 in emergencies in many places from January 2013. This will be available nationwide May 2014. Four major wireless carriers, AT&T, Verizon, Sprint and T Mobile have agreed to accelerate the text to 911 availability. [EEOC to Update Collection of Demographic Data to Better Track Hiring of People with Disabilities in Federal Jobs - Comments Due April 16](#)
- ◆ The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) will revise the Demographic Information on Applicants, OMB No. 3046-0046 form to include disability status data. The revision would help the EEOC and federal agencies track progress on recruitment and hiring strategies.

Free Clinic and Services

Free Clinic and Service For uninsured and low income

On

March 16 [8 am to 6 pm]

March 17 [8 am to 4 pm]

At

Sunnyside High School

1019 S Peach Ave, Fresno, CA 93727

Patient registration starts at 7 am.

Services include Medical, Dental, Alternative Medicine, Vision and a Community Resources Fair

Call 559 291 8800 for more information.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
Donate to
**RESOURCES FOR INDEPENDENCE
CENTRAL VALLEY**
IRS CERTIFIED 501C(3) NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

We are dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with disabilities. We partner with individuals and the community to encourage people with disabilities to be in control of their lives and to live more independently through a diverse range of choices and opportunities.

Send your donation to:

**Resources for Independence, Central Valley
3008 North Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93703
1-800-244-2274
Donate online www.ricv.org**

THE INDEPENDENT

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our website:

www.ricv.org

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