

BCIL ON THE FRONTLINES!



Advocates rallying for the ADA, including stalwart member John Robinson.



Staff member Dan Harris at disability rights rally.



Protesting involuntary electric shock used on people with disabilities at the Judge Rotenberg Center.



The Boston Center for Independent Living gratefully acknowledges the support of the United Way.

BCIL Financial Statement

June 30, 2018

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$803,990
Investments	\$547,387
Accounts Receivable – Third Parties	\$476,039
Accounts Receivable – Contracts	\$155,972
Accounts Receivable – Other	\$3,300
Prepaid Expenses & Deposits	\$61,147
Property and Equipment, Net	\$111,820

TOTAL ASSETS \$2,159,682

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable	\$216,849
Accrued Expenses	\$275,861

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$492,710

Net Assets

Unrestricted:

Available for Operations	\$1,253,803
Board Designated	\$239,798
Net Investment in Property & Equipment	\$111,820

TOTAL UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS \$1,605,421

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED \$61,551

TOTAL NET ASSETS \$1,666,972

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$2,159,682

How to Connect to BCIL:

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BOSTON CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Advocacy, Service, Action!

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Providing quality IL services, engaging in spirited frontline advocacy, and spreading a vision for disability rights and equality highlighted BCIL's work in 2018 and will shape our efforts in 2019.

Housing is a gigantic concern for BCIL consumers because there's way too little that's affordable and accessible. To attack this, we again successfully campaigned for increased funding for the **Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP)** for people with disabilities, which earned a \$1.15 million increase in the state budget. In the last five years our AHVP advocacy with the Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) and Citizens Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) has increased AHVP funds by over 73%, helping bring the total number of vouchers to over 550. Thanks go to our legislative champions, Representatives Kevin Honan of Boston, Marjorie Decker of Cambridge, and Claire Cronin of Easton, and Senator Jamie Eldridge of Acton. BCIL staff also assisted 140 individuals to obtain affordable housing or retain their housing. Another 250 people attended the housing workshops we run twice a month.

BCIL's ability to provide **essential independent living services** received a great boost this past July with the awarding of new monies by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission for us to provide increased services to the Boston neighborhoods of Roxbury, Mattapan, Hyde Park, Dorches-



Staff member Louise Hogan speaks on health care rights with BCIL members at event at JFK federal building.

ter, West Roxbury, Roslindale, and Jamaica Plain along with the towns of Dedham and Milton. These funds will enable BCIL to address concerns in Boston and other communities in a comprehensive manner, enabling us to work with consumers to address housing challenges, the need for quality health care, the need for jobs, and better youth services.

In the past year, BCIL's **consumer-directed personal care attendant program** again served over 1,200 people, who used PCAs for activities such as dressing, bathing, and eating, which helped many individuals to avoid a nursing home, get to work, go to school, and/or raise a family. Our

(article continues on next page)

Donations & Dues

A donation to BCIL helps us to annually provide services to over 4,000 people with disabilities and advocate on housing, health care, PCA services, ADA compliance, employment and more. As a cross-disability organization that works with any person who identifies with a disability and charges no fees, BCIL relies on the generosity of members, corporations, foundations, and individuals to support the independence of people with disabilities in Greater Boston.



Board member Zary Amirhosseini at ADA rally.

YES! Here is my \$ _____ contribution to BCIL.
 YES! Here are my \$20 dues to become a member.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible check payable to BCIL.
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Card number _____

Exp. date _____ CSC _____

Signature _____

Please mail to BCIL, 60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111 or visit us at www.bostoncil.org to make your donation or pay your dues. Thank you!



BCIL/ACCESS advocate Crystal Evans and daughter Sophie.



Harriette Ranvig of BCIL & MassADAPT at rally at HUD.



New BCIL peer advocate Daniela Depina—see p. 4 for her take on IL.



Penny Shaw at BCIL advocacy strategy meeting.

BCIL MISSION STATEMENT

The Boston Center for Independent Living is a frontline civil rights organization led by people with disabilities that advocates to eliminate discrimination, isolation and segregation by providing advocacy, information and referral, peer support, skills training, PCA services, and transitional services in order to enhance the independence of people with disabilities.

Over 60% of BCIL's staff and board members are persons with disabilities.

BCIL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Bill Henning, *Executive Director*

Courtland Townes III, *Deputy Director*

Shawn Kelley, *Human Resources Director*

Susan Smith, *Development and Special Projects Manager*

Kiet Blakes-Thompson, *LTSS-CP Program Manager*

Dave Aurelien, *IL/LTSS Program Manager*

BOARD

Sergio Goncalves, *Chair*

Dianna Hu, *Vice Chair*

Stacey Zebow, *Treasurer*

Jerry Boyd, *Clerk*

Zary Amirhosseni

Enid Eckstein

Lydia Edwards

Lisa I. Iezzoni

Henry Korman

Linda Landry

Frank Taverna

Jim Wice

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information and referral services also assisted over 2,000 people, while our coordination of long term services and supports for people in One Care and ACOs touched approximately 400 persons. We also had another great year with our Transition Internship Program, which placed over 30 youth with significant disabilities in paid internships.

Immigration remains a hot topic in the United States. BCIL will offer that as of the publication of this annual report, eight dedicated members of our staff were born outside the United States and enrich the organization by, among many things, being able to speak a number of languages, including Spanish, Cape Verdean Creole, Swahili and Haitian Creole. Additionally, for 2018/2019, BCIL is hosting an intern from Japan.

In the coming year a continued major BCIL focal point will be **health care and long-term services and supports**. We expect to rally the disability community and MassHealth members to speak up on accountable care organizations (ACO), One Care, and PCA services. In 2018 Disability Advocates Advancing our Healthcare Rights (DAAHR), which we coordinate with the DPC, organized forums that gave voice to consumers' demands that ongoing health reform not dismantle vital networks of care. We also worked with the Disability Law Center (DLC) and Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) to support use of accessible diagnostic medical equipment in medical facilities, and one major success is the planned appropriation by MassHealth of \$8 million to support purchase of, among other things, accessible exam tables, OB/GYN equipment, and mammography equipment by facilities.

Access to MBTA services as always remained a top BCIL priority. Our work to ensure improved services of The Ride continues with Mass Senior Action and the Baystate Council of the Blind, among others, and we continue to push for full MBTA compliance with the ADA with GBLS. We are, as well, members of the new Riders Transportation Advocacy Group.

Thanks, as always, are extended to our members and consumers, whose energy and insights inform and drive our work. We greatly appreciate that the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, United Way, Community Catalyst, the Jeff Thompson Charitable Fund, and the East Boston Savings Bank Foundation generously support our advocacy and service work. Invaluable support for our many IL services is provided by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, and MassHealth. BCIL also salutes strong partnerships—including ones mentioned already—with the Commonwealth Care Alliance, 1199SEIU, the National Council on Independent Living, MassADAPT, Health Care for All, Easter Seals, Tempus Unlimited, the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, the Employment Advocacy Group, the City of Boston Cultural Council, Boston LTSS Care Partners, Massachusetts Care Coordination Network, ACCESS (Advancing Community inClusion & Equality on the South Shore), the state's nine other ILCs, and member agencies of the Boston, Metro, and Southeastern Mass Aging and Disability Resource Consortiums.

In 2019 BCIL will again empower individuals and the disability community to advance independent living, integration, and equality.

THANK YOU!

Bill Henning, *Executive Director*

Sergio Goncalves, *Board Chairperson*

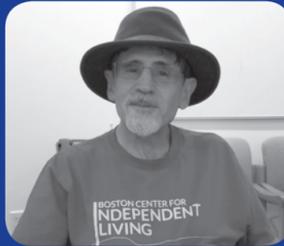
November 2018



Rallying for affordable and accessible housing outside HUD office in Boston.

What Independent Living Means to Me

Don Summerfield



My name is Don Summerfield and independent living means a lot to me. To work, to play, to come and go at my leisure, to get the healthcare that I need, not to be told what healthcare I should have, and most importantly, my freedom. Freedom is a lot to me. Managing my own home means a lot. It adds to my comfort. The freedom of being with friends. One aspect of living independently that's been very important to me is been living in the community because that's where a major part of my rehab has been.

Daniela Depina

Daniela Depina recently joined the BCIL staff as a Disability Peer Advocate. Below are excerpts from a discussion on how she views her work.

I arrived in the United States in 1990 from Cape Verde... My parents did not have knowledge of independent living, as a blind person I did not get the services I needed. Now that I am a successful graduate of college, my parents wish they understood.

As a person who lives in the BCIL service area, I feel cultural sensitivity is needed. Understanding culture is crucial. Understand that consumers and families from another country don't always understand their disability and their rights. They are afraid, and trust is the biggest barrier. Parents that are over protective is a second barrier, they have to learn to let go and when is a safe time to do so. I speak to parents as a parent with a child with a disability.

We use our skills and stories to teach and support consumers and their families.

Sharon King



Hi, my name is Sharon. I'm a care coordinator here at the Boston Center for Independent Living. Independent living to me means having control, having control not just physically, but over what happens to you, what your goals are, what decisions you want to make. And, you know, in working here it is inspiring me a lot in my personal life. I have vitiligo. It's an autoimmune disease that manifests in white patches on the skin. And basically, my immune system is attacking my healthy cells mistakenly. And for a long time I didn't feel like I had control, and it took a lot of work for me to accept the person that I am. And in working here, it's encouraged me to want to help others. So I started a whole, like, network of support for people with vitiligo. And working here definitely gave me the confidence to make it happen. So, I love independent living.

Dan Harris



My name is Dan Harris, & I am a Youth Transition Advocate with the Boston Center for Independent Living. Independent living is important to me because my independence is important to me, and the whole philosophy of independent living is that people with disabilities have control over their own lives. I think that is kind of the backbone of my own life, because I like doing what I like doing on my own time, on my own schedule with as little interference as possible, and that I think is what we try to help our consumers reach, is living lives that they feel most in control of and most empowered by, and that is why independent living is important to me. What it means to me is just the freedom to do and live the life that you want.

BCIL Marie Feltin Award Ceremony



2018 BCIL Marie Feltin Award winners: Linda Landry, Chris Hart, and Taramattie Doucette.

Over 300 people filled the room for the 22nd annual BCIL Marie Feltin Award Ceremony to honor people embodying the pioneering spirit of the late Dr. Marie Feltin, who was a powerful advocate for patients with disabilities. Our remarkable honorees this year included **Taramattie Doucette**, a tireless advocate defending the rights of children and adults with disabilities and mentor to tomorrow's advocates; **Chris Hart**, a national and local accessibility expert; and **Linda Landry**, an advocate for justice and superstar teammate. The ceremony again benefited from our great friend, Dr. Robert Master, and our master of ceremony, Dr. Lisa Iezzoni.



BCIL staff and other IL advocates meeting with US Representative Joe Kennedy in Washington DC on IL issues.

BCIL Feltin Sponsors

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The **23rd annual BCIL Marie Feltin Award Ceremony** will be held Friday, March 22, 2019 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel.