**February 2022**

 **Executive Directors Report**

**Staff/Consumer Connection Activity**:

As a goal for December and January, I tasked all team members to “interview” at least five persons with disabilities. The goal being to get more connected with our consumers and more in tune with the needs and challenges of different types of abilities. Most found this a very rewarding way to educate themselves on how we can best help and advocate for our consumers and the disability community at large. We had a meeting to share what we had learned with one another and set future goals for areas we want to improve and things we want to learn more about.

**Legislative Advocacy:**

January and February are big months for legislative action. This is the time where we see if our requests for funding are approved and for how much. It’s also the time that we watch and advocate for bills to be passed that would affect the disability community.

I have been attending meetings with the Utah Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities to keep updated on bills going through Legislative committees and working with the other Utah CIL Directors in putting information together for our request for funding. Over the past few weeks, I have sent numerous letters to different representatives seeking their support. We’re really hoping to get some of our one-time funds transitioned to ongoing as well as increase the ongoing amount by $25,000 for each center. This would allow us the ability to increase staff wages which is so very needed, especially in this rough economy.

**Accessibility:**

The Recite Me cloud-based assistive technology toolbar is now active on the RRCI website! If you haven’t done so already, go onto [www.RRCI.org](http://www.RRCI.org) to try it out. We will be doing a lot of marketing over the next couple of months promoting RRCI and getting the word out.

**Board Recruitment:**

You may have notice that I’ve been doing quite a bit of board promotion over the past month or so. Notices have been posted on all RRCI social media, the RRCI newsletter and placed on the UNA, (Utah Non-Profit Association) site.

We’ve received a really great applicant who is interested in joining the board but does not have a disability. We are mandated to have our board comprised of at least 51% people with a significant disability. The current standing is 4 with a disability and 3 without so we are right in compliance. However, this means that in order to welcome this new applicant, we need to recruit at least one other who has a disability to join as well.

**Annual DoNut Dash 5K Fun Run:**

Reminder about our 5K is a family event scheduled for the morning of Saturday, March 26th, 2022 at Crosby Confluence Park (near the St. George Convention Center).

The sponsor letter and flyer are posted in the online boardroom. We would love to have the help of board members to spread the word and bring in those sponsors. We will discuss this in more detail at board meetings from here until the event is held in March.

This is a great way to help fulfill that board membership requirement of “making a personal contribution, either financial or volunteer time.” Not only is this our only fundraising event, but it’s also a great way to spread awareness for RRCI in the community.

Survey general comments for February listed below.

JANUARY 2022 COMMENTS FROM CONSUMERS FOR

QUESTION 11 HOW DID STAFF HELP YOU THE MOST?

• GETTING OUT OF THE HOUSE

• Gave me a machine to help see mail.

• Opt. tech, magnifying glass

• Provided art and cooking classes I could attend

• Arlo received help with hearing device.

• Carma loaned much appreciated walker Keep me informed of upcoming activities and encouraged me to attend Jill makes me aware of talents ,

• And how I can use them to possibly help consumers.

• Got me back home

• Just being available when needed. Always courteous, kind, always happy very contagious.

• Got me the use of a Merlin machine

• Loaned me a walker after my helper broke down.

• Being more confident with my self

• Through personal contact.

• With a computer and victor steam

QUESTION 12; HOW CAN RRCI IMPROVE OUR SERVICES TO HELP YOU MORE EFFECTIVELY?

• HELP ME BE ABLE TO MAKE PHONE CALLS.

• Don’t know.

• We do not need additional help at this time-Thank you.

• Information on funding for assistive technology and other adaptive equipment that could help consumers become more independent

• I’m ok

• Educational activities.

• Help us get funding to get a better wheelchair lift that is safer and meets our needs.

• None they are great.

• Completely satisfied with everything yawl do.

• Get more of SLC services her in St. George.

• They are great already.

QUESTIONS 13; PLEASE SHARE ANY OTHER THOUGHTS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH RRCI AND STAFF.

• GOOD TO GET OUT---NICE PEOPLE

• Caring staff

• I have appreciated the center providing transportation to activities when I’ve had problems with my vehicle. I’d like to become more educated about political issues that effect people with disabilities.

• They helped me obtain a stuffed companion pet for my husband he loves it. Memory Matter connected me with you get stuffed animal

• Grateful to get home and have a wheelchair.

• Jill has been an amazing lady to work with. She always brightened my day in person and the phone!!!

• The Covid closedown has been the reason I haven’t attended lately.

• Just great people and a great service.

• Everyone is very helpful and kind. Thank you very much.

• They have been courteous and helpful

• Staff Rita is awesome!!