

SILC Quarterly Meeting

Sept 13, 2006

Best Western Hotel & Conference Center

Marlborough MA

1:30 – 3:30 pm

STEVE HIGGINS:

Those who are not SILC members, please, welcome to the meeting. The only thing I will ask you to do is that when we have a vote, or a motion today, because there are several folks in the room that are not normally with us, and are not SILC members, only members, people that have been appointed by the Governor, can make a motion, can second a motion, or can vote on a motion. So only people who have been appointed by the Governor's office can make a motion, second a motion, or vote on a motion.

Other folks can participating in the conversation, which is a good thing, so that is really important.

So we are going to begin.

Pam Burkley wanted me to just touch base with everybody and say "thanks" for the support. And because, you know, there were a lot of times that Pam couldn't get to the SILC Meetings, because of a lot of health issues that have come up over the past year. But through the time, everybody stuck through, and did our jobs, and did what we needed to do.

So the person who will be chairing our meeting today is our SILC Secretary, and that is Nancy Trczynski. So Nancy, I turn it over to you, and we take it from there.

Yeah. We should do introductions.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNSKI: Hi, everyone. One thing that I would like to let you know is that due to my visual impairment, Steve will recognize people who need to speak, and also be recognizing people who want to make motions, just so that the meeting will flow faster. So I don't have to keep wondering who is doing what. It just makes life easier, and that way we can get out of here faster.

BERNARD BONNSRA: KAREN LANGLEY: PATRICIA ASTRELLA:
MERLE FERBER: GLADY EDWINS: SYBIL FELDMAN: JAMES
TRIPP: FILOMENA TRIPP: AMY ASHDON: DAWN CLARK: SARA
GAYLES: BETTY J. KING: EILEEN BREWSTER: BONNIE JONES:
KAREN BUREAU: DWIGHT WOODWORTH: JUDI RODGER: TONY
WILLIAMS: MIKE KENNEDY: JOE BELLIL: PAUL SPOONER:
NAOMI GOLDBERG: SHAWN McDUFF: MARY MARGARET
MOORE: CATHY TAYLOR: SYBIL FELDMAN: COREEN
BRINCKERHOFF: LISA WEBBER: IRENE GILCREST: KEITH JONES:
SUSAN LANDY: STEVE HIGGINS: NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNSKI:

Okay. First on the agenda is the chair's report, and I know Steve had spoken to Pam, and I didn't know if there was anything else she needed to report?

STEVE HIGGINS: That really was it. She wanted me to really just touch base with everyone, as I said, and thank you for all of the support that you have given her, and in all of the work that we are doing, and, you know, she told me to say congratulations to myself, and I feel real weird doing that, but she told me to do it.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNIKI: I've already beaten Steve with a noodle, it is all good.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNIKI: Do I hear a motion to accept the meeting minutes from last -- from last time?

We have a motion on the floor from Betty King. Is there a second?

EILEEN BREWSTER: Second.

STEVE HIGGINS: Second, Eileen Brewster.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNIKI: Any discussion?

Hearing no discussion, all in favor?

(Ayes around the room.)

All opposed?

Any abstentions?

Okay. Minutes are approved with my bad spelling, and I will correct those. Okay.

I will turn it over to Mary Margaret for the State Plan Committee report.

MARY MARGARET MOORE: The State Plan for Independent Living committee report, as of today, September 13th, 2006.

This is the opportunity where I give us an update on where we have been for the past year, where we are, and where we have to go.

In the State Plan, it lists that the SILC and the CILs need to share a vision in which all people with disabilities who find themselves in need of Independent Living Services or advocacy can obtain timely, consistent, and quality assistance from a community-based Center for Independent Living. And that all CILs in Massachusetts must be controlled by consumers and staffed by people with disabilities who are valued for their skills and paid fairly.

So that is what is in the plan -- or one of the things that we are trying to attain.

In order for us to attain it, right now we have, Massachusetts has a network of eleven Centers for Independent Living, who meet section 725 standards. Each CIL has a defined service area, although many CILs provide services to individuals outside of their service areas. And the service areas are defined by lists of cities or towns, and although they don't fully coincide with county lines or service areas of other agencies, we have now been able to revise some of those lines under the new re-districting that we have been able to accomplish here in Massachusetts.

In the State Plan, early in the year, the SPIL committee met and discussed the need to revise the allocation formula that was used for determining future monies received by the centers. And we were able to set up a process agreed to by the centers and MRC. So we have pretty much done okay on meeting that piece of what we wrote into the plan.

And the SILC did work closely with all the CILs this year to educate all of the Massachusetts state and Federal legislators on the SPIL needs in Massachusetts; particularly, that our staff need to be paid fairly.

The Mass. Rehabilitation Commission, the Mass. Commission for the Blind, and the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing collaborated with the SILC in coordinated efforts. And along with many other groups, and other centers, we were able to receive a \$902,000 increase in additional state monies for the centers for this Fiscal Year. We had asked for 1.5, but according to the data that I have, we received \$902,000. I'll take questions at the end, Paul, okay?

PAUL SPOONER: Okay.

MARY MARGARET MOORE: That doesn't sound hopeful.

(Laughter.)

PAUL SPOONER: No. I just wanted to know what "paid fairly" is. How that is defined.

MARY MARGARET MOORE: We did not define it in State Plan, but that was one of the things that we are advocating for, and educating the legislators about, that we had not received any additional funds for seven years, and were not able to recruit and retain staff because we didn't have the resources to do such. So the "paid fairly" part, it was sort of assumed in our strategy of educating the legislators.

During the month of June, we did have a hearing to -- the SPIL committee put forth to amend our current State Plan for Independent Living, for monies received in both the State Fiscal Year '07, and '08, as a result of receiving the new monies from our advocacy efforts. Basically in the State

Plan, the money would have gone to that formula that we had figured out, but since we had advocated for the money to be divided up equally, and all of the centers did that education, and many of you were a part of that, and it helped us to get the funds, we then had to amend the State Plan so that the new money would be divided up equally and not according to the formula.

The information regarding the hearings validated our -- what we wanted to do as an SILC on that. And the SILC, MRC, and MCB -- Mass. Rehabilitation Commission, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, signed off with us on the amendment on June 26th. If you remember back, we had that June meeting, and got all the signatures. And it was sent to Washington, to the Rehabilitation Services Administration for approval. We had a lot of E-Mails and phone calls by Steve and myself, the approval was received on August 1st from Washington on the amendment. Real triumph for us to get that quick a turn around from the Feds on a State Plan amendment. Steve and I were told that IR appears in other places, and they have never done a turn around that quickly before. So major triumph.

During year three, which is -- which we are -- which begins on October first, and is the final year of our current State Plan, the SILC now, and this committee, will continue to educate the Legislature and the Congress of the need for increased funding of the existing network of centers, and the development of branches, satellites, and/or new CILs.

And we need to convene forums around the state to assess the needs in preparation for the SPIL that will begin a year from this October and go for the next three years.

So I will be setting up with Steve under the direction of the new chair of the SILC, what that schedule will be, and I encourage all of you to think about attending the hearings that will get started. So that is where we are. And in pretty good shape for what we said we were going to do. And we added some new things in. And we still have work to do on the last year of the State Plan. And you saw the laundry list that we developed earlier at this conference of priorities that we might want to include in the next SPIL. So that is my report. And I'm open for any questions.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Do I hear a motion to accept Mary Margaret's report?

STEVE HIGGINS: Motion by Dwight Woodworth.

SYBIL FELDMAN: Seconded.

STEVE HIGGINS: Seconded by Sybil Feldman.

NANCY RUMBOLT: All in favor? All opposed? Any abstentions? Okay, thanks Mary Margaret.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Okay. The next report is the treasurer's report, and I'll turn it over to Bernard.

STEVE HIGGINS: I have copies if you'd like to pass them out, for folks that would like them.

BERNARD BONNSRA: Okay, treasurer's report, good news for the year 2006. We did not run out of money. [applause] In fact, when all is said and done, we will end up with a roll-over of about \$72,000, which is about the same as last year. The conference cost is expected to be around \$56,000, and if you look at the report, we did move money from the special events line item, and also the consultant line item to the SILC conference.

We also received donation almost of about \$4,000 from the ADA and the State IL Conference so far. We also expect about \$3,000 to come in.

MRC, we received about \$1,202 from MRC to cover the cost of the SILC representatives who participated in the OC site review. So overall, the budget for '06, very strong, and we ended up on a positive note.

Thanks, Steve.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Any questions for Bernard? Okay. Do I hear a motion for accepting the treasurer's report?

WOODY: I move.

STEVE HIGGINS: Motion by Woody.

STEVE HIGGINS: Second by Betty King.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Any more discussion? Okay. All in favor?

NANCY RUMBOLT: All opposed? (No response] any abstentions? Okay, motion carries, and thanks, Bernard.

BERNARD BONSRRA: Thank you.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Next, we get to hear Mr. Spooner again.

(Laughs) for the advocacy report. Are you tired of talking yet, Paul?

PAUL SPOONER: It's not again, it's still. I'm never again.

Well, I didn't kill any trees doing a report

SYBIL FELDMAN: I wanted you to know anyhow -- I'll think of it later, sorry.

STEVE HIGGINS: Thanks.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Thanks, Sybil. Anyone else? No? Okay. Do I hear a motion to accept the advocacy committee's report?

STEVE HIGGINS: Bernard?

BERNARD BONSRRA: Motion to accept.

STEVE HIGGINS: A motion to accept, Bernard Bonsra.

STEVE HIGGINS: Seconded was Amy Ashdon.

NANCY RUMBOLT: No more discussion? Okay, hearing none, all in favor?

ATTENDEE: Aye.

NANCY RUMBOLT: All opposed? (No response) any abstentions? Motion carries. Thanks, Paul, for all of your work.

And the next, on the agenda is Mike Kennedy for the development and nominations committee report.

STEVE HIGGINS: I have copies of the development and nominations committee report, if anyone would like to read those.

MIKE KENNEDY: All righty. Thank you very much, Steve. Thank you, Nancy, and good afternoon, everybody. In your original packet, I believe we need to make one correction on the nominations minutes there. They're labeled September, but I really believe they should be labeled for August because I know we just met the, we just had a teleconference a week and a half ago, prior to this meeting.

STEVE HIGGINS: They're in the minutes for this meeting, Mike.

MIKE KENNEDY: Okay. I just wanted to see the minutes that come out now. Okay. Okay, I'll quickly go over -- oh, no, actually -- actually, that's the same thing that was passed out. Okay. Again, the minutes that you're getting actually should be for August, 2006. For September, on September 5th, we had a teleconference with myself Amy Ashdon, Steve, Nancy and Paul, and we briefly discussed the process of the elections of officers, the slate I'll go over, and Part 8 of the meeting, the election of officers, and then we went into, we just discussed the upcoming changes in the Federal 704 report, which the nomination and development committee will need to provide disability demographic information about their SILC members, and lastly, once the election of officers has taken place for the upcoming year, Steve will inform the Governor's office of the election results.

That's what I have for the September teleconference. You probably had a chance, hoping to review the August minutes, any questions? Any comments?

STEVE HIGGINS: Paul Spooner?

MIKE KENNEDY: Yes, we could do that. So, if I could -- okay, Sybil?

SYBIL FELDMAN: I would like to be nominated.

PAUL SPOONER: You want to be nominated?

SYBIL FELDMAN: I do.

PAUL SPOONER: What position? We haven't opened up nominations.

SYBIL FELDMAN: I want --

STEVE HIGGINS: Nominations actually haven't been opened yet, and that's actually the next thing that will take place. What Michael was doing was giving the report from the last meeting of the committee. The next thing that we'll be doing after this report will be moving into election of officers. So if you have any questions right now, or comments, it would be pertinent to Mike's report on the development and nominations committee meeting. Merle?

MERLE FERBER: What was the question about Pat Estrella has agreed to remain on SILC?

STEVE HIGGINS: Pat had to leave early.

MERLE FERBER: Was there a question or problem?

STEVE HIGGINS: There wasn't a problem. Pat was appointed to the SILC by the Governor's office about a year and a half ago and she was appointed as the representative for the center for living and working in Worcester. Pat left working at the Center for Living and Working so the Center for Living and Working in turn appointed Dawn Clark to be their center designee. Pat Estrella wanted to be involved with advocacy. Because of the definition ever the SILC, she's no longer employed by a center for independent living or a designated State agency, and she was willing to stay on. We ran this by the Governor's office, and all the ethics folks in Boston. Pat is going to remain on the SILC as a consumer.

MERLE FERBER: That's a good thing.

STEVE HIGGINS: It is a good thing because one of the things we've had an issue over, you know, several years is making sure we have enough folks that are on the SILC that are listed as consumers, that aren't employees of the center or the state agency. So thank you for asking that question. Karen Bureau?

KAREN BUREAU: I see here applications for individuals looking to be nominees. I have a concern, and I'm just wondering what the appropriateness is of accepting an application from a Union employee, and I'm just throwing that out there.

STEVE HIGGINS: Mary Margaret?

MARY MARGARET: Any citizen of the Commonwealth can apply to be appointed by the Governor as an interested party, representing the business community, representing people with disabilities, or the other specified categories in the bylaws.

STEVE HIGGINS: It's organizations of interest, persons with disabilities, that want to put the disability community -- these are all outlined in the rules.

MARY MARGARET: Yes, or someone that's representing a designated state unit, and those are exactly specified within the bylaws, it's why MRC and MCB and other designees are here, as well seats for the independent living centers, and so anybody can, fits in those categories can submit an application. In terms of how the nominations committee is going to review, and then recommend to the executive committee their membership, that's, I guess that's a question that you'd have to answer, Mr. Chair of the Committee. So I'm just reminding you of the bylaws in terms of how anybody can apply. Does that make sense, Karen?

KAREN BUREAU: Yes, it does, thank you.

STEVE HIGGINS: Clarification on the federal level, the words Mary Margaret used are pretty exact as to what it says. A SILC can be composed of as little as four members, a chair, a vice chair, appointed by the Governor, one member of the designated state unit, or designated state agency, and the majority of the three individuals rather have to be consumers or persons with disabilities, and then the fourth person has to be an independent living center director from within the state. When you read the actual CFR, 234 CFR, persons that are members of businesses, business organizations, or those within the community who also serve persons or work with persons with disabilities, are encouraged to apply for memberships in the SILCs.

MARY MARGARET: Sybil has a question.

STEVE HIGGINS: Sybil?

SYBIL FELDMAN: I have a question. [inaudible]

STEVE HIGGINS: Sybil asked how many years can someone be on the SILC, and there's a long answer and a short answer. The short answer is

two consecutive terms. The long answer is, each term is a three-year term, so that can be six years. If an individual is appointed to fill an existing term that is currently in place right now, then they can fill the remainder of that term, and run for an additional two terms.

So if an individual came onto the SILC today, and they were filling a term that someone had left open, then they would be able to, and this was the Governor's office clarified that to me about two months ago, that person would still be able to do two consecutive terms, that they would be appointed.

SYBIL FELDMAN: Thank you.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Any more questions on Mike's report. Do I hear a motion to accept?

STEVE HIGGINS: Motion, Betty King.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Second?

STEVE HIGGINS: Second, Sybil Feldman.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Any more discussion? Hearing none, all in favor?

ATTENDEE: Aye.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Opposed? (no response) Abstentions? Motion carries. Thanks, Mike.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNIKI: And now we are onto the elections, and that will also be turned over to Mike Kennedy.

MIKE KENNEDY: Okay. Thank you very much, Nancy. Okay. Slate of officers. In your packets, you received a copy of the current slate of officers. That would be Nancy Rumbolt-Trczynski, as the chair. Bernard Bonsra, vice chair. Karen Bureau, Secretary. Filomena Tripp. I will now entertain any -- any nominations from the floor.

Hearing none --

DWIGHT WOODWORTH: I make a motion that the --

STEVE HIGGINS: A point of order. The nominations are still open on the floor. The nominations have to be closed from the floor before a motion can be made for the Secretary to cast the ballot.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNIKI: Do I hear a motion that nominations be closed?

SHAWN McDUFF: I'll make a motion.

STEVE HIGGINS: Shawn McDuff makes a motion that nominations be closed.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Do I hear a second?

STEVE HIGGINS: Second, Betty King.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: any more discussion?

All in favor?

FROM THE AUDIENCE: Aye.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Opposed?

(No response.)

Abstentions.

(No response.)

Nominations closed.

DWIGHT WOODWORTH: Okay. Now I can make my motion.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: If I hear you correctly, Woody, you are making a motion that the elections be cast on one ballot?

DWIGHT WOODWORTH: Yep.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Okay. Woody makes a motion. Do I hear a second? The Secretary casts, right. Do I hear a second?

STEVE HIGGINS: Sybil Feldman.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Any discussion?

Hearing no discussion, all in favor?

FROM THE AUDIENCE: Aye.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Opposed?

(No response.)

Abstentions?

(No response.)

Secretary casts one ballot for the entire slate of officers.

KAREN LANGLEY: Yeah!

(Applause.)

FROM THE AUDIENCE: Yeah!

MARY MARGARET MOORE: Okay. It is for you Nance, congrats.

STEVE HIGGINS: Nancy, here's the ballot.

Mike, are you actually marking the ballot off over there, and we'll have Nancy sign that afterwards.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: And I happily turn notes over to Karen.

(Laughter.)

I'm very happy. Yeah!

MARY MARGARET MOORE: Congratulations, Karen!

PAUL SPOONER: And those weekly trips to Framingham. They didn't tell you about that?

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Yeah. Yeah.

(Laughter.)

MARY MARGARET MOORE: And Bernard, congratulations, vice chair.

(Applause.)

And Filomena.

MERLE FERBER: On behalf of those who have not been appointed yet, congratulations.

STEVE HIGGINS: Yeah. Thanks, Merle. Merle just said congratulations.

So our officers for 2007 will be chairperson, Nancy Rumbolt-Trczynski, vice chairperson is Bernard Bonsra, and Secretary is Karen Bureau, and Treasurer is Filomena Tripp. They make up the board for 2007.

Congratulations.

(Applause.)

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Okay. And Pam probably not being here all of this time and Joe not being here sometimes, this was a training, this was a plot.

(Laughter.)

Yeah. Yeah.

PAUL SPOONER: So close to the truth.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: What?

PAUL SPOONER: That's so close to the truth.

MARY MARGARET MOORE: How did you figure that out, Nancy?

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: I'm blind. I'm not dumb.

(Laughter.)

I'm sure Steve has talked quite enough this week, but I'm turning it over to him for the SILC consultant's report.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Okay. Do I hear a motion to accept Steve's report?

STEVE HIGGINS: I saw Eileen's and Betty King's hands at the same time. So would someone like to fight over being the second?

BETTY J. KING: I'll be second.

STEVE HIGGINS: Eileen makes a motion and Betty King seconds.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Anymore discussion? Okay. Hearing none, all those in favor?

FROM THE AUDIENCE: Aye.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: That was weak.

STEVE HIGGINS: One person was in favor. That must mean they are all going to be --

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Opposed?

All right.
Abstentions
(No response.)

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNIKI: Okay. Motion carries.
And now do we have other?