

SILC Quarterly Meeting

March 19, 2008

Present:

Anita Albright

Sharon Applegate

Joe Bellil

Bernard Bonsra

Eileen Brewster

Coreen Brinckerhoff

Leo Canuel

Dawn Clark

Hollis Cotton

Naomi Goldberg

Steve Higgins

Carol Hilbinger

Steve Holochuck

Keith Jones

Mike Kennedy

Betty J. King

Shawn McDuff

Betsy Olsen

Janet Shaw

Lorraine Teehan

Filomena Tripp

- **Meeting called to order**
- **Introductions and Housekeeping**
- **Minutes from September & December approved**
- **Chair's Report:** Nancy and Steve traveled to New Orleans, as many of you know this past January for SILC Congress, and this SILC Congress was really an eye-opener in a lot of ways.

There are still interesting issues with FEMA. FEMA is still trying to take away trailers for people who still don't have homes yet.

While in New Orleans, Steve was elected Secretary for SILC Congress for 2007 and 2008. This will be his second year as Secretary for the National SILC Congress, which is a job that is -- it is a challenge because you have a balance between national issues and state issues and things like that. Steve has also been asked to be the Region 1 Rep. Region 1, the country is divided into ten regions by the Federal Government, U.S. Department of Education, Region 1 is the six New England states, so I'm basically the Representative

for the six New England states.

Each of our SILCs in the region is funded differently. Some of our SILCs are 501c3, and some like Massachusetts are not in a position that we would want to be a 501c3 because it would kick us out of the position that we are in government. And that would make things not work very well for what we do. We report back regularly to SILC Congress. We hold monthly calls and do things like that.

The reauthorization of the Rehab Act has been hung in Congress. And a lot of it is -- is buried in a piece of legislation called WIA. That is the Workforce Investment Act. It is a Federal act. So what that means is we have a very controversial piece of legislation sitting in Washington D.C. that neither side of the Hill, the House or Senate, will bring forward because it could hurt the Democrats and it could hurt the Republicans in an election, depending upon which way the legislation goes.

- The State Plan Committee Report: Steve reported on behalf of May Margaret. As you guys know the first task is the development of the State Plan for independent living, so much of our focus during the last fiscal year was the 2008-2010 State Plan for independent living and as you know our plan was approved by Rehab Services Administration.

The last three site reviews that were done, those three site reviews were Independence Associates in Brockton, the Southeast Center for Independent Living in Fall River and the MultiCultural Center for Independent Living in Dorchester, and again the committee was looking at those particular three site reviews to see if there were any trends developing, and we did notice one trend, and that's training so we'll focus on some of the training pieces.

trends.
-Steve gave a training on advocacy do's and don'ts.

- Treasurer's Report: Filomena Tripp reported: The final SILC budget for fiscal 2008 and the rollover from fiscal 2007 were recently

determined. This required some adjustments to the budget approved at the September annual meeting, which was based on projections and not actual figures.

The budget below for fiscal 2008 is adjusted to the \$154,500 total received from MRC VR, MRC Part B and MCB Part B, listed on the column budgeted. Under the column "Additional," is \$8,038.78 in rollover dollars from fiscal 2007 to 2008.

The amended budget was approved by the Finance Committee on March 13th, 2008, during the regular monthly meeting. An updated report for the first quarter will be given to the committee at its next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1st.

During the March 13 meeting of the committee, we discussed the funding for 2008 State Independent Living Conference to be held in Marlborough this September. We are working on the final details with MRC right now. The special events committee has been notified. Funding is in place for this year's conference. Respectfully submitted, Filomena Tripp. Anyone have any questions?

- **Advocacy Committee Report:** Janet Shaw reported: Basically what we've been talking about in the Advocacy Committee is the education Day on April 22nd. And then we'll talk about, talk with our legislators about the issues, and let's see, Steve has promised to have packets ready a couple of weeks in advance so we have plenty of time to look them over and kind of be prepared. Community First, that's a huge, huge amount of money and sitting in the Governor's budget for Community First, and you know, we're asking for support on that.
- **Nominations Committee Report:** MIKE KENNEDY

The thing that has been going on in the Nominations and Development has been unfortunately nominations. You know, currently the SILC is in danger of going out of compliance with the U.S. Department of Education Rehab Services Administration. And this is because, you know, we still have appointments and re-appointments that have not been carried out.

So currently, this is the makeup of the SILC. Number of people waiting for new appointments is five. Those five are Merle Ferber, Carol Hilbinger, Keith Jones, Brian Smith, and Tony Williams.

We have -- we have twelve people awaiting reappointments. Those being Anita Amy Ashdon, Patricia Estrella, Bernard Bonsra, Eileen Brewster, Karen Bureau, Leo Canuel, Mike Kennedy, Laurel Labdon, Sharon Liberty, Jim Tierney, Joe Tringali, and Nancy Trczyznki.

- **SILC Consultant's report:** So on a national level, our SILC is very well linked with SILC Congress.

Another piece that we are also working on is SILC Congresses Region 1 Rep, and Mary Margaret is the Rep, there is a meeting down in D.C., and we sent a letter out to the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee decided that Nancy and I are going on behalf of the SILC this year to go to NICL in Washington other states, you are

going on behalf of Rhode Island, and going on behalf of New Hampshire.

So we are going to have invitations for a Region 1 caucus go out from Congressman Tierney, his office is going to spearhead it, and then what we are going to do is we are working on developing follow-up stuff that can go out from every single Independent Living Center and every SILC in Region 1 so the SILC centers can say, by the way, representative, Congressman, we are going to have a regional caucus in Washington D.C., it is going to be in the Rayburn House Office Building, whatever office we use Congressman Tierney, myself, and Mary Margaret, and we'll probably be the three presenters. So we are going to have ADA Day. We might scale a couple things back, we might ask for people to pay a little bit of the transportation cost or something but we're still going to do a good ADA Day this year. So we're working on ADA Day.

New Business- We know it's a bad year for the budget but you know, it shows a lot of disrespect to those consumers and PCAs when you say they're worth only 36 cents. Please see Becca for update on PCA bargaining.

State Rehabilitation Council Report: JOE BELLIL: Sure. Overall, the Mass Rehab budget is not as bad as it has been. One of the reasons that there was \$2.89 million that was put in kind of in the base of MRC, and it needed that money because for the past three years, it's been losing through the federal allocation formula, the federal government gives Massachusetts less cost for living increases because our state has a population that's basically pretty level, population-wise and high per capita income. So overall, budget-wise it's not a bad budget for MRC, where we feel there are other priorities that we would be focused more on the IL and the Community First basis.

Next Quarterly Meeting to be held June 18, 2008.

Meeting Adjourned