

# Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council

## March 18, 2009 Quarterly Meeting



### **Members Present;**

Bernard Bonsra, Eileen Brewster, Karen Bureau, Dawn Clark, Merle Ferber, Mike Kennedy, Shawn McDuff, Judi Rodger, Nancy Trzcinski, Ann Shor, Brian Smith, Lorraine Teehan, Jim Tierney

### **Nominees Present;**

Haralambos Hios, Roseann Rash, Janet Shaw, Tony Williams

### **Guest Present;**

Jackie Higgins, Janet Shaw, Paul Spooner, Steve Higgins, Lisa Weber, Bill Allan, Rick Archangeli

Meeting opened at 11:02 am with welcome and introductions by Karen Bureau SILC Chairperson

Minutes for the September 16 2008 meeting were presented.

Motion to accept as presented by Merle Ferber

Second by Judi Rodger

Motion Carried

### **SILC Chairpersons report;**

Karen Bureau reported The past few months basically have been spent attending all of the committee calls, the advocacy committee, treasury's committee, State Plan for independent living and there's a lot going on with getting up to speed as the SILC Chairperson. She also reported she and the SILC consultant are in regular contact.

### **SILC Advocacy Committee Report;**

Paul Spooner reported due to practical bureaucratic purposes we need to change the name of the Advocacy committee to Public Education/Information Committee.

Motion by Jim Tierney to change the committee name as recommended by the committee chairperson

Second by Judi Rodger  
Motion Carried

Paul also reported that the committee meets monthly to discuss what's been going on in the state, and nationally, and also what is being proposed and what needs to be dealt with in the coming spring, and early summer, which we all know is budget season here in Massachusetts. The committee has kept up communications with different levels of government, including Mass Rehab, the commission for the Blind and other entities in government to see where we stand as centers and as a Council with potential budget cuts. Paul reported many items in the Governors house 1 budget had been presented in a consolidated format making it a bit more difficult to determine where the line items we used to refer to have been placed. It was noted that Robert DeLeo former chairperson of House Ways and Means Committee has been appointed Speaker of the House. Speaker Deleo as you remember was instrumental in supporting the last funding increase for Centers for Independent living in the Commonwealth.

Also reported was that the SILC would be supporting the annual Independent Living Education day at the State House Greta hall along with the State Rehab Council, Centers & others.

Motion to accept the report as given Merle Ferber  
Second Brian Smith  
Motion Carried

#### **SILC Finance Committee Report;**

Coreen Bricknerhoff submitted the following report and asked Mr. Steve Higgins to present on her behalf. The Finance Committee has been meeting monthly. The major work of the committee has involved the monitoring of the SILC's budget and the issuance of a new RFP for hosting of the SILC for FFY 2009 – FFY 2014.

There were two organizations that bid to host the SILC. They were the Metrowest Center for Independent Living, which is where the SILC has been hosted for the past seven years. And an organization there, their abbreviation is HRHS, hope restored Human Services which was an organization in Milton. The proposals were graded on a point system as defined in the RFP process.

After the Committee met, it was determined by following the point system, obviously, Metrowest would be given the contract should they choose. It went from the Finance Committee to the Executive Committee for approval because, again, this was happening in between the SILC meeting so the Executive Committee handles the business of the SILC in between the quarterly meetings. The Executive Committee approved the Finance Committee's decision, and suggestion/recommendation, however you want to call that. And a letter was written from Karen Bureau our SILC Chair to Commissioner Carr at MRC, instructing him of the choice of the State Independent Living Council for our host for the next five years, which is Metrowest Center for Independent Living.

The RFO was written to also include five additional one-year extensions at the end of the first 5 years, which essentially means that the SILC's host RFP necessarily does not need to go out for approximately nine-and-a-half years which would be in the summer of 2018.

It was also reported that at the end of 2008, there was a roll over in the SILC budget from Fiscal Year 2008 to 2009 of \$9,938.90.

Because the RFP process did not get started earlier than we had hoped, a short term budget was developed to get the SILC through the first Quarter. We started in October with a \$30,000 budget to carry through the months of October, November, and December. The new contract that came as the result of the RFP was for January 1st, 2009 through June 20th. And then this year there will be a third contract from July 1st to September 30th. The reasoning for the different contracts and amendments is the SILC operates on the Federal Fiscal Year. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts operates on a different Fiscal Year. So because of that the SILC is generally receives two amendments that run from October 1st through June 30th, and then there is the July 1 to September 30th piece that comes through. But this year because of the RFP process, it was a bit more complicated in that we had to have a third amendment.

Motion to accept report as presented Brian Smith  
Second Judi Roger  
Motion Carried

Coreen Bricknerhoff resigned as chair of the finance committee due to other commitments prior to the meeting. The SILC chair was asked to review the bylaws of the SILC to determine a replacement/appointment process before the next quarterly SILC meeting. Mr. Brian Smith indicated he would be willing to discuss filling the position.

#### **SILC Nominations & Development Committee Report;**

Mike Kennedy began his report by welcoming two new SILC Nominees to today's meeting, Ms. Rose Ann Rash & Mr. Haralambos Hios "Bob".

He reported that the following active SILC members that have reappointments pending, Amy Ashdon, Bernard Bonsra, Eileen Brewster and Jim Tierney, and the following active member appointments expired on November 29th, 2008, and are eligible for reappointment, should they choose Joe Bellil, Sybil Feldman, Betty King, Shawn McDuff and Filomena Tripp.

Motion to accept report as presented Merle Ferber  
Second Judi Roger  
Motion Carried

#### **Special Report on Ethics;**

Following lunch a special report was given by Rick Archangeli legal council for MRC on issues with the State Ethics Commission that could effect the composition of the SILC.

After Rick's presentation, SILC Chairperson Karen Bureau appointed a special task force to investigate the SILC's options and to determine if any action was necessary on the SILC behalf. The task force will be headed by Paul Spooner working with Rick. They have been charged to meet and report their findings back to the SILC at its next available meeting following their completion.

#### **SILC State Plan for Independent Committee Report;**

Steve Higgins presented the report on behalf of Mary Margaret Moore who was not able to attend due to a prior conflict.

The State Plan for independent living committee meets in between the quarterly meeting and one of the big issues that's come up and Mary Margaret asked me to bring today to the SILC body was the effect of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also, AARA, which everybody's been hearing is the federal stimulus package.

Massachusetts is scheduled to receive \$286,000 in Part B dollars as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This includes Part B dollars from both MRC and MCB. Now, we also need to understand that Massachusetts is also scheduled to receive Part C dollars for the operation of centers under the act. The amount of the Part C dollars has yet to be determined. Spending of Part B and Part C dollars is outlined in the State Plan for Independent Living which is jointly developed with the SILC, MRC and MCB as equal partners.

In preparation for receiving these one-time dollars, the SILC's SPIL committee sought input from centers and other stakeholders in the development of priorities to use for the Part B dollars. These priorities have been shared with both Commissioners Carr and Commissioner LaBreck for input from MRC and MCB. All three stakeholders, SILC, MRC and MCB are going to need to determine the final priorities for our state's use of both Part B and potentially the Part C dollars.

The SILC's priorities for use of Part B have been reviewed and approved by the executive committee. Now, because the SILC meets quarterly, are being presented today. The order of priority will be determined by the SIL CSPIL Committee as it works with the DSU's in any SPIL amendment/attachment process. The priorities determined are;

- \* Modernization/Update of the "IDMS" data tool used by centers.
- \* Do a project around a youth summer summit, or internships across the state.
- \* Develop an evaluation tool for how centers are meeting the requirements beyond the federal tool, similar to the Wisconsin model called QUILL.
- \* Development of a Massachusetts ILC outcomes, using the NCIL logic model.
- \* Training for SILC members and ILC board members and ILC staff.
- \* Develop a strategy for the upcoming census
- \* Develop a communication/community education/public information campaign on the IL network

Motion to accept the report including priorities for use of part B funds Mr. Shawn McDuff  
Second Merle Ferber  
Motion Carried

**SILC Coordinators report;**

Steve Higgins reported that the SILC along with the DSU's had completed the annual 704 report and submitted it to RSA. Anyone wishing to review a copy of the report can contact the SILC office. Steve also reported he had attended the National SILC Congress in Summerlin Nevada. While at SILC Congress Steve was elected both Region 1 Representative and Secretary of SILC Congress through January 2010. Steve reported that he would be attending the NCIL annual report to Congress and the legislature in Washington DC. This event is something he attends at his own expense and is not an activity of the SILC. Steve is also working nationally with the SILC Congress Rehab Act Committee.

Steve reported that the team from Rehab Services Administration had visited the SILC office in early March as part of the Massachusetts Federal IL Compliance review. Also visited were MRC & MCB. The executive committee once again determined that they would be sending Steve to the NCIL conference in Washington DC to represent the SILC.

Motion to accept report as presented Mike Kennedy  
Second Merle Ferber  
Motion Carried

**Old Business;**

None

**New Business;**

None

Motion to Adjourn Mike Kennedy  
Second Merle Ferber

Meeting Closed at 3:47pm

Bernard Bonsra, Secretary