

SILC Meeting
Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Meeting opened 11:06 a.m.

Present

Members; Karen Bureau, Chair, Nancy Rumbolt-Trczynski, Bernard Bonsra, Coreen Brinckerhoff, Carol Hilbinger, Sybil Feldman, Mike Kennedy, Steve Holochuck, Merle Ferber, Joe Bellil, Brian Smith, Jim Tierney, Ann Shor, Shawn McDuff

Nominees; Don Summerfield, Haralambos "Bob" Hios, Rose Rash

Guest; Mary Margaret Moore, Paul Spooner, Ann Ruder, John Miller, Commissioner Charles Carr, Becky Olsen, Mitch Zahn, Carline Louizia

Review of the minutes of March 18, 2009 Quarterly Meeting

Note to change the name from Advovcacy Committee in the minutes to Public Education/Information Committee.

Motion to accept minutes with above noted change Mike Kennedy
Second Merle Ferber
Msc Carried

Chairs report, Karen Bureau;

Pretty much the bulk of the work has been, once again, sitting in on the committees. There has been a lot of discussion on today's event with the State Plan for Independent Living and some of the changes that are going to need to be made to that. I have also been sitting in on Nominations Development Committee, and the Public Education/Information Committee. There is an upcoming event which is going to be the ADA Day at Gardner State Park, and Steve can probably talk more about that in his report. That's also been something that has been worked on. Still learning the role and moving towards getting it all down, And that's about it.

Motion to accept Chairs Report Nancy Trzcinski

Second Jim Tierney

Msc Carried

Public Education/Information Committee Report, Paul Spooner;

We held our Public Education Day at the State House, which is sometimes called the IL Day. That was April 22nd. And we had about 160/170 folks attend from all eleven centers, plus the State Rehab Advisory Council at Mass. Rehab, so there were a number of groups represented. We several legislators, Reps and Senators show up, & Dr. Jean Maguire, Assistant Secretary at EOHHS was there and spoke.

The current situation in the State House and budget is unprecedented, so I'm not sure, and we are still unclear as of today how it will or will not be. As it stands today, a number of disability agencies, including Mass. Rehab, Mass. Commission for the Blind, and Mass. Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing have taken some major hits in the budget, and it is unclear whether the budget

will be good or bad for us depending upon which side you see it as, you know, whether it is the House version or the Senate version.

With whatever we get out in the budget starting July 1st, we are not out of the woods yet. There will probably be cuts in the budget within the coming Fiscal Year. And so that is going to have an impact on a lot of the services. The centers have been held particularly harmless throughout this fiscal nightmare. MRC's taken all kinds of cuts that have affected other programs. And I'm not sure how much further we'll be able to ensure that we don't get cuts.

The plus side of that is that there is stimulus money from the Federal Government which is going through the typical Federal Government process to work out. And that is part of the reason why there is a push for a State Plan amendment. And you'll hear a lot more about that from the SPIL Committee, so I won't cover that now.

Motion to accept Public Education/Information Committee Report
Sybil Feldman
Second Mike Kennedy
Msc Carried

Finance Committee Report, Steve Higgins on behalf of the committee;
Mr. Brian Smith recently has been appointed the new Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

Beginning on the first Tuesday in July, the Finance Committee will begin meeting once again monthly via teleconference call. The first priority of the committee, beginning at the July will be to work with our DSU representatives to begin to discuss the SILC's Federal Fiscal Year 2010 budget to be presented to the SILC body at our annual meeting in September. Going into this year's budget we are going to need to be cognizant of the fact that this is a State Plan for

Independent Living year. We are going to be holding public hearings and dealing with the issues that are involved with writing and submitting a new 3 year plan to RSA in Washington.

Through to the end of May the SILC had expended \$86,683 of our budget for this year. There is approximately -- well, the exact figure was \$77,755 left at the end. That's a little over half of our budget. And our three most expensive months of the year are the three months that are coming up.

We confirmed with MRC the funding for our 2009 State Independent Living Conference. MRC has committed \$25,000 towards the conference. This puts us approximately \$15,000 less than what our starting budget was for last year and in past years. So the great news is that we are having a conference. The unfortunate news is that the way budgets are going right now we are thankful to have money for a conference, but will to make some changes.

Motion to accept Finance Committee report Merle Ferber
Second Mike Kennedy
MSC Carried

Nominations & Development Committee Report, Mike Kennedy;

Thank you, Karen, as mentioned, Brian Smith is going to assume the duties of our Finance Committee Chair following today meeting. Coreen Brinckerhoff resigned as the chairperson of the Finance Committee, but she still plans on remaining active on the committee.

The committee has been in constant communication with the Office of Gubernatorial Appointments stressing the importance of getting reappointments filled and new nominees appointed.

The committee received several nominations and is following up with them. Once they have been interviewed and their paperwork is complete the names will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval before being sent to the governor's office.

Motion to accept Nominations & Development Committee Report

Merle Ferber

Second Joe Bellil

MSC Carried

State Plan for Independent Living Committee, Mary Margaret Moore

The State plan for Independent Living Committee will be holding a public meeting here today immediately following this meeting to discuss amending the current State Plan for Independent Living in the light of the unexpected funds that will be coming to the Commonwealth under the ARRA Federal Stimulus.

RSA during their site visit did raise a concern that the SILC is not meeting its mandate now in terms of having sufficient numbers of members, and so they urged the SILC and the DSU to do whatever it can to work with the Governor's office to try to get the appointments approved, and to try to attract new members to bring the SILC up to its level. They also suggested that we take a look at revising the statute that defines how many members there are, but that's a bit more difficult because there's a certain base number of members that you have to have. The SILC also must not lose sight of the primary qualifications that the Act calls for, meaning we need individuals who are knowledgeable about independent living.

Motion to accept State Plan for Independent Living Report Nancy
Trzcinski
Second Shawn McDuff
MSC Carried

Motion to Adjourn Brian Smith
Second Nancy Trzcinski
MSC Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 PM