



Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council

March 18, 2010

Quarterly Meeting

Meeting opened at 10:30 am

Present

Members; Karen Bureau, Chair, Nancy Rumbolt-Trczinski, Vice Chair, Bernard Bonsra, Secretary, Brian Smith, Treasurer, Richard Leland (MCB), Coreen Brinckerhoff, Leo Canuel, Betty J. King, Sybil Feldman, Joe Bellil, Shawn McDuff, Merle Ferber, Anita Ashdon, Ann Shor (MRC), Judi Rodger, Jackie Higgins (MOD), Carol Hilbinger, Mike Kennedy

Nominees; Nanette Goodwin, Janet Shaw, Paul Mushrush, Bonnie Jones, Richard Berman, Lisa Franklin, Carline Louizia

Guest; Rachel Tanenhaus (DPH), Wini McGraw, Mike Ouimet, Paul Spooner, John Miller, Bill Allan, Ann Ruder, Aaron Sullivan, Brian Johnstone, Chantelle Carmichael

Staff; Steve Higgins

Meeting opened with introductions & housekeeping by Karen Bureau, Chairperson

Minutes for the December 19, 2009 meeting presented.

Motion to accept minutes as presented, Merle Ferber, Second Nancy Trzcinski, Motion Carried

Public Education & Information Committee report, Paul Spooner Chairperson

The Public Education and Information Committee has been meeting regularly. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 3 o'clock via teleconference. There is plenty of room on the committee for people who are interested and want to work. For those who are listed on the committee and doesn't show up we will be removing you from the committee roster.

Our annual Independent Living Education Day at the State House will be April 22, 2010 this year. This event is also supported by MRC, MCB, DPC, all 11 Independent Living Centers, and other partners in the community. It is going to be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Great Hall of the State House. We encourage you to Contact your Representative and Senator and invite them to come to this event, speak on the issues that we support, and if they are unable to do that, clearly you want to make appointments because part of the day is going to be to go visit your Representative and Senator, and let them know about the various issues that the SILC is supporting.

The week after we are there, the budget will be going to the Senate side of the hill. So our work won't be done, but it will have to move on. It is going to be a tough year as there is no money. There is not a lot of good news, but if we look at the overall aspect of where Independent Living has been, and some of our services, we have done fairly well. We have taken some hits. But overall we are not facing some of the "massive" disintegration of programs that other states are facing. And, you know, that's clearly because of all of you guys personally talking to legislators and educating them on the importance of Independent Living, and your advocacy and your attention to disability issues in the Commonwealth. So again, we have got to keep up our work and keep up the pressure.

The SILC Coordinator was asked to mail out a listing of legislators and how to contact them to all SILC members following the meeting.

Motion to accept Public Education & Information Committee report as presented, Merle Ferber.
Second Judy Roger, Motion Carried

Finance Committee Report, Brian Smith Treasurer

Due to availability of members, the committee has changed the meeting date to the third Tuesday at each month at 2:00 p.m. via teleconference call.

Highlights include the following, the table presented today list all of the funding the SILC will be receiving for federal fiscal year 2010, FFY '10. How these funds will apply to individual line items. During the first quarter of FFY '10, which ended December 31st, 2009, the SILC spent \$36,667.78. Our projected spending for the quarter was \$38,879.21. We are projecting the SILC will spend \$53,066.57 in the second quarter, which ends on March 31st, 2010. Included in that spending will be much of the cost for developing the 2011 through 2013 State Plan for Independent Living and updates to the SILC's office technology, using ARRA funds received in early February.

The SILC coordinator, along with Paul Spooner from our fiscal intermediary, MetroWest Center for Independent Living, were able to negotiate a deposit of \$2,000 with the Conference Center for the 2010 conference. Should the conference not be held in 2010 due to lack of funding, the deposit will be carried for one year to 2011. Should the conference have to get canceled at that point, the SILC will be liable for an additional \$1,850 to the conference center. The original contract contained an \$18,000 binding clause in it which would have made it impossible to consider reserving space for the 2010 conference based on the current fiscal climate in the state. Funding for the State IL Conference was requested in mid February. It is uncertain whether it will receive these requested funds. Should limiting funding be obtained, the conference format may need to be modified for this year.

The SILC's fiscal intermediary has requested a meeting with MRC to go over the billing and contracting process. This year has been especially complicated with rollover funds, ARRA funds, Part B funds, all coming at different times, and in some cases, carrying new requirements for reporting what we have not had to deal with in the past. Due to the complexity of this year's contracts, the committee would like to request an update from MRC.

Motion to accept Finance Committee Report as presented, Nancy Trzcinski. Second Judy Roger, Motion Carried

Nominations & Development Committee Report, Mike Kennedy

The committee chair welcomed new SILC nominees Nanette Goodwin, Paul Mushrush, Bonnie Jones, Richard Berman, and Lisa Franklin to their first SILC meeting. He reported that Unfortunately Roseanne Rash had to withdraw from her nominations due to time constraints at her current job at the Rockport School System, and that Joe Tringali and Eileen Brewster's terms expired. The SILC coordinator was asked to send each of them a letter thanking them for their service to the SILC.

The SILC Coordinator continues to work with the office of gubernatorial appointments, sending paperwork which includes new bios and resumes of all SILC nominees and appointees and ex-officio members. Madelyn Grant, our contact in the office, is preparing to send out 26 background checks for those eligible for reappointment and new nominees.

Mike also re reported that it's expected that each member/nominee become part of a committee. This is where a majority of our work gets done on the SILC. Over the past year some of the committees have been sparsely attended which makes things much more difficult to accomplish. Typically a committee/subcommittee meets monthly between SILC meetings via teleconference, it requires maybe a couple hours a month, and very rarely does it go more than that. If you're not currently on a committee, and would be interested in joining one please contact the SILC Coordinator. Currently active committees of the SILC are Nominations & Development, Public Education & Information, Finance, and State Plan for Independent Living, and Bylaws

Motion to accept Nominations and Development Committee report as presented, Judi Roger. Second, Merle Ferber. Motion Carried

State Plan for Independent Living Committee Report, Steve Higgins for Mary Margaret Moore

The biggest task of the committee is for the development and writing of the State Plan for Independent Living. This month coming, in April and in May the committee will be meeting about every two weeks versus just having the one regular meeting each month, because the committee after today's meeting, you'll hear the time frames for input. After we receive all the input, when it comes in, the committee essentially has about two months to take all of that input and put it into the SPIL itself, so that we can get a draft out to all of the SILC members and everyone so that we can look at ratification of the State Plan for Independent Living to take place at the June 18th quarterly meeting.

Other activities that the State Plan for Independent Living Council SPIL Committee has been working have been the process for the compliance reviews that take place. Each year 15% of the Centers for Independent Living in Massachusetts must be reviewed. As a 723 state those reviews are conducted

by our DSU's, MRC, & MCB, with the SILC participating as an observer of the process. For the past three to four months we have been working out what exactly the process is, including time lines and responsibilities.

The SILC's SPIL Committee is also charged with looking at the 704 reports from all of the centers for independent living in the state and the combined 704 report which comes in from MRC each year and is sent to RSA in Washington. The job of the SILC isn't to look at the 704 reports for punitive issues. In fact, it's the opposite. It's to look at it and see what types of trends and things are developing so that the SILC can make recommendations for training and technical assistance, so that in the future, it's available to all the centers for independent living.

Motion to accept State Plan for Independent Living Committee report as presented, Mike Kennedy. Second, Sybil Feldman. Motion Carried.

Bylaws Committee Report, Mike Kennedy

The Bylaws Committee was re-constituted after the December SILC meeting as a result of the RSA site review which took place during 2009. During the site review RSA questioned the size of our SILC versus others around the country and its effectiveness. As a result they recommended we explore other options. Which could include modifying our bylaws, or considering a new executive order from the governor to address these issues.

The committee held an initial teleconference early in February, and it was agreed that it will meet again and discuss the situation in more detail after the State Plan for Independent Living for 2011 – 2013 was completed as recommended action items that could help in the process may be included as part of that plan.

Motion to accept Bylaw Committee report as presented, Merle Ferber. Second, Judi Roger. Motion carried

SILC Coordinators Report, Steve Higgins

The SILC Coordinator reported on the 2010 SILC Congress held in Summerlin, Nevada. During congress a national training was held on writing of the 2011-2013 State plan for independent Living. Mary Margaret Moore SPIL Committee chair attended along with Steve. The coordinator also reported on the results of votes taken during congress on resolutions and other action items. Steve was elected to serve as secretary of Congress through Congress 2012. Congress 2011 & 2012 will take place in the Atlanta Georgia area back here on the east coast.

Steve also reported that at the direction of the SILC Chair he had registered to participate in the National Council on Independent Living Conference to be held in Washington DC from July 19 – 22. Also attending this year's conference on behalf of the SILC will be Nancy Trzcinski, Vice Chair.

Steve reported that the SILC would not be holding its own ADA celebration this year as it has for many years out in Gardner. With the 20th Anniversary of the ADA it was felt that the SILC should support a major event that will be taking place in Boston on the Common on July 26th with many other members of the disability community and use the remainder of its resources to support smaller local events statewide.

Motion to accept SILC Coordinators report as presented, Sybil Feldman. Second, Merle Ferber.
Motion carried

Old Business

Joe Bellil who chairs the State Rehab Council asked if there is anyone on the SILC willing to serve as the liaison between the two councils. The State Rehab Council meets quarterly similar to the SILC and is active in the writing of the state Voc-Rehab plan.

New Business

None

Announcements

Chantelle Carmichael from outdoor explorations presented material to the group on the activities of their organization and noted that they would like to work with the centers and others across the state. They do events like snowshoeing, rock climbing, backpacking, hiking, camping, kayaking, and have a couple grants right now to serve youth with physical disabilities, and adults with spinal cord injuries, so these programs would pretty much be very minimal charge if any for a center choosing to host one. They can be reached at www.outdoorexplorations.org or by calling (781) 395-4999.

Rachel Tanenhaus from the Healthy Aging on Disability Unit with the Mass. Department of Public Health let folks know about a conference that they have planned in cooperation with the Center for Living & Working on June 22nd, which is in Shrewsbury at the Hoagland Pincus Center.

Motion to adjourn Merle Ferber

Meeting Adjourned 1:19

Respectfully Submitted,

Bernard Bonsra, Secretary

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