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Attendees: Bill Allen
Joe Bellil
Eileen Brewster
Dawn Clark
Sara Coracero
Merle Ferber
Naomi Goldberg
Becka Gutman
Steve Higgins
Mike Kennedy
Betty J. King
Susan Landy
Shawn McDuff
Mary Margaret Moore
Judi Rodger
Nancy Rumbolt-Trzcinski
Paul Spooner
Joe Tringali
Filomena Tripp
Cindy Wentz
Tony Williams

SILC Committee Meeting.

Wednesday, December 13th, 2006.

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Good morning, everyone.
>>STEVE HIGGINS: Hello? I'll just pass this to you.
>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Good morning, everyone.
>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Good morning!
>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Can everyone hear me?
>>MERLE FERBER: Good morning, Nancy.

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Welcome, everybody, to the SILC quarterly meeting. I'm Nancy Rumbolt-Trczynski, the Chair of the SILC. And I'm going to turn it over to Steve to do the traditional housekeeping, and then we'll do introductions.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Good morning, everybody.

(Good mornings from around the room.)

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Wow. That was great.

Anyway, I just want to welcome you to our December quarterly SILC Meeting here in Natick. For housekeeping issues, for those of you who are here early, we are expecting others, we are just depending on things like shared rides and stuff to get folks here, but we wanted to start so that we are able to get through everything by 12:30ish. And then we'll have a lunch. And have our hearing this afternoon.

Housekeeping here at the library, out the back doors there to the right, and in fact we are going to shut the doors in a few minutes so we don't keep everybody awake upstairs, I guess. But out the doors to the right is the men's room and woman's room. If you require any assistance whatsoever, we have two folks working with us, providing PCA services, that is Bonnie and Nancy. And I believe that Nancy is also going to be running the mic today.

So before you speak today, make sure that you have a microphone because it does seriously make it easier for everyone to hear in a room this size, so that a person has a -- Dawn thought that was funny, huh?

So in a room this size, we want to make sure that the mic is used.

We have interpreters available, although nobody requested before. And they will be available for the State Planning hearing this afternoon, also. So interpreters are here and are available.

And we also have our CART folks that are here, that will be here for both meetings throughout the day.

So just as a whole, I wanted everyone to pay attention to the agenda because you will notice that our SILC Meeting runs only to 12:30 p.m. today because we are following the SILC Meeting after lunch with the State Plan for Independent Living hearing until 3:30. So we have combined the two into one today. And the main reason we did that is because of fiscal responsibility. We had some cuts in our budget, and we need to look at ways that we could be fiscally responsible, and places that we could save to make things work as an entire body and as a whole. So we are still running, theoretically, until 3:30, but it is two separate meetings that we are doing.

If you have any questions, as far as reasonable accommodation, please see me. We do have most of our materials are done in large print automatically for our meetings. We do have copies of the agenda available in Braille, if anybody else needs a copy in Braille. And any other types of reasonable accommodations please let me know because if it is not here, we need to make sure we provide it in the future, so that we can have it at all meetings. Our goal is to have all of our meetings fully accessible. This is a registered meeting with the Secretary of State's office. Blah. Blah. Blah. So it is an official meeting.

And that's the housekeeping stuff, so what I'm going to do is I'm going to hand this back over to Nancy and I'm going to ask our other -- wow, we have got two Nancies. So whenever I say Nancy, we have Nancy the Chair and Nancy the mic person. So I will ask Nancy the chairperson -- I see some of our folks from Boston coming in now who were coming in on a shared ride.

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Hi, again, welcome. And we'll start with introductions. Again, I'm Nancy Rumbolt-Trczynski, and I'm Chair of the SILC and I represent Adlib.

(Applause.)

Oh, God.

>>PAUL SPOONER: What are you clapping for?

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Nancy. Nancy is Chair.

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Paul, I give you permission to grumble, okay.

>>SHAWN McDUFF: Shawn McDuff from the Independent Living Center on the North Shore and Cape Ann.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Still not working well.

Hello? Hello? Merry Christmas.

Mary Margaret Moore, Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann, and Independent Living Committee.

>>PAUL SPOONER: Paul Spooner, Metrowest Center for Independent Living, Chair of the Advocacy Committee, and Chair of the Special Events Committee.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Yeah. Special. He is special.

>>NAOMI GOLDBERG: Naomi Goldberg, Mass. Office on Disability.

>>DAWN CLARK: Dawn Clark from Center for Living and Working.

>>SARA CORACERO: I'm Sara Coracero, I'm a new SILC member.

>>MIKE KENNEDY: I'm Mike Kennedy, I'm the Chair of the Nominations and Development Committee.

>>BILL ALLAN: I'm Bill Allan with the Disability Policy Consortium.

>>JOE BELLIL: Joe Bellil, SILC member.

>>JUDI RODGER: Judi Rodger, new SILC member.

>>TONY WILLIAMS: Tony Williams from Multicultural Independent Living Center and the SILC.

>>MERLE FERBER: Merle Ferber from Adlib and SILC nominee.

>>FILOMENA TRIPP: Hello. I'm Filomena Tripp from SCIL and Treasurer for SILC.

(Applause.)

>>EILEEN BREWSTER: Eileen Brewster, SILC member.

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: All right. And there is Betty Jean King signing in. Welcome, Betty.

Next on the agenda is the approval of the last meeting's minutes. Due to Secretary snafu, SILC printer snafu, and a bunch of other errors, we don't have the minutes available today, so I would like to table that until the next quarterly meeting and we can approve the minutes then.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Okay.

>>MERLE FERBER: Motion to table.

>>JOE BELLIL: Second.

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Any discussion?

All in favor?

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Aye.

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Opposed?

Abstained?

Okay. Thanks.

We also don't have the Secretary today, so we are going to use the CART report as the recording of our meeting.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: You were reading my mind. I was just going to ask.

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNIKI: Okay.

So the next is the Chair Report. I've been spending my time getting up to speed on everything, attending all of the teleconferences. It is -- I've been involved for a long time, but not to this extent, so I feel that I really need to educate myself. And thanks to everybody who has helped me out.

The big event is we hosted the first State Plan hearing down at Adlib. It was very well-attended. And I would like to thank Mary Margaret and Steve for everything. It was a lot of fun. And it was very educational for everybody, especially up in the boonies where we wonder what happens sometimes. So it was really great that everyone attended. And that is where a lot of my time was also spent.

So that is my report. And that's it.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Mary Margaret Moore has a question.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Weren't you going to mention something else about --

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Ooh, thank you! My official reminder. Thank you. One of the things I would like to ask the Finance Committee to look at, when we look at our budget, one of the issues that has come up and it has come up repeatedly over the years that I've been involved, and probably before, is SILC training. We have a lot of new members, and some old members, maybe, who might need a refresher. And it is an issue that I think is really important, especially since we are really trying to recruit new people, is to implement some training for SILC members, so we can be a more effective body. So I would like the Finance Committee to look at our budget, to see if we can schedule an one-day training. And both Mary Margaret and Steve have graciously offered to help facilitate that training. So that is something else that we do need to look at.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: On the training, one of the things we do believe is making sure that training happens. For those who don't know, a year-or-so ago, or not even a year ago, ILRU put out a great DVD on IL history and philosophy. And it is an orientation for Independent Living staff, and for SILC members, and it really gives you a good idea of what is there. So the SILC invested in a stack of these DVDs so all the SILC members, whether you work at a center or not, you should at least have a copy of this DVD.

There is some really good stuff and meat. It gives you a good idea of where we come from, and what we do. So anybody that would like a copy of this DVD, I'll get them passed out. I've got about fifteen or twenty of them here. Maybe more than that. So please take a copy of it. And please view it. And then after you view it, if you know folks who should read it, pass it onto them because it is our way of being able to educate folks and do that. So that is something that we did on the education piece.

>>PAUL SPOONER: I'll sign them, too.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: And Paul says he will sign the DVDs, too, because he is in it.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Because he is special.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Becka Gutman just joined us.

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: So do I have a motion?

All in favor?

Opposed?

Abstained?

Okay.

The next is -- reading Braille one-handed.

>>PAUL SPOONER: Is that like shortcut Braille?

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Shorthand.

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Okay.

The next is the State Plan Committee report. Mary Margaret? It is you.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Thank you. As Nancy stated, the State Plan Committee held its first hearing up in -- up in -- or out in -- westerly in the Berkshires at Adlib, and it was very well-attended. There were -- I thought there was more people -- I thought there was about 50, but maybe it was only between 35 and 45. So we don't know. There was a lot of folks there. And it was very exciting. And we got lots of great input. Steve's getting that back from the CART reporter. And that's wonderful. Because this is our time, as you all know, to take in testimony so that we can revise and update our State Plan, which will go into effect October 1st, 2008, and run through September 30th, 2010.

We also had a meeting of the Independent Living Center directors to get some input from them. And Steve, will you make sure that I get that, again, that input?

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Hmm-hmm.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: And this afternoon, right after this meeting, which is why we are having it a little bit earlier, and we are on a compressed schedule, we will have another hearing to give another opportunity for input. On the Mass. SILC website page, there is a button that you can press on the front page. You can give your input that way, as well. Or you can just write a letter. Or you can call the Mass. SILC office and talk on the voice mail. And so those are other ways that you can give input on our State

Plan for Independent Living and the changes that you would like to see go into effect. And I will be taking input up through January 15th.

And then on June -- and then on January 25th is the next State Plan Committee meeting where we will look through all of the input.

And then there is another meeting on March 1st of the State Plan for Independent Living Committee, and we'll massage more of the input.

And then it will come back to you all at the March SILC Meeting in terms of what we would recommend to you for any revisions in the State Plan.

If you all decide that what our recommendations are, and we massage it at that meeting, then that is great. If we need to do any additional hearings, or massaging, it will come back before you all at the June meeting where we must give a final "okay," meaning we need to come to consensus as an SILC because we need the buy-in and sign-off, as well, from the Mass. Rehab Commission Commissioner. And the Mass. Commission for the Blind Commissioner. And it must be all received down at Washington in the Department of Education Rehab Service Administration, by the latest, June 30th. Does that make sense in terms of process?

Anyone have any questions in terms of the process?

Contents, how many of you have read the State Plan for Independent Living that we are currently under?

(Hands raised.)

So there is one, two, three, four, five, six. Well, hey, that is a beginning. Thank you. Those of you who haven't, it is one of the most exciting documents --

(Laughter.)

-- let's see, that one could read if they like that kind of document.

It is on our web page. And it -- and we do put it there. If you have difficulty finding any of the web pages, I heard that someone did, please don't hesitate to give Steve a call, and he'll guide you as to where it is on the page.

The format of the State Plan -- Mr. Steve?

>>STEVE HIGGINS: It is located on the state -- on our website MASILC.org, and there is a Lincoln our website to documents. And when you click on that documents link, it lists the State Plan for Independent Living. It lists the membership application. It lists our article that incorporated us, if you want to call it that, the executive order, and everything right there. So there are copies of all of that. And they are available 24/7.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Since we are doing the State Plan, we might want to put a hot button on the front page, too, to make it easier. Can that be done?

>>PAUL SPOONER: Like a State Plan area.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Or even just a hot button. Whatever you decide to just make it easier for folks right now.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: I'm already constructing it.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: How is that?

>>PAUL SPOONER: Guaranteed pay-offs and gifts.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Guaranteed pay-offs and better gifts if you read it.

The format is pre-defined by the Federal regulations. And they come to us. If I were writing a plan, I would not do it in that format with that type of set-up with that type of sequencing, with a lot of that language. So please don't get upset with us who write the State Plan for how it is formatted and its required language and bullets and all that stuff.

It is not something that one reads before one goes to bed. It is something that one really needs to set time aside, knowing that it is a bureaucratic document with as much of our energy and philosophy in it.

Primarily what it does is it let's the Federal Government know that the Federal dollars for Independent

Living that they are giving to us, are being spent in the way that they prescribe in their regulations. And this is the plan for how the state is going to spend the Federal Independent Living dollars. And they monitor the SILC and Mass. Rehab Commission, and Mass. Commission for the Blind, to make sure that the money is being spent according to this plan.

Does that make sense?

So it asks for "how's the money going to be spent in terms of the network of Independent Living Centers and services?" And there is -- and in a couple of the different appendices, it talks about that. Because there are three attachments to it.

It talks about how -- about how the money's going to be dispersed. How much is going to the Mass. Commission for the Blind. How much is going through the -- to the Mass. Rehabilitation Commission to support Independent Living Services that need Federal Independent Living regulations for spending 7c dollars and 7b dollars. That is the bureaucratic language. Okay?

So you will see things in there about Mass. Commission for the Blind. They are spending it through their Independent Living program, and how it is going out to their contractors.

And you will see about how Mass. Rehab is spending it in terms of each of the eleven centers. As well as how title 7b funds can be dispersed. And how we have agreed that part of our independent living center money will also go to D.E.A.F. Inc.

So you will see that. But it takes real reading and knowing that bureaucratic language and taking it out.

I would write it very differently if I was in charge of the world, but I'm not yet.

>>PAUL SPOONER: The key word is "yet."

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: "Yet." That's right.

This afternoon we'll talk about some of the key areas that we have defined to look at for this plan, and it is basically the current network of centers. Should we have eleven centers? Is that enough for the state? Our plan that was in effect said that we should have eleven plus two new ones. Is two new ones enough? Is that not enough? Do we need 35 centers? This is a chance for you to give your input on that. And I mean that. The current plan states that there should be eleven centers. And it talks about, you know, how -- that there will be plans for -- pardon me -- two additional ones.

And also, they talk about the allocation formula. Now, what is that? It sounds like something very, very difficult. Well, it is. When the peanuts come down from

the Feds down to the states, there is a complex array of options on how that money is dispersed. You know, you can choose from infinite way, right? Can it all go to my center? Nobody gets any other.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Wow! She is trying to takeover the world.

(Laughter.)

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Or the way that it is -- that it is right now in the State Plan is that first, there would be a cost of living increase for all of the centers, and then the additional money would be dispersed to bring people up to the base funding of 450,000. And if there was money still left after that, then there would be this formula based on population and geography, geographic territorial space of the centers using those factors for how we would disperse the money. That's called the allocation formula. Those -- that tier.

We all caught an amendment here, "we all" meaning the SILC, to amend that formula last spring when we were fortunate enough to get an increase in our state dollars. And we had educated our legislators that if they give us more money because they hadn't given us any since 1999, that we wanted the additional money split up equally. So we had to go for an amendment in the State Plan because we weren't going to give it out with first a cost of living

increase, and then raising all the floors, you know, so that everybody would reach at least a \$450,000 combined base, and then going to the dispersment of -- by population and geography. So we got that amendment through. But that is a temporary amendment that ends -- when does it end, Mr. Steve? It ends --

>>STEVE HIGGINS: June 30th.

>>PAUL SPOONER: No.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: No. No. No. No.

>>PAUL SPOONER: FY '08.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: September 30th.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: So for this new State Plan, the question is do we want -- do we want to go back to -- do we want to keep the amended formula? Do we want to go back to the prior formula? Or do we want to do something else?

The other thing is that our advocacy priorities, what do you want to see as our advocacy priority? Currently it is in our current State Plan that we are in, it is the implement Olmstead. Wow. And, you know, make sure that the ADA is fully implemented. That gives us a broad umbrella to advocate on all kinds of things. We want to shift that.

And are there any other issues? I know some folks are concerned about the 7b limits that are listed in the State Plan. There isn't a limit right now on AT for use of 7b

funds even though we have the assistive technology loan program.

There is a limit on how much for home modifications in the State Plan. It is \$1,000, we are assuming that anything over that, folks would be encouraged to get it through the home mod program. Do we want to put a limit on assistive technology purchases under that shrinking pot of 7b dollars, which I think each center gives roughly around ten -- a little more than \$10,000, Paul, to disperse for two months, to everyone coming in the door for emergency money to set themselves up if they are living an institution. The durable medical equipment, the AT, the home mod. So we want to look at that. Some folks have raised that.

Are there any other concerns?

And how would you like to change IL services?

(Switching CART Providers.)

[Switch of CART Provider]

How would you like to change IL services? Those are the things we're going to entertain hearing on this afternoon and which we did with the executive directors and which we did with Ad-lib. Does that make sense to folks? Does that give you a backdrop? So that's our task. And my report now is concluded, and merry Christmas.

EILEEN BREWSTER: Merry Christmas.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Any more questions for Mary Margaret?

MARY MARGARET: Paul has a question.

PAUL SPOONER: No, no I don't. I just said no one

ask any questions.

MARY MARGARET: I thought you were going to ask.

PAUL SPOONER: No.

MARY MARGARET: Okay.

PAUL SPOONER: I'm saving myself.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Paul's task today is to be disruptive.

PAUL SPOONER: Never.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Let me clarify, any questions for Mary Margaret?

DAWN CLARK: I'd like to thank Mary Margaret for -- thank you. I forgot. I'm Dawn Clark and I'd like to thank Mary Margaret for being so specific of what the plan is. It's the self-training and I appreciate that.

MARY MARGARET: Thank you, Dawn.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Okay, hearing no more questions or comments, do I hear a motion to accept Mary Margaret's report?

MERLE FERBER: So moved.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Second?

JUDI RODGER: Second.

NANCY RUMBOLT: All in favor? Opposed? Abstained? Okay, thanks, Mary Margaret.

MARY MARGARET: You're welcome.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Next is the treasurer's report, and that's Filomena Tripp.

STEVE HIGGINS: We have a couple of things to pass out for the report.

FILOMENA TRIPP: Okay --

STEVE HIGGINS: We'll pass these out first.

FILOMENA TRIPP: Okay.

FILOMENA TRIPP: The SILC Coordinator spoke to John Chappell at MRC November 7, 2006.

STEVE HIGGINS: Can we have one person talking, please. Go ahead, Filomena. I was trying to get everybody's attention.

FILOMENA TRIPP: Can we have everybody's attention?

PAUL SPOONER: She's not paying attention to you (referring to Mary Margaret).

MARY MARGARET: Did we start?

FILOMENA TRIPP: I really appreciate the support.

[laughter]

This is my first time and you're giving me --

MARY MARGARET: No, I didn't know we were ready.
I'm sorry.

FILOMENA TRIPP: Thank you, Mary Margaret.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Maybe we'll use a gavel.

FILOMENA TRIPP: SILC coordinator reported he had spoken to John Chappell at MRC on November 6, 2006 -- November 7, 2006. John relayed to Steve that MRC would be able to support \$15,000 of the 21-500 increase that the silk requested at the last financial committee meeting. This would mean the SILC will need to adjust its ordinary budget request to reflect these new numbers. Steve also reported on the rollover from the 2006 to 2007. It appears that the rollover number will be \$9,958.32, these numbers will be relocated into the 2007 budget. The following motions were made by Bernard Bonsra, and seconded by Nancy. The SILC coordinator redeemed the budget for 2007, taking into account the 15 in new monies from MRC, along with the 9958.32 rollover from 2006. The SILC continued to imp indicate with MRC for the additional 5,000 that was also requested for 2007. The SILC needs to implicate for \$45,000 additional from MRC for the 2007 Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council conference, which is scheduled for September 10 to 12, 2007, in Marlborough. Nancy, Filomena and Steve should set up a meeting with John Chappell and Commissioner bar tells to advocate for the conference line item to be funded in full as part of the future budget, beginning with 2008 budget. So we are now continuing updating the budget throughout the year. All four motions passed and amendments, Paul Spooner be abstained from voting. Paul Spooner indicated that he will not vote on any motions made by the committee, due to this position as SILC's fiscal contract. Filomena Tripp did direct Steve to arrange a meeting with Paul and Rose Quinn at Metro West to see where things could be trimmed for the 2007 State IL conference budget and still has a good conference.

Filomena directed Steve to work on the budget, update the and to have them out to the committee for review within the next week, so that the budget can be approved during the next committee meeting, which is scheduled for December 5th at 3:00 p.m. If

approval during that meeting can be present to the entire SILC body for the final acceptance at the December meeting. Respectfully submitted.

[applause]

NANCY RUMBOLT: Any questions for Filomena?

STEVE HIGGINS: We've got the budget.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Sorry about that.

FILOMENA TRIPP: The following year 2007, SILC started budget total \$177,978.32, attached is the SILC budget sheet. The budget indicates an increase of \$15,000 following 2006. Received from the Commission, rollover from 2006, of \$9,958.32. The budget does not reflect the funds that will be needed for the 2007 state independent living conference, scheduled for September 10 through 12, 2007 at the best western hotel and conference center. The financial committee is implicating for the 2008 budget that the entire budget for the state independent living conference be included.

STEVE HIGGINS: On the second page of the budget there's a budget sheet where we plan to allocate and spend monies this year, and it gives you an idea of each of the line items that we have in the SILC budget. The pages that follow that are descriptions of each of the categories, and if you'd like, I can go through each of them, and explain where monies came from. The monies that were from last year, the FY '06 rollover, were allocated into three categories. One of those is a category that we generally don't fund at the beginning of the year, called "Noncapital Expenditures" and what the \$850 has been allocated for noncapital expenditures was for is to purchase a lockable cabinet for the SILC office in a couple of pieces of furniture, as we move possibly into some bigger office space that Metro West is actually working to obtain for the SILC.

\$6,500 was moved into special events. What the special events line item is, is the line item that pays for things like the two events, we have one coming in March at the State House Grand Staircase and then in May, we have a day again at the State House where we'll have a luncheon with the legislators, which is another great education opportunity, and it also covers the costs for the ADA

Day, which will happen in July on July 26th at the Dunn Pond Park in Gardner. The additional money that was left in that line item, as you can see, it says the SILC 2007 Conference with zero next to it originally. We applied the \$2,600 and \$832 that was left over there, because what this does is gives us a starting budget, and the ability to put a downpayment down with the hotel, basically a deposit, so that we'll be able to be guaranteed we have our dates for the 2007 conference. We'll be doing that within the next couple days, the executive committee director was directed to do that yesterday so we'll do that. Mary Margaret, you have a question?

MARY MARGARET: I'm confused. What else is new? Right, Filomena?

FILOMENA TRIPP: Right.

STEVE HIGGINS: New monies that were allocated --

MARY MARGARET: Wait, wait, wait my question, where is the additional \$15,000? Where was that added? I see the rollover, but I don't see where the additional \$15,000 was allocated.

STEVE HIGGINS: The additional \$15,000 that was allocated, part of that was in the consultant's line item, where additional monies were allocated. \$500 additional were added to the travel and conferences line item, over last year. I don't have an '06 to '07 comparison, I apologize. That's where it would be. \$500 additional was added into travel and conferences and that's just due to the cost that it is traveling to and from different events, SILC Congress and NCIL were the two large events that are there.

The quarterly meetings line item was left the same. The meeting transportation line item was left the same, the reasonable accommodation aids was left the same. The ASL interpreters and CART reporters line items were each raised by an additional, off the top of my head, I believe it's \$1,500, because we have additional events this year, IE, the State Plan Hearing we had at Ad-lib, and things like that. Copying and printing -- Paul Spooner has a question.

PAUL SPOONER: No, keep going.

STEVE HIGGINS: Copying and printing has a significant increase over last year. That line item

raised from \$1,500 to \$5,000. The main reason that line item has such a significant increase in it, we talked about how we, as a SILC, need to present the SILC and the centers at the State House as we continue our advocacy efforts to grow the base of the SILC and the base of the centers, as far as funding and advocacy. One of the things that was asked earlier last year was can the SILC put together some sort of a publication or some nice materials? Can the SILC put at one point last year there were banners available at the State House, talking about DMR, put banners in the State House to promote the SILC? So we looked at what it would cost to do that, so as you can see, we more than tripled that line item in order to be able to account for the cost that would be needed to work on that.

The special events line item is funded the same as it was last year. Membership dues, that is simply membership dues to NCIL, the national council on independent living, that's the only organization outside of NCIL -- outside of us that we actually pay dues to right now. There's not dues to SILC Congress and things like that.

There was an increase in the administrative support and office space, and basically, what that simply comes down to is the fact that the cost of heat has gone up. The cost of electricity has gone up, and we're probably still ripping off Metro West center for independent living with what they do provide as far as support and everything for the SILC, and the time that the center commits to putting into it, because Metro West really, they provide us with office space, heat, lights, internet connection, you know, tons and tons of support. When these mailings go out, and I need help, because I'm not just a magic magician that puts it all together myself, Paul's staff volunteers and sits down, if we have a mailing that goes out to 300,400 people, they're there for us to put that out. There's countless hours of support that go in the background that a lot of you folks don't see that come out of me robbing staff people that Paul volunteers to, don't necessarily want to stuff envelopes, but they do. So there was an increase there.

So that's where our increases, main increases over last year's budget came. The fact that we did receive a \$15,000 increase this year in the SILC budget is a very good thing. This is the first time in five years that we've received an increase in the SILC budget, and Commissioner Bartels supported \$15,000, what we requested, and so that in itself is significant, in that we're able to do that. Any time the budget cuts, and things are happening. So that's where we are. Paul Spooner had a question.

MARY MARGARET: Thank you, Steve.

PAUL SPOONER: More of a comment, Steve. Yeah, the spreadsheet, without smaller print to get in FY 2006, comparison, so we could actually see the numbers, differently, that would probably be helpful for everybody.

MARY MARGARET: May I make an addition?

STEVE HIGGINS: Thanks. Mary Margaret Moore?

MARY MARGARET: I suggest you put it in the additional funds column for the additional \$15,000, that would have made it easier for me.

STEVE HIGGINS: Okay.

MARY MARGARET: Would it be possible for to you share that with all of the SILC members when that's updated by e-mail or something? Just so we know what we're talking about, and I think it's wonderful that you have -- one of the things that I struggle with as a center director, when I do my budgets, and I just share that with us, is trying to make sure that I put all -- I spend all the money that I get, and a locate it across, you know, in the right places, you know, because I know that there's increases and n rent and blah, blah, blah, da, da, da, da, da, da, da, da. But one of the things that, and I don't always get to put on my budget, I'm beginning to, is what is it that I'd like.

STEVE HIGGINS: Um-hum.

MARY MARGARET: And we talk about the need for the additional money for the SILC conference. I don't know if there's any way to say how much we think we're going to need for that, because right now, we only got \$2,608, da, da, da, and donations. What we would like to have for donations, or whatever. So I don't know where we go with my thought, but I always

struggle with that, too, and I'm willing to work on that with you.

STEVE HIGGINS: Right. The conference last year was --

MARY MARGARET: It shouldn't be on this budget sheet but there's another slice that we want to begin to look at, too, what do we want? Do we have enough? No. Do we want to do more? Yeah. Anywhere that will get us there if we don't know where we're going.

STEVE HIGGINS: Dawn Clark has a question.

DAWN CLARK: Thank you. I'd like to give the last two speakers a request. Also, what Mary Margaret is speaking about is oftentimes called the green budget and I think that with the need to defend requests for more money, that will help us understand what is needed and to defend additional dollars for the SILC, and maybe we could encourage the centers to do the same thing, we can begin to see what our needs are.

I'd like to also suggest in terms of the banner, we have MRC doing a calendar where people who sew and are employed and all kinds of things and maybe we can do a request for people to do squares, put together for that banner, or other ways. I think we need -- that banner needs to come out of the community IL and the community, disability community, and I'd be really happy to help in that piece, if we wanted to go to that way.

MARY MARGARET: Nice.

STEVE HIGGINS: The column that says additional funds has nothing in it, it's 00 at the bottom. The reason for that, what that column is, throughout the year, we do special events, IE events at the State House and the conference, that's where monies are allocated into that additional column. We didn't have that until last year and Mary Margaret requested we put that in the budget so that folks can understand. So although it says 00 right now, it's because this is the starting budget, but throughout the course of the year, as funds come in, whether it's donations or monies get allocated for the conference, you know, our wish list right now is a minimum of \$45,000 from MRC for next year's conference, and that's where those monies will be listed is under that additional funds line. Then the

budget as a whole, if you see the whole spreadsheet, has a column for each month, so you'd see how we spend those out and anyone that would like a copy of that is welcome to that. Paul Spooner, then Dawn Clark.

PAUL SPOONER: The donations there, are there because of our auditors, you know, the fact that we're the fiduciary for semi-government entity by creation by Executive Order that doesn't really exist, other than Executive Order, and because we're the fiduciary under the contract with the Mass Rehab Commission, when an organization donates funds toward the SILC at a SILC event, in fact, it ends up having to be addressed to us, as Metro West. So it's purely an audited fiscal requirement, and you know, donations is generic enough to keep that and be able to have my auditors understand it and agree that it's not really a donation to Metro West. In fact, it's a donation to a program that's run by Metro West, and it gets counted accordingly.

MERLE FERBER: Where does it go?

PAUL SPOONER: It goes to the actual cost of the event.

MERLE FERBER: Okay.

PAUL SPOONER: You know, if you donate 500 bucks to the ADA, you write out a check to the state independent living council, that check can't be deposited. There's no such -- there's no entity under a corporate or financial structure for that. In fact, the check you write needs to be written out to the Metro West Center for Independent Living because we're technically the bookkeepers for the SILC, but it's not counted as a donation to us, but on the books, it's got to be counted as a donation to make it pass standard accounting principles. If I was an accountant, I'm sure I could explain it better to you, but I hate accounting.

[laughter]

I hate it, yes!

STEVE HIGGINS: Dawn Clark?

DAWN CLARK: I don't want to prolong this, but I'm just, two things. Paul raised the question that raised a question in my mind. Let me go back to what I originally wanted to say. When we added 2006

budget, or whatever the figures for the year is, the donations need to be clearly seen, and my understanding is, for instance, for the SILC conference BCIL gave, the Disability Law Center gave money, those would show up in a column called donations under special events?

MARY MARGARET: No.

STEVE HIGGINS: They would show up in the additional funds column, Dawn.

DAWN CLARK: Okay.

PAUL SPOONER: They're revenue.

DAWN CLARK: Yeah. That's right, they are, okay, thank you. In terms of Paul's comment, are we saying that SILC is not incorporated so therefore we, we're not an entity or is that what we're saying?

STEVE HIGGINS: Mary Margaret would like to respond and then Paul Spooner.

MARY MARGARET: (Sighs) The SILC is a requirement under Federal regulations that define independent living funding, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in order to receive those funds, has responded through an Executive Order to create what's mandated, which is a statewide independent living council.

Other states do it different ways.

So as a statewide independent living council in Massachusetts, it's defined under Executive Order, and it has its own bylaws, and it cannot, because it's not a corporation, take in funds, higher staff, disburse funds. It can hold meetings, and fulfill, you know, elect officers and appoint members and write the State Plan, and monitor the State Plan is being implemented, and educate and advocate for independent living according to that State Plan. They're representing people with disabilities, through its composition, and other interested parties, and the designated state units through which the Federal funds come, MRC and Mass. Commission for the Blind. In order for us to get cash dollars to do that stuff, we've been very creative in Massachusetts, and Mass Rehab has found a way to take those federal dollars that come to them, and disburse it through a corporation, you know, this case it's Metro West center for independent living, who acts as

the fiduciary for the executive order defined
statewide independent living council. Did that help?
[Switch of CART Provider]

(Switching CART Providers.)

>>PAUL SPOONER: We all know what the PCA programs like;
right? We have a fiduciary intermediary that is basically
what Metrowest is. I want to add a little bit to this.
What Mary Margaret described is what the law and regulations
call for, but when the concept of the SILC was being formed,
it was at a time when all funding for Independent Living
Centers across the country were going through state VR
agencies. Some of them very overtly oppressive agencies.
Others were more liberal like Mass. Rehab Commission. There
was a move afoot nationally to go with what was all
considered direct funding for centers, so that they got
money directly from the Feds. That is the same premise that
created State Independent Living Councils. That they would
be independent of any kind of wrong from state VR agencies
or other agencies within State Government. So as Mary
Margaret has so wisely told us, there are very different
ways states have handled this question. Some states have
allowed the state Independent Living councils to form as
501c3 non-profit corporations. And some have the SILC as
independent state agencies like the DD council is. So they
are actually a part of State Government. And the law
clearly states around finances of the State Independent

Living Council, regardless of what model it is, can't be controlled by anybody but the council. That is why we vote on a budget. That is why we agree on this stuff. And that is what gets paid for bills based upon our budget at the SILC.

Now, Mary Margaret's very right about we came up with an interesting way to do it in Massachusetts. Massachusetts has not been very -- State Government, not necessarily MRC, but State Government has not been very supportive of state entities forming into non-profits. So that is an avenue that we couldn't take in this state. So consequently, we have something that is very similar to the PCA program. We have an entity acting like a bookkeeper where, you know, PCAs send in their time sheets. Well, Steven pulls the bills together, and under the rules that the SILC has, submits them to Metrowest. Metrowest runs checks. I sign the checks. And the bills are paid. And the only people who are in control of the money is the SILC. And so some people look at our system and say "wow, that is pretty strange." But others say, "It seems to work here." Sometimes it is a little confusing, but there is a rhyme or reason for that, as always seems to be the case.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: (Inaudible remark.)

>>PAUL SPOONER: Oh, yeah. That is the other big thing that we always get into trouble with is that the law and the

regulations are also clear about how a state gets its Federal dollars, you know, part c monies. If centers get their money directly from the Federal Government, those are considered 722 states. If the Federal dollars comes through the state agency, like Massachusetts and Minnesota were considered 723 states. And there is a whole bunch of technical differences, but it basically boils down to one simple fact that 723 states can decide how to allocate Independent Living funds. 722 states have to follow a set order of priorities for any new monies. Which means that last year, when we passed our amendment, if we were a 722 state, we couldn't pass that because we would have to follow the priorities under the State Plan, but because we get our monies differently, we are also allowed to change our priorities. So me being an advocate for 722 for many years, ironically, I'm glad we're 723. And I even told Karen Langley and John Chappell that last year. But it is complicated, sometimes. You have to hear this stuff ten times before it makes sense. And if it doesn't make sense to you, join the club, because half the time I don't think it makes sense to the rest of us.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Are there any other questions as far as the budget goes?

On the pages following that budget sheet, there is a breakdown of what each of those categories is. For just

lack of time, looking at where we are and what we need to accomplish in the next 40 minutes, if everyone doesn't mind I'll just leave this for you to read. It just breaks down each of the budget line items, and what is covered in each of those line items, and what we get paid for, and it gives you an idea. And it is three pages -- three, and as Mary Margaret says, in great and wonderful reading. It is good bedtime reading. But it is there if anyone has any questions. And that's kind of where we are. So at this point I'm going to turn it back over to Filomena because we would need to have a motion to accept the SILC budget for 2007 so that we can proceed to pay our bills. And I'm going to give the mic back to Nancy.

>>FILOMENA TRIPP: Any motions?

>>MERLE FERBER: So moved.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Merle can't give a motion because she is a nominee. I saw Judi Rodger make a motion.

>>BETTY J KING: Second.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: And I saw Betty King's hand first.

And you have a question, Judi?

>>JUDI RODGER: No. I was going to make a motion that we accept it.

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: We have a motion and a second?

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Yes. We do. The motion was Judi Rodger and second Betty King.

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Hearing no more discussion, all those in favor?

Opposed?

Abstained?

Budget passes.

Thanks, Filomena, Steve.

Okay. And the next is we get to hear from Paul, again, for --

(Laughter.) --

>>PAUL SPOONER: Whoop-dee-doo.

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Now is your chance to be disruptive, Paul.

>>PAUL SPOONER: Okay. You know, not much is happening.

(Laughter.)

Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNKI: Okay. Well, hearing nothing

--

>>DAWN CLARK: Are you kidding?

>>PAUL SPOONER: However, the road apparently to the White House is paved with bodies from independent living, and poor people, in general.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Hmm-hmm.

>>PAUL SPOONER: I think everyone's heard of the wonderful 9c cuts. If you haven't, the 9c cuts is the right of the Governor of the Commonwealth to sign during anytime of his governing period during the Fiscal Year, to determine that there is not enough revenue to cover key parts of the state budget, therefore by initiating 9c cuts -- cut that budget line item. There is no recourse by the Legislature. They cannot overturn it. They cannot veto it. It is his prerogative. His or her prerogative to impose those cuts.

Consequently, ironically, shortly after the November election, which by the ways the Republican lost for Governor and the Democrat won, all of a sudden there was this \$425 million number of 9c cuts, which affected a lot of different people; including 353,000 from the line item 4000 account out of MRC. A number of other cuts out of other line items of MRC, MCB, Mass. Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Mass. Office on Disability, and so on, Department of Mental Retardation, Department of Public Health, Department of Mental Health; the salary reserve was totally wiped out. It just is really across the board, cruel, nasty, hard, and pathetically unfair. And if our Governor becomes President, we have a wonderful future to look forward to.

Having said that -- and that is really my opinion. It does not reflect what the SILC has as an opinion.

We are faced with a few different dilemmas here on an advocacy basis. Again, the Legislature can't change these 9c cuts unless the Legislature meets, develops a supplemental budget, approves it, sends it to the Governor to sign, which why would he sign and approve a budget of cuts he just did? He would veto it. The Legislature would have to overturn those vetoes. And he could still promptly cut again. So it is a vicious circle. So the -- so that is why the Legislature has not done anything since these cuts have come out. It is not because they are weenies or anything like that; they just really have no ability to change. That is why a lot of folks have talked about the new Governor coming in and potentially changing some of those, or rescinding some of those cuts.

There has been a lot of protest. A number of us from the IL community were at the large protest out at the State House last week. There were over 1,000 people from all different walks of life, and human service entities, there protesting the 9c cuts. And surprisingly, because of how Draconian some of these cuts were, 42 million of them have been rescinded. Unfortunately, we are not on that boat. Independent living has not been rescinded. So at this point in time as your advocacy chair, I'm not really aware of -- I've heard a few things, but I'm not sure how those cuts are affecting the Independent Living Centers yet.

So what does that all mean for advocacy stuff? Well, you know, a lot of other things that have been going on. And we have been looking at trial to figure out what we are going to do for next year. We have been having advocacy calls. And we have been reviewing, and we had a call this Thursday, tomorrow, to review all of the issues that were brought up at the IL conference back in September. Clearly similar issues from the past that have come up about funding for centers. Issues came up about adequate housing options. Issues came up about public accommodation issues under the Massachusetts Constitution. Issues about dealing with architectural access regulations. A whole range of things. So the Advocacy Committee will be looking at those issues and trying to develop a platform for the coming winter and spring to work on.

And we are also continuing -- we renewed our contract with the Disability Policy Consortium to work with us in our advocacy efforts up at the State House on the SILC advocacy agendas -- agenda items.

And so that is pretty much what has been going on.

Any questions?

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Question from Mary Margaret Moore.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: So --

>>PAUL SPOONER: Sew buttons.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: It sounds like January is a critical time for us advocates for people with disabilities, to make sure that any of our voices are heard, and what I understand is that starts with what is going on right now, which is all of the -- all of the Deval Patrick community meetings to get input, as well as there is a way to input -- to give him input via his web page, in terms of what he needs to know about as he is transitioning into becoming Governor.

And I want to know, Paul, if you have any thoughts on what we can do individually, and or collectively, to help the Governor understand about our needs from now through the end of January when we see the fall out.

>>PAUL SPOONER: Thank you, Mary Margaret because I totally spaced out on what I was doing this afternoon. Isn't that unusual for me, these days.

Deval Patrick transition team has been meeting and working. They developed workgroups. And holding community forums across the state. I know that Dawn was at the one in Worcester because we talked about it earlier. And there is one in Framingham this afternoon from 4 to 6 at Plymouth church in Framingham, which I'm going to go attend.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Me, too.

>>PAUL SPOONER: The themes that I've been talking about, and again as Mary Margaret points out, if you go to the

Deval Patrick website, look at their transition team site to put in your comments, Charlie Carr is involved in one of the workgroups, so if you wanted to send your comments to Charlie he would deliver those. There is a number of ways to get our voices across.

A number of the directors kind of talked and tried to put some general themes together. Obviously we would all want to go and tell them to take away the 9c cuts on the IL monies, that pretty much goes without saying. But we also wanted to talk about some bigger picture issues, and what we have looked at, and come to some consensus on is kind of three things. And you certainly can add more to this

The first theme is Olmstead or long-term care. Clearly that encompasses issues with the state working on 1115 waiver. Its real commitment to what is called Community First. Looking at doing monies towards community services. And the problem with our state, not applying for money follows the person monies from the Feds. Looking at increase of available, accessible, and affordable housing. Increases in supported living. Funds so that more folks can get out of nursing homes. Which by the way, we are like seven in the country. We have over 42,000 people locked up in nursing homes in this state right now. Now, the nursing home industry will say, "Oh, that figure is not right. It is lower than that." That is a figure put out by the Feds

effective 2005. There aren't any figures for 2006 yet. So you need to go on that 42,000. And there have been 700 individuals identified today in nursing homes who have expressed their desire to get out into the community. And we have to get this new administration to understand and put some money into housing, supported living, personal assistance services, other support services so that people with disabilities, elders with disabilities, can get out of friggin' nursing homes. So we can talk about Olmstead.

Another thing to talk to the Deval Patrick team is housing. Housing is a huge problem for primarily poor people, which dominantly is our community of people with disabilities and elders. But housing is a big problem for everybody. There is not available housing for anybody, regardless of your income. And what we need is a concerted, significant investment in developing housing. Variety of different kinds of housing. Whether it be apartments, shared living facilities, single family homes that are accessible, whatever, but we need more housing. And we need affordable, accessible, and available housing. We need an investment in our future because our Commonwealth won't exist without more housing.

And the third thing may be something that you guys have not thought about, but some of us have been kicking around, quite frankly, we are tired of being left behind. We are

tired of being left out of the room. We are tired of not being at the table. And we would like a cabinet level, or Governor's level disability representative or Czar. A person with a disability. Not a person without a disability representing our views, but a truly qualified individual with a disability, on the Governor's cabinet level, above the Secretaries, above the Commissioners who will carry the weight of our waters. And get disability in the forefront of his administration.

And further that, we would like to see substantial affirmative action to hiring qualified people with disabilities throughout his administration. The time is right now. Deval Patrick went around and said "we can do better. Now's the time to come together." Well, we are here. We want to be heard. We want to be at the table. And we want people to be given opportunities for work, and opportunities to live in the community. So that's the message that we are giving to our transition team. So hopefully you will follow along similar lines.

Oh, Mary Margaret is suggesting we read a bureaucratic document that came out of the Medicaid Commission. How about I do this, I'll get the document out to everybody on the SILC list, or I will have Steve get it out.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: (Inaudible.)

>>PAUL SPOONER: You are getting into details -- we'll get it out later. Okay?

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Can I just comment on that?

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Mary Margaret Moore?

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Just as an aside, we may have a breath of fresh air going on here in Massachusetts, perhaps, with Deval Patrick, but some of the same old, same old cah-cah, although the new Congress isn't there yet, and I just urge you, and Paul sent you the report out of the Medicaid Committee, that you look at it, and I will send to you, Steve, one of our -- one of our friends sisters is on -- was on that Medicare -- on that Medicaid Committee, her name is Gwen Gilwater, and she has spent a lot of years with the movement, and I met her through her affiliation with NCIL, and she was the only member of the Commission who stood alone saying that their recommendations are paternalistic. Out of whack with the institutional bias. And the Executive Director of the National Council for Independent Living was quoted in her testimony from his testimony before the hearing. And I urge you to read that because unless we get rid of the institutional bias, not just at the state level, but also at the Federal level, then it is always going to be there around our necks.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Are there any other questions for Paul?

Cindy Wentz?

>>CINDY WENTZ: Am I allowed to ask a question?

Thank you. I knew I was waiting for the mic.

I love the three priority categories for Deval, and I'm just assuming, but I would like clarification that rolled in amongst them is the issue of all the people who fall between the cracks now who aren't really able to get particularly, you know, non-vocational services from any state agency?

>>PAUL SPOONER: Sure. I'll answer that. I'll gladly answer that. Glad you bring that up.

There is a -- there is a real dilemma in the state that Cindy brings up that there are a number of different groups of folks with different disabilities, who generally don't get many services in the Commonwealth because they may not be on a vocational track. They may not be folks who are coming out of nursing homes. There are a lot of disabilities that are not very well-represented. Anywhere from MS to chronic fatigue to multi chemical sensitivity, and so on and so forth. And they are huge underserved populations. And they don't fit into what is traditionally described as silos of disability, like Department of Mental Retardation, or MRC, or mental health, or so forth. And they are a huge underserved population. I'm not sure that my answer is the answer that is what you will think you are going to get, but my answer is this. I've been here on Independent Living for 20-plus years, and the Commonwealth

still has not dealt with the fact that Independent Living Centers are hugely underfunded, and so limited in staff that we can't meet the margin of services people need across the disability continuum. We don't even serve 1.1% of the disability population out there. And we are talking in the State of Massachusetts, under what? \$5 million for Independent Living. It ought to be, like, \$25 million for Independent Living. We could then start serving this whole range of people who don't fit into other categories. And that is why those folks don't get any services. Because we all serve those disability collections, but we serve them in, you know, in one or two, or three or four, as opposed to 30, 40, 50, 60 individuals. And so, you know, the whole issue of lack of services to people with a variety of different disabilities is directly related to the total lack of funding for Centers for Independent Living.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Mary Margaret Moore?

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Well, Paul, I concur with you. I had a slightly different shift, though. Just to put a little spin on it. And in my areas of Massachusetts, and in looking at the service delivery system, it really does go back in my head, when you were talking about an institutional bias in a facility-based human service system, in order to protect the culture from the folks with disabilities, or it talks about a real Independent Living

commitment, which I'm saying beyond Olmstead. And I think that as long as we continue to allow -- continue to allow the lack of choice that Olmstead demands, and we continue to allow the institutional bias which the funding seems to go to the silos, and the brick and mortar, all of human services, versus to the people and the services and supports that they control, that we are not going to have a tilt. And one of the things that I've said for years is that as much as I adore MRC in terms of the great things that they do, their silo structure is one indicator of how things are. The largest silo in MRC is federally funded for disability determination services. The next largest silo is for the federally funded vocational rehab services. And then there is this little sliver that is IL services. And why isn't IL the larger silo and the other two working within it? And you can do that with every one of the mega state agencies, and the state money, as well. And I think that for me the message is that it is not just independent living, it is a tiny choice in community services and supports is what we need to be going for, and shifting that Federal and state institutional bias. And that's what I see our challenge is to do in the next month.

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Dawn Clark had a question.

>>DAWN CLARK: Well, I just -- yeah. I think I have a question. And I understand the difference between what Paul

is saying and what Mary Margaret is saying. And I just want to bring in another program that I -- that we participated in Worcester with the seven hill that came out of the Department of Mental Retardation C-PASS, and the project is looking at non-traditional services, and they have said this before, but for us to remember it, the example was wonderful. The grandmother needed food from the store, and there was no way for her to get there because the taxi was so expensive, blah, blah, blah. So they came upon buying the grandmother a bicycle so that the grandmother could have food because the grandson came, took the bicycle, went to the store, brought the food back. How many programs buy bicycles for grandmothers? So looking at that shift that Mary Margaret Moore is talking about, we have been promised by whomever that they would really see this through, and that we need to support that, and see that it really does happen. So that -- so that is another handle on how we can try to regain that shift.

>>MARY MARGARET MOORE: Thank you. Thanks, Dawn. Thank you.

>>NANCY RUMBOLT-TRCZYZNIKI: We are running short on time. But anymore questions for Paul on his report?

>>STEVE HIGGINS: Betty King?

[Switch of CART Provider]

BETTY J. KING: I want to ask this to Mary Margaret. Because I know you mentioned this before. I know that SILC took a vote previously around the 11 centers, and I don't know if they have a board yet, and I remember I asked the question about did they have a board.

MARY MARGARET: I don't understand your question. Could you say it again?

BETTY J. KING: I remember the SILC took a vote around the 11 centers that we had, the multicultural center now.

MARY MARGARET: The new center, the 11th.

BETTY J. KING: And at the time they didn't have a board and I had asked about them having a board, which was part of the SILC's bylaws, and SILC voted to give them a leeway, and that was supposed to be part of their plan, was to get a board, and I wanted to know if any way we could find out if that's done, and if it went that way and if the board is the makeup with the SILC, the way the bylaws state.

MARY MARGARET: Chair, may I answer the question?

NANCY RUMBOLT: Sure, Mary Margaret.

MARY MARGARET: As I recall, Betty, we didn't vote as a SILC whether or not they should have a board. What we voted on as the SILC was we participated in the screening of applications with MRC, as they were looking for a vendor for the new center, and then whatever was going on with that new center, the SILC made sure that there is a place that the SILC table for the multicultural center, but in terms of the operations of any center, and whether it meets all the federal standards and assurances, that is an MRC monitoring role. So I urge you to, you know, Karen's not with us today, but during lunch, you might have a private conversation with Susan Landy from MRC, and she can give you an update on what's going on with how things are going at the Multicultural Center. The other thing is that, in order for any center to get incorporated as a 501-C3 nonprofit, they have to have a board, and my understanding, and I know nothing about what's going on, at you know, the Multicultural in Boston Center, they're getting paid, they have to be a corporation and therefore they must have a board. I give that you as well but I have no

day-to-day knowledge. Does that help? Did I answer your question okay?

STEVE HIGGINS: Tony Williams?

TONY WILLIAMS: This is a question that I've heard Betty ask before.

MARY MARGARET: Wait for the mic Mr. Tony. I'm going a little slow today.

TONY WILLIAMS: This is the question that I've heard Betty ask before, and I did tell you, there is a board. And like she said, we'll be able to have, be a nonprofit, we're not able to be a nonprofit without a board.

MARY MARGARET: Thank you.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Okay. Can I hear a motion to accept Paul's report?

DAWN CLARK: Motion.

JOE BELLIL: Second.

STEVE HIGGINS: Motion Dawn Clark, second Joe Bellil.

NANCY RUMBOLT: All in favor? Opposed? Abstained? Okay, we're going to have to buzz through the last couple of items on the agenda, but I've been informed they should be pretty short.

So the next is Mike Kennedy with the development and nominations committee report.

MIKE KENNEDY: All righty, thanks, Nancy. All right, I will put in Nancy's request, buzz through the nominations and development committee. You all have gotten handouts of the reports, and should have already had an opportunity to review those. So first, if there are any questions about those minutes? Hearing none, does anyone want to accept the minutes as written?

MARY MARGARET: So moved.

MIKE KENNEDY: Okay. Mary Margaret motion to accept the nominations development minutes. Do I hear a second?

JUDI RODGER: Second.

MIKE KENNEDY: All right. We have a second. Any other questions? Discussions?

NANCY RUMBOLT: Any questions for Mike?

MARY MARGARET: I do.

STEVE HIGGINS: Mary Margaret has a question.

MARY MARGARET: I'll speak very loud (yelling).

[laughter]

MIKE KENNEDY: Here, catch.

STEVE HIGGINS: You're not capable of doing that, Mary Margaret!

MARY MARGARET: Oh, please. We'll get me my own mic. I want to thank you for helping with, you and Steve and other members of the committee and folks that help with the recruitment of the two new candidates, Sara Coracero and Keith Jones, as well as, you know, helping us have Judi Rodger and Becka Gutman be appointed and I think it's great and thank you for all of your efforts, you and the committee and it's wonderful to have new members, particularly Judi and Becka.

MIKE KENNEDY: Dawn has a question.

DAWN CLARK: My understanding is that Sara was told yesterday so she's a new member, too.

MIKE KENNEDY: I'll get to that. You're stealing my thunder.

[laughter]

DAWN CLARK: I thought we --

PAUL SPOONER: Don't steal his thunder!

MIKE KENNEDY: I have to buzz through these announcements, and they're already made. Well, first and foremost, Mary Margaret, thank you very much, but I really have to thank Steve. He's the one that makes the calls, and he just, you know, notifies me of all the good news.

As Dawn was started to allude to, yes, we actually do have some, another new member with us here today, Sara Coracero, right here to my left, and in addition to the new Sara, we have three reappoints. We have Joe Tringali, Joe Bellil and Dawn Clark. Basically from what I understand -- [applause] -- hey, hey.

STEVE HIGGINS: They haven't received their notices from the Governor's office, I just received the faxes yesterday from the Governor.

MIKE KENNEDY: This is really hot news. Oh, wow! Joe Tringali just entered the building!

JOE TRINGALI: I'm a member now. I got my taxes.

PAUL SPOONER: Good thing.

[laughter]

MIKE KENNEDY: All right. Other than that, just

some other developments that have gone on. Steve and Mary Margaret did mention how Steve was out there at Ad-lib during the SPIL committee meetings, and that was also an opportunity for Steve to also go out there and talk SILC up to board members, and Ad-lib consumers. Steve also took that little show down to CORD, down there on the Cape, so he's already been at both ends of the state, talking up on SILC and continuing to get new membership. And finally, in addition to the independent living centers, Steve has also been in contact with our partners for youths with disabilities and that's another avenue that we're exploring, is to get, you know, other members as part of the SILC committee here.

And that's pretty much it, for my report. Any other questions?

STEVE HIGGINS: We had a motion from Mary Margaret and second from Judi Rodger.

NANCY RUMBOLT: All in favor? Opposed? Abstained? Okay, thanks, Mike.

MIKE KENNEDY: Thank you.

NANCY RUMBOLT: I'm turning it over to Steve for the SILC consultant's report.

STEVE HIGGINS: Okay, I'm going to go real fast because we have four minutes.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Speed Steve.

STEVE HIGGINS: We still have another category. To give you a basic idea of what's going on at the SILC office right now, we're in the process of completing the SILC portion of the 704 report, the annual report that must go to our friends at RSA in Washington.

MRC will be compiling the other portion of that. We do that jointly together. The centers will get their information to MRC for part of that.

There's a calendar of events posted on the SILC web page, and that calendar of events is events running all the way through and until September of 2007.

So it's any events that we already have confirmed for next year, are already up on the SILC web page, so you have an idea of when they will be, the dates they'll be happening.

The other thing that we're in the process of, as you guys well know, is the state plan for independent

living, we have our hearing happening at lunch, right after this.

The SILC Congress is coming up from January 11th to 16th, down in New Orleans, Louisiana. Mary Margaret Moore and myself will be heading down to represent the Massachusetts SILC, and the focus of that conference, a lot has to do with emergency preparedness, and where does SILC stand in that, and what does SILC do and of course, issues of autonomy, which doesn't always happen at SILCs nationally, so we will be participating in the national SILC Congress in January. We received notice that the National Council On Independent Living conference for 2007 will take place in July. So we'll be working on that, Mary Margaret Moore is our region one representative for NCIL so not only do we have a voice on, in NCIL but Mary Margaret is a board member of NCIL.

We're working regularly with day-to-day operations, if you have any questions, please, call. We're continuing to visit the CILs statewide to promote the SILC. We made this commitment last year and as we're invited or receive notice of open houses, of things happening at any of the centers here throughout the state, we do our best to make sure that we can attend those events and to visit, and we'd also like to visit every center so if anybody's here for a center we haven't been to yet, please, let us know. We'd love to have the opportunity to come out to your center, whether it's to do a presentation or not, you know, whatever. We've made a couple of visits to Pittsfield just in the past week, out to the SPIL hearing and also to their annual dinner, which was a great thing. And you know, so we're continuing to visit folks statewide.

The other thing is, next Tuesday, December 19th, this is one of those official but not official type events of the SILC, but the SILC is housed in seed of Metro West Center for Independent Living, and they will be hosting their annual open house, their holiday open house next Tuesday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00, and it is being part of Metro West, SILC members at the SILC, we're also encouraged to

participate, so anyone that would like to stop by for some holiday cheer, whatever holiday cheer is to you (laughs) we'll be having that. Paul may even provide special cheer. He's doing that now, might even make up his own cheer for you.

MARY MARGARET: Because he's special.

STEVE HIGGINS: Because he's special. So that's what's happening. And those are all the things that I have, just written down.

There's many, many more little things that going on day-to-day in the background that if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. That's everything that I have that's going on, and that's it.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Okay, we need to accept the report. Motion to accept Steve's report?

STEVE HIGGINS: Betty King.

JOE BELLIL: I'll second.

NANCY RUMBOLT: All in favor? Opposed? Abstained? Okay. And under the category of other, Bill Allen would like to speak.

BILL ALLEN: No guarantees that I'll get this done in 30 seconds that's been left in the schedule. Quickly I have a handout which I prefer holding until afterwards so you all don't start reading it.

PAUL SPOONER: Is it in accessible format?

MARY MARGARET: Is it on disc, too?

BILL ALLEN: I have a disc and large print. I did not crank up my Braille machine at 11:00 last night, sorry, Nancy, I didn't think my family would appreciate that.

NANCY RUMBOLT: You do have a disc?

BILL ALLEN: I do have a disc, yes.

NANCY RUMBOLT: That works.

BILL ALLEN: Jeff Timperi and Ben Hildenan was at the SILC conference and we talked about a task force meeting of people with disabilities in state agencies, and probably local planners. They didn't have a date for it. They now have a date, which I heard on Saturday when I was in Dennis at an emergency planning event, then I understand as of yesterday, may be being changed.

So everything stays the same. Anyway, I asked yesterday, when I met one of the people who been

involved in this planning for six months now, has anyone, have they involved any people with disabilities? The answer was no.

It doesn't surprise me, shouldn't surprise you. We are invited, at least my name's on the list and I'm assuming some, if not all of your names are on the list and I've asked for a copy of the list of people who are being invited. But the plan is to bring us together, total of 150 people for a day, divide up into workshops, and then go off and start some task forces for the next six months or nine months or a year, where we all sit down and talk and put our time in to discuss an agenda, which they are determining. That doesn't work for me.

MARY MARGARET: Right. Good.

BILL ALLEN: That does not work for me. I offered, rather than taking over the conference and Erin Barrett-McGaffigan was at the meeting and working parallel to the system at the Shriver Center. I was able to make the analogy to the 2003 Real Choice's conferences, same pattern, starting all over again. They got that, and Erin and the other folks got that. I offered to sit down with a group of us to sit down and plan that conference and meet with them about the conference before it's held. I think we need to go one other step. I'm asking for SILC's support on this today. I think we need to pull a leadership Summit of our own together in January to meet on this agenda. I have some very specific ideas, all right? I think the system needs to begin putting money into disability agencies to begin preparing our community for an emergency. I think it has to happen at a significant level, both at the local and regional level and statewide level. You know, they have spent \$51 million in DPH alone and God knows how many millions, probably \$300 million at MEMA for the last five years, and they haven't spent a dime. The only reason they're doing the conference, I should say, put it this is the way I heard it. They are able to defer the date from January 23rd to sometime in February, because they got an extension on the grant. So in other words, with all of these millions of dollars they've got coming into the state, their commitment to do a conference for people with

disabilities is only because they got extra money. That doesn't make sense to me or anybody else, shouldn't to anybody else. I would like the SILC to agree to come to a meeting, co-sponsor it with the Disability Policy Consortium where we bring together people from MASD, DWCAN, Deafblind Community Action Network, people from D.E.A.F., Inc., Bay State Council for the Blind, people from MPOWER and meet in probably mid January, Stefanie is available on the 17th, so we've got a CART reporter, and I think we can get interpreters for the same time. I'm asking your support for this kind of a meeting, and this we really go in to the state thing prepared.

STEVE HIGGINS: Mary Margaret Moore?

MARY MARGARET: Bill, thank you for championing this. I've been trying to support this since over the past eight years that I've been the director at ILC, and ICA. We've held over seven or eight different workshops on, maybe up to ten, on disaster preparedness at our center. In addition, we've worked, we've went to the forum that the city of Salem organized with the North Shore, what's it called, Shawn? The North Shore disaster -- North Shore and Cape Ann Community Disaster Group, as well as, as you know, this was a major keynote at the SILC conference that you referred to in September. Your efforts in picking this up, Bill, with the DPC has been marvelous.

Steve and myself will be bringing back on the 16th what we gleaned from the SILC Congress, where emergency preparedness for people with disabilities is a major theme, and this week, I think it's this week, might have been last week, there's a major conference going on down in D.C. on this, which I couldn't free myself up to go to, neither could you or Steve or whatever. I urge that the SILC do this, that we find the money, and I'm willing to contribute from my center \$150 toward the expenses, and I urge any other center to see if they could chip in as well, and I will be there on the 17th, if you want me.

NANCY RUMBOLT: Any other questions for Bill?

MARY MARGARET: We need a motion.

BILL ALLEN: The list I passed out does have a

series of recommendations that reflect my thinking at this point in time. The list is by no means closed.

STEVE HIGGINS: Joe Tringali?

JOE TRINGALI: I've got a question, and a request. Bill, did you ever get the list of the emergency shelters they're supposed to have?

BILL ALLEN: We're not even on the map, Bill.

BILL ALLEN: Joe, for purposes of the people who may not have heard of this, this is an interesting thing bear with me into your lunch. At October 16th, 2:00 in the afternoon, we were at a meeting. Do you have a list of shelters and does it reflect those which are accessible? The answer was no we don't. That was the American Red Cross's responsibility. We asked, given the experience with Katrina, have you moderated your contracts with specifications for the Red Cross? They said we don't have any contracts or specifications. They're simply listed in a State Plan as emergency services function number six. We asked, will you give us the name of a contact person at the Red Cross? They said no. Took us three and a half weeks later and some cajoling with people at the higher up at the Department of Public Health and we got a contact person. The person said I will give you what I think you need but I will not give you the shelter list because if I did, you'd tell people what the shelters were and they'd be sitting in front of the building that we weren't going to open if there was an emergency.

We took steps yesterday and commissioned our lawyer to sue the American Red Cross, MEMA, public health Commissioner, and the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Retardation to get that information. They say it's embargoed because it's a risk, if they give it to us, we think it's a bigger risk if they don't give it to us. [applause]

MARY MARGARET: We need a motion.

JOE TRINGALI: One more question. Bill, I've got a lot of your e-mails about plans for emergency management and I'm just curious, I think more than, I'm not the only one who received them. Do we have that on the SILC website on the Commission?

MARY MARGARET: No.

STEVE HIGGINS: It's a separate organization.

MARY MARGARET: We need a motion.
PAUL SPOONER: It's not a priority of the SILC.
MARY MARGARET: To support the planning of it.
NANCY RUMBOLT: Can I hear a motion to support --
MARY MARGARET: The planning of it.
BETTY J. KING: I make a motion.
STEVE HIGGINS: Judi Rodger seconds.
NANCY RUMBOLT: All in favor? Opposed? Abstained?
BILL ALLEN: Thank you.
NANCY RUMBOLT: Okay, great.
STEVE HIGGINS: Lunch.
NANCY RUMBOLT: All righty, we are adjourned, and
lunch and we'll reconvene at 1:30. Sorry, Becka.
BECKA GUTMAN: I just wanted to make a quick
announcement.
STEVE HIGGINS: Sorry about that.
BECKA GUTMAN: So I know that the SILC was
instrumental in passing the Personal Care Attendant
Workforce Bill which is now a law and I wanted to
give a two-minute update on where things are out.
The workforce council has been formed. Four people
who are members of the SILC are on the Workforce
Council, Paul Spooner, Joe Tringali, Joe Bellil and
Eileen Brewster. The Council met once and will be
meeting again on Monday, and the other thing that's
going on is that, over 4,000 personal care attendants
have signed cards stating their interest to form a
union. Those cards were filed yesterday with the
State, and what that probably means is that there is
going to be an election for PCAs to form a union. I
don't know, but maybe sometime in March or April, so
I just wanted to make sure that folks were updated on
this, given the SILC's work in helping to pass this
law.
NANCY RUMBOLT: Thanks. Okay, all right, lunch, and
we'll reconvene back at 1:30 for the State Plan
hearing. Thanks, everybody.
MARY MARGARET: No, we don't reconvene.
STEVE HIGGINS: Separate meeting.
NANCY RUMBOLT: That's what I mean. You know, I'm
tired. Motion to adjourn.
STEVE HIGGINS: Betty King. Joe Bellil seconds.
NANCY RUMBOLT: All in favor? Opposed? Abstained?
Sorry, 4:00 in the morning is doing me in.

[laughter]

MARY MARGARET: Good meeting, folks!