

SILC Quarterly Meeting
September 17, 2008
Best Western Hotel & Conference Center
181 Boston Post Road, Marlborough MA

Meeting opened at 1:30 PM by Nancy Rumbolt-Trzcinski Chairperson

Motion to accept the March 19, 2008 Minutes by Mike Kennedy, Second by Judy Rodger.
Motion to accept carried Unanimous.

Motion to accept the minutes of the July 18, 2009 minutes by Mike Kennedy, Second by Amy Ashdon.
Motion to accept carried Unanimous.

Chairs Report Nancy Trzcinski:

Thanks to the State IL Conference planning committee for all of your hard work on another successful event. During July I attended NCIL in Washing DC Along with Steve Higgins and Mary Margaret Moore from the SILC. While in DC we participated in the First Region 1 Caucus with legislators. The event was sponsored by Representative James Tireney Who worked with Mary Margaret as the NCIL Region 1 rep and Steve as the SILC Congress Region 1 rep to put things together to educate legislators from throughout New England. Almost Every representative in New England sent staff to this event. We would like to thank Representative Tierney for arranging this event.

Motion to accept Chairs report by Joe Bellil, Second by Mike Kennedy.

Discussion: The members of the SILC thanked Nancy for all of her hard work as chair this past year. We've really appreciated your leadership and the work that you've helped us accomplish and you're just a wonderful help to all of us on the SILC

Motion to accept carried Unanimous.

State Plan for Independent Living Committee Update on progress of the State Plan Year One Mary Margaret Moore

During year one of the plan the SILC, Centers, and DSU's will advocate for additional state funding to bring each of the centers in the Commonwealth up to a base funding level of \$450,000.

The SILC and the Centers advocated at the statehouse in April 2008 for additional funds for the centers in the state 09 budget. MRC and MCB did not include in their 09 budget requests additional funding for centers. The state legislature approved a budget which was signed by Governor Patrick for 09 which did not include additional funding for centers. In August 2008 the MRC was able to redirect funding received in the '09 budget so that each center was able to receive a cost of living increase equal to 3%.

During Year One the SILC & ILC's will advocate for an additional \$100,000 for growth and expansion of the SILC itself. This includes things such as Annual Conference & Training needs to be included as a funded line item in our budget at the beginning of each year.

The SILC did not receive any increase during this first year of the 08-10 SPIL. Instead, the SILC received a decrease of approximately \$5000.

During Year One the SILC will also form a committee to investigate the need of the addition of four new consultant positions at the SILC each focusing on statewide issues of systemic change including;

- Transportation
- Housing
- Long Term Care
- Communication & Networking

The SILC did not follow through during Year one on this task as focus was on keeping SILC funding.

During year one the SILC, Centers, and DSU's will advocate for an additional \$325,000 to \$340,000 dollars to address expansion of the IL network. This money would be used to fund a new Center/Satellite to be spun off into a free standing center within three years located to the northwest suburbs of Boston which have been identified as the most underserved areas of our commonwealth.

We did not advocate during year one for funding for an additional Center as we were more concerned about not having SILC and ILC cuts.

During year one and continuing through year three the SILC, DSU's & Centers will continue to advocate for support of the Massachusetts Network of Information Providers, which is the disability community driven fully accessible web based database for finding services and supports including housing by persons with disabilities and service providers SILC will work on this goal through a combination of legislator education days, information to SILC and ILC and other IL supporters/advocates through MILAN, a web based list serve for notification of legislation and events, writing of letters of support for legislation and funding on the above issues, and provision of forums and workshops, when feasible and appropriate on above items.

The SILC did write numerous letters of support for NE Index and NE Index was able to secure funding to continue in '09 as well as develop more linkages through their work on MADIL.

Years One through Three, the SILC will advocate for the following housing goals;

- HMLP- to expand the definition of those to be served from "those who are blind and have severe physical disabilities" to "those who are blind and have significant disabilities". Removing the requirement of having a "physical" disability will allow individuals with other disabilities, such as autism, Alzheimer's and other emotional/behavioral disabilities to access funding to provide safety related modifications to enable such individual to live at home.

The SILC and Centers did advocate for the language change and was unsuccessful.

- CBH- maintain emphasis on providing funding for the development of housing in "integrated" settings in the community and do not require this housing to offer supportive services.

The SILC and Centers did advocate for increased funding for CBH and this funding was increased for '09.

- FCF- advocate for requirements that provide more consumer choice and control of their housing. Expand the models to be funded beyond group homes for DMR eligible individuals.

The SILC did not advocate for FCF requirement to provide more consumer choice and control of their housing as well as expansion the models to be funded beyond group homes for DMR eligible individuals.

The SILC will also join with other organizations to advocate for more subsidy and voucher programs on the state and federal levels that individuals can use to acquire housing in the private market.

The SILC and Centers did join with the following organizations to advocate for more subsidy and voucher programs: DPC; Mass Home Care Assn; although the results are still to be determined.

The SILC Advocacy Committee will invite representatives from CHAPA and United to its meetings to coordinate and collaborate on housing related advocacy. Advocacy to include but not be limited to; letter writing and meetings with state officials to educate them on the housing needs of people with disabilities, participate in reviewing regulations governing operation of programs and make recommendations, provide testimony on the value of visitability and universal design to give options for individuals to age in place.

The SILC Advocacy Committee did invite representatives from CHAPA and United to its meetings. These organizations did not attend during the first year of this SPIL.

During years one through three the SILC & DSU's will work on establishing ties with the RCEPS located at University of Massachusetts in Boston and Assumption College in Worcester to develop trainings for teachers, ILC Staff and future leaders in the independent living community and also within higher learning academia

The SILC did communicate to both RCEPs and results unsuccessful since the federal model for funding RCEPS ends September 30 2008. The RCEP from Umass is a presenter at the FFY'08 SILC IL conference.

During years One through Three Full implementation of the rights and options defined in Olmstead which must include a full commitment to funding and consumer direction and control of a Community First array of services and supports for citizens with disabilities;

During Year One the chair of the SILC Advocacy Committee along with many Center Executive Directors and the SILC Coordinator participated in many Commonwealth of Massachusetts sessions on Community First, Olmstead Planning, and Long Term Care Options Program. The dialogue consistently stated by the SILC, ILC ED's, and SILC Coordinator was to educate and shift the focus from medicaid funded medical model services to an IL paradigm which fundamentally expects consumer control, autonomy, dignity of risk and self-determination. The results of these meetings is still to be determined, with the unveiling of a beginning Olmstead plan soon to be released by the Governor, an 1115 Medicaid waiver in negotiations with CMS as well as with IL advocates, and a test of a Long Term Care Options program in three 'ADRC's' in the state.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Application , crafted by representatives of the disability and independent living community, and subsequent implementation of Money Follows the Person, if the federal government so opens up this option again

Despite the SILC, many ILCs and other disability rights and service organizations vocal advocacy, the Commonwealth refused to submit any application for Money Follow the Person. This disappointment to the IL and disability rights community is still being felt each day.

Revision of the 1115 waiver application to include commitment to consumer control and the ADRC collaborative process

As stated above, the 1115 waiver application, now renamed Community First 1115 waiver, is still in process. The ADRC model is still being implemented statewide, albeit with minimal to no funding.

Continued support for full implementation of the PCA WorkForce Council and increased wages and benefits for PCAs

The SILC has been given updates at each quarterly meeting during Year One as to the progress of the newly formed PCA Workforce Development Council. The election by all PCA's last October resulted in a vote for unionization and 1199 SEIU has been in negotiation with the PCA Workforce Development Council and the Administration since the election.

Motion to Accept the State Plan Committees Annual Report by Mike Kennedy, Second by Sybil Feldman.

Motion to accept carried Unanimous.

Finance Committee Report

The SILC finance committee continues to meet monthly. They are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. via teleconference call. The finance committee has been meeting regularly between SILC meetings. An updated budget worksheet, for June 30, 2008, is available for your review. The SILC has spent 51% of its budget through the third quarter. Of important note, the two largest events of the year occur during the fourth quarter, which does not end until September 30.

During the most recent meeting, the committee discussed looking into how Part B funds are used by the centers of SILC. Unless other funds, the SILC risks going into fiscal 2010, we would like to recommend using fiscal 2009 to look at other ways the SILC can receive funds.

The SILC budget for FFY 2009 has been developed and approved by both this committee and the executive committee. We will once again have a budget of \$154,500 for the year. The funds for this budget come from several State and Federal sources. Copies of the budget are available for your review any time in the SILC Office.

Motion to accept the Finance Committee report including the Budget for FFY 2009 by Sybil Feldman, Second by Mike Kennedy.

Motion to accept Finance Committee report carried Unanimous.

Advocacy Committee Report, Paul Spooner

Much of the work of the advocacy committee for 2008 was covered in the State Plan for Independent Living Committee Report. One thing that you did not mention was the SILC and a number of its members were active throughout the past year in developing emergency preparedness recommendations. In fact, there's a couple of folks in the room that sit on the SILC, that were amazing leaders in their own committees, Dawn Clark, Mike Kennedy, worked on their respective areas on developing a very comprehensive emergency preparedness report, with recommendations that was just made public, I believe on Monday, and is going up through the chain of command to be presented to the Governor in the foreseeable future, and it's probably one of the most comprehensive documents dealing with individuals with disabilities, in all the areas of emergency preparedness. So that was a pretty major task. There really may be some real issues either for the next State Plan development or possibly amend this State Plan about the expansion of network of centers, that needs to be looked at sooner than later, because it's about resources.

Motion to Accept the Advocacy Committee Report by Dawn Clark, Second by Judi Rodger.

Motion to accept Advocacy Committee report carried Unanimous.

Nominations & Development Committee Report Mike Kennedy

2008 annual report of the SILC membership. I'll just briefly touch upon that. First, for 2008, we had a total of 37 members. Of that membership, 16 members were consumers. Nine were ILC representatives, eight came from state agencies, and four nominees. And of that 37 people, SILC, 20 members had a physical disability, two members have a visual disability, and six members have multiple disabilities. We have two members with cognitive disabilities, and two members with, that are hard of hearing, and we have five that are unknown or not reported. I know members who have not reported numbers.

Motion to Accept Nominations & Development Committee Report by Bernard Bonsra, Second by Joe Bellil

Motion to accept Nomination & Development Committee report carried Unanimous.

Annual Election of Officers

The following members have accepted nominations for the following positions for FFY 2009. Karen Bureau, Chairperson. Nancy Trzcinski, Vice Chairperson, Coreen Brinckerhoff, Treasurer, and Bernard Bonsra, Secretary/Clerk. The floor was opened and no other nominations were brought fourth.

Motion was made by Jim Tierney to close nominations, Second by Judi Roger,

Motion to close nominations carried Unanimous

Motion by Jim Tierney that the secretary cast one ballot and that the slate of officers for 2009 be elected by Unanimous Consent, Second by Judi Roger.

Motion carried Unanimous

SILC Consultants Report, Steve Higgins

Steve thanked the committee members, for the work that they did this year. He noted that they make his job easier, because he can't do it without their direction.

Steve thanked Nancy, Filomena, Bernard, and Karen, who have worked together as a team making up the silc executive committee for the past two years. He noted that as we move into the next year, it's exciting that we're going to have a good core group of people around, Karen Bureau will be stepping up and Nancy's kind of stepping down a little bit, and Bernard's moving over, and Coreen's moving in, but it's going to be interesting, because this SILC is your SILC.

Steve thanked the staff and team at MetroWest center for Independent living for all of the support they provide to the SILC throughout the year. MWCIL has been the home of the SILC for over 6 years and committee untold support to the SILC.

Steve talked about the SILC's RFR which expires on Sept 30, 2008 for continued operation of the SILC. The SILC Executive committee will be working as equal partners with the DSU, MRC. In the issuance of a new RFR and selection of the SILC Host for FFY 2009 – 2014.

Steve talked about conversation beginning with the SILC and SRC to talk about possibly combining the two conferences held in the state each year. This is only a preliminary discussion that will involve members of the special events planning Committee the Executive Committee and input from the state rehab council.

Motion to accept SILC Consultants Report by Mike Kennedy, Second by Sybil Feldman.

Motion to accept SILC Consultants report carried Unanimous.

Motion to Adjourn Mike Kennedy, Second Joe Bellil,.

Motion Carried, Meeting Closed at 3:35 PM, Karen Bureau, Secretary