

SILC BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 16, 2009

PRESENT:

Amy Ashdon
Joe Bellil
Eileen Brewster
Corinne Brinckerhoff
Judy Cowan
Sybil Feldman
Merle Ferber
Nanette Goodwin
Jackie Higgins
Steve Higgins
Brian Johnston
Keith Jones
Mike Kennedy
Betty J. King
Richard Leland
Carline Louizia
Shawn McDuff
Mary Margaret Moore
Roseanne Rash
Judi Rodger
Ann Ruder
Nancy Rumbolt-Trzcinski
Janet Shaw
Ann Shor
Brian Smith
Paul Spooner
Lorraine Teehan

STEVE HIGGINS: Good morning, everyone. We are going to officially begin in about five minutes-ish, hopefully a little faster than five minutes so if you have anything to take care of before that, please run. As far as housekeeping for those of you that haven't been to the Morse Institute before, there's restrooms located out our back door here to the right and the hallway to the right so

there's men's and ladies' rooms there. If there's anything else you require please let us know. If you require any assistance today, Mary Jane and Nancy are here, down by the back table there, and you guys know them from helping out at our meetings and the State IL conference and meetings before, so they're glad to give you a hand with a round of food, doing all other things. Some people are straggling in I've heard from that are going to be late, had other commitments this morning so we will be having more people come in throughout the day today as we go.

Also, if you require the services of interpreters, we do have two interpreters down in the back of the room right now. They are here, and if no one does request the interpreters, they're going to be free to go, a little before lunch or whatever they deem, because we did not receive any requests in advance, so if no one here needs the services of the interpreters, we want them to have their day also.

So we're going to begin officially, now we're down to three or four minutes. We'll be going from there so run if you have to.

(Brief recess)

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Hello. Can anybody hear me? Okay. It doesn't seem to be as loud as it normally is, but I have a big mouth, so I'll make up for it.

Good morning, everyone.

ATTENDEE: Good morning.

PAUL SPOONER: Good morning.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: I'm filling in for Karen Bureau our chair who is not going to be here so you're stuck listening to me, again.

PAUL SPOONER: Oh!

STEVE HIGGINS: Back after all these years.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: I know, just keeps turning up, doesn't go away. I'd like to welcome everybody this morning and Steve already did the basic housekeeping, you know where the bathrooms are and all of that and lunch will come about 12:30 or so.

STEVE HIGGINS: 12:00ish which usually means 12:30.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Until then we'll get going and start with introductions.

STEVE HIGGINS: Start to our right over in the corner.

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

JUDI RODGER: Judi Rodger.

JANET SHAW: Janet Shaw, Stavros.

BRIAN SMITH: Brian Smith, member of the SILC.

JOE BELLIL: Joe Bellil, member of the SILC.

MERLE FERBER: Merle Ferber, member of the SILC.

BRIAN JOHNSTONE: Brian Johnstone CLW.

MIKE KENNEDY: Mic Kennedy, chair of the nomination and development committee, CLW.

JACKIE HIGGINS: Jackie Higgins, MOD.

PAUL SPOONER: Paul Spooner, MetroWest Center for Independent Living.

NANETTE GOODWIN: Nanette Goodwin, Northeast Independent Living.

JUNE COWAN: Judy Cowan, Northeast Independent Living.

COREEN BRINCKERHOFF: Coreen Brinckerhoff, Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled.

ROSEANNE RASH: Roseanne Rash, board nominee.

EILEEN BREWSTER: Eileen Brewster, member of the SILC.

BETTY J. KING: Betty J. King, member of SILC.

RICHARD LELAND: Richard Leland with the Mass. Commission for the Blind.

LORRAINE TEEHAN: Lorraine Teehan, Mass. Commission for the Blind, last day of being on the SILC. I've been on it since its inception, so I think it probably is about time that someone else took over. Richard Leland is the interim appointment, so I hope you can be as patient with him as you were with me and thank you very much.

STEVE HIGGINS: And I'm Steve, for those that don't know me. We were going to wait until later to announce that, Lorraine, but seeing she already hit on that, this is officially Lorraine's last meeting with the state independent living council, and this coming Friday is one

of those very sweet days when you've been at a job for many years but she's retiring this Friday.

EILEEN BREWSTER: Congratulations.

STEVE HIGGINS: I think she's the only person in this room that actually has been on the SILC since it started.

LORRAINE TEEHAN: I was going to say I had a record.

STEVE HIGGINS: We could have called you one of those dinosaurs, something like that.

LORRAINE TEEHAN: I was afraid of that.

STEVE HIGGINS: So I think we should just give Lorraine a round of applause and thanks for all the years.

(APPLAUSE)

She's been involved with our State Plan for Independent Living committee and executive committee for the entire time so Larry will get thrown in feet first, starting this year. Richard, sorry. Richard, Larry -- someday as you can tell I'll remember names. I don't. All right, Nancy.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Some people will be straggling later because they have prior commitments so we'll get going.

First is the approval of September minutes. Do I hear a motion?

MERLE FERBER: Motion to accept the minutes.

JUDI RODGER: Second.

STEVE HIGGINS: Motion by Merle Ferber and second by Judi Rodger.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Any discussion on the minutes? Hearing none, all in favor?

All: Aye.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Opposed? Abstentions?

Okay, minutes are approved.

The next is the chair's report, Steve will give the report for Karen. Karen, we've spoken a lot in the past week but she called this morning and she was not able to be here this morning, running into some health issues and she asked if I could give her report on her behalf.

Since the annual meeting of the SILC, we've been busy with several things. One of the big things is if you all

remember, and Ann Shor is coming in, perfect timing, Ann may help out with some of this, if you remember back earlier this spring, Massachusetts received its compliance review from the Rehab Services Administration in Washington, D.C. Part of that review, they came in and they spent a week in our state, looking at the MRC side of the IL program, which included visits to the SILC office, and then they came back and they spent another week in the state looking at the rehabilitation program that serves blind residents in our state so MCB. After that process, they compiled what they called their initial finding report, and they sent that report back to the designated state units, which is their term for the organization that they work with, for them to compile a response, and in that time, the SILC has been considered an equal partner. MRC and the SILC began to work together to formulate the response to the sections of the report that require SILC input, as far as what was going to happen so there were five topics that came in that report that we needed to sit down, and what we did is, because there were time frames and time lines on when this report had to be completed and when it was sent back, there was an ad hoc committee that was formed by the executive, you know, appointed by Karen and the Executive Committee, that basic group consisted of Karen Bureau, Paul Spooner, Mary Margaret Moore, and myself, and Ann Shor, and Cindy Wentz also participated in the process and Corinne, were you on that? You were on another committee. Okay. What we do z is sat down as a group to formulate the SILC's response, which was included in the report, now I believe Ann, that's being sent to RSA, is it this week or last Friday?

ANN SHOR: I think it might have gone out yesterday.

STEVE HIGGINS: Okay, so the report, our response to RSA's initial finding went out yesterday, we believe, and so we were a piece of doing that. Now, the report itself was like a 30-page report that RSA sent out. We had a small section on the State Independent Living Program which is where we were. There were five topics that were raised in

that section that required SILC input, and the titles that Karen used in her report were basically the titles of how they were, one of them was the impact of eligibility certification for state IL services on service delivery, and we worked together with MRC to formulate a response on that one of the things included in the third piece of that, if there needs to be a change it will be proposed in the inclusion in the next State Plan for Independent Living. MRC would be meeting with the executive directors for the centers to determine their input, and putting that on the IL director's -- they meet regularly I believe it's the first Tuesday of each month so it would be on that agenda there. We will formulate a response, needs to be a change included is a piece of the next SPIL.

The next piece addressed by RSA, data collection and reporting state requirements were not what they saw to be up to speed. We were collecting data basically using our current system, which the centers call IDMs, and that was only recording it under four specific activities, four specific ways. In the 704 report, there's also other things, the data collection tool I guess the best way to say it, wasn't capable of putting that data in. So the response was is, you know, basically the database currently used by the CILs allows for the four core services to be reported out for inclusion in the 704 report. The generation of information on other individual services must be performed manually, so what the response was, is that I'm going off the top of my head on this one, because it wasn't written in Karen's report, and the response to RSA is a corrective action item, is that we would be investigating to see if the current database program could be modified to handle the request of reporting, and if it can't be, then we will begin the research and start looking at the necessary stuff we have to do to get a new database system to meet all of the reported, the requiring -- no, report requirements. There we go.

So we are looking at that piece of it. The third piece is listed as state requirements for SILC appointments and

composition, and what this piece they were looking at, a lot of states are getting the same thing, in Massachusetts, when our original executive order was written, the SILC was composed of 43 members, and those members are made up of folks from the centers, folks that are persons with disabilities, folks from our designated state units. And from day one, the SILC has never been fully appointed. So theoretically on paper we're a 43-member board but the SILC has never had 43 members all at the same time. So the suggestion from RSA was that we should consider looking at changing the composition of the SILC, and potentially seeking a new executive order to say that. So the response to that is that MRC will coordinate efforts with the SILC and seek assistance from EOHHS to obtain Governor's appointment of any new members, so we have a bunch of new members in the pipeline. You'll hear that in Mike's nomination report, but we also have more people pending reappointment, that we actually have people appointed right now, so again, you'll hear that as part of the nominations report.

The fourth piece involved the SPIL development in writing. One of our reviewers, we won't mention her name, because I don't think any of us had a lot of great feelings for this person, said that we were way too vague and said that our SPIL is way too vague and if she had seen our SPIL, she wouldn't have approved it, but seeing we had an approved SPIL, we're going to go with the approved SPIL. I got a funny feeling she'll have something to do with the next SPIL as far as approval goes. As a corrective action in that piece, one of the things that we're doing to address that is a big piece of SILC Congress this year, which is happening out in Summerland, Nevada, the first week of January is a national training on writing a State Plan for Independent Living but also part of this training, this is also going to be the stuff not to put in the State Plan for Independent Living and the stuff that RSA looks at to have in the State Plan for Independent Living. Myself and Mary Margaret Moore are attending that training, and I

don't know how much Jackie's going to listen to it, but Jackie's actually volunteering out in Nevada to help out at the conference, so she'll be there around, helping with all sorts of things that are happening, so I don't know how much she's going to be involved in that piece but she'll be there anyway.

So Mary Margaret and I will be attending. The materials that we receive at the national training we'll be bringing back and sharing materials with MRC, we'll be sharing them with MCB, and in the team that is going to be working to write the SPIL. So our goal is to really attend the two to three days of this training, take everything we can out of it, and bring back to Massachusetts, so that when we write the new SPIL, we don't run into any issues.

The final issue that they had brought up was -- actually, there were two more issues I apologize, use of funds made available to SILC and the Mass. SILC Resource Plan. RSA pointed out that the SILC's resource plan had to include a portion -- the resource plan could only include funds that were SILC statutory activities, so in other words, things like the State Independent Living Conference shouldn't have been in their interpretation, not necessarily in ours, but in their interpretation, shouldn't have been in the regular portion of the SILC budget. So as a corrective action, what was determined is that MRC will designate funds for carrying out SILC statutory duties separately from any other funds in the contract with MRC -- with the SILC's fiscal host, the new SPIL will separately describe the SILC's resource plan for carrying out SILC statutory duties and activities.

So basically, that doesn't say that we're still not going to have funds to do conferences and things like that. It just says that we have to record them in two separate ways, so that funds for regular meetings aren't mixed with funds for events like the event at the State House or the State IL Conference.

A lot of it comes down to annoying bean counting, I guess is the best way to put it.

The final issue, it's pretty ironic, because it's being addressed by Lorraine's retirement, would be term limits for SILC members. During their visit here, and during their visits across the country, RSA's interpretation has come back to pretty much every state in the past year that ex-officio DSU members also need to be appointed to the SILC and they will be held to the same term limits as SILC members. There's been an argument against that on the national SILC level. I'm not going to go into it right now, but what we've determined needs to be done here in Massachusetts is the SILC chair is going to reconstitute the SILC bylaws committee, and the reason for reinstating the bylaws committee is the bylaws define how our SILC is to be composed, how many members it's supposed to have, where they come from, and so the goal is that the bylaws committee is going to be reconstituted. We're going to ask for a couple people to volunteer on that today. We've already talked to Paul. We've already talked to Mary Margaret. We're going to talk, if I haven't all right talked, to Mike Kennedy, as a chair of the nominations and development committee. We need -- the bylaws committee on our SILC is only constituted as an active committee when needed, and so Karen would like to reconstitute the bylaws committee and the bylaws committee is going to be charged with developing recommendations on bylaws amendments regarding the term limits of ex-officio SILC members.

Now in doing that, it may also look at the issue of, is do we need to have seven ex-officio SILC members in Massachusetts? Meaning, you know, MRC, MCB, MCDHH, you know, go down the line, MOD, and you know, do we need to have all of these ex-officio members, or do we just need their participation and not necessarily have to have them appointed?

The Federal guidelines say we need to have one DSU representative, and there's a reason for looking at that because the guidelines also define how many members have to be on the SILC that not employed by a DSU or a designated state agency or unit, and not employed by a center for

independent living, and the majority of the appointees on the SILC needs to be more members than work at a center for independent living, or work for a state agency. So in determining that piece of it, looking at that piece in that question, while the committee addresses the issue of the appointments for the DSU members, it might also drop down in its recommendations the number of individuals that we need to have on the SILC. So the size of the SILC may shrink to a more reasonable number, while the bottom line is, what's that reasonable number? That's what's going to be discussed in the committee. In Massachusetts, we determine that we wanted each of the independent living centers to have a seat on the SILC. That's not the case nationally. And so we're going to look at that.

And so if the bylaws committee will report their changes and recommendations back to the SILC body in accordance with the process where such change is contained within the current bylaws, which means that they'll come back at the March meeting and present their findings. So between now and March the bylaws committee will work to formulate their suggestions. They will come back to the SILC at the March 18th meeting to present what their findings are. A vote cannot be taken by our current bylaws at the march meeting, because any changes to the bylaws need to be presented to the SILC body at the quarterly meeting before the vote is going to take place, to give everyone a chance to review that.

So they will present their recommendations and potential changes, whatever, at the March 18th meeting, and then it will be taken under advisement by SILC body and a vote will be taken at the June SILC meeting.

If the changes are accepted, they'll be incorporated into the bylaws and if they are accepted at the June meeting then a formal notification will be sent to all of the ex-officio members, and also we'll be sending this to the Governor's office because we've changed our bylaws, and we will be sending them backup documentation if we do determine that we need to go the route that RSA is

suggesting, that the backup documentation from RSA, saying that ex-officio members also need to be appointed.

So it's kind of a little bit of a long, drawn-out process, so we're going to officially reconvene the bylaws committee. Paul, Mike, Mary Margaret, I know are going to be a piece of that. I'll be a piece of it administratively, whatever's needed and we're going to constitute that committee and get that rolling from there.

That is Karen's report. That is everything that she sent to me in advance. Does anybody have any questions? Mike? Nancy is going to grab the mic and bring the mic to Mike. Drive the mic to Mike. Throw the mic to Mike. You know it's getting really confusing, giving the mic to Mike and Nancy is here at the table and Nancy over there.

MIKE KENNEDY: Question, Steve, the RSA report, can you mention again about what's their problem with the current reporting? What are they saying with regard to the reporting system?

STEVE HIGGINS: In the current reporting system, IDMS, basically all of our things are done as Mary Margaret talked about, they did the crosswalks of all of our service, all of the services that we provided were reported as a piece of the four core services, and so when we generate our reports, the data we're generating funnels into each of the four core services. There's a section in the 704 report that they also want to know how many people received the service of an example if you're moving somebody out of a nursing home, how many people received the service of INR, how many people received this service. The current program we have doesn't have the ability to break every single one of those down but we also haven't been collecting them. Paul will give a lot better description than I just did. Why don't you pass to Paul.

MIKE KENNEDY: Exactly.

[Switch of CART Provider]

PAUL SPOONER: I hate saying this but, Steve, no. No, you're wrong. The current program cannot collect this data. The reports developed for the 704 initially were modified to collect that data. The data is -- the 704

report is a God-awful report, first of all. It counts all kinds of strange things. So it asks you to report on the four core services, and then it really asks you how many people did you work with, or how many people requested and received things like housing assistance or transportation services. So it's really data already collected and entered into the system within the definition of the core services, the activities under each core service, like independent living skills training. Maybe you're doing goals that are focused on housing or transportation or ADLs, whatever. All of that can be pulled out, a report can be drafted, and we can have the numbers RSA wants. They'll need a new data system, but not for this particular request from RSA.

STEVE HIGGINS: That was much better than the way I did it, Paul.

PAUL SPOONER: Yeah? Did I say that out loud?

STEVE HIGGINS: No, that was quiet.

PAUL SPOONER: The mic was not off? Was it recorded up there?

Oh.

STEVE HIGGINS: All right. Are there any other questions on Karen's report?

All right, I'm going to pass it over to Nancy.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Okay. Do I hear a motion to accept the chair's report?

SYBIL FELDMAN: I make a motion.

STEVE HIGGINS: Motion by Sybil Feldman.

JUDI RODGER: I second it.

STEVE HIGGINS: Seconded by Judi Rodger.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: All in favor? Any opposed?

Abstentions? Okay.

Let's see. Okay. I see the braille agenda has not been modified to --

STEVE HIGGINS: And I see the other agenda wasn't modified.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: I have the new name of the Education Committee, am I correct, Paul? So that goes to Paul Spooner.

>> I thought it was under education and --

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Well, both words are in there.

PAUL SPOONER: Lets point out that, again, the agenda is wrong. It says advocacy. Let's all direct the SILC coordinator to fix that so that we're in compliance with calling an Advocacy Committee public education and information. Okay? Because we want to get the words right for this.

Anyways, it should be listed as Public Education and Information Committee, a euphemism for advocacy, which is a euphemism for other things.

Anyways, Advocacy Committee, a couple things: We've been having -- we do monthly calls, and there seems to be a trend of people not being in on the calls. So I've asked the chair if I can throw everybody off who hasn't shown up in two months. Because we have a requirement that all SILC members need to participate on committees, and if you're not going to do anything, at least do a monthly phone call, and then honestly we don't need you. You know, it's a phone call. It's to get involved. It's to be sure that we advocate. So I'm going to ask the chair, when I get a chance to talk to her, that we send out letters for everybody who has missed two calls, to throw them off, and to start with a core group of folks. We'll see what the chair says on that.

The reason I'm starting off with that is that, you know, the Advocacy Committee did meet, had a lengthy discussion about what is our agenda for

the following year, and, you know, all of us who are involved, who read the paper, see the news, hear about events and activities know that it's been a pretty dismal year for services. Fortunately, the Independent Living Centers didn't get a cut in their administrative funding, their operations funding, and we can thank MRC for not doing that, and thank Ann, and ask her to thank the Commissioner for not cutting us. But the Commissioner has also been telling the centers that, you know, the FY '11, which starts July 1st, budget is looking pretty scary, and scary means -- no one's sure what that means, but it's going to be very difficult to maintain the funding that we currently have.

Also, as we saw in October, the Governor came out and proposed 9C cuts for the MassHealth program, including podiatry, office visit costs, cutback in Day-Hab funding, Day-Hab rates, and the proposed cut to the PCA program. Luckily those MassHealth cuts for the time being have been rescinded because of some -- I don't know, sometimes I wonder how people count money, but apparently there was some mixup of counting money or reporting back money that the Feds didn't give the state, or somebody didn't give something, whatever, but we got the money back that was supposed to cover those services for the rest of this fiscal year. Hopefully. Doesn't mean that those cuts aren't going to pop up in March, depending on where the economy goes and so forth.

So, you know, as a result of that, the Advocacy Committee spent its last call basically trying to have a discussion about what our priorities are going to be, what are we going to work on, what are we going to focus on. It's clear that because we're still, we still have a state plan in front of us, and that we're in the third year of the plan, which runs through September 30th, 2010, there are marching orders for an advocacy agenda, which is pretty much straightforward. You know, it revolves around issues related to implementation of the Olmstead plan, which is a broad-based statement, and that would work on maintaining the current PCA program, and it would mean trying to maintain or get back cuts to the home care program, both at MRC and for elders. It would really focus on pretty much any kind of community service out there that enables people with disabilities of all types and ages to live independently in the community of their choice. It's really a broad swipe of things. It means that we will work with other entities to make sure that they have programs uncut, because that could have significant consequences to the population of people with disabilities that use those programs.

We're also talking about working with assistance, to develop Department of Transitional Assistance, and some of the proposed cuts that will affect individuals who collect SSI, who receive DTA resources or services because of the change being proposed by the state to count their income now somewhere -- see, I forget the figure, but a significant number of families with individuals with disabilities are going to be affected and potentially lose their DTA funding, which in a strange twist of fate, would mean they're losing DTA funding, and it would allow them to get more in food stamps, but at the same time, will affect them negatively on whether they're eligible for a housing subsidy.

So it's a complex web of services for a lot of people with disabilities, and so it's tough sometimes to figure out whether a cut is bad-bad, kind of good-bad, kind of good-kind of bad, and we don't know. It's complicated, and it's an interwoven web of services.

Nevertheless our state plan calls us to look at Olmstead implementation, and looks at areas regarding housing and I believe transportation. So, you know, what the Advocacy Committee has pretty much decided and proposed that we move forward on is following the goals that are outlined in our state plan. We will be involved with finding out what the budget's going to look like the next year, any kind of activities that are going to be done by various disability groups to help prevent further cuts to programs in the community; and obviously looking forward to our public education and information sharing day at the State House, and hopefully do a number of activities around that.

Obviously this is not a SILC view, this is a Paul Spooner view. Politics are strange bedfellows. I think in times of adversity we end up forming coalitions with a lot of different groups that we may or may not traditionally form with, and I think that's really going to be the issue we need to work on in the coming six months. Because a lot of people are going to be running across the spectrum, and so the SILC has an opportunity to be a collaborator/supporter with a number of coalitions that are forming out there. There's one coalition that was formed, and I hate they took the word, eco-first (phonetic), or Community First, but Human Service Provider Council, which are generally the larger Human Services agencies in the Commonwealth, and they formed a community that we're starting to get involved that is going to try to put forth a number of things about how the cuts to Human Services have been unusually large for poor people, elders, and people with disabilities, versus other segments of our community; that people are struggling across the board, regardless of whether we're talking about services with kids, adults, the elders, poor people, people with disabilities of all ages. It's just an incredible dilemma that everybody is facing significant cuts or reductions, and that's developed into some interesting coalitions.

Again, we're going to find ourselves in rather interesting company for that. So I think that's going to be, hopefully, a strengthening ability for us to overcome what we're going to be faced with.

Now what are we going to be faced with? Might as well get it out on the table now. I know the sooner you have bad news it's better to deal with. Regardless of what we all hear in the media, they've announced that the recession is over, everything's going to be hunky-dory, okay? I don't know about you, but I don't think that's the case. You know, I don't see that in my own back yard, and I don't see it in the neighborhood, and I don't see it in a lot of ways. Nevertheless, what does that mean for us? Well, the Governor has to put out his FY '11 budget by the third week of January I believe it is, okay?

Now, 2010, what's significant about 2010? It's an election year. Has anyone met a politician that wasn't more interested in getting reelected than doing the right thing? I haven't. Maybe I'm cynical. I believe what the Governor puts out in the House 1, and I think this year it's the House 2, because it's the second year of the budget saga, is probably going to be what the House and Senate passes, without a little tweaking on the edges. So by January we're going to know the bad numbers, unless something strange happens to increase tax revenues and bring the economy bouncing back.

Just a bit of economic theory: When you admit the recession is over, it usually takes 12-16 months before the unemployment rate jumps back. Technically we're not going to see an improvement. If the recession is over

today, we'll be in 2011, April 2011 we'll celebrate, yea, and that's kind of where we're at.

The bad news is coming. It's coming in January. I think the House and Senate are not going to have the political ability -- and I would have said other words but it's being printed there and so I won't, it's being recorded in the record, but I don't think they're going to have the political ability to either oppose the changes and developing new revenue, or deal with eliminating corporate tax write-offs, or any number of things that would help out the budget in a long-term basis. I just haven't ever seen it. If it happens, I will be the first one to admit I'm wrong everywhere publically and celebrate that fact, but, you know, I'm not an optimist when it comes to politicians. So I think by January we'll know what's going on, and at that point, at the March meeting, we will have a pretty good sense of where things are going to go, and have a strategy on how we're going to fight it.

One last thing to cover and then I'll stop, is that the PCA cuts, one of the things that a number of us in the PCA advocacy community have been talking about is that what we need to do is tighten up the awareness and the attention to the PCA program, how valuable it is, how important it is to individuals, what it means to everybody who uses it. So we will be shortly announcing and putting out what will be a comprehensive PCA website that will include videos, testimonials, facts, figures, you name it. It's an umbrella coalition between Stavros, Metrowest, BCIL, to rationalize the benefits of the PCA program.

One of the key components is we're going to try to do videos, so that consumers who use the program, who probably are the least able to get in to see their legislator, we'll have a place where we can point them to their legislator. For example, someone out in the Amherst area can go to the website and hear from consumers from his or her district to say don't cut the program because this is why, and this is what it means to my life. I think if we get some personal stories up there, we have a better shot at getting people to understand this is important. Hopefully we'll be rolling this out by the beginning of the year. We didn't want to pick a bad name like, you know, "stop cuts," and it's a 4-million-dollar program now, and growing by leaps and bounds, and it's an important part of our community services. It's the ability of people to get out of nursing homes, especially people with significant disabilities, and it's always been the cornerstone of the entire movement to begin with. Not all Independent Living Centers run a PCA program, but it is what binds us all together in many ways.

So that's just something that's going to be coming along the way. Look for it. There will be links off the SILC web page to it, and so forth. And if people have ideas, want to know what's up there, bring them forth.

I'll just give you one quick thing. I don't know if anyone's ever tried to find the regulations for the PCA program. Has anyone tried to find that?

>> Yes.

PAUL SPOONER: Have you been lucky to find them? God, I spent two hours the other day going through the state website system and could never find anything that stated "PCA regulations." I got lost in Medicaid regulations, but nothing that was specific to the PCA program. But they're there. So that's another thing that we want to ensure that we have a direct link to those types of documents. Because one of the ways to fight the PCA program cuts is to empower consumers to appeal, and your appeal rights are in the regulations. They're not very good at telling you your appeal rights when they send out the prior authorization request that denies

services. If you call Customer Service, I mean, got to love those folks, they work hard, but I'm not sure that they know what they're talking about half the time, and so that's part of our agenda, is try to be a collaborative resource to everybody.

So that's my report for now. Any questions? I'm done.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Any questions? Hearing no questions, can I hear a motion to accept Paul's report?

MIKE KENNEDY: Second.

BETTY J. KING: Second.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Any more discussion in hearing none, all in favor?

All: Aye.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. Thanks, Paul.

PAUL SPOONER: Thank you.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: The next report is the treasurer's report and that goes to Brian.

BRIAN SMITH: Thank you. Before I give my formal committee report, I want to -- I believe in full disclosure. When we were determining the role of a fiduciary, we found out in November, we found out we had a contract, we couldn't roll over \$700 so we lost that sum of money. The finance committee is discussing what's going to happen in 2010. Pretty much I wanted to give you a rundown of how this SILC contract goes and how we see our monies.

Each year we all know we approve the starting base budget at our annual meeting in September. The contract is issued and spread across both the state fiscal year and the Federal fiscal year, a series of amendments. Now, the money comes to the SILC through a series of amendments during the year. We base our budget on the federal fiscal year so when the year starts out, we get an allotment of funds, State IL funds from MRC, which typically carries us through December. During late November, early December, the state receives its first allotment of federal Part B money. Typically MRC amends their entirety commitment for the year in late December to continue the operations on the SILC, through early summer. During March the Federal government typically releases the final allotment of Part B

money. Now MCB typically generates an ISA, which is an interagency fund transfer of their commitment involved with the SILC contract to MRC, who in turn amends this additional Part B money into the SILC contract. Now, like I said, during November each year, the SILC rollover from FY '09 to FY '10 is also determined. We also received amendments for this year's ARRA funds, and of course the State IL Conference, hopefully it happens. So as you can see, it's a pretty confusing as how the monthly billings are applied by MRC to make sure no money's lost.

Some monies can be rolled over from year to year and some must be extended during the year intended so a lot of bookkeeping and accounting is involved, so we just wanted to let you know that during what we determine the rollover this year, it was found out that late June, the end of June, which is the end of the state fiscal year, there was \$400 that we couldn't recoup and roll over. Now, this probably happened because every so often, we have to redo our contract with our fiscal intermediaries, which is the MetroWest Center for Independent Living. It wasn't caught, so now the finance committee is trying to determine a way that it won't happen again, and it's my understanding now, first it allows me to thank everyone involved in the finance committee for all their hard work and involvement in the committee, and so I just want to let you know, that we'll know more about it three months from now, the next quarterly meeting. I just wanted to put that on the plate, okay, so Paul, yes, your question?

PAUL SPOONER: Yeah, I'd like to you clarify what you just said, because it sounded like Metro West caused the error, and it was not Metro West that caused the error.

BRIAN SMITH: No. I certainly will clarify what I said. Metro West did not cause the error.

PAUL SPOONER: Thank you.

BRIAN SMITH: The problem and we're discussing ways so it won't happen again, \$400, which is a large sum of money that we lost, but it also -- the problem is not just that. It's that the fiscal intermediary has a UFR they have to do

every year, uniform financial report. Now, the 400 bucks they could look as if they overbilled that. We're going to hopefully right it out, we're working it out. It was my understanding talking to Steve we might recoup that money but we'll work it out.

But no, it was not the bookkeeping error at MRC. The problem is with now MRC, you know, had a problem in determining when allotting that money. I hate to say it, but no, it was no problem on our part in our bookkeeping, to clarify that, all right?

PAUL SPOONER: Okay.

BRIAN SMITH: So we're working out discussing a way that it won't happen again, okay?

Now the SILC finance committee report, December 16th, 2010.

The SILC finance committee has been meeting regularly. Due to availability of committee members, the committee has changed its meeting dates to the third Tuesday of each month, and via teleconference call. During the September meeting the SILC body was presented and approved the starting project of \$155,731 for FY2010. Since the September meeting it was determined there would be a rollover of \$12,569.18 from the FFY 2009 to the FFY 2010 budget, and then the SILC would be receiving \$17,853 in ARRA funding. This brings the total SILC budget for the year to \$186,153.18. The chart below indicates how funds have been allocated to our updated budget. And you all have that as handouts.

First column would be categories, line items, consultants all the way down to donations. The second column is FFY 2010 original budget of \$155,731. The third column is the FFY 2009 rollover of \$12,569.18. The fourth column shows the ARRA funds we're going to receive of \$17,853, and last column shows the actual budget, current actual budget from \$186,153.15. Highlights include the following. From the FFY '09 rollover \$3,000 allocated to the State IL Conference line item. The reason for this was to be able to receive the space for the 2010 State

Independent Living Conference. The SILC coordinated along with Paul Spooner -- excuse me, Mr. Paul Spooner for fiscal intermediary Metro West center independent living were able to negotiate a deposit of \$2,000 with the conference center for the 2010 conference. Should the conference not be held in 2010 due to lack of funding, the deposit will be carried for one year to 2011. Should the conference have to be canceled, at that point, the SILC would be liable for an additional \$1,850 to the conference center. The original contract and \$18,000 binding clause in which we would have been made and possible to even consider reserving the space for 2010, based on the current fiscal climate and state.

Now traditionally funding for the State IL Conference is sought early in February, with a request to MRC. Should we receive this funding, it will be applied appropriately to the budget.

\$4,000 is applied to the special events line item for like the April 22nd event at the State House and the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the ADA in July. The remainder of the rollover was applied to line items based on actual expenses from last year that typically have cost more than originally budgeted. From the ARRA funds, \$5,000 has been applied for the updating of the SILC's computers and software which are now over five years old. The remainder of the ARRA funds will apply across several line items that have to do with covering the cost of the public hearings and development of the 2011-2013 State Plan for Independent Living.

A cash flow budget has been developed projecting our spending for the entire year. We are projecting to spend \$38,879.21 in quarter one. Large expenses this quarter are today's meeting and the SILC travel.

Second quarter, \$53,066.57, large expenses this quarter include our public hearings for this the SPIL development statewide and purchase of new hardware and software for the SILC office.

Third quarter, \$48,587.03, large expenses this quarter include the annual education event at the State House, and

the finishing up of the SPIL.

Fourth quarter, \$50,620.37, large expenses during this include the 20th anniversary of the ADA, NCIL conference travel and the annual meeting. Respectfully submitted by yours truly, Brian Smith. SILC Treasurer. Any questions?

MERLE FERBER: I have a question.

BRIAN SMITH: Surely.

MERLE FERBER: What happens if the conference, if they're not able to provide the conference? What do we get besides our \$2,000 back?

BRIAN SMITH: We don't get the \$2,000 back. We're holding that -- we gave a deposit of \$2,000, so we could hold it, in case we do have the conference. We're hoping to have that conference.

MERLE FERBER: Right, but what if they can't provide the conference?

BRIAN SMITH: If they cannot provide the conference, they hold it over for one more year and if we can't have the conference then we'll be responsible for \$1,850 to give them. Okay?

MERLE FERBER: Yep.

BRIAN SMITH: Any other questions?

MERLE FERBER: I would like to make a motion to accept your report.

STEVE HIGGINS: There's another question. Mary Margaret had a question.

MERLE FERBER: Questions can go after the motion, too.

MARY MARGARET: Hi. I have two questions. One is I guess I direct it to you, Ann, would you suggest, Ann that we request earlier than February, money from MRC, based on what you know is going on, and my second -- so think about it, or not, and my second question is, are we thinking about any strategies to try and raise money to do the conference or from anybody else?

ANN SHOR: In terms of requesting the conference funds, I don't think there's really any advantage to asking for the funds earlier, because we're not necessarily going to know what kind of, you know, how much funding we're going to

have available. So I would say February/March is probably a better time and actually this last year, it was sort of further along than that before we really had a pretty good sense of how much we could afford to come up with. So I would say February is fine.

Just as a quick update, if I can, in terms of the issue with the rollover that was an issue at Mass Rehab, and there are a number of different lines in the contract and typically the lines that cannot roll over get billed first and there was one invoice that came through that should have been billed against one of those lines, and wasn't, and as a result, we got to the end of the year with this bit of money left and it could not be rolled over, so we set up a system in the office in a schedule to review the contract more frequently and make sure that doesn't happen again.

And also, just so that you know I am currently waiting to get the codes so I can put -- as soon as I get those codes from our fiscal people I'll be able to do the amendment to get the ARRA funds put in the contract, as well as the rollover funds, as well as at least some of the Part B funds.

STEVE HIGGINS: You want to return to the second ghe.

MARY MARGARET: If you don't mind, Mr. Steve.

STEVE HIGGINS: The second question that Mary Margaret asked, had we investigated looking at other funds or considered that and the answer at this point, we have not done that as of yet, and we're waiting to determine where we're going to be so honestly we haven't although traditionally, we do receive other funds through sponsorships towards the conference each year. The funding that we receive from MRC and we're grateful for it, but in no means does that cover all the costs of the conference, so once we've determined whether or not we're going to receive our largest amount of funding, then we'll consider looking at what we need to do from there.

MARY MARGARET: Thank you.

KEITH JONES: Can I make a suggestion? This has been --

sorry. Yeah, I love the mic. This is one of the ongoing problems every year, there's a fiscal crisis and this is the same suggestion I made several years ago to the MRC conference planning committee, every conference has a major sponsor, so to be proactive and with the development committee it should be a long-term goal to think about how -- I don't know how that fits under the charter but to think about having major sponsorships and starting earlier, Bank of America, whoever, Chambers of Commerce, because ultimately the goal for the SILC is to make people independent and to get them integrated into the community, but if the community at large doesn't sponsor our events they won't know us, so I would suggest that it doesn't have to be an afterthought, that it should be a forethought prior to planning any kind of events, where can we get outside sponsorships other than waiting for state agencies, because what happens is we get caught, you catch fish early, you get people -- the earlier you ask, the better you have the chance of getting money. The later you ask, the worse chance you get, so I just would put that out there, that even if it starts later if for some reason the conference should be canceled now you start looking forward and asking all of those people that we have relationships with, do you want to be a sponsor, and have a multi-tiered sponsorship level, that way people don't think you're coming in over \$10,000, they could do \$2,000, \$5,000, \$10,000. Everybody likes to have their name in lights. I think that is an ongoing recommendation.

STEVE HIGGINS: Um-hum. One of the challenges we run into, Keith, is the SILC is a non-entity, so in order -- if we were going to consider doing a large fund-raising campaign, we're permitted -- we're not really allowed to do fund-raising, that's the bottom line, is we're not allowed to do it, and then even if we were going to do anything, it would have to be coordinated through our fiscal intermediary and that would have to be done in their contract because the money that it cost them to do that needs to be there, so we're kind of -- regulations prohibit

us from doing a lot of things the way that you may traditionally think of it.

KEITH JONES: They also allow to you do a lot of things because if you don't exist, you never did it.

STEVE HIGGINS: Yep.

MARY MARGARET: I just suggest, and in my role as chair of the State Plan for Independent Living Committee we need to make sure when doing our next State Plan that we put in that plan, the conference as an outcome and with the funding for MRC be put in it, and I urge any of you to come to the hearings to think about putting that in as a suggestion. If we have it in the State Plan, perhaps it would be easier as a government -- a Governor-appointed body that that get built into the MRC budgets as well. Just a thought.

STEVE HIGGINS: Paul had raised his hand.

PAUL SPOONER: I'll go back to the RSA review and the review clearly states that under the outlined responsibilities of the SILC, that's in Federal regulations, putting on the conference is not one of them, and that is N fact, one of the areas we have to look at very carefully when we're developing this, for a better word, two-track budget, one of the essential functions of the SILC and then a second track of other things which then ends up being the responsibility of the fiscal intermediary. Great ideas. I'd like too to see more people involved on doing the work of the ideas, too, but recognize the SILC does as a result of the RSA review have some very significant limitations that it's got to figure out how to do in the coming year, including you know, our advocacy or public education events, and our celebration events and the conference, all of those events raise some serious how we're going to enable it, I guess, for a better word.

STEVE HIGGINS: Mary Margaret?

MARY MARGARET: And I think we can find a path to do these things as we write the next SPIL, and I'm working on my analysis of that for you all, and when I do my report,

you'll get a flavor, but I really can't urge all of you enough to become familiar with our current SPIL, and the corrective action plan from the RSA compliance review, and Ann, is that going to be up on the MRC web page soon, the compliance review?

ANN SHOR: I don't know. We haven't talked about that. So I will find out. It's certainly -- I would be glad to share it with anybody.

PAUL SPOONER: It's already on RSA's website.

STEVE HIGGINS: It's already on the RSA.

MARY MARGARET: Having a link from that to the MRC page, making it easy for people who want to find it, and we may consider having a link from our page to that as well, so folks can see that report if they choose to, and I urge you to do that. That's all.

STEVE HIGGINS: Hey, Merle, did you want to make that motion?

MERLE FERBER: Yes. Thank you. I make a motion to accept the finance committee's report.

JUDI RODGER: Second.

SYBIL FELDMAN: Aye.

STEVE HIGGINS: Sybil, where you seconded before Judi was? I saw that and trying to figure out who it was. So the motion by Merle Ferber, the second by Sybil Feldman. Okay.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Got it. All right. Is there any more discussion? No, okay, hearing none, all in favor?

All: Aye.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Opposed? Abstentions? Thank you.

And thank you, Brian, for your report. It's 12:20, you want to do lunch and then the nominations?

STEVE HIGGINS: Sure, we can do that. Ask the body.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Is everybody hungry or would you like to go through the nominations report before lunch?

MERLE FERBER: Do the nominations.

JACKIE HIGGINS: Let's keep going.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Sorry, Mike, you can't eat. Next is the nominations report, and that goes to Mike Kennedy.

MIKE KENNEDY: All right, thank you, Nancy. All right. I am Mike Kennedy, this is the SILC nominations and development committee report. Let me start with Robbie Goldberg, CIL's one-time contact is the office is no longer there, it has been replaced. The SILC has received a request from the new staff, the Governor's office for updated bios and resumes of all SILC members and nominees. This request has been made to all the boards and councils throughout the Commonwealth in order for them to maintain up-to-date files for all our appointees. So that being said, please send your bios and resumes to the SILC office by Tuesday, December 15th, or as soon as you can thereafter, in order to not delay your appointment or reappointment. If you require assistance in writing your bio, please feel free to contact Steve Higgins, and once these new bios and resumes are shared with the Governor's office on appointments, do not be surprised if you receive a new background check because it will develop from them. Policies have changed and now they're requesting this more frequently.

And so like I said any questions like that, you talk to me and Steve, but get those in to Steve as soon as you can.

Steve, in his report earlier during the chair's report told us about Lorraine, this being her last meeting, thank you, Lorraine, for the time you spent on the SILC as the MCB designee.

(APPLAUSE)

And the nominations and development committee has sent a letter to Commissioner Janet LaBreck to ask her to consider designating another staff member to fill her vacancy in a timely manner.

As Steve mentioned previously, during the chair's report, there's -- we are going to -- well, Karen will discuss the reconvening of the SILC bylaws committee and to recommend, discuss the possible changing of the SILC composition. Steve has pointed out that quite eloquently previously and I will go on record saying that I'd be more than happy to serve on this bylaws committee. Not only

that, if you would like I'd be willing to chair it.

(APPLAUSE)

Thank you.

STEVE HIGGINS: Thank you.

MIKE KENNEDY: You know, currently the SILC representation as of 12/7/09 is this -- members appointed, four. Members pending reappointment, which is members pending reappointment still allowed to vote, and to serve fully, and to serve as if fully while pending 14 nominees, ten, six consumer, four center related. We have several DSU reps, total of 35. We need at least eight more nominees in federal fiscal year 2010 to reach 40/30 and two centers without representation and beyond that in the report there's the, oh, the breakdown of new representation by DSUs, by ILCs, and consumers. So that's respectfully submitted, Mike Kennedy, chair of the Nominations and Development Committee.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Any questions for Mike?

STEVE HIGGINS: Mary Margaret had a question.

MARY MARGARET: Of course.

MIKE KENNEDY: Mary Margaret, you had a question?

MARY MARGARET: I just wanted to say two things, one, Lorraine, thanks for being on the SPIL committee, and making sure that we got from MCB the 704 information and helping with the SPIL, and for all the years that you've been coming and representing MCB, I just want to really say thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

So that was my only point.

LORRAINE TEEHAN: I just want to say one thing.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Lorraine?

LORRAINE TEEHAN: Yes. I just wanted to say thank you to everyone, and also to my left is sitting Richard Leland, who is going to be, I know a letter has gone out to Janet, but my interim replacement to be on the executive committee and State Plan Committee and attend the SILC meetings, so I hope everybody can introduce themselves to him, and make him welcome to this body. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Okay, and now Steve has a few things to say.

STEVE HIGGINS: I just wanted to bring up one thing before we close out Mike's report, and one of the people that their term's expired on the SILC is not, was not eligible for reappointment, and I'd just like to recommend that we as a SILC send a thank you letter to Joe Tringali for serving out two and a half full terms on the SILC, and he did that well, and Stavros's new designee for reappointment as many of you already know is Janet Shaw, that's been in the works for awhile and Janet's been attending meetings but now that Joe is officially as of November 29th, his term expired, then Janet will be serving as soon as the paperwork's official.

(APPLAUSE)

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Can I hear a motion to accept Mike's report?

SYBIL FELDMAN: Motion.

JUDI RODGER: Second.

STEVE HIGGINS: Dueling people.

MERLE FERBER: Just trying to move things along.

STEVE HIGGINS: Sybil then Judi so Sybil made the motion, Judi made the second.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Are you keeping score?

STEVE HIGGINS: I'm not, really.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: I hear a motion and a second. Any more discussion? Hearing none, all in favor?

All: Aye.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. Thank you. And according to the agenda it's now a break for lunch and how long for that?

STEVE HIGGINS: We'll be back at 1:30.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: We'll reconvene at 1:30. Thanks.

(Lunch recess)

STEVE HIGGINS: Hello, everyone. We just want to give the -- you know, in the football world, they give a two-minute warning. In the IL world we give a five-minute warning. So we've got, call it a five-minutes-ish warning that we'll get back into session and move into your Independent

Living report. If you want to take care of anything, do it quickly, and we'll get going in somewhere between two and five minutes, and go from there.

(Break).

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Hello, everybody. We're going to get back into session. Thanks, everyone. I hope everyone is full and happy.

Next on our agenda is the State Plan Committee report, and that will go to Mary Margaret.

STEVE HIGGINS: I wanted to recognize a couple people so we have them in the CART transcript. Ann Ruder, and Carline Louizia, and Amy Ashton, a SILC member, who had an appointment this morning, and I believe that's everybody who came in after introductions. So I wanted to make sure we had everybody.

MARY MARGARET MOORE: And me.

STEVE HIGGINS: And this lady in the corner, that's Mary Margaret Moore.

I've done a dangerous thing for the State Plan Committee report. I've surrendered the clicker. Mary Margaret --

MARY MARGARET MOORE: A man without a remote. Scary.

(LAUGHTER).

STEVE HIGGINS: Here you go, Mary Margaret.

MARY MARGARET MOORE: Thank you, Steve. I don't know how to use it.

(LAUGHTER).

STEVE HIGGINS: I'll take it back then (laughing).

MARY MARGARET MOORE: The fonts are too little. Oh.

Thank you all for giving me this time on the agenda to talk about the State Plan Committee. We've been meeting rigorously, but casually, and with a lot of fun and focus. How's that, fun and focus committee?

We meet monthly on the second Friday of the month by teleconference usually, and it's usually at 10 a.m. Sometimes we change the time and the day, but we let everybody know.

And I wanted to acknowledge the members of the committee. I get to be the chair. Paul Spooner is on it. Winnie McGraw, Joe Bellil, and Corine from the outer Cape, down there, and Lorraine -- soon to be Richard is going to be on the committee, and Lorraine has done a lot of work on the committee over the years, representing the Mass Commission For the Blind. And Ann Shor, and if she's unable to be here, Cindi Wentz; and Karen Bureau, and Nancy has kept on in the committee, even though she's no longer our chair, and I thank you, Nancy. And Jim Tierney from BCIL. I acknowledge to you all, if you want to be on that committee, please let us know. Probably easiest to e-mail or to call Steve, and Steve will get you on the Listserv. How's that?

State Plan Committee is the crux of the, well, the core responsibilities of the state-wide Independent Living Council, and we've done it on an overhead for you. What is the State Plan? We're preparing for the new State Plan which will go from 2011 to 2013, and that will start, hopefully if we get it all done and approved, October 1st in 2010; for the federal fiscal year, 2011. I know that's confusing. Remember, the fiscal year is for the end of the year, okay? Got it?

Every three years states are required to submit a State Plan For Independent Living, or commonly referred to as **SPIL**, S-P-I-L, and this is required by the Department of Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Development of the plan takes place throughout the final year of the current SPIL, with a final plan due in Washington for this new one by July 1st, 2010 in order to continue to receive federal funds as of the following October 1st. Does that make sense? Okay?

Steve, next.

The purpose of the State Plan is to describe how the state's network of independent living programs and services will meet the independent living needs of persons with disabilities in the state for the next three years. So that's why it's a three-year plan. We're finishing up the amended plan that we did last spring to cope with the ARRA money, and that will end September 30th, 2010. Got it?

The plan must address how federal, state and other funds will be used within the state to develop and maintain an IL, independent living program.

Next, Steve.

Under the reauthorized Rehabilitation Act amendments the State Plan For Independent Living is to be jointly developed by -- ready -- the state-wide Independent Living Council, and that's this body, the Designated State Unit, also known here as DSU, and that's Designated State Unit; the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission; the VR agency, that's Designated State Unit for all the Title I for basic rehabilitation services for the blind, and for us at the Massachusetts Commission For the Blind. So those are the three groups, three parties, three entities that must develop the plan.

Anybody have any question? Thank you. Steve?

The specific format for the State Plan is provided by RSA, that's the Department of Education/Rehabilitation Services Administration, to the chair of the state-wide Independent Living Council and to the directors of state vocational rehabilitation and blind services agencies. That's what's -- that's what the Feds have decided, that's who gets the format for the plan. We don't design it, and it's -- we can't change the format. Okay?

The SILC and state agencies must develop the State Plan as equal partners and submit it along with any required information on the RSA "Preprint plan form" by a certain date. So the Feds are up there designing the format, they send it to us, and we have to fill it out. More than fill it out, we have to design it to meet their requirements.

The next major deadline for State Plan submission to RSA is, as I said before, is July 1, 2010 for federal fiscal year 2011-2013.

The Federal Government gives each state a certain amount of funding out of Title VII, Part B, their designations, not ours, based upon the percentage of population. If you know of anybody who is thinking of moving out of the state, convince them to stay here, because we need the population. We're losing it, and then we get less money, got it?

(LAUGHTER).

I mean that. Our share of Title VII, Part B money goes down as the population goes down. But if you know anybody in other states, then get them to move here. That's our only hope to get more money and not get less. Got it?

Determination of how the Title VII funds will be spent in each state will be made jointly by the SILC, the public VR agencies, and the Blind Services agency.

Over and over again I'm going to say it: It's a three-way agreement. Okay? It's extremely important that SILC be thoroughly knowledgeable about the process of Title VII, Part B funding requirement of the State Plan

and the state status toward the network of independent living in order to be effective planners for the Part B funding. Remember we talked about the link? We need to make sure that folks are reading, reading the current State Plan which is on the www.masilc.org page, as well as we'll get the links as to what their requirements are.

I want you to know, this is not fictional reading, and if you're looking for that, this is not it. This is the reading where you're going to use your accessibility feature on your computer to blow it up, because the fonts are real little, and they use lots of language that we don't use every day perhaps, and they have numbering systems like Part B's, and Section A and blah, blah, blah. Got it? Put that hat on and say "That's what I'm reading about," all right?

Just as an overview, Steve did a great job pulling this together for us. The specific requirements of the State Plan include first a listing of specific objectives and timelines. We've always been semi-loosey-goosey on that in our state plans, but -- at least that's the interpretation I think that RSA had when they came to do the compliance review. For us, we did it, we did broad-stroked objectives and target timelines because that's how we view system change, setting a goal and trying to get it to occur. They want this State Plan to be much more specific in terms of objectives and timelines. Got it?

An explanation of how the objectives are consistent with and further the purpose of Title VII, that's under the Rehabilitation Act amendment there, and VII is the numbering, and a description of how Title VII services are coordinated with or complement other federal, state or locally-funded services to people with disabilities. So they say, lay out what you're going to do and how you're going to do it and when you're going to do it to get there; tell us -- go back, Steve -- tell us how it's going to relate to furthering the purposes of Title VII; as well as, how it's going to be able to support, integrate, be coherent in light of the other things that are going on within the federal, state and local funding services to people with disabilities regarding Title VII services. That's pretty broad, but it means we have to do a lot of writing and, you know, analysis. Okay?

Any question on what any of that means? Good. Thank you, Steve.

Then we have to make sure we have a description of how federal, state and local funding for SILs and Independent Living Services will be coordinated. Big -- the big buzz these days is better coordination. They finally understood that through coordination we can use the resources better, okay? So we need to show that in this plan.

We also need a description of how outreach to underserved, undisturbed minority groups, urban populations and rural populations have been conducted. So as you're doing things locally, across your SIL region, we'll be asking you for information to put in the plan on that.

Now, MRC's going to have to be putting in information on what they're doing and how that's factoring in, as well as -- excuse me -- MCB. Good that you're here today. Thank you. And a description of how individuals are receiving assistance under Title VII will be notified of the Client Assistance Program. Everybody here know about the Client Assistance Program? It's at Mass Office of Disability for people to call as they have concerns, questions, they think services are not meeting their needs, need to make sure what their rights are. That's what Mass Office of Disabilities Client Assistance Program is about, how we link with that. Is anybody here

from MOD? Hello. You can help us with that piece perhaps. Does that make sense?

JACKIE HIGGINS: It does make sense.

MARY MARGARET MOORE: Awesome. What's your name?

JACKIE HIGGINS: I'm Jackie.

MARY MARGARET MOORE: And a description of affirmative action that we take to employ qualified individuals with disabilities. So both MRC and MCD really have their programs in place for employment with people with disabilities, and we need to show how it's linked in with everybody else as part of this plan. Does it make sense?

We need a description of fiscal control and accounting procedures that will be used. So, you know, the SILC financial procedures, as well as the role of the fiduciary, as well as the payments and the MRC system for paying the bills, as well as the transfer of money from Mass Commission For the Blind to Mass Rehab Commission, and then through our fiduciary to the SILC, as well as when the money comes from the Feds into the Commonwealth, and how that gets to the right places, at MRC, MCB, all that needs to be fully described. As well as the practices of how we're using those procedures. Make sense? A description of how records will be kept if Independent Living Services are to be provided to individuals out of the SILC budget, especially -- as well as within the State Plan, especially the amount and disposition of funds to an individual recipient, total cost of the project, and amount of costs of the project funded with other sources.

Steve, this is specifically for Title VII, B, and the way we've done it in our state, which you may or may not be familiar with is, we're allowed to have -- oh, we put in the State Plan that a certain amount of Title VII be dollars that come to the centers for independent living, to be used for particular, what we call, client expenses or consumer services, and that's very much described in the plan. I know that that's -- we need to just be very clear about that. We have limits on how much can be used for home modification, identifying it, and limits in terms of how much can be used for, I think it's, adaptive equipment, how much can be used for other emergencies, means for folks moving out of nursing homes, or whatever, and we need to describe that.

We also need a description of how the public hearings will be held during the formulation and review of the plan, and we'll go into our strategy for that in a later slide; and a description of how the plan's effectiveness will be evaluated based both on achievement of objectives and extent of satisfaction of individuals with disabilities.

If you were at the SILC meeting in September, right after the SILC conference, SILC-IL conference, you know that the State Plan Committee gave a report. Well, that's how we're assessing it here. The SILC committee, through me, has done that every year. That's part of our assessing our achievements and objectives, as well as the satisfaction of individuals with disabilities. The SILC, along with the Mass Rehab Commission, Mass Commission For the Blind, as well as other state agencies, particularly Mass Commission For the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, they developed years ago a consumer satisfaction survey that the centers put out, and, in fact, that's coming out again this winter to get a sense of, from our consumers, are they satisfied. It's a standard tool. So that's what we have for those mechanisms. And we'll be describing that, as well as what is said. Any questions?

In Massachusetts we're going to begin the process of receiving input in writing, and you can do it, you know, orally or by e-mail, and we'll have that all ready to go in January 2010, and we're going to have a series of meetings and public hearings. This is the process we're going to use.

Persons requesting alternate format, i.e., braille, large print, audio, electronic medium, must do so no later than a week prior to any meeting. That make sense?

The schedule's going to be, da, da, and we're going to get input on January 21st, 2010 -- can you believe we're saying 2010? And SILC's going to meet with all the executive directors of the Massachusetts 11 Independent Living Centers to get their ideas and input, and we're going to meet at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Center in Marlborough. Since I'm chair of the SPIL Committee, we've arranged so I can put on my executive director hat for that. Karen Bureau, SILC chair, along with Steve, our SILC coordinator, they're going to chair that meeting, okay? So I can speak out (laughing). But I'll be in a -- you know, I'm trying to wear two hats and musing it up.

This is going to be followed by a series of three public hearings across the state. The first one we're going to have on January 27th, 2010 out at Ad-lib Center For Independent Living. For the folks who want to go, it is 215 North Street in Pittsfield. And we found that's been successful. The last time we did the current State Plan when it was first developed pre-amendment (see slide), I think we had 45-50 people at the meeting, and Ad-lib was a wonderful host for us, and it gave people an opportunity to be identified. It's out in the Berkshires, and so bring your skis and snow boots and hats and everything. It's going to be nice.

The second one, it will be on February 3rd, 2010 at the Worcester Public Library. That's at 3 Salem Square in Worcester. We've had hearings on our other SPILs there as well. So those folks in Central Mass, it's an option for you to get there.

I know -- I know that CLW will be right there, you know, making sure that everything's going smoothly. Right, Ann?

ANN SHOR: You got it.

MARY MARGARET MOORE: Okay, helping -- quasi helping us host this. February 3rd, mark that on your to-be-done in 2010 calendar.

Then we'll have a third hearing on March 18th, and that's the day after St. Patrick's Day, for most of you, and so calm down on your St. Patrick's day celebration so you can come to the SILC's meeting.

STEVE HIGGINS: We won't have corn beef and cabbage.

MARY MARGARET MOORE: We already had it, and we don't want to see it again, if you choose it, and it's going to be right after the SILC meeting here. Does that make sense?

Interpreters and CART have already been requested for each of the public hearings. Okay?

Next.

Written testimony will be accepted until March 25th. That's all you -- I mean, we have to close it off because if we are going to get it all written we need to know the input. You can do it either by US mail to the SILC office, 280 Irving Street, Framingham, Mass 01702, or you can send it via e-mail to our SILC coordinator steveh@masilc.org, or an input form being developed that we're putting on the SILC website. What do you think of that, multiple ways to get input on those items.

Throughout the entire public input period the SILC State Plan For Independent Living committee will be meeting regularly to review the input and formulate the draft of our plan. Now remember, on the committee there are members, some that are SILC members, some that are, you know, interested parties, people with disabilities, you know, right there, and some that happen to also be executive directors of ILCs or some staff of an IL, or SILC -- I call them ILCs; as well as Mass Rehab Commission, our other partner, and our third partner, Mass Commission For the Blind. So things kind of get embedded in that SILC committee, and so that you understand the structure, okay? That's what it says. The SPIL Committee is composed of members of the SILC center, MRC and MCB, and as well as interested parties. I think of Joe, and you are a SILC member, but you're also an interested party, right?

All members of the committee are able to give input for inclusion in the final draft document. Okay?

STEVE HIGGINS: That's important.

MARY MARGARET MOORE: Any question about any of this or the prior slide? Did I go too fast? Okay.

The final draft of the **SPIL** will be presented to the SILC body for review in May. Real important that you be at the May meeting. We'll try and get out --

STEVE HIGGINS: It's presented via mail in May --

MARY MARGARET MOORE: Well, for review -- yeah, we'll get it to you all, either through a web link, or if you need it, in an alternate format. Let us know so that we can get you the draft that comes out of the SPIL Committee that's taking all the input and trying to put it into a draft, okay? And then we'll put it up on the web page. Got it?

Again, it's going to look funny because it's in that preprint and ar, ar, ar; and we might do a synopsis, and members of the SILC will vote on acceptance of the final draft at the June 2010 quarterly meeting of SILC. If you're planning a vacation, be sure you're not doing it over the 24th. I mean that. This is very important stuff. Please.

Upon acceptance of the **SPIL** the SILC chair and Commissioner of MRC and Commissioner of MCB will sign the drafts for submission to the Rehab Services Administration, RSA, in Washington. If we can, we're going to see if we can have, if it's possible, their schedules, both Commissioners at that SILC meeting in June, the way we did the amendment in September. So we have to get everything, all the bugs worked out, the agreement and the consensus and the positions, and the da, da, da. Got it? Does that make sense to you all? They can sign it after you guys approve it.

Final draft and all supporting documentation will be assembled in the required format for submission and approval. As I said, we might lift out things and put it in English, for the non-bureaucratees, and say we changed X to Y and it's in section blah, blah, and we'll put it in the right format, because they'll bounce it out if it's not in their format. Got it?

All of that will be sent no later than June 30th. Very small window there. RSA will review the **SPIL** and notify the SILC chairperson and Commissioners of acceptance or any required changes within 30 days of submission. Ha! We'll see if they do that. We'll hold their feet to the fire on the turnaround on their end. Right?

Does that give you an overview of what we're talking about? And that's one of the core functions of the SILC is the development of the **SPIL**, and the oversight of implementation, in making sure that we're doing it, and

"we," meaning, the SILC, along with its partners, MRC, MCB, and all of the other state agencies that sit on the SILC. Okay?

I'd like to -- just as an aside, Steve, you may have mentioned it, or Nancy, before I came today, but with the new administration there's a lot of changes going on in the silos, the bureaucracies down in DC, the DC area, federal agencies, and so there's different folks now at RSA, different internal changes and different staff doing different jobs, and so they're looking at things a bit differently. They're going to -- we've been fortunate, the state-wide Independent Living Council congress, that's a gathering of all the SILCs from across the country, are going to be able to have a training on how to run the state plans for independent living. The reason we're fortunate is because people who may have worked somewhere else and now in DC, and may have had another job in DC, within the Department of Ed, RSA, whatever, they've shifted their positions, and they're going to look at things through their eyes, which may be different than before. So to find out what the requirements are and which I needs to be dotted, which T crossed, it's great that they're going to do one national training at the SILC congress. That training is going to be out in Nevada (emphasizing the word "Nevada"), not in Las Vegas, to my chagrin, January 2nd to January 7th. I have reluctantly, and my spouse has decided not to divorce me, agreed to go, along with Steve, to that. We did invite Ann from MRC to join us, but MRC has other thoughts for where she can get her training. Did I say that nicely, Ann?

(LAUGHTER).

Other thoughts? Yeah? So Steve and myself will be at SILC congress in Nevada January 2nd to January 7th learning about what the new -- what any shifts have been in the eyes of RSA for how to write the SPIL.

We'll also be taking with us in our heads and bringing it back to the committee, with all of you, not only that information, but the corrective action plan issues that were discussed in terms of the compliance review report that, you know, we've put forth. Because folks are looking at things a bit differently. You got that? You know what that is? "Wow, I thought it was green. It always was green. No, we've decided to make it purple and orange this year. Okay. We don't believe it should be purple and orange, but we'll do it."

So we'll get trained, bring that back to the committee, and pursue this plan and this path to get our SPIL done for next year.

You know, the other thing that I wanted to say is that it's a very arduous but fruitful process, a lot of things that we have put forth in our State Plan have come to fruition at different points and really helped us. So know that this may look like a bureaucratic requirement, but it isn't. This is the plan. This is the roadmap for where we want things to go, and we have another opportunity, every three years we do, to put that forth in terms of -- can you go back to slide 1, Steve? You know, the key purpose? The next one.

STEVE HIGGINS: That is slide 1.

MARY MARGARET MOORE: So the next one.

Describe how the state's network of independent living programs and services will meet the independent living needs of persons with disabilities in the state (reading from the slide)

So it's an overarching plan, and I remind you of this because sometimes folks think, when we do the advertising, that it's a place for them to come to talk about their personal, individual services that they want to have written in and that they're going to get whatever it is for themselves. This

isn't that. It doesn't mean that it's not important what you may want to talk about yourself, but it's just irrelevant to this process. There are other processes for that. Am I making any sense? So I just say that to you. You know, coming in from wherever you're living and saying something like "Out of 557 people who applied for the Ride, and all had been determined by DDS to have disabilities to get their Social Security, three of them were only approved for the Ride." That's good data. We need a strategy to get people for the ride in the east Osh Kosh part of the state. Am I giving you a good example? All right.

So I'll open it up for any questions on where we are and where we're going and how we're going to get there. Thank you very much.

STEVE HIGGINS: Are there any questions for Mary Margaret, or -- are people pretty clear on the presentation? And the crickets have emerged.

MARY MARGARET MOORE: Thank you for your time.

(SWITCH OF CART PROVIDER)

STEVE HIGGINS: Do we have a motion to accept Mary Margaret's report?

BETTY J. KING: I make the motion. I saw Judi and then Sybil. The motion was Judi and the second was Sybil. I'm going to pass this back. Nancy, you got the other mic.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Okay, so we have a motion on the floor. Do I hear any other discussion? Hearing none, all in favor?

All: Aye.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. Motion carries. Thank you Mary Margaret for all of your work.

MARY MARGARET: You're welcome. And the committee, yea for the committee!

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: So the next report is the SILC coordinator's report, and that is Steve.

STEVE HIGGINS: I've got a couple things. One of the things that everybody received today and you should have also received a copy of it in the mail is a page that says 2010 important dates, and what that page is, is it lists all of our events that are planned so far for federal fiscal year 2010, so it was the dates of our quarterly meetings, it was the dates of special events, and it also lists the dates and times of standing committee meetings.

One thing I want to point out is the March 18th meeting of the Council, we are also on that same day in this same location going to be holding a public hearing, so the meeting of the Council will begin sharply at 11:00, and we've got to be done by 12:30, so we're going to ask all committee -- we're going to ask all committee chairs to be to the point, and be specific on your reports at the March quarterly Council meeting.

At 12:30, we take a break, and then we come back here at 1:00, not 1:30, and from 1:00 to 3:00 we run the State Plan for Independent Living hearing, and that will take place here in the same location. So remember, at the March meeting, that's a dual meeting. It's actually two separate meetings on the same day. The locations for the SPIL hearings are all on this, so if you didn't write them down during the PowerPoint presentation, we have those. April 22nd is the planned date for our annual Education Day at the State House, and you'll notice something a little different on the calendar this year, it says July 23rd through 26th, 20th anniversary of the ADA celebrations throughout the Commonwealth. This Special Events Committee has been meeting and talking. There's a good chance we're not going to do the Dunn Pond event in Gardner this year, and the reason for that is, is it's the 20th anniversary of the ADA, and we believe that we can more effectively use the limited amount of funding that we have, to support and sponsor events throughout the Commonwealth, that centers can sponsor events that the SILC can be part of that, and that allows more people the opportunity to participate in the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the ADA, and we're working with other organizations to accumulate a final big celebration that's going to take place in Boston at a location yet to be determined. We're still working on that, that we're hoping to have folks potentially like Teddy Kennedy Jr. emcee it, that we can have the Governor there, that we can have a lot of the politicians and folks there. The point is not having an ADA Day but ADA Week that cumulates with the celebration in Boston. We know

that not everybody can get to Boston but this gives more people the opportunity to participate in an ADA celebration in their area, so that's why we have it listed like that on the calendar. As we get closer to that time and we know what centers will be sponsoring events, and where they are and what kind of things are happening, we'll start putting out e-mails and let people know, you know, as far as things go. I mean I'm sure, I know these Stavros crew, they'll probably think of doing something. I know the Ad-lib crew and ILSCNCA crew are already thinking of doing something and getting ready. It gives us the opportunity of instead of doing one event at Dunn Pond, it gives us the opportunity to do it around the Commonwealth. Some people may be upset we have the ADA Day but maybe we can convince Stavros to play a Tom thing and go from there. Who knows.

You will notice we have September 14th and 15th reserved on the calendar, and we actually have the date of September 13th reserves, too, should the funding come through we could do our conference as a three-yearlong -- I mean three day conference. Not a three-yearlong conference, three days is bad enough. As you heard from the Finance Committee report earlier we have already made a composite for the conference center this year. We hope to receive the funding. We know the current fiscal climate as to what's happening out there. I just wanted everybody to be aware of that. Take that home, throw it in your refrigerator, put it where you're going to read it, whatever, so that you have that. These are the dates that we know as of today, that we solidify.

Other things that I wanted to bring up, Mary Margaret mentioned again a moment ago the SILC Congress training happening out in Summerland, Nevada. This is the piece where I have to do my disclaimer. I go on behalf of the Massachusetts SILC but my disclaimer is my wife, Andrea, coordinates the conference, and Andrea is not paid by the Massachusetts SILC or she actually, she and I do it as volunteers, so we volunteer coordinating this conference, and doing all that, so the expense of Andrea going out to

Nevada is, comes out of our pocket. It doesn't come out of the SILC's pocket or anything like that, and also both of our daughters, Nicole and Jackie, are taking vacation time from their jobs and going out at their own expense to SILC Congress and they're volunteering on behalf of Massachusetts in helping with registration, with reasonable accommodation, with anything that needs to happen at the event. So our SILC really gets a pretty good deal out of it, because the other piece that happens is, because we coordinate the event, the hotel and conference center also comps the room that Andrea and I stay in, so our SILC isn't responsible for paying for an additional room for a week while we're there, so we're going to be heading out, Andrea and I head out on December 31st, New Year's Eve, and that gives us New Year's Day January 2nd to do whatever we have to do with the local folks in the Las Vegas, Nevada, area, putting together. Summerland is a nice way of saying west Las Vegas, it's about 20 miles west of the city so we'll be working with the convention bureau and doing that coordination and things. The conference starts early in the morning on the 3rd. We'll be doing the national SILC training on development and writing of an effective State Plan for Independent Living. I've seen the materials. They're supposed to be improved this Friday by ISA, the parts that mentioned them. I've seen a glimpse at the materials I'm going to be using for the training, and they're very good, and it really has a lot of stuff, not only what to write in a State Plan, whatnot to write in a State Plan. So there's a lot of good stuff there.

We'll be returning to Massachusetts on, I believe on the Red Eye on the 7th so we'll be back here. Mary Margaret, too. So I don't think any of us will be back in our offices on Friday the 8th.

JACKIE HIGGINS: I will.

STEVE HIGGINS: Mary Margaret will because she's crazy, Jackie will because she's crazy. She's coming in on the Red Eye and going right to work at MOD which is a little nuts. So that's really -- yes. Mary Margaret?

Okay, on the March 18th meeting of the SILC, which we're going to have the meeting and then we'll be doing a public hearing, Mary Margaret has a prior commitment.

MARY MARGARET: In Florida.

STEVE HIGGINS: In Florida, which I guess is always a good thing, depending on what in Florida it is. Mary Margaret has a prior commitment, so one of the other members of the SPIL committee or if they ask me to, like we're doing with the executive director's meeting, or myself, will be moderating the SPIL hearing input. It will be, you know, set up so that we're just taking it, so it's not necessary that Mary Margaret have to be here.

PAUL SPOONER: I've done it before.

STEVE HIGGINS: Paul's done it before. There's a number of us who moderated the meeting, the hearing itself that at least one of the members of the committee will be appointed to moderate that meeting, or myself, if the committee does, chooses to just have it done that way.

We have the, as I said earlier, the April 22nd event at the State House. We have secured the space. We look forward to working with our partners on that, again. MRC has typically come in and worked with the SILC on that event in the past, and it's a way that we can effectively educate our legislators as to what the needs are of independent living here in our state, so the education day will take place on April 22nd. We don't have a lot of material to put out on that yet, other than to hold the date, and the reason for that is, Paul really hit on it earlier. We need to see what's going to happen in the Governor's House II version of the budget that will effectively be out in about five weeks from, actually four weeks from now, the Governor's House I version of the budget is going to be out and it's really going to give us an idea of areas that we need to be focusing on to educate our legislators as to what our needs are and what we need to be doing. So as we get closer to that event, we will be putting out materials. We look forward to participation and help from other people in formulating that. The event

generally, the logistics of the event are easy. The background in the event, as Paul says, we need an effective public education and information committee, and people in this room that are on the committee that haven't been on the committee, you're going to get a note saying, get off your butt and get to work, or get off the committee and get out of the way. I mean, maybe that's blunt saying it that way, but we're in a fiscal climate that we're going into right now, in our Commonwealth, like we haven't seen before, and so we really, really need to be strategically thinking what we're going to do, so, please, if you're willing to work and you're willing to fight for what we have, then talk to Paul about being on that committee. If you're not willing to work, as he said, we already know the results. We're going to be sending, we'll be sending letters out and asking you to vacate and join another committee. That's the bottom line.

And I say that, and I know Mike didn't point it to this time but does it every other SILC meeting. As a member of the Statewide Independent Living Council, you're required to serve on a committee of the SILC. That's part of membership in the SILC. So if you're not currently serving on a committee, you need to let us know which committee, where you'd like to be. We really do want your input. Most of the work of the SILC, in fact the majority of the work of the SILC does not take place in this quarterly Council meeting. 90% of the work of the SILC takes place in the committee meetings, and then it's through the Council meeting that the reports are brought here for approval, so that we can implement what we did in all the work.

And if you're a nominee, you're welcome to participate in the committees, and in fact, the committees of the SILC for the most part have a function that, when you serve on a committee, you do have a voice on that committee, so even though you're a nominee and haven't effectively been appointed by the Governor yet, in the committee level, which is where most of the work and things are developed,

you do have a say, so serving on those committees is a real great way to get yourself up to speed and really understand what's going on.

I heard Mike volunteer to chair the bylaws committee. Karen has asked me to contact her after today's meeting, so I'm going to contact Karen when I get back to the office this afternoon, and let her know that you've effectively volunteered and she'll probably send you an e-mail to effectively appoint you and go from there, and so make that official.

So Mary Margaret?

MARY MARGARET: If folks want to be on committees, could you tell them to e-mail you or call you?

STEVE HIGGINS: Yes. If you want to be on it, if there's a particular committee you'd like to be on, or a particular committee that you think you might be on, and that you might not be getting contact from the committee, please, let us know, because that way, we can put you on the e-mail list that goes out prior to the committee meetings, so that you know what time they are, where they're at, what the call-in number is. Generally we've been using the same call-in number for years, but I'm telling you that there's a chance, excuse me, there's a chance we're changing that in the near future. We may be changing to a different conference call provider, just because you know, fiscally it's smart for to us look at better options and I believe there's better options than what we're using right now so we may be changing providers, so you'll want to send an e-mail to me, and I'll make sure you get put on the proper committee list, and we'll get that. My e-mail is Steveh@masilc.org.

MARY MARGARET: If you don't have e-mail --

STEVE HIGGINS: If you don't have e-mail, you can call, you can send me a letter, anything. I saw a couple questions. Ann and then Nanette. Nancy, can you run this mic down and I'll grab the other one.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Be my guest.

STEVE HIGGINS: Ann Shor was first and Nanette Goodwin.

Oh, it's Nanette, okay, pass it over to Nanette.

NANETTE GOODWIN: I just wanted to ask if you could list the committees, somebody who is a nominee.

STEVE HIGGINS: The committees can I go through them. They are the executive committee, the executive committee is composed of the four officers of the SILC, the DSU representatives, and the chairs of each of the other committees. So that's the only committee I would say that you can't just say I want to volunteer to be on the executive committee. The nominations and development committee, the chair of that committee is Mike Kennedy. That committee meets the first Tuesday of each month, and that's at 2:00 p.m. via teleconference call.

MIKE KENNEDY: That is correct.

STEVE HIGGINS: The finance committee, the chair of that committee is Mr. Brian Smith, and that committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m., again, via teleconference call.

The public information and education committee, the chair is Paul Spooner. That committee meets on the second Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m., again, via teleconference call.

The state plan for independent living committee, the chair of the State Plan for Independent Living Committee is Mary Margaret Moore. That committee meets the second Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m., via teleconference call.

Committee meetings, depending on the committee, nominations development committee meetings are generally about a half hour to 40 minutes. The public education and information committee generally can be an hour to hour and a half. The State Plan for Independent Living Committee, we're entering a time it will be entering a lot more frequently, meeting more frequently than just the once a month. Those committee meetings can be a couple hours, normally. Throughout this State Plan writing period, there may be some meetings that the State Plan Committee chooses to have that could be a full day meeting that we'll do when

we're actually writing and formulating pieces of the State Plan, and then the committee that was reconvened today, which is the last committee of the SILC, is the bylaws committee. Mike Kennedy has volunteered to be the chair of that committee, and I volunteered Paul Spooner and Mary Margaret, because they said they would earlier, but that was a different issue, and more than likely Karen Bureau will be on the committee as the chair ex-officio, she sits on all committees, and so I'm sure Mike is going to look for one or two other people to sit on that committee. I would imagine it doesn't need to be more than five people, because there's a really short time line, the committee's being convened effectively today, and the committee's being charged to report back at the March meeting and then the adoption of whatever gets reported back at the March meeting will be voted on at the June meeting, so the bylaws committee is only a committee that is standing and used when it's needed. There's no sense to have a bylaws committee to always look at bylaws. That's kind of silly. When we do have something that we have to look at now, like the composition of the SILC, and things like that, that we have to appoint the committee to reconvene, so Mike is the chair of that committee also, and again, it's going to be quick work that that committee is. We're going to have to determine the meeting schedule. Paul Spooner has his hand up.

PAUL SPOONER: I just realized why the time line is so tight on the issue of composition, something we commented on the RSA response we were going to take some time to look at that, so why is the bylaws committee only being constituted for roughly three months?

STEVE HIGGINS: It could actually be longer than that. In fact, I can discuss that with Karen and see if she'd like to keep it open until the investigation is concluded versus, or until the recommendations are made.

PAUL SPOONER: Well, whenever something comes up, gets drafted in May, I'd suggest again particularly the number of representatives from centers, so I just think it's

short-sighted to just make the bylaw committee so tight.

STEVE HIGGINS: Okay. Okay. The mic is where, with Ann?
Ann?

ANN SHOR: Yes. I was just going to follow up, I was going to suggest the same thing, but would it be possible to send out a list of all the committees to all the SILC members and maybe also include a list of the current members, because as you mentioned there are a few people who are listed as a member of the committee, and aren't aware of it, but it would be helpful to have it like in writing.

STEVE HIGGINS: We can certainly work on putting together a list like that so that we have that. Definitely. I'm trying to look at my notes here to make sure whether I hit on everything.

Finance committee meetings. The finance committee meetings generally are about an hour to hour and a half max, and you know, again, time commitment on most of the committees of the SILC is about an hour to hour and a half per month. Now the committee chair has put in a lot more work than that. There's no doubt about that, and during the committee, the chair is probably going to ask you to do some homework and help with some things, inform you on different, as we've gotten different things that we have to look at, so you can expect that your commitment is an hour to hour and a half per month on the committees, and Paul, Janet's could-chairing the public education and information with you this year, too?

PAUL SPOONER: Yes, she is.

STEVE HIGGINS: Yes, she is, so Janet is the co-chair.

(APPLAUSE)

MARY MARGARET: Nicely done.

JANET SHAW: That was easy.

STEVE HIGGINS: You like the way we just kind of moved you into that, Janet? Those are really all the things that I have to report that are happening. Obviously if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the SILC office. The one other thing I want to mention before I end and Mike talked about it earlier, is we sent out a letter to

everyone and Mike, you said it as part of his report today, requesting an updated resume and a bio from everyone. This is a request that came from the Governor's office. It's not just us. It's everybody they're asking this for. We had yesterday's date as the deadline because what happens is what I thought would happen and I didn't receive a lot of them. For those of you that did send them, thank you very much. I do appreciate it. You guys know who you are. For those of you that didn't send them, you also know who you are. Some folks I have talked to already, and we're working on that. The bio really only needs to be a short one to two lines that you want us to convey to the Governor's office about you, you know, what have you done in the independent living community, stuff like that, and your resume, we need to submit all of these to the Governor's office. I have to have them submitted by the time I head out on January 31st, so by January 30th, I'm not in the office on the 31st, because I'm in an airplane.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: December 31st.

STEVE HIGGINS: December, blah, blah, by December 31st -- someday I'll remember what month I'm in. By the end of this month -- how's that? So I need everyone's bio and resume and we need them at the SILC office ASAP, so that we can get that in, and really honestly don't be surprised if you get a request in the mail from the Governor's office for a background check, because they're doing more and more background checks on a more frequent basis than they have in the past. So don't be surprised if you get it, and if you get it, don't be afraid of the background check. Just be honest and send it in. You know, they're not -- they're just looking more for honesty than anything and obviously if you've stolen \$1 million they want to know that, too. That's everything that I have.

Does anybody have any questions for me?

KEITH JONES: Can we e-mail you the bios and the resumes?

STEVE HIGGINS: Yes, if you send them in electronic format I'd actually prefer that, because then what I can do is I do have paper format that some folks have sent me already

but with the electronic format, it allows me to cut and paste the bios especially into one really big document that goes to the, to one office, and then the resumes actually have to go to a separate office, which determines who randomly is going to get their background checked and who is not. So if I do get copies of everybody's stuff electronically, I can do that and then I can also make sure that we have a copy in your file at the SILC office so if they call us three weeks later and say they've lost it, which has happened before, we'll be able to print off a new copy and get it in there to them, and deal with that.

Boards and councils it's been frustrating for any board and council to get people approved, and no, this has nothing to do with the Governor that's there right now. It has everything to do with boards and councils in Massachusetts. We have over 2,000, and the Governor's required to appoint members to over 2,000 boards and councils and frankly, they probably didn't know they had that many. So it's not the particular administration. This has been an issue that we've dealt with all along. We've done our best to make sure that we established communication with them, and that we keep you up-to-date but we can't do more than that so don't be surprised if you get that.

Sybil?

SYBIL FELDMAN: Steve, I will call you.

STEVE HIGGINS: Okay.

SYBIL FELDMAN: Around 11:30 on the 11th, okay?

STEVE HIGGINS: Sounds great.

SYBIL FELDMAN: Thank you for helping me out.

STEVE HIGGINS: Cool. So Sybil is going to call me at 11:30 on Friday, I got to write that somewhere, or I'll be doing something else.

SYBIL FELDMAN: The at 1 1BG 30.

STEVE HIGGINS: If anybody needs any assistance with writing that bio or doing anything, seriously don't hesitate to call, we want to get that done. We want to be an appointed board. I mean I've had this goal since I got

at the SILC office as the coordinator we were going to have a year with a fully appointed Council. A lot of people told me to dream the impossible dream would be more important -- more appropriate, but you know, it's something that we're effectively striving to do.

No other questions? Crickets. Nice. Here you go, Nancy.

PAUL SPOONER: Motion to adjourn.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Do I hear a motion to accept the SILC coordinator's report?

SYBIL FELDMAN: I make a motion.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Second?

STEVE HIGGINS: Judi.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Sybil and Judi show. Any more discussion?

STEVE HIGGINS: Joe Bellil has a discussion, question.

JOE BELLIL: I'll make this quick. The State Rehab Council is waiting for a SILC member to be the SILC liaison, and I know I talked to a few folks about that, but I think it's important, I think there are a couple of events, you even mentioned, Steve, about the Education Day at the State House. Mary Margaret Moore has been the liaison for the last few years and so now we need a new person, and especially when you start talking about the areas of appointments, and we're going through the same thing at the State Rehab Council, the appointment process, we had new bios and everything else. I think by combining forces, I think we could be more effective. Also, the RSA audit, the RSA has its own things we're working on, and also future strategies, the SILC, where we're coming up with the SPIL, at the same time VR has a State Plan. It's something it's great to keep both councils close, as close as we can together on many different issues so I just encourage the SILC to come up with a member to be the SILC liaison to the SRC.

PAUL SPOONER: Do you have sign-off authority yet on that?

JOE BELLIL: On what?

PAUL SPOONER: On the VR State Plan?

JOE BELLIL: No, we don't.

STEVE HIGGINS: Hey, Joe?

JOE BELLIL: Yes.

STEVE HIGGINS: Could you, under old business, make that in the form of a motion?

JOE BELLIL: Sure. I'd be more than happy to.

STEVE HIGGINS: So we do that in the right section. Any more questions on the SILC coordinator's report? Nancy, the motion on the floor.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Okay. All right, closing discussion? All in favor of accepting Steve's report?

All: Aye.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries.

Next on the agenda is other. Do we have other?

STEVE HIGGINS: We don't have any other. But we do have Joe with old business.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Are you making a motion?

JOE BELLIL: Steve, sorry. I thought we were done with that, with the report. Sorry about that. Yes, I'd like to make a motion that the SILC select a SILC member to be the liaison to the State Rehab Council.

SYBIL FELDMAN: Motion.

JUDI RODGER: Second.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Discussion?

ROSEANNE RASH: Where does the group meet? Sorry. I just wondering where the group meets.

JOE BELLIL: The State Rehab Council meetings, we actually meet in different regions, so for example, one of our regions we usually meet right here. We just met in Marlborough, sometimes we meet in Springfield area, and then sometimes right in Boston, but usually we try reaching, well, four different geographic areas, and we have quarterly meetings as well, and committees.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Any other discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of accepting Joe's motion?

SYBIL FELDMAN: Aye.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Sybil. A second?

JUDI RODGER: Yep.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Is it Judi?

JUDI RODGER: Yep. You know me by heart.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Okay. All in favor?

All: Aye.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, thanks, Joe.

STEVE HIGGINS: Can I grab the mic for a second?

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: There you go.

STEVE HIGGINS: What I'd like to ask, and I wanted to wait until the motion was official, is if there's someone that would be willing to step forward to be the liaison in the State Rehab Council, then we'd like that. That would be great, because then we would be sure, you know, we'd do that as the recommendation, versus us picking up the phone and calling you saying hey, can you do it. And on the other hand, we also have another council that Lorraine's already left so she couldn't say this, but MCB is also, I know Betty has done MCB for awhile and we need to check with her to see if she'd like to stay on that, but we are equal partners with MRC and MCB so MRC and MCB on their consumer advisory councils asked to have someone from the SILC be part of their council so that we are all working together as a cohesive unit and doing things, so if there's someone that would like to volunteer, you don't have to jump up and down and say it in this meeting, but please send me an e-mail. If we don't hear from anybody that wants to volunteer, I'm not saying I will volunteer you, but you may receive a phone call from Karen Bureau or myself asking you if you would consider taking one of those positions.

The time commitment for those positions as Joe said, is they do quarterly meetings and they also have some committee meetings and also the MRC and the MCB liaison are also, it's been customary on our SILC, report to the SILC executive committee so that if there's any action that needs to be taken in between a quarterly council meeting and the SILC, the executive committee will be aware of what

needs to happen, and what's going on. So if you serve in that role in the SRC, you would also be asked to serve, you'd also be asked to report during the SILC's executive committee meetings which happen on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. so that's kind of the logistics of what it would be from this end.

SYBIL FELDMAN: With a little bit of help, I would like to try to volunteer. I would need a little bit of help.

STEVE HIGGINS: Um-hum. Cool.

SYBIL FELDMAN: Okay.

STEVE HIGGINS: Cool. I will pass that on to Karen Bureau.

SYBIL FELDMAN: Okay, thank you.

STEVE HIGGINS: I want to mention one other thing before I close.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: There you go.

STEVE HIGGINS: I know, I ramble too much.

PAUL SPOONER: You do.

STEVE HIGGINS: You want to get out of here.

PAUL SPOONER: Yes.

STEVE HIGGINS: Okay, I'll talk fast. The public hearings that are going to be held throughout the state, one of the things that's budgeted at the public hearing thing is to cover the cost of transportation, so we're not saying that a SILC member needs to be at all three hearings, but if you live in western Mass. and you need to get transportation to Ad-lib for the western Mass. hearing, we want you to be able to do that. If you live in central Mass., and you want to get transportation to the public hearing that's going to take place in Worcester, we want you to do that, too, we want to be able to do that, so we do have transportation to and from the meetings. The meetings are short, so we're not doing food at the meetings. We'll claim that in advance. The meetings are two-hour meetings but if you'd like to be at any of the public hearings please contact us so we can arrange to make sure that the cost of the transportation is covered, and that's part of the State Plan hearing and the same with reasonable accommodation. Nanette?

NANETTE GOODWIN: Steve, is that just for SILC members or is it for consumers as well?

STEVE HIGGINS: SILC members and nominees and you're a nominee.

NANETTE GOODWIN: Not the public then?

STEVE HIGGINS: Huh?

NANETTE GOODWIN: Not consumers?

STEVE HIGGINS: No, we really don't have the budget to provide buses from all over the place, I guess would be the best way to put it, and a lot of times what's happened in the past is centers have coordinated if they're planning to go to a particular hearing the center will usually work on getting a van or something to that hearing if consumers would like to attend that particular hearing, but we can provide transportation for statutory members and nominees, but we can't provide the transportation for just, you know, anybody else that wants to jump on the van, kind of thing, but we can do it for members and nominees. Thanks for asking that, because that actually was a clarification that really needed to be there.

SYBIL FELDMAN:

(Comment from Sybil)

For transportation, what do we do?

STEVE HIGGINS: We're having a real issue with transportation right now.

SYBIL FELDMAN: Yes.

STEVE HIGGINS: And the reason I say that is, you know, I mean, Peter's back there. He owns his own transportation company, he's one of our providers. Otis comes to the SILC meetings as a transportation provider, but there's also been people going out of the transportation business, and they've been going out of the business because of some of the recent changes on requirements and insurance regulations and things like that, that are out there, so our pool of transportation providers has been shrinking is the best way to put it, but on those dates, I'm going to send the dates for the meetings, the January 27th, February 3rd and 18th, I'll send those to Peter. I'll make sure via

e-mail, send them to Otis and get them out to, you know, county, the western part of the state and we'll also give them a list of people that are eligible so if one of those people calls they can provide that transportation to and from that meeting and we'll get billed for it, so that's one of the things we're going to try to make it as easy as we can, by getting a full list of people to Peter and Otis and County and those that are there, so we can be sure that there is a statewide network of providers that want to get people to and from the meetings.

SYBIL FELDMAN: Thank you.

STEVE HIGGINS: Um-hum.

EILEEN BREWSTER: Steve, would you repeat yourself what you said about MCB, Betty just came back.

STEVE HIGGINS: Joe made a motion, Betty, while you were out asking we appoint somebody to the MRC as the SILC's designee to the State Rehab Council and I know you have volunteered in the past to do the same on the MCB council.

BETTY J. KING: I've got a statutory requirement of the meeting.

STEVE HIGGINS: She'll probably begin to start jumping on the executive committee calls again once she's attending those meetings and we'll go from there. Cool. I'm passing this to you, Nancy.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Where are you?

STEVE HIGGINS: Right there. It's two minutes of 3:00.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Hey, go us! That's all the old business?

STEVE HIGGINS: As far as I know.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Okay. Anybody have any new business before we adjourn? I hear emphatic nos out there.

STEVE HIGGINS: We love crickets.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: Do I hear a motion to adjourn?

JOE BELLIL: Motion.

SYBIL FELDMAN: Motion.

JUDI RODGER: Second.

NANCY RUMBOLT-TRZCINSKI: All in favor, all opposed, abstained, okay.

