

SILC Quarterly meeting  
December 9, 2010  
Natick, MA

Meeting Called to order 11:00 am  
Bernard Bonsra, SILC Vice Chairperson

**Present**

**Members**

Brian Smith, Joe Bellil, Paul Mushrush, Filomena Tripp, Janet Shaw, Bonnie Jones  
Sharon Harrison, Bernard Bonsra, Kristin Britton, Susan Lavin, Nanette Goodwin,  
Ann Shor, Mike Kennedy, Leo Canuel, Jackie Higgins, Lisa Franklin,

**Nominees**

Courtland Townes III, Mary Dennesen

**Guest**

Paul Spooner, Bill Allan, Ann Ruder, Erin Atchue, Laura Connors, Steve Higgins

Minutes from the From the Sept 15, 2010 meeting were presented.

MSC to accept as presented Bonnie Jones, Second Joe Bellil, MSC Carried

**Chairs Report Nancy Trzcinski, Presented by Bernard Bonsra for Nancy**

Chair welcomed Kristin Britton from Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities  
Council to her first meeting of the SILC.

It was reported that on November 4<sup>th</sup> Steven Higgins resigned as Coordinator of  
the Massachusetts SILC to accept the job as Interim Executive Director of

Independence Associates, Inc. Center for Independent Living in Brockton. Steve will be remaining on in a support role through the transition process while the SILC performs a national search for a new SILC Coordinator.

Immediately following Steve's resignation a search committee was formed. Notice has been mailed both locally and nationally to find potential candidates to fill the position.

It is expected a new SILC Coordinator will be in place by the March 30 Quarterly Meeting in Natick.

Paul Spooner spoke as the fiduciary about what the SILC Coordinator position entailed and to remind people that the position is a Consultant who has assigned tasks and Contracts with the MetroWest Center for Independent Living in Framingham but reports to the SILC Chairperson.

Nancy also reported that Steve had resigned as Secretary of the National SILC Congress effective January 15, 2011 as he will no longer be acting as the Massachusetts SILC's Representative after that time.

On behalf of the SILC and all present Bernard thanked Steve for all of his work as the SILC Coordinator.

MSC to accept chairs report Mike Kennedy, Second Nanette Goodwin, MSC Carried

### **Public Information & Education Committee, Paul Spooner**

The SILC PIE Committee is encouraging people to attend the EOHHS Budget hearings which are scheduled to take place in December. The legislative process is a bit delayed this year due to the elections and changes in the Governor's office and EOHHS Secretariat.

Paul reported that the State Budget is facing a 2 Billion dollar shortfall and that many of the cuts proposed will be in Health & Human Services so it is incredibly important that members and constituents be involved throughout the entire Budget process this year.

What the centers & have SILC talked about for this year's budget hearing process is basically to try to hold centers harmless, to advocate to get money back from that MRC Homemaker Program, which has been cut severely, and to hold the PCA Program harmless.

Those are all important issues that we are going to address this year. But clearly, the budget hearings are your opportunity to go up and testify and support whatever programs that are near and dear and close to you. But if you do testify, please make sure that you include the issues that the SILC are primarily running forward on.

MSC to accept report as presented Mike Kennedy, Second Nanette Goodwin, MSC Carried

### **Finance Committee Report, Brian Smith**

At our November 16, 2010 meeting, the SILC Finance Committee approved the allocations of the roll over from 'FFY 10 to FFY '11 the rollover of \$10,889.53.

The total projected SILC budget for FFY '11, including the roll over from FFY '10 is \$166,620.53.

The committee also discussed the following action items: The cost to STAVROS site review was higher than the past reviews due to mileage owed to peer reviewers and costs. Keep an eye on this for the remainder of the year. With different personnel use for this review, the actual costs were higher than had been budgeted for the past. MRC is aware of this, and the SILC will need to pay attention to this prior to the site review that is set to take place in the Northeast

Independent Living Program in the spring of 2011.

The committee also had a discussion on the 2011 state IL conference. The SILC will lose \$1,800 based on its contract with the Best Western if the conference does not happen. This will bring a total loss from FFY 2010 and FY 2011 of \$3,800 in this event. We need to be cognizant of this. The funding for the 2011 conference has been requested from MRC, but to date we do not have an answer. SILC needs to be in contact with the DSU for schedule of additional amendments to the SILC budget for the remainder of the Fiscal Year. With the change in our coordinator at the SILC and FY 2011 it will be important for the SILC to be in contact with MRC to be sure there are no gaps in funding.

MCS to accept as presented Joe Bellil, Second Mike Kennedy, MSC Carried

### **Nominations & Development Committee Report Mike Kennedy**

The Boston Center for Independent Living has requested that Courtland Townes III replace James Tierney as their representative on the SILC. Marylyn Howe will no longer represent the Disability Council. She will be replaced by Kristin Britton. Richard Leland will no longer be representing the Mass. Commission for the Blind. He will be replaced by Susan Lavin.

Copies of the SILC Training Manual have been mailed to the members who weren't able to attend the SILC Member Training & Orientation in September.

MSC to accept report as presented Bonnie Jones, Second Leo Canuel, MSC Carried

### **SPIL Committee Report,**

The committee has determined that they are going to be going back to their quarterly meeting schedule. Dates are actually posted on the SILC's website through September of next year. The project that the SPIL Committee really looks at now is that we did the writing phase of the State Plan, and now it is the

monitoring of the plan phase that we are entering.

Now we need to monitor to make sure that they are actually happening. And there is a couple other pieces that the, ah, the SPIL Committee is charged with, and one of those is the piece of evaluation, and the SILC doesn't actually do the evaluation, but participates in the site review of the centers. And so the most recent site review actually just took place out in STAVROS in early November.

The SPIL Committee is also finishing up on the Site Review and evaluation process for Centers for Independent Living. The supporting documentation will be posted on the SILC web site as soon as this process is complete.

MSC to accept report as presented Joe Bellil, Second Brian Smith. MSC Carried

### **SILC Coordinators Report**

Simply said thank you it has been a pleasure working with the SILC for the past several years as coordinator.