

Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council

September 15, 2010

Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting opened at 10:57 am by Karen Bureau, SILC Chairperson

Present

Members: Anita Albright, Bonnie Jones, Merle Ferber, Lisa Franklin, Ann Shor, Joe Bellil, Filomena Tripp, Sybil Feldman, Paul Mushrush, Betty J. King, Judi Rodger, Mike Kennedy, Jackie Higgins, Sharon Harrison, Nanette Goodwin, Carol Hilbinger, Coreen Brinckerhoff, Susan Lavin, Richard Leland, Bernard Bonsra, Nancy Trzcinski, Karen Bureau, Mary Dennesen, Janet Shaw

Nominees: Carline Louizia, Mary Dennesen

Guest: Paul Spooner, Brian Johnstone, Brenda Curtiss, Ann Ruder, Steven Higgins, Robyn Powell

Minutes for the June 24, 2010 meeting of the SILC were presented by Bernard Bonsra Secretary.

MSC to accept minutes as presented Merle Ferber, Second by Judi Rodger, MSC Carried.

Chair's Report, Karen Bureau:

Karen thanked everyone for all of their hard work on the 2011 – 2013 State Plan for Independent Living process. She additionally reported that the committees of the SILC have been fairly busy in the past few months. We have a lot of new members, which is fantastic. Several members are also up for re-appointment. We've had a lot of really good success with the Governor's appointment office this year thanks to the work on the Nominations and Development Committee.

MSC to accept Chairs Report as presented Sybil Feldman, Second Judi Rodger, MSC Carried.

Public Information and Education Committee Report, Paul Spooner:

Paul reported, as you all know, we went through the budget over the summer. The budget passed. Some programs got cut and some stayed level funded. It really wasn't too, too bad for funding overall, depending upon your view and what agencies we represent.

The Public Information and Education Committee has been talking about the three questions that are coming up as ballot initiatives. Paul noted, to refresh everybody's knowledge, non-profits cannot get involved in elections; meaning candidates, or support a candidate. But it is perfectly legal for non-profits to get involved in what are known as ballot initiatives because they are considered petitions of the citizens. And therefore, a non-profit can do activities to educate the citizenship, or the citizens that they represent, about how the impacts of an initiative would be positive or negative to their group. So it is perfectly appropriate for the SILC and the eleven Centers for Independent Living, and for other non-profits, such as D.E.A.F. Inc., and other organizations like DPC, can be active, involved, put out information, organize our members, do whatever activities we want to in order to publicize what is the impact of the potential budget initiatives.

Fact sheets prepared by the Massachusetts Association of Independent Living Centers (MAILC) on Ballot Questions 1, 2, and 3 were distributed to the attendees. Request for more information was directed to MAILC.

Motion to accept Public Information and Education Committee Report as presented by Nanette Goodwin, Second by Sybil Feldman, MSC Carried.

Finance Committee Report, Prepared by Brian Smith, Presented by Steven Higgins

Brian Smith sent the Finance Committee Report in advance of the quarterly meeting. He apologized that due to another commitment he was not able to present the report in person at the quarterly meeting.

Members received a copy of the SILC's expenses through the third quarter of federal fiscal year 2010, which ended in June. There was a rollover from the June 30th contract the SILC receives with MRC into the July through September contract of \$17,522.13. Steve reported just as a reminder to the body that the SILC receives its allocation of funds from MRC in the form of several contract amendments throughout the year which is why it was necessary to roll the funds from one period to another.

The SILC also receives a portion of its funds from MCB in the form of an ISA which is an agreement between state agencies. This year the ISA did not occur until July. We're hoping that next year that it may not be as complicated with the MCB piece because MCB is looking at using a different pot of funds in FFY '11 to provide their portion of the SILC funding. If that happens, then there's a good chance that the relocation will happen in the beginning of the fiscal year, versus at the end of the fiscal year, and that will definitely be a relief for everyone involved, including both DSUs and the SILC.

ARRA Fund Update: During federal fiscal year '10 the SILC received \$17,853 in ARRA funds. All funds were expended as planned through June 30th, 2010.

Budget Update: During the month of July, the Finance Committee made a couple changes in the budget itself. There was a move from the consultant's line item of \$707.16 into travel. That covers the cost of additional expenses we did not expect at the beginning of the year, for example, airlines were a little bit more expensive. We also had one more staff night that we spent down at NCIL in D.C. this year than last year, so that was where those dollars came from. That line item has been completely spent out for the year. From the consultant's line item \$1,500 was also moved to the special events line item to cover costs related to the member training that's actually going to take place September 16 2010. It also left \$2,500 in the consultant's line item to hire someone and to cover the cost of having somebody here to help us with doing those trainings. From the interpreter's line item \$2,000 was also moved to the special events line item to go to cover Interpreters and CART for the member training.

The committee is projecting a rollover at the end of the federal fiscal year '10 of \$9,500 which is the end of this month, September 30th.

The budget for FFY '11 was presented to the membership for approval. The budget is adjusted to the \$155,731.00 total dollars the SILC expects to receive from MRC VR, MRC Part B and MCB. Looking ahead to FFY 11'

During this past fiscal year the SILC used its rollover monies to supplement portions of the SILC budget such as special events and the State IL Conference. I will recommend we do the same in 2011 once the rollover amount is determined.

During 2010 the SILC also received ARRA monies which will not be available in 2011. If you remember this was used for covering the cost of the SPIL process and updating the SILC's office technology.

2011 SILC Budget Categories

CATEGORY	FY 11'
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Consultants	\$86,108.00
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The SILC coordinator, Disability policy position, Consultant for site reviews, and Web Page Contractor are listed in this category.

SILC Travel/Conf. Expenses	\$ 10,000.00
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This category is where travel to conferences and special events by the SILC coordinator and Designated SILC members is counted IE: the NCIL Conference in DC and the annual National SILC Congress.

Meeting Transportation	\$ 5,000.00
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This category is for transportation to and from SILC quarterly and committee meetings for council members and nominees.

Quarterly/Committee Meetings **\$ 5,000.00**

This category covers cost related to the quarterly meetings of the entire body and committee meetings held throughout the year.

Reasonable Accommodation Aids **\$ 1,500.00**

This category covers cost related to providing reasonable accommodations at meeting of the council such as PCA's and the production of Braille.

ASL Interpreters **\$ 4,050.00**

This category covers the cost of obtaining Sign Language Interpreters for meetings of the council and its committees.

CART Reporters **\$ 4,000.00**

This category covers the cost of obtaining CART reporters for meetings of the council and its committees.

Supplies and Postage **\$ 1,528.00**

This category covers the cost of supplies and postage for the day to day operation of the SILC office.

Telephone and Teleconferencing **\$ 5,000.00**

This category covers the cost of the regular SILC phone bills and the cost of teleconference calls held by the SILC and its committees throughout the year.

SILC Web Page **\$ 500.00**

This is the annual cost for hosting the SILC web page and maintaining of the MILAN email list, which is used as an alert system by the SILC PIE committee.

Copying/printing **\$ 1,000.00**

This category covers the cost of copying materials for meetings of the council as well as special printing such as the annual SILC brochure, SILC stationary and envelopes.

Insurance **\$ 0.00**

The SILC does not maintain a separate policy at this time. Office contents are covered under the policy of its fiscal intermediary.

Non-Capital Expenditures **\$ 0.00**

The SILC is expecting to purchase new computers and software this year but the monies will come from ARRA funds which will be budgeted for after the beginning of the FFY.

Capital Items **\$ 0.00**

The SILC is not expecting the purchase of any new capital items for FY 11".

Special Events **\$ 7,945.00**

This category covers the cost of events such as meetings at the State House, ADA Day in August.

State IL Conference **\$ 1,800.00**

The 2011 State Independent Living Conference is projected in the starting budget this year which has not been the case in years past. A request for funding of the conference will be made to MRC early in the year and the budget will be amended to include the cost of the 2011 conference if approved. In the event funding is not received this 1,800.00 is needed to cover contractual obligations to the Best Western.

Membership Dues **\$ 300.00**

This covers dues that the SILC pays annually to other related organizations such as NCIL.

Adm. Support and Office Space **\$22,000.00**

This category covers the cost of office space and support provided by our fiscal intermediary: the MetroWest Center for Independent Living.

Total **\$155,731.00**

MSC to approve Financial Report as presented including the FY '11 budget by Merle Ferber, Second by Betty J. King, MSC Carried.

Nominations and Development Committee Report, Mike Kennedy

Mike reported nomination paperwork has been completed by Mary Dennesen and is now with the office of Gubernatorial Appointments. She will be the representative for the independent living center of the North Shore and Cape Ann in place of Shawn McDuff whose term expired. Marilyn Howe has left the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council and will no longer be representing them on the SILC. Their new designee will be Kristen Brittan.

Mike also reported that over the last three months, Steve Higgins, with help from members of the executive committee put together the SILC 101 training for the SILC members that will be done on September 16. The committee is excited to provide this training especially in light of the fact that there are several new nominees and members who will benefit greatly as a result.

MSC to accept report as presented by Bonnie Jones, Second by Nanette Goodwin, MSC Carried.

Election of Officers for FFY '11

Mike Kennedy presented the following slate of officers on behalf of the Nominations and Development Committee;

Nancy Trzcinski, Chairperson

Bernard Bonsra, Vice Chairperson

Karen Bureau, Secretary

Brian K. Smith, Treasurer

Motion by Betty J. King to close the Ballot, Second by Sybil Feldman, MSC Carried

Motion by Merle Ferber that the Secretary cast one ballot to elect the slate of officers as presented for FFY '11. Second by Judi Rodger, MSC Carried.

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

Mary Margaret asked me to just express to everyone she was sorry she could not be here. First and foremost is something that I think will be of good news to everybody in this room. Last Thursday afternoon, the SILC received a phone call and also received an email with the verbal and written approval of the State Plan for independent living for federal fiscal years 2011-2013. We as a committee really want to thank everybody for your involvement in the process.

Mary Margaret also asked that we remind everyone of a change that has happened in the SPIL committee which was approved via motion at the last meeting. Going into the new federal fiscal year, the SPIL committee will have Mary Margaret Moore and Nancy Trzcinski as co chairs.

The annual report of the evaluation of the SPIL for FFY 2008 – 2010 was presented verbally to the membership by Steve Higgins.

Motion to accept SPIL Committee report as presented by Merle Ferber, Second by Betty J. King, MSC Carried.

SILC Coordinators Report, Steve Higgins:

Steve thanked everybody for their work on the SPIL. Developing the SPIL, even though there were changes in the way that the process was done this time was great. The entire SPIL Committee worked

together as a team not relying on any one single person on the committee to do the bulk of the work but functioning as a group.

Steve reported on activities that occurred during the quarter which included the NCIL Conference in Washington DC. Massachusetts had a large number of participants this year. While at NCIL members participated in the Annual March to the Hill and had face to face meetings with Senator Scott Brown in the Senate and the entire Massachusetts delegation in the House during a meeting hosted by Congressman John Tierney. Nancy Trzcinski represented the SILC and Massachusetts at a hearing with Congressman Ed Markey on accessible telecommunications.

On July 26, the SILC participated in the 20th anniversary celebration of the ADA on Boston Common. Over 1,000 people attend this event. Throughout the weeks leading up to the celebration the SILC PIE Committee also supported and attended regional celebrations in Salem, Amherst and on the Cape. Several other celebrations were held across the state.

Steve also reported on the progress of SILC Congress 2011 which will take place the second Week in January, 2011 in Atlanta.

MSC to accept SILC Coordinator's report as presented by Judi Rodger, Second by Betty J. King,
MSC Carried

Old Business:

Joe Bellil asked if there was progress in the appointment by the Chair of a Liaison between the SILC and the State Rehab Council, Karen reported that Paul Mushrush had accepted the position and that she had directed the SILC Coordinator to contact MRC, which had taken place in early September.

MSC to Adjourn by Sybil Feldman at 2:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Bureau

Karen Bureau, Secretary