

SILC Quarterly Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2014
Natick, MA

Meeting called to order at 11:20 by Chairperson Mike Kennedy with housekeeping and introductions.

Present

Members: Mike Kennedy, Chair, Steve Higgins, Nanette Goodwin,
Courtland Townes, III, Becca Gutman, Allan Motenko, Judi Rodger, Betty J. King, Lisa Franklin, Mary Dennesen, Tracy Olson, Joe Bellil, Treasurer, Rachel Tanenhaus, Anita Amy Ashdon, Janet Shaw, Ann Shor, Kristen Britton, Coreen Brinckerhoff

Nominees: David Correia, Hang Lee, Angelina Cephas

Guests: Marylouise Gamache, Executive Office of Elder Affairs, , Franklin Surette, Paul Spooner, Ann Ruder, Martina Carroll

Sadie Simone, SILC Coordinator

Minutes from December 2013 Quarterly Meeting were presented. Lisa Franklin requested correction; she was present and needs to be added. Motion to Joe Bellil second Judy Roger, motion carried.

Chairs report

Mike Kennedy welcomed Sadie Simone as the new SILC coordinator at her first meeting. Mike thanked Ann Ruder for her work in the interim.

Sadie introduced herself to the SILC body. She noted she is looking forward to visiting and meeting people over the next few months.

Mike reported that our 704 report, which had been submitted in January, has been accepted.

Mike reported on the 17th SILC Congress in San Diego. The theme for the congress was *Keeping the SPIL Moving*. During the regional meetings Mike was elected chair of region 1 for the coming year.

One of the things we will want to do with Sadie on board will be to be in contact with the other SILCs in the six New England states.

Motion to accept Courtland Townes second Nanette Goodwin motion carried.

Treasurers Report, presented by Joe Bellil

The FY14 Fiscal budget was passed out for member review.

Total budget \$165,731.00

Expended through December 31 \$18,341.63

Remaining \$147,389.37

The changes accepted during the last SILC meeting were applied to the budget presented today.

Three items that the treasurer will be watching: telephone, meeting expenses and Consultants.

There is a meeting of the Finance Committee following today's meeting at MWCIL. They will be discussing the contract and final rollover. There may be a few adjustments made after today's meeting.

Joe will be working with Sadie to define how the finances are done in the future including reporting

The Finance Committee is also starting the discussion of whether the SILC Coordinator should be a consultant or an employee. For many years this has been an independent Contractor/Consultant position.

Motion to accept Tracy McCann, second Judy Roger motion carried

Public Information & Education Committee presented by Martina Carroll

Tomorrow's PIE committee meeting is postponed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Martina will be working with Paul Spooner and others in the transition.

Mike Kennedy asked an update list of members be created to enable Martina to contact interested participants.

It was suggested people send their updated contact information and email to Sadie to help in updating the membership.

Motion to accept Lisa Franklin, second Betty King, motion carried.

Special Events submitted by Paul Spooner

Steven gave a report on the March 20 state house event, Annual Independent Living Education Day. Currently we have about a half dozen legislators who will be speaking. Steven asked if any members have a relationship with their local representatives or Senators and would like to offer them a personal invitation to speak. They can reach out to him for more information. The SILC

will put together about 150 packets of information for the day. CART, interpreters and PCAs are confirmed. Food will be provided from the State House Café. The State Rehab council is partnering with the SILC for this day and providing for the costs of the interpreters and PCAs.

The issues we will be educating legislators on during the day are an increase in a line item for the IL centers of \$750,000, funding for a durable medical equipment reuse program and additional resources for accessible housing by increasing the DHCD item 7004-9030, the Alternative Housing Voucher program by an additional \$1.5 million.

It is not too late to schedule an appointment now with your legislator for that day.

Courtland noted that turnout is important this year, due to several events going on the same day.

Paul spoke about making sure we don't have a mixed message.

Steven updated folks on ADA day progress.

Motion to accept Amy Ashdon, second Betty King motion carried.

Nominations and Development presented by Steven Higgins

During the last meeting the Nomination Committee was tasked with a complete review of the Nomination and Membership files. Steve noted that he worked closely with Claire Cooper in the Governor's office and is thankful for her help in reviewing the files. Currently the SILC has 6 ex officio non-voting members, one ILC Director voted by the current directors and 8 IL Centers with representatives. We have two members that are service providers who are parents of a consumer, and then we have eight members

that are consumers or interested parties from the community. So our total membership as of today is 25. The total voting membership as of today is 19.

We have 13 open seats for consumers, two ex-officio organizations without representation, two open seats for service providers or parents of a child with a disability and one IL Center without representation. These will be the areas of focus and outreach.

The nominations committee will be developing some outreach materials, such as an updated SILC brochure over the next few months.

Steven reminded members that one of the requirements of SILC membership is to participate in at least one committee. There is a list of committees on the SILC website.

It is important to keep your email and phone updated with Sadie as well as the Governor's office. There has been a reduction in time from the point you receive your letter to the time you have to be sworn in. Steven noted the easiest place to be sworn in is at the State House.

Nanette Goodwin moved to accept the report, second Judy Rodger, motion carried.

SPIL committee

Mike noted that the committee had not met since the SPIL was submitted and that they were planning to meet after the March 20 event at the statehouse.

SILC Coordinator's Report

Sadie noted one of the first things she will be doing is to have an accurate contact list for everyone on the SILC.

She requested all members send email contact information

She is learning the processes of the committees of the SILC and the office processes.

Motion to accept Nannette Goodwin, second Betty King, motion passed.

Old Business

None presented at this meeting

New Business

Alan Motenko from Mass Office on Disability has asked for help in a partnership in the MOD role in Architectural Access Board complaints.

From time to time centers are asked to help support complaints that are filed in the community. Site visit numbers this year as opposed to last year are up and MOD may be seeking more community participation.

Becca Gutman announced a new organization of labor organizations and others which are getting together to seek wage reform for many lower income people. Becca has suggested we need to make sure people with disabilities are represented at this table. The coalition does not have a name yet. It meets at Mass United in Dorchester.

Paul Spooner spoke about a piece of legislation asking to bring into compliance the Architectural Board access code to match the

federal code. Our state code currently does not cover employee-only areas inside of buildings. Under the ADA this is covered.

It was suggested that the SILC may be able to come up with a way to educate people about this significant lack of access in our state. Alan mentioned the bill for this is Senate bill S1869. It has appeared 9 times in the Senate. For it to pass this year action would need to be completed by June 30 this year.

Much of the opposition of the past has seemed to clear on this bill.

It was suggested this may be something Steve or Joe Bellil mention in their remarks.

The MS Society has asked for support on S1869 which is sitting in the Committee of Third Readings. We need to work to move it to the Senate floor. Tracy McCann may be able to find additional information to provide to the SILC.

Ann Shor spoke about the durable medical equipment reuse project. MRC in partnership with the Boston Home, the Boston Center for Independent Living and also Mass. Hospital School are currently running a pilot, durable medical equipment reuse project in the Boston area. The program – REquipment - is taking in gently used mobility equipment, such as wheelchairs, rollators, portable ramps, lifts and so forth, getting it cleaned up and fixed up and getting it out the door to people who need it, whether it's short term, long-term, because of Medicaid problems or any other reason. This year the project had mostly private funding. They are currently advocating for funding for the project from the state to be able to take the project statewide.

Joe Bellil mentioned in March the new federal rules for contractors which require that at least 7% of their employees must

be people with disabilities. This affects many major companies in our area. It will affect the companies' affirmative action plans and they must be able to demonstrate that they are reaching out to qualified people with disabilities in their hiring practices.

HB136 is a similar piece of state legislation requiring employment of people with disabilities. It is in committee right now. This bill would specifically cover state contractors. The hope is it will move forward to mirror the federal rules.

Motion to adjourn Tracy Olson.

Meeting closed at 2:04