

MASILC Quarterly Meeting 30 March 2011

Meeting opened 11:11 a.m.

Present

Members: Kristin Britton, Karen Bureau Bonnie Jones, Merle Ferber. Richard Berman, Bonnie Jones, Judi Rodger, Filomena Tripp, Janet Shaw, Anita Amy Ashdon, Joe Bellil, Paul Mushrush, Sybil Feldman, Betty J. King, Lisa Franklin, Jackie Higgins, Corinne Brinckerhoff, Nanette Goodwin, Anita Albright, Carol Hilbinger, Sharon Harrison, Bernard Bonsra, Mike Kennedy, Nancy Trzcinski

Nominees: Mary Dennesen

Guests: Steve Higgins, Paul Spooner, Brenda Curtiss, Bill Allan

Review of the minutes of 10 December 2010 Quarterly Meeting

Motion to accept minutes as presented: Joe Bellil

Second by Sybil Feldman

MSC Carried

Chair's Report, Nancy Trzcinski

It is good to be back. I missed my meeting. I was in my purple cast of doom. But it is gone now. And I'm back. And the bulk of my time for the past few months has been spent doing recruitment for our new SILC Coordinator, and I want to officially welcome Brenda Curtiss.

I also attended the Statewide Education Day at the State House, and I did some visits, myself, and it went well.

Motion to accept Chair's Report: Merle Farber
Second by Judi Rodger
MSC Carried

Public Information/Education Committee Report, Paul Spooner

We had our event at the State House a couple of weeks ago. I want to first say "thank you" to everybody who attended, who wrote letters, who did the work. We had the largest attendance, I believe somewhere over 250 individuals. All the centers were there with consumers doing appointments. It was just wonderful to see. The Rehab Council came out in force, and other sponsors were there helping us along. So you guys deserve a great round of applause.

Paul then gave a detailed explanation of how the budget process works. In short, the budget must be finished and signed by the governor by July 31st. That also means Ann Shor and the folks at Mass. Rehab will have their work cut out for them to get those contracts out so that we can start providing/maintaining services July 1 and moving forward.

Motion to accept Public Education/Information Committee Report
Mike Kennedy

Second by Betty Smith
MSC Carried

Finance Committee Report, Steve Higgins for Brian Smith

The Finance Committee met twice in between the last two meetings. At the end of the first quarter in January, things were looking pretty well as far as how things went. The first quarter expenses were in the range of \$33,000, which is pretty normal. During that first quarter we approved the rollover from the Federal Fiscal Year 2010 into Federal Fiscal Year 2011 which was \$10,889.53 in addition to the budget that you all approved back in September of -- \$155,731.

Second, we have been talking with folks at MRC trying to determine if there is a different way to do some of the SILC funding. In the past two years, in fact, we have come to points in the budget cycle where the SILC has actually come within a couple thousand dollars of running out of money before that next infusion of money comes into place. And the reasons for that it are things that out of every single person in this room's control. Much of it is the way the federal government now releases its money. Previously they would release it all and we knew that we were going to get part of the money on this month and the other part of the money on X number of months six months into the year. And it was a very simple thing for us to have a contract that was set in place, and we knew we would receive the Federal dollars on this month, and the state dollars on another month, and the contract would be amended about two to three times per year. That hasn't been the case the last couple of years, so it has created some real difficulty.

Third, we've been following up with Ann and talking about the funding availability for a 2011 State Independent Living Conference, which would take place in September, out at the Best Western in Marlborough. The location is in place. The funding is still an issue. Last year we had to postpone the conference due to lack of funds. There is a glimmer of hope that we might be able to do something this year. If not, the SILC is going to incur a penalty from the hotel. We took the risk two years ago of reserving the dates with the hotel to be sure that we would be able to have conferences in the future. Last year the Conference Center allowed us to carry the deposit over to this year. But should the SILC not have the conference this year, we lose the deposit, plus an additional \$1,800 that we would owe to the conference center if we have to cancel the event.

Motion to accept Finance Committee report Betty King
Second by Merle Ferber
MSC Carried

Nominations and Development Committee Report, Mike Kennedy

- Sharon Liberty has chosen not to accept the Governor's appointment. Another person from the Worcester area is in the process of applying.
- Independence Associates has withdrawn Carline Louisa
- The Multicultural Independent Living Center of Boston has withdrawn Tony Williams' nomination.

As you know, Steve has stepped down as SILC Coordinator so he could assume his duties as interim Executive Director with

Independence Associates. Please welcome Brenda Curtiss as the new SILC Coordinator.

Motion to accept Nominations and Development Committee Report
Betty King
Second Sybil Feldman
MSC Carried

State Plan for Independent Living Committee, Brenda Curtiss for Mary Margaret Moore

Mary Margaret Moore could not be here because she is on jury duty. Here is a synopsis of her report. The SPIL committee has not had any committee meetings due to scheduling conflicts. The next meeting is set for Friday, April 8th. It will serve as a catch-up meeting. The June meeting (June 6) is the regularly scheduled meeting.

Motion to accept State Plan for Independent Living Report Sybil Feldman
Second by Judi Rodger
MSC Carried

Bylaws Committee, Mike Kennedy

The committee met once during the past quarter, and, discussed the recommendations made by the Rehabilitative Services Administration. We need to meet one more time and write the discussion that we had and actually make a presentation at the next SILC quarterly meeting in June.

Motion to accept Bylaws Committee Report Merle Ferber
Second by Betty King
MSC Carried

Special Events Committee, Steve Higgins for Paul Spooner

Last year we joined the big celebration in Boston to participate in the ADA 20th Anniversary festivities. This year we move the state celebration for the ADA to Dunn Pond Park, which is what we have done for the SILC for a lot of years. Fortunately we got our request for a permit in on time (way back in November). We also get our fee waiver in on time. Because we are the SILC, it is considered part of the state. We are not going to have to pay the new fees of up to \$2,000 to rent the park. Brenda and I will be coordinating the logistics as well as the budget. In the past we have also put out sponsorship opportunities to SILCs, CILs and other organizations if they want to sponsor part of it, or sponsor the band, or sometimes people sponsor T-shirts.

No Motion needed for submittal.

SILC Coordinator's Report, Steve Higgins

Thank you. Working with the team at the SILC and being the Coordinator for the past several years has definitely been a good thing. And the exciting part about it now is that a really close friend and colleague of mine is our new Coordinator. And she is going to do a great job.

So you are going to hear me say a lot of times over the next few months, "ask Brenda." It is important, now for me to take a back

seat. I committed to working in a support role i.e. to be a supporter of the SILC and a cheerleader of the SILC. And to help walk through the tight ropes and the red tape and the other stuff that come up when you are in that position. But I will be on a couple of committees because I've been asked to.

You asked me to represent Massachusetts once again at the national SILC Congress. I attended SILC Congress in January. This year, the biggest focus was a two-day session that titled "You've Written your State Plan for Independent Living. Now What?" It was really a great session. I have a lot of notes I will be sharing with Nancy and Brenda. And as I will always say, the caveat when you attend a national training is that not all of it applies to us. And there are a couple of good reasons for that. One is the fact that we are a functional SILC. And really, I've got to commend you, the body, for the work the SILC has done in being a functional SILC. Brenda can attest to what this.

Motion to accept SILC Coordinator's Report Betty King
Second by Judi Rodger
MSC Carried

Old Business

New Business

A. Quality Assurance Committee at Mass. Rehab by Ann Shor

The purpose of the committee will be to take a look at whether the processes that Mass Rehab has in place to assure the quality of the services, and to take a look at whether changes should be made in those quality measures.

Second, it will be putting together a manual that will describe all of the different procedures, and, and tools that are being used to assure the quality of services. They will be looking at the procedures to make sure that the reports that MRC files with the federal government are accurate and on time because .So this committee is being set up, and we would like to have a representative from the SILC, preferably a consumer representative. members on this committee will include vocational rehabilitation counselors, some managers, and staff from the community living department consumer representatives from both the SILC and the State Rehab Council.

The committee will meet quarterly for approximately two years. After a brief discussion Chair Trzinski appointed Paul Mushrush to the committee.

B. Training by Steve Higgins on SILC Committees

Motion to Adjourn at 3:30 pm by Merle Ferber