

SILC Quarterly Meeting  
Wednesday, June 22, 2011  
11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Attendees: Anita Amy Ashdon, Karen Bureau, Janet Shaw  
Lisa Franklin, Courtland Townes (nominee), Merle Ferber, Bonnie Jones, Nancy Trzcinski,  
Chair, Mike Kennedy, Jackie Higgins, Joe Bellil, Coreen Brinckerhoff, Ann Shor, Susan Lavin,  
Kristin Britton, Judi Rodger, Betty J. King, Mary Dennesen (nominee)  
Guests: Brenda Curtiss, Coordinator, Paul Spooner

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 by Chair Nancy Trzcinski.

Motion to Approve June 22, 2011 minutes: Merle Ferber.

Second: Judi Rodger

Motion Passed

**Chair's Report by Nancy Trzcinski** I have been working with Brenda Curtiss to transition into her job and how we do things in Massachusetts.

I have been attending the committee meetings and doing the work of SILC.

Karen Bureau has a new job at IA and we congratulate her. The new job also means she can no longer be a consumer representative on the SILC. She is the secretary so she can no longer serve in that office either. We need a new secretary. Anyone willing? Seeing none, I will follow Paul's recommendation and refer this to Nominations Committee.

I will be attending NCIL in July. Mary Margaret Moore, and Steve Higgins and Brenda Curtiss are going as far as I know so we will have a good representation.

Brian is not here today so I will report that the SILC has a meeting scheduled on June 28<sup>th</sup> with Commissioners Carr and LaBreck to discuss some of the funding issues whereby the SILC nearly runs out of money and then gets funding it has to spend very quickly. Paul, as the fiduciary for SILC will be attending as will Brian and I hopefully by phone.

That should conclude my report.

Motion to Accept Report: Merle Ferber

Second: Mike Kennedy

Motion Passed

**Treasurer's Report** Brenda Curtiss on behalf of Brian Smith  
We received another

Below is the explanation from Paul Spooner about the SILC accounting as well as the purpose for meeting with the commissioners.

One, close to ten years ago, a spreadsheet was developed for the financial report that is given at the quarterly SILC meetings, but we have really never adapted that report, so that has really become problematic as an old Excel spreadsheet. We are trying to develop some other ideas on how to take care of getting timely and accurate reports to the SILC. It was suggested that we run the SILC budget on Quick Books, and be able to produce some reports from that. That is going to be happening October 1st, which is the new Fiscal Year. So until then this

council meeting and the next council meeting in September is going to be relying on the old format.

Two, the other part of the issue is that we are going in to meet with the two DSUs who sign the State Plan. They are the Rehab Commission (MRC) and Mass. Commission for the Blind (MCB). One of the problems that we have had, going on more than five years now, is that the SILC is funded out of the state pots of money. Some of it is Federal and a little is state. The Federal Government has not been consistent on getting its payments to the state. So even though the SILC has a budget of \$154,000 and change, the contract for the SILC that Metrowest gets to manage the funds is not for that full amount starting in October. It is for a smaller amount. And then as the Feds pay over the year, that contract gets amended, and monies get added to that. The unfortunate difficulty with that is that it has led to a couple of situations where pretty much the SILC could have shut its doors because there wasn't any money left. All had been expended on the contract and the Federal money had not come finished coming in. So there were a couple of times in the last three years where we have come within two weeks of shutting the doors of the SILC financially. That would have meant terminating all operations, all bills, etc... So we are meeting to see if there is an opportunity to share some ideas and think this through. Is there a way to ensure that funds are flowing to the SILC in order that it will be able to keep its operations going and so forth? It is not a question of whether the SILC is spending more money or less money on budget: it usually has some money that it carries over, which means that it is under budget, and generally that goes along just fine. It is more about the fact that we are not sure all the time what exactly the amounts are, and how consistent that is so that we are trying to figure out a better way of financing the SILC.

SILC minutes cont'd

Treasury Report, cont'd

I really do not have much to report, as I do not have one. We are supposed to receive the \$19,500 from MCD in July. It must be spent out by September 30. We are on track for spending, although I do not have the numbers at this time.

Recommendation: Table approval of the report

Motion to Table by: Merle Ferber

Second: Mike Kennedy

Motion to table passed

**Public Information and Education Committee (PIE)** by Paul Spooner. "We still don't have PIE at these meetings. We will have to work on that. The Feds forced MASILC to change the name to PIE so we should have PIE at least once a year at the SILC meetings."

1. Budget progress not much different than the last meeting. The House agreed with the governor and cut us significantly. The Senate restored us to \$550,000 in one of the 4000 line items. It is now in Conference Committee and since the chair of the Senate, Senator Brewer was instrumental of putting the money, we're optimistic that it's going to stay there. In the meantime, MRC has issued the ILC's grants reflecting the \$50,000 reduction

as projected in the governor's budget. Thank you for the work the IL Community once again accomplished in keeping this issue forefront in the budget process.

2. Housing Issues Joe Tringali from Stavros, was acting in a statewide committee on housing had been working with CHAPA, the large group that works on housing and public housing. It's a group of developers and advocates and so forth, have been putting legislation together and the legislation dealing with housing through what's known as bond bills. This is the money that funds the development of new housing, which has really been only, pretty much the only money available to develop more housing as we all know we need more housing. They wrote up a bond bill this year, but what's caused a snafu or a little concern from a number of different sources, advocates, and organizations, is that they also put it on that bill a whole section about trying to rewrite some statutes about housing in the Commonwealth, and also some areas under the Architectural Access Board's jurisdiction over housing and other aspects of the AAB they basically bundled as the Housing Bond Bill which everybody supports, and these changes to legislation around housing and the AAB, which not as many people support. We want the housing bill, housing bond bill to be on its own, because no one is opposed to the bond bill. It will fund more housing and no one should really be opposed to that but there are a lot of different opinions about the changes to the Architectural Access Board and some housing legislation.

Motion to accept Paul's report made by Mike Kennedy

Second by Judi Rodger

Motion passed

### **Special Events Committee** by Paul Spooner

1. We are very excited that the ADA day is July 22, on a Friday, and back at Dunn Pond State Park. An awesome T-shirt was approved today and it is a secret. We are having a cookout. A tent is ordered. Adaptive Equipment is returning with their kayaking, trail mongering, fishing, etc. The weather will be hot and humid so bring swimwear. The event is from 11 am until 3 pm, so please get your reservations in to Brenda so we can get a food count. The band will be there.
2. The Commission on Disabilities in Boston is having an ADA celebration from noon until 2:00 at City Hall in Boston. There is a hearing on an employment bill by Representative O'Day just prior at the Statehouse
3. Stavros is having an ADA Day in Western MA. It is on September 17<sup>th</sup>.on the Common in Amherst from 11:00 until 4:00

Motion to accept Paul's report made by Merle Ferber

Second by Judi Rodgers

Motion passed

LUNCH meeting resumed at 1:12 pm

**Nominations and Development** Report by Mike Kennedy

Brenda met with Rachel Charnley from the Gubernatorial Appointments office on July 17.

Rachel expressed interest in seeing the SILC become fully constituted. Some of the questions that Rachel had really did revolve around the current SILC composition. For us it was about ILCs with vacant seats. They are:

- Independence Associates. IA has no representative. with Karen Bureau now working for IA, she will need to either step down or be the IA representative. But first, Karen to you, congratulations, and glad about your new position with IA.
- Multicultural Independent Living Center also needs to submit a candidate
- Metrowest Center for Independent Living.
- CORD

That is where we are that way. And I know one of the questions that has always been asked, how many members do we currently have, and meeting with Rachel, we are about ten short.

Motion to accept Mike's report made by Anita Amy Ashdon

Second by Betty King

Motion passed

**By-laws Committee** by Mike Kennedy (this was a very detailed report on the review/recommendations for by-laws updates as requested by RSA in its audit. Below are highlights of the changes, which were published electronically and in print to the members prior to the meeting.

Thank you to those who served on the re-constituted by-laws committee. We held three conference calls to rework and discuss the changes RSA requested. The changes were:

- The number of SILC members. RSA felt the council is too large. The committee recommends it stay the same at 44 members
- That subcommittee chairs or co-chairs be voting members of the SILC. We recommend the bylaws stay the same. You do not have to be a member to chair a subcommittee
- Term limits for ex-officios. RSA is requiring them for ex-officios. We determined they should follow the same two-three year term limits as the voting members
- Changing the length of time a council member must be off until they are eligible for a new appointment cycle. The recommendation is that that limit be changed from one year to one quarterly meeting. Ann Shor is checking with legal counsel if this is acceptable (Note: it was confirmed by the next committee meeting that this was OK)

- Diversity. The group looked at Article three, section 1bb of bylaws that state that the council represents a broad range of individuals with disabilities. It is an ongoing effort.
- The number of ILC representatives on Council. The bylaws should be changed so that there are 11 ILCs including the elected ILC Rep to the council. As they read currently there are supposed to be twelve.
- Grammar and organizational changes

Extensive discussion ensued and further clarifications were made. They will be sent out before the next meeting. The next meeting will be when the bylaws can be approved or not by a 2/3 majority.

Motion to accept Bylaws report by Lisa Franklin

Second by Joe Bellil

Motion passed

**SPIL Committee Report** by Brenda Curtiss for Mary Margaret Moore

Three major things discussed. First further adjustments need to be made with the program review, when MRC comes in, and audits. The centers, there's a document that they have to tell you, the Massachusetts flavor. we went over that, and are making a final cleanup, so that was an action item. The second one was they looked at the site reviews, and it was apparent that there are parts of Edgar that the centers need to follow more closely relating to procurement and purchase orders. The third Starting through the State Plan, to review the goals and objectives and got a little detoured into the idea of what is monitoring, and anyway, one of the results of this is that they asked that I cut the goals and objectives out, make like a landscape sheet, and add a column so that we can see, complete it and as part of the SPIL. That is all I can reflect upon now. It is not a complete report.

Motion to table until September by Joe Bellil

Second by Judi Rodger

Motion to table passed.

**Coordinator's Report** by Brenda Curtiss I'm very glad to be here in spite of all that, and what I basically have been doing is learning to work, as Nancy said, in this system, because it is different, and I underestimated that, and even finding things, so I've worked on cleaning up, and getting used to the calls, getting used to the committees, and your structure, because like I said before, you have committees that actually work, and so learning when I'm supposed to do something and when I'm supposed to let the committees do something, so I'm planning to go to NCIL with Nancy and also the consumers' conference.

Motion to accept Brenda's report: Bonnie Jones

Second by Judi Rodgers

Motion Passed

Move to Adjourn after more social comments by Bonnie Jones

Second by Judi Rodger

Motion Passed