



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

One Capitol Hill, Ground Level  
Providence, RI 02908-5850

(401) 222-1205 (TTY) (401) 222-1204 (Voice) (401) 222-5736 (FAX)  
E-mail: [cdhh@cdhh.ri.gov](mailto:cdhh@cdhh.ri.gov) Website: [www.cdhh.ri.gov](http://www.cdhh.ri.gov)

**Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Monday, June 21, 2005  
MEETING MINUTES**

*Commissioners Attending:* J. Ronan, E. Rawlings, R. Cooper, J. Desmarais-Valdez, J. Tolento, P. Thompson, and L. Sack

*Commissioners Absent:* T. Zellner, S. Goldenberg, K. Blue, and J. Daniels

*Public:* None.

*Staff Attending:* S. Florio (Exec. Director)

***Communication Accommodations: CART and ASL Interpretation***

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The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by the Vice-Chair Ed Rawlings, in Multicultural Center, Building 96 of the URI Kingston Campus, 74 Lower College Road, Kingston, RI.

As secretary was out, J. Desmarais-Valdez volunteered to take minutes.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

The minute from May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting was reviewed. Jeannie made a motion to approve minutes as corrected. The word “committee” under the old business is to be replaced with “workgroup” as it describes the type of group appropriately.

The minute of 9/16/04 was not available to review.

**OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

Chair: Absent. No report.

Vice-Chair: None.

Treasurer: None.

Secretary: Absent. No report.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

See attached Executive Director's Report for details.

Updated on DAW event in September - Waterfire site is dropped, need sponsorship for the event – can obtain through non-profit organization (CDHH to establish) as modeled after KYCDHH.

Discussed procedure for billing & payment of interpreters for UHC (changed from BC/BS). UHC has similar coverage as BC/BS plus additional pharmacies to choose from.

**BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT:** None.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:** See new business. No other report.

**HOSPICE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Currently advertising for volunteers to work in hospice care.

**HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Survey questionnaire has been developed and will be distributed. Data from questionnaire will help determine needs, trainings, accommodation, etc.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Need to start thinking of nominees for the 2 awards- Recognizance and Legislative. CDHH will send announcement to public about the awards. Have brochure to distribute and will use e-mail as well for the nomination.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

RI CDHH Slogans – Brainstorming stage, no voting. Discussed ideas and important words to be included such as access, opportunity, equality, communication, et al. No recommendation at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

E. Rawling made a motion to approve the Emergency Interpreter Referral Service Policy and Procedures. P. Thompson seconded. All in favor.

L. Sack made a motion to approve that members be re-appointed (expiring on July 1<sup>st</sup>) for another 2-year term. Jeannie seconded the motion. All in favor.

L. Sack moved to adjourn the meeting and Jack seconded. All in favor. Meeting is adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Desmarais-Valdez, Covering Secretary