

# Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

## Wednesday, August 16, 2006

### MEETING MINUTES

*Commissioners Attending: E. Rawlings, J. Ronan, L. Sack, J. Tolento, S. Goldenberg*

*Commissioners Absent: J. Desmarais-Valdez, J. Daniels, R. Cooper, P. Thompson and T. Zellner*

*Public:*

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

*Communication Accommodations: ASL Interpretation and CART*

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The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by the Vice Chair Ed Rawlings, in Dept. of Administration Building, Providence, RI.

#### **REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the CDHH meeting of June 21, 2006 were not reviewed and voted on due to insufficient number of commissioners present tonight who were present at the June meeting.

Steven Florio asked for the meeting to go into closed executive session to discuss personnel issues. Lisa Sack made a motion to move into closed session and Suzanne Goldenberg seconded it. The closed/executive session meeting started at 6:52 pm.

A motion was made to close the executive session and return to open session by Lisa Sack. Suzanne Goldenberg seconded the motion. The closed/executive session closed and the general meeting was reopened at 7:05 pm. There was no motion being made during the executive session.

#### **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

Chair: None

Vice-Chair: None

Treasurer: None.

Secretary: None

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

The executive report was given by Steven Florio. The Commissioners were informed of the resignation of Kimberly Blue and also the serious illness of Robert Cooper who were both absent. See packet for details of the executive report.

**BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Ed Rawlings requested that the by-laws committee meet again to review the bylaws. Suzanne Goldenberg agreed to join the committee for the upcoming meeting (to be scheduled).

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:** Membership Committee reported that applications will be received for the open positions and reviewed by Travis Zellner and Lisa Sack. See packet for list of open positions.

**HOSPICE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Steven Florio reported that two fluent signers have been trained as Hospice Volunteers, Bonnie Abols and Paula Bernfeld. Tina Thompson will be recruiting volunteers to meet with hard of hearing Hospice patients.

**HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE REPORT:** The last meeting of the health care committee was in June 2006. Dr. Diane Martell, Professor of Social Work at Rhode Island College has volunteered her professional skills to help in the development of a survey of the deaf and hard of hearing population of RI to assess the current state of mental health services available to the population.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** The deadline for awards nominations is October 1, 2006. Awards will be presented at the November Coffee Hour.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Steve Florio suggested that the Commission try holding meetings at different locations around the state. John Tolento made a motion to approve the use of different locations and Lisa Sack seconded it. CCRI will be used for a pilot meeting for the October meeting. The date will be announced.

The budget for 2007/2008 was presented (see packet for details). Lisa Sack made a motion to approve the budget and Suzanne Goldenberg seconded it. The motion passed.

It was noted that Pamela Zellner will take maternity leave in November for 3-6 months, and that a temporary employer will be hired for her position at an hourly rate without benefits.

Suzanne Goldenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Lisa Sack seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne S. Goldenberg  
Secretary