

The RI CDHH Commissioner approved the minutes for the 10/12/06 meeting on December 13, 2006.

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

October 12, 2006

MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Attending: T. Zellner, E. Rawlings, L. Sack, P. Thompson, J. Ronan, J. Tolento, S. Goldenberg, and J. Desmarais-Valdez.

Commissioner Absent: J. Daniels

Staff Attending: S. Florio (Executive Director)

Public Attending: Lois Thomas, Andrew Knight, Bonnie Rose and Jeff Molett

Communication Accommodations: (Interpreters and CART)

Location: Board Room 4090 at the Community College of Rhode Island, Knight Campus in Warwick, RI

The meeting was called to order by chair Travis Zellner at 6:15 pm. The first order of business was interviewing candidates for the vacant commission positions. Lisa Sack made a motion to move to Closed/Executive Session for the interviews. Suzanne Goldenberg seconded. The motion passed. The open meeting closed and the Closed/Executive session began at 6:20 pm.

The regular meeting was reopened at 7:08 pm. The minutes of June 26, 2006 were reviewed. Travis Zellner made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Jack Ronan seconded. The motion passed. Minutes of the August 16, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Lisa Sack made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Jack Ronan seconded. The motion passed.

Suzanne Goldenberg made a motion to go into Closed/Executive Session to review the minutes from the Closed/Executive Session of August 16, 2006. Ed Rawlings seconded. The motion passed. The commission

went into Closed/Executive Session at 7:19 pm. Suzanne Goldenberg made a motion to reopen the general meeting. Travis Zellner seconded. The motion passed. The general meeting reopened at 7:19 pm.

COMMITTEES:

Steven Florio read the Executive Director's report. See packet for details.

Ed Rawlings reported on the work of the bylaws committee and there was discussion of residency requirements as well as the determination of a quorum for voting purposes. The bylaws committee will meet again and make recommendations for revision of the bylaws at the next general meeting, December 13, 2006.

Steven Florio reported that the hospice committee has achieved its goal of recruiting and training new staff to provide Hospice services to deaf and hard of hearing people.

There was no other old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Steven Florio presented a draft of the Commission's FY2006 Annual Report for approval. Jack Ronan made a motion to approve the report with some proofreading and final corrections to be made. Jeannie Desmarais-Valdez seconded. The motion passed.

Lisa Sack and Jeannie Desmarais-Valdez presented the Awards Committee's recommendation that the annual RICDHH award for service to the deaf and hard of hearing community be made to two groups at the November Coffee Hour. The committee recommended the Rhode Island School for the Deaf Building Committee and the Rhode Island chapter of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. John Tolento made a motion to approve the recommendation and Jeannie Desmarais-Valdez seconded. The motion passed. No legislative award will be given this year.

A last candidate to be interviewed arrived late for the interviews. Lisa Sack made a motion to reconvene to closed session for the final interview. Suzanne Goldenberg seconded. The meeting moved to closed session at 8:27 pm.

The Commission returned to open meeting at 8:42 pm. The Commission announced that the Commissioners voted unanimously to recommend Ed Rawlings, hard of hearing, and Lisa Sack, hearing, for re-appointment and Lois Thomas, hard of hearing, and Andrew Knight, deaf, for newly appointment.

No further new business was presented. John Tolento made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jack Ronan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne S. Goldenberg
Secretary