

**Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
December 13, 2006**

MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Attending: T. Zellner, E. Rawlings, L. Sack, J. Ronan, J. Desmarais-Valdez.

Commissioner Absent: J. Daniels, J. Tolento, S. Goldenberg, and Patricia Thompson

Staff Attending: S. Florio (Exec. Director)

Public Attending: Mitchell Levy

Communication Accommodations: (Interpreters and CART)

Location: Conference Room C, 2nd Floor, at the Department of Administration building in Providence, RI.

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm by Chair Travis Zellner. The Commission reviewed the minutes from the regular meeting of October 12, 2006. Jack Ronan made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Lisa Sack seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended that Kimberly Blue is no longer a commissioner and Joanne Daniels was absent.

Jack Ronan made a motion to go into closed session to discuss and update on personnel issues. Jeannie Desmarais-Valdez seconded the motion. The meeting went into closed session at 6:45 pm. The Commission returned to open session at 6:50 pm. There was no vote made during the closed session.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Chair Travis Zellner reported that Jeanne Desmarais-Valdez has submitted her resignation from the Commission, effective December 31, 2006.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Please see the director's report in the packet for this meeting.

COMMITTEES' REPORTS:

Bylaws: A draft including changes to the bylaws was presented and is to be voted on at the next meeting.

Membership: Election of officers is scheduled for February. The Commission will advertise for candidates to fill an open position for a seat for a Deaf Commissioner.

Hospice: Tina Thompson has trained Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island staff at several locations in Rhode Island mainly on the issues and concerns of hard of hearing patients. Steve Florio will focus on Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island staff who can work with deaf and deaf/blind patients.

Health Care: The steering committee has met to discuss about the survey questionnaires. Martha Brunzos and Suzanne Goldenberg are now co-chairs.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Jack Ronan made a motion that the Commission conducts an orientation for both old and new commissioners. Jeanne Desmarais-Valdez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2) Jeanne Desmarais-Valdez made a motion to approve the Commission's legislative package for the 2007 session and legislative actions concerning the following issues:

- The candidates who accept the state matching program for their campaign must include the closed captioning on their TV (campaign) advertisement in Rhode Island.
- A representative from the RICDHH should be added on the list to serve on the Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council.
- All educational videos and other audio-based educational materials use in Rhode Island classrooms required to be closed captioned and/or accessible to deaf and hard of hearing students and teachers.

Jack Ronan seconded. The motion passed.

3) Ed Rawlings made a motion to approve the development of an ad-hoc to plan strategies for legislative action. Travis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4) Lisa Sack made a motion to approve the proposed CDHH general meeting dates and locations in 2007.

February 21, 2007 at 6:30pm - Community College of RI, Board Room 4090, in Warwick, RI

March 5, 2007 at 6:30pm - Community College of RI, Board Room 4090, in Warwick, RI

April 18, 2007 at 6:30pm - Department of Administration, 2nd Floor in Providence, RI

June 20, 2007 at 6:30pm - Community College of RI, Board Room 4090, in Warwick, RI
August 15, 2007 at 6:30pm - Department of Administration, 2nd Floor in Providence, RI
October 17, 2007 at 6:30pm - Community College of RI, Board Room 4090, in Warwick, RI
November 7, 2007 at 5:00pm (Annual Coffee Hour) - State House, Providence, RI
December 12, 2007 at 6:30pm - Department of Administration, 2nd Floor in Providence, RI

Jeanne Desmarais-Valdez seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Lisa Sack made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jack Ronan seconded the motion. The motion passed.
The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne S. Goldenberg
Secretary