

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

October 17, 2007

MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Attending: T. Zellner, E. Rawlings, L. Sack, , J. Ronan, A. Knight,
J. Compton, and M. Wambach.

Staff Attending: S. Florio (Exec. Director)

Public Attending: Cynthia LeBlanc and Scott Sellen

Communication Accommodations: Interpreters: Carol Fay and Maribeth Anderson
CART service: Shelley Deming

Location: Conference Room A at the Department of Administration building (One Capitol Hill) in Providence, RI

The meeting was called to order by chair Travis Zellner at 6:40 pm.

Travis Zellner made a suggestion to hold the Closed/Executive session until at the end of the meeting so the Commissioners may focus on current reports and new business. The commissioners were in agreement with Travis.

Jack Ronan made a motion to approve the April 26 2007 meeting minutes as written. Ed Rawlings seconded the motion to approve minutes. Ed Rawlings seconded. The motion was recognized and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Steve Florio presented a list of nominations for two RICDHH awards that he collected from the public and asked that they become the Awards Committee's recommendation.

The RICDHH Recognition Award be made to Lt. Joseph Coffey, Warwick Police Department for establishing the policy on Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the Warwick Police Department.

Lisa Sack made a motion to approve the recommendation that the RICDHH Recognition Award be made to Lt. Joseph Coffey, Warwick Police Department. Ed Rawlings seconded. The motion was recognized and carried.

The RICDHH Legislative Awards be made to 11 recipients:

- 1) Bruce Bucci, President of the Rhode Island Association of the Deaf
- 2) The Freedom Committee of the Rhode Island Disability Vote Project (James deBoer)
- 3) Senator William Walaska – Sponsor of two legislations
- 4) Senator Stephen Alves – Sponsor of two legislations
- 5) Senator Michael McCaffrey – Sponsor of two legislations
- 6) Representative Arthur Handy – Sponsor of two legislations
- 7) Representative Eileen Naughton – Sponsor of two legislations
- 8) Representative Robert Jacquard – Sponsor of two legislations
- 9) Representative Charlene Lima – Sponsor of a legislation
- 10) Representative Patricia Serpa – Sponsor of a legislation
- 11) Representative Edith Ajello – Sponsor of a legislation

Lisa Sack made a motion to approve the recommendation that the RICDHH Legislation Award be made to 11 names listed above. Mary Wambach seconded. The motion was recognized and carried.

PUBLIC TIME:

Scott Sellen, a deaf visitor, expressed his frustration with the Interpreter Referral Service in the recent weeks. He had difficult to obtain the interpreter for his very important meeting at his work. He did not have any problem with this request in the past when Curtiss James was with the Commission. He has noticed that the quality of service has been declining after Curtiss James left. He demanded that the Commission must do something about it and wanted to know what's going on with the latest problem.

Travis thanked Scott for his time and the Commissioners recognized his comments and be recorded in the meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

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

Steven gave presentation using powerpoint slides on the future of the RICDHH. "How the consolidation of Department of Agency would mean to the RICDHH" and "What is the role of the Commissioners on consolidation?".

Discussion was followed.

COMMITTEES:

No Committee Reports as the time was not permitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Jack Ronan made a motion to go into Closed/Executive Session for the April 26 2007 executive meeting minutes review. Ed Rawlings seconded. The motion passed. The open meeting closed and the Closed/Executive session began at 8:15 pm.

The regular meeting was reopened at 8:21 pm. The meeting minutes of April 26, 2007 were reviewed. Travis Zellner announced that Ed Rawlings made a motion to approve the April 26, 2007 meeting minutes as written. Jack Ronan seconded. The motion was recognized and carried.

No further new business was presented.

Andrew Knight made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ed Rawlings seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven A. Florio
Executive Director (Secretary for the October 17, 2007 meeting).