

The RI CDHH Commissioner approved the minutes for the 09/22/10 meeting on November 3, 2010.

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

September 22, 2010

MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Attending: *Travis Zellner, Ed Rawlings, Christine "Tina" Thompson, James Compton, Sean Gill, James Simon, Karen Davis, and Jesus M. Colon.*

Commissioner(s) not Attending: *Mary Wambach, Jordan Sack, and John Dunsmore (resigned effectively on September 17th, 2010)*

Staff Attending: *Steve Florio (Executive Director)*

Public Attending: *Jade Dyson (Brown University student)*

Communication Accommodations:

Interpreters: Elizabeth Nadolski and Yvette Johnson
CART service: Shelly 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 6:08 pm.

CHAIR' REPORT:

- 1) Chair Travis announced that he as well as the commissioners received the letter of resignation from John Dunsmore effectively on September 17th.
- 2) Chair Travis welcomed two new incoming Commissioners, Karen Davis and Jesus Colon who were recently appointed by the Governor on September 17th. He said the Commissioners will schedule

a date to provide a mini-orientation or crash course to learn more about the agency, history of the agency, and their roles and responsibilities.

- 3) Chair Travis announced that the items on the agenda need to move around as he wanted the commissioners to concentrate on the most priority item first such as budget. The commissioners were in agreement with Chair Travis.
- 4) Chair Travis gave a brief report related to Rhode Island School for the Deaf.
 1. RIDE and RISD Board of Trustees will have a strategic planning day in November 2010. RIDE will identify the stakeholders, up to 25, to serve on the one-day strategic planning event. He said there will be only two board of trustees and he believes that a number will be assigned that are representing the RICDHH.
 2. For the first time in the past 5 years, RI School for the Deaf has a full Board of Trustees as the Board of Regents appointed Angelo Garcia and Westley Resendes on September 2nd. Angelo Garcia used to serve as Vice-Chair of the School Committee in Central Falls, RI and his strong background is finance. Westley Resendes who used to attend the Rhode Island School for the Deaf is now a 3rd year student at Harvard University.
- 5) After a discussion about one of the RICDHH mandates (statutes), we need to take a good look at "Coordinating Council on Education for deaf and hard of hearing students" and discuss further as to what we could do about it. This subject will be one of the items on agenda for the next meeting on October 20, 2010.

Review of Meeting Minutes (3/17/2010, 5/19/2010, 6/23/2010, and 7/21/2010):

- 1) It was reported that Lisa Sack is not available to submit the **March 17, 2010** meeting minutes for review. The staff will continue contacting her for it so the commissioners can approve it at the next meeting on October 20, 2010.
- 2) Tina Thompson **made a motion** to approve the **May 19 2010** meeting minutes as amended. James Simon seconded. The motion was carried 5-0. (Only 5 were eligible to vote because they were at the meeting.) The amendment was to add the list of commissioner(s) who did not attend the meeting.
- 3) Tina Thompson **made a motion** to approve the **June 23 2010** meeting minutes as amended. Ed Rawlings seconded. The motion was carried 3-0. (Only 3 were eligible to vote because they were at the meeting.) The amendments were to add the list of commissioner(s) who did not attend the meeting and to add the statement made by the Chair that he had asked the candidates whether they want their interview to be held in the open session or in the closed session. All candidates responded wanting their interviews to be held in the open session.
- 4) Tina Thompson **made a motion** to approve the **July 21 2010** meeting minutes as amended. Jim Simon seconded. The motion was carried 6-0 (Only 6 were eligible to vote because they were at the meeting.) The amendment was to add the list of commissioner(s) who did not attend the meeting.

The meeting was on break at 6:45pm declared by Chair Travis.

The meeting was resumed at 6:50pm called by Chair Travis.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1 - BUDGET:

Steve Florio gave a brief background as to how the budget process looks like this year vs. in the past. This year is unique because whoever wins the Governorship on Nov. 2nd will also be reviewing all budget requests for both FY2011 and FY2012. The State Budget Office requested that each department and agency to submit two requests for each fiscal year, one is at the current level and the 2nd request is at the constrained level. Also, all agencies and departments are required to meet the target amount for each fiscal year.

1) FY2011

Request #1 – A current level budget (\$369, 885.00)

Request #2 – A constrained budget (\$362, 824.00) including 1.33% cut.

The commissioners debated and agreed that any further cut would compromise RICDHH's ability to deliver all mandates.

Tina Thompson **made a motion** to approve the RICDHH FY2011 Budget that will be submitted to the Governor. Ed Rawlings seconded. Motion carried by a unanimous vote, (8-0).

The meeting was on break at 7:30pm declared by Chair Travis.

The meeting was resumed at 7:36pm called by Chair Travis.

Chair Travis clarified that he had to rescue from voting because his wife is working where the budget cut on personnel may be affected. The commissioners continued discussing on budget:

2) FY2012

Request #1 – A current level budget (\$384,089.00) including dollars cut on Emergency Interpreter Referral Service.

Request #2 – A constrained budget (\$326, 475.65) including 15% cut.

The commissioners had a lengthy debate with passion to support the agency. They discussed pros and cons, risks, concerns, and languages used to justify keeping level funding. Steve laid out two options for FY2012's Request #2 as to where to cut in responding to Governor's request.

Jesus M. Colon **made a motion** to approve the RICDHH 2012 Budget, provided that Option #1 for Request #2 as to how and which 15% cut should be applied is preferred as the way we wanted to submit to the Governor. Seconded by Sean Gill. The motion was carried by 6 votes, 1 abstained, and 1 rescued.

Breakdown of votes:

Aye (6) – Jesus M Colon, Karen Davis, Sean Gill, James Compton, James Simon, and Ed Rawlings.

No (0) – none

Abstained (1) – Tina Thompson

Rescued (1) – Travis Zellner

The meeting was on break at 8:25pm declared by Chair Travis.

The meeting was resumed at 8:28pm called by Chair Travis.

COMMITTEES' REPORTS:

Bylaws: The bylaws committee was unable to convene lately due to date conflicts but they will try to get together soon so they can give a report at the next meeting. They will review the Attorney General Office Letter dated September 16, 2010 and share with the Commissioners of their position. A commissioner asked if Lisa may continue serving on the committee if she is not a commissioner. Chair Travis responded that Lisa can serve on the committee as long as the committee has the commissioners to serve.

Membership: Chair Travis said since John Dunsmore resigned, we need to find his replacement for the remaining term. The commissioners were in agreement that the advertisement about the vacancy of Commissioner should be posted immediately with the deadline on November 30, 2010. The interview should be taken in place at the meeting in December 2010.

Healthcare: Tina Thompson excited to announce that the committee has made some nice progress. She and Steve will provide training at Roger Williams Medical Center on September 29th with the cooperation of Hospital Association of Rhode Island. HARI offers free CEUs to healthcare professionals who attend our training. Also, the committee has 4 workgroups to focus on specific goals. She looks forward to seeing further progress that workgroups made when they meet again on September 30th.

Award: RICDHH had received two nominations so far for the RICDHH Recognition 2010 Award. The commissioners were in agreement that the deadline for nomination is extended into next month. The commissioners will vote on the winner(s) for the award on Oct. 20, 2010.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. After reviewing the vision prepared by Tina Thompson as to what task force on interpreter referral service would work on with some benefits, James Simon **made a motion** to approve establishing a Task Force to focus on interpreting service issues. Jesus M. Colon seconded. Motion carried by a unanimous vote (8-0).

Tina was asked to lead forming a committee by identifying which stakeholders should serve on this committee and then have the committee members to select their leader to lead the committee going forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Tina Thompson **made a motion** that a certificate of appreciation from the RICDHH Commissioners be given to both Lisa Sack and Andrew Knight for serving on the commission and a citation or letter from the Office of the Governor be given to Lisa Sack for serving the Commission more than 10 years (more than 5 terms). And they will be recognized at RICDHH's Coffee Hour event on November 10, 2010. Ed Rawlings seconded. Motion carried by a unanimous vote (8-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm declared by Chair Travis.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven A. Florio
Executive Director
(Secretary for the September 22, 2010 meeting).