

The RI CDHH Commissioner approved the minutes for the 12/08/2010 meeting on February 16, 2011.

## Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

December 8, 2010

### MEETING MINUTES

*Commissioners Attending:* Travis Zellner, Ed Rawlings, Christine "Tina" Thompson, James Compton, James Simon, Jordan Sack, and Mary Wambach..

*Commissioner(s) not Attending:* Karen Davis, Sean Gill, and Jesus M. Colon

*Staff Attending:* Steve Florio (Executive Director)

*Public Attending:* Corsino Delgado, Assistant Director of RISD

*Communication Accommodations:*

*Interpreters:* Elizabeth Nadolski and Yvette Johnson  
*CART service:* Shelley Deming

*Location:* Cafeteria Room at the Rhode Island School for the Deaf at One Corliss Park in Providence, RI

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Travis Zellner at 6:16 pm.

#### CHAIR' REPORT:

Chair Travis Zellner announced that three people notified him, all today, that they could not come to the meeting today. They were Sean Gill, Karen Davis, and Jesus Colon. Now, the Commission had 7 commissioners presented, therefore, the quorum was met.

Chair Zellner regretted that he could not be at the last meeting on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> as too many things happened in his life at that time but he was very happy to learn that the meeting went very well and the Annual Coffee Hour on November 10<sup>th</sup> was very successful. He heard that the program went smooth so he wanted to thank all of the commissioners for their participation and contribution to these successes.

Chair Zellner noted that the commissioners will take the tour at RISD right after reviewing the meeting minutes and the bylaws committee requested to set the time block of 2 hours dedicated to their proposal of bylaws and procedure on the Election of Officers revisions.

#### **VICE CHAIR' REPORT:**

Vice Chair Ed Rawling noted that the Statewide Coordinating Council on Education for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was tabled last month until today but it was not on the agenda for today. Chair Zellner said it will be one of the items on agenda for the next meeting in 2011.

#### **Review of Meeting Minutes (11/03/2010):**

- 1) Tina Thompson **made a motion** to approve the **November 3, 2010** meeting minutes as corrected. James Simon seconded. The motion was carried 5-0. (Only 5 were eligible to vote because they were at the meeting.)

#### **RISD TOUR:**

Chair Zellner introduced Corsino Delgrado, Assistant Director of RISD, who would take the tour with the Commissioners. The tour began at 6:37pm.

The meeting resumed after the tour concluded at 6:58pm.

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

- 1) Steve Florio wanted to share the updates on the Budget Submission for FY2011 and FY2012. He mentioned that he had not heard anything from the Budget Office in his Executive Director report prior to the meeting tonight but today, he had received the confidential budget packet from the Budget Office. He had the opportunity to review it quickly before coming to RISD that the budget for the Commission for FY2011 and FY2012 appears to remain at the level funding. He would send the detailed budget data prepared by the Budget Office with the Commissioners if requested. Unfortunately, the RICDHH would not have any new funding for new programs, etc. but it would cover essential personnel related such as COLA, benefits, etc. Steve stressed that this is considered as good news because in FY2012, the budget people have to figure out how to fill in the holes that were filled by the Federal Stimulus funding for the last two fiscal years, FY2010 and FY2011.
- 2) Steve summarized the success of our Annual Coffee Hour event that was held on November 10, 2010. Bonnie Abols, Living Independent Specialist of Ocean State Center for Independent Living, was recognized by the Commissioners and a Program at Perspective Corporation was also recognized. They were very pleased the way the Coffee Hour went. Also, our Lisa Sack was also on a brightest spotlight as she received a number of awards for her long serving commitment and dedication as the commissioner. She gave a few words as well. I thought that was a nice way to recognize her as outgoing Commissioner. He noted that the Coffee Hour event would not be

possible without generous sponsors from ZVRS, SorensonVRS, Rhode Island Hamilton Relay, and Partner Interpreting.

- 3) He noticed that the Rhode Island Hamilton Relay did not seize a great opportunity to publicize as to who won the Deaf Person of the Year that was given during the Deaf Awareness Week annually. Mary Wambach was the winner for this year. She received this recognition at Corliss Center from Mitch Levy of Hamilton Relay during the Pasta Dinner as part of the Celebration of the Deaf Awareness Week. Please congratulate her!!
- 4) He is currently working on to ensure that interpreters and CART service are being arranged for Governor's Inauguration that will be held on January 4, 2011. Please let him know if anyone is interested in attending.

### COMMITTEES' REPORT:

BYLAWS: Vice Chair Ed Rawlings asked Jordan Sack to start the presentation on Bylaw Committee's recommendations of Bylaws revisions including procedure on the Election of Officers.

*(Detailed revisions proposed by the Bylaws committee may be requested at the RICDHH Office.)*

Jordan mentioned that the Bylaws Committee has met 6 times for a total of 14 hours to study the issues, to improve languages, and to prepare for the presentation. Most highlights of revisions are as follows:

- 1) Changing from "Policy on the Election of Officers" to "**Procedures** on the Election of Officers"
- 2) Adding definition of "**Year**" and "**Term**" as the Commissioner.
- 3) Changing the Timing of Election from "the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of the **calendar** year" to "the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of the **fiscal** year".
- 4) Adding "voting" before members: A minimum quorum of five (5) "**voting**" Commissioners or Members.
- 5) Sequence of Officers to be filled in case of the position of Chairperson or any other officers becomes vacant.
- 6) Requiring **unanimous vote** to recognize the motion after being seconded by a commissioner.

The commissioners had asked some questions about these revisions. A few subjects are difficult to be agreed on by the Commissioners such as "unanimous vote to recognize the motion after being seconded", the true meaning and/or definition of quorum, and among others. Chair Zellner suggested that we will continue discussing more on these revisions at the next meeting.

Jordan said that the Bylaws Committee also will review the RICDHH Board Manual as some information needs to be updated/revised and will figure out as to how to get 4 committees (TeleCommunication, Education, Employment, and Healthcare) to become more active. He thanked the Commissioners for their time to review the proposal of revisions.

Membership: No Report due to time limitation

Healthcare: No Report due to time limitation

Award: No Report due to time limitation

Interpreting Service Task Force:

No Report due to time limitation

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** 3 Items. Please see below.

#### **NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1 – RICDHH 2011 Legislative Package**

Tina Thompson **made a motion** that the RICDHH approved the RICDHH's 2011 Legislative Package. James Simon seconded. Motion carried by 6-0-1-0.

Aye (6) – Travis Zellner, Ed Rawlings, Mary Wambach, James Compton, James Simon, and Tina Thompson.

No (0) – None

Abstained (1) – Jordan Sack

Recused (0) – None

#### **NEW BUSINESS ITEM #2 – BYLAWS PROPOSED REVISIONS**

Chair Zellner said there is no vote to be held today as the Bylaws Committee just gave the report on their recommendation of bylaws/procedures revisions.

#### **NEW BUSINESS ITEM #3 – MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2011**

Chair Zellner realized that time ran out and not all Commissioners were presented that would help to decide if the proposed schedules of meeting dates are suitable. Chair Zellner asked if the commissioners agreed with him that January 12, 2011 at 6pm at the Dept of Administration building will be their next meeting for now. As for the rest of the year, the commissioners can communicate with Steve Florio of their availability to narrow down the dates for each month through e-mail. The commissioners unanimously agreed with Chair Zellner's suggestion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Steven A. Florio  
Executive Director  
(Secretary for the December 8, 2010 meeting).