

Please Note: This is an approved copy of the minutes for the 1/13/10 meeting of the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

January 13, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 13th 2010
Dept of Administration Building, Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Commissioners Attending: Travis Zellner, Ed Rawlings, Lisa Sack, James Simon, Jordan Sack, James Compton, Mary Wambach, John Dunsmore

Commissioner Absent: Andrew Knight, Sean Gill, Christine Thompson

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 by Travis Zellner. The meeting minutes from September 16, 2009 were reviewed. Ed Rawlings made a motion to approve the minutes, it was seconded by Travis Zellner, and all were in favor. The meeting minutes from October 28th were reviewed. Ed Rawlings made a motion to approve the minutes, it was seconded by Jim Simon and all were in favor.

Officers' Reports:

Chair - Travis reported there is a Subcommittee established for reviewing hearing aid and implantable hearing devices legislation. He also reported that the Strategic Plan meeting for March 20, 2010 will be led by Beth Wilson and Martin Leek.

There were no reports from the Vice-Chair, Treasurer, or Secretary

Executive Director's Report:

In addition to the information in the December packet Steve presented a legislative update. There are 6 items to be reviewed:

- 1.) Website - needs to be captioned with audio/video feed.
- 2.) Open Captioned movies

- 3.) Bill proposed that money from the relay fund go to our agency for emergency communication.
- 4.) Education materials need to be made accessible - DVDs/Videos need to be captioned.
- 5.) Hearing Aid Bill - proposes children have full coverage and adults \$1500.00.
- 6.) Implanted hearing Devices - includes surgery, mapping, post surgery, follow up and rehabilitation.

Steve also proposed that the next meeting will not be a Commission meeting, but rather a workshop entitled "How a bill becomes a Law"

Subcommittee Reports:

- 1.) Bylaws - no updates
- 2.) Membership - Elections in March
- 3.) Hospice - may be become part of the Healthcare committee. After discussion, Mary Wambach made a motion to move the Hospice committee to the Healthcare committee, Jordan Sack seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
- 4.) Healthcare - Tina Thompson and James Simon are co-chairs. The committee meets regularly and is putting together a training tool to bring into hospitals and other large organizations. They may have workshops to provide information to the deaf and hard of hearing people on health issues.
- 5.) Awards - nothing to report
- 6.) Ad Hoc - nothing to report

Old Business:

None at this time.

New Business:

The approval of the 2010 legislative packet. Following discussion, Lisa Sack made a motion to approve the legislative packet and that the regulations will be established by the Office of the Attorney General with the assistance of the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The motion was seconded by John Dunsmore, and all were in favor. In regards to the bill involving education materials being captioned in "English", there was discussion to change the wording from "English" to "subtitled for the deaf and hard of hearing". John Dunsmore made a motion to make this change, Lisa Sack seconded the motion, and all were in favor. After discussion of all the bills, Lisa Sack made a motion to approve them all, John Dunsmore seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Sack, Secretary