

The RI CDHH Commissioner approved the minutes for the 04/15/2011 meeting on April 27, 2011.

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

April 15, 2011

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Attending: *Travis Zellner, Ed Rawlings, Christine "Tina" Thompson, Jordan Sack, Mary Wambach, James Simon, Karen Davis and Jesus M. Colon.*

Commissioner(s) not Attending: *Sean Gill, James Compton, and Andrew Knight*

Staff Attending: *Steve Florio (Executive Director), Pamela Zellner (Program Manager), and Paul Barnaby (Interpreter and CART Referral Specialist)*

Consultant Attending: *Beth Wilson (Six Sigma Expert from Raytheon)*

Public Attending: *Lori Dunsmore (RISD Director) and Dinaz Adenwalla (RISD Ass't Director)*

Communication Accommodations:

Interpreters: Christine West and Carol Fay

CART service: Tammi Burnham

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

The special meeting was called to order by Chair Travis Zellner at 4:17 pm.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS:

Chair Travis Zellner reported that James Compton was unable to attend as he had notified us in advance. Sean Gill and Andrew Knight just informed him that they could not make it due to unable to leave from RISD as they were responsible to be with the RISD students until they were taken home by their parents. He thanked others for being here.

Chair Zellner also thanked Beth Wilson, Six Sigma Expert from Raytheon, for finding time to come and walk through the RICDHH Strategic Planning Offsite Output Work Product report with the Commissioners and staff.

BETH WILSON, SIX SIGMA EXPERT FROM RAYTHEON:

Beth Wilson thanked everyone for their patience and understanding that she had gone through the most difficult times in the past year involving death in her family. She was very happy that she was able to deliver her promise by completing the product and walking through the strategic work with all of the Commissioners to make sure that they understand what the product was about. (Please contact the RICDHH Office for a copy of the RICDHH Strategic Planning Offsite Output Work Product.)

Beth walked through the powerpoint slides of strategic planning output work product.

RICDHH's 8th mandate, A Statewide Coordinating Council on Education for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children.

The Commissioners and staff wanted to learn more about this mandate as we never have the funding to support the mandate. Beth Wilson who happened to be the former chairperson of the Commissioners in 1990's is familiar with this mandate. The mandate was added to the RICDHH's statute when the RISD Board of Trustees was formed by the Statute under the Department of Education around the same time. The Commissioners at that time received an impression that the funding for a new position was supposed to be created to deliver this mandate when the bill was passed. However, after the bill passed, no position and/or funding to support this mandate were ever established. The Commissioners and staff discussed to see if they could benefit by doing something in line with this mandate today or in the future. In the end, the Commissioners and staff agreed that they would re-visit this mandate as we go through the current strategic planning process.

Strategic Initiatives from the RICDHH Strategic Planning Offsite Output Work Product.

The Commissioners and staff were in favorable consensus that each strategic initiative should be assigned to groups that are already established as follows:

- 1) **Expand Information and Referral Service** – Assigned to the RICDHH Healthcare Committee, the Resource Workgroup.
- 2) **Improve Sign Language Referral Service** – Assigned to the RI Interpreting Service Committee.
- 3) **Prioritize Awareness and Access and Improve Commission Relationships** – Assigned to a new committee that will be established to oversee the progress of improving awareness and access through partnership/relationship.

Untapped Population:

The Commissioners and staff were in favorable consensus that each strategic initiative CAN NOT be carried out WITHOUT reaching the population that they do not normally reach such as organizations and agencies that are not known to the RICDHH, people in the public that have no affiliation to any deaf and hard of hearing organizations or that do not receive services from agencies that have relationship with the RICDHH,

etc. The bottom line is to outreach the population that is not familiar with any services or resources that, they know, would benefit Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals.

The special meeting was adjourned at 6:52pm declared by Chair Travis Zellner.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven A. Florio
Executive Director
(Secretary for the April 15, 2011 meeting).