

The RI CDHH Commissioner approved the minutes for the 01/18/2012 meeting on February 15, 2012.

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

January 18, 2012

MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Attending: *Christine Thompson, Jordan Sack, James Simon, Heather Niedbala, and Betsy Beach.*

Commissioner(s) not Attending: *Jesus Colon, Travis Zellner, Paul Hughett, and Paul Molloy*

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

Public Attending: *Beth Wilson*

Communication Accommodations:

Interpreters: Jessica Morgan, Jon Henry, Robb Schmiegel, and Sally Parsons

CART service: Shelley Deming

Location: *Rhode Island School for the Deaf, One Corliss Park, Providence, RI*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christine Thompson at 6:15pm.

Chair Tina Thompson conducted a roll call. She announced that Jesus Colon, Paul Hughett, and Karen Davis will not be here tonight. No information about Paul Molloy whether he will be here tonight. She announced that Heather Niedbala and Paul Molloy are officially appointed by the Governor as of January 10, 2012. Please welcome Heather! Therefore, the quorum met by 5 commissioners who were presented.

Review of Meeting Minutes (12/14/2011):

- 1) Jim Simon **made a motion** to approve the **December 14, 2011** meeting minutes as corrected. Betsy Beach seconded. The motion was carried 5-0.

Correction was made as follows:

- 1) Changed from "Travis reported that all candidates wanted to be interviewed in the closed session" to "Travis reported that James Colannino wanted to be interviewed in the closed session, therefore, all candidates be interviewed in the closed session."

Tina had identified which commissioners to be part of the breakout groups, they are 1) To improve and expand on information referral service, 2) Interpreter Referral Service, 3) To prioritize awareness and access, and 4) To improve commission relationship.

Tina liked how Steve came up with thinking points while discussing within the group. They are:

1. To think outside the box, be creative. Any ideas should be considered.
2. How can the Commissioners contribute to this process.
3. Think about positive relationships outside groups and agencies, particularly who may have never been involved with the commission.
4. Is it doable?
5. Think about measurements of actions and goals
6. How to be cost effective?
7. Raising the Tri-Vision philosophy (The commissioners should be thinking about the deaf, hard of hearing and the hearing, including deaf/blind, late-deafened population
8. To look at statewide, system wide high level policies and laws rather than individual or isolated situations.

To improve and expand on information referral service:

Champ: Pamela Zellner
Betsy Beach
Paul Hughett
Heather Niedbala

Interpreter Referral Service:

Champ: Paul Barnaby
Karen Davis
Interpreter Service Task Force

To prioritize awareness and access:

Champ: Steve Florio
Jim Simon
Paul Molloy

To improve commission relationship:

Champ: Jordan Sack and Jesus Colon

Because Jesus could not be here tonight, Tina joined Jordan Sack.

Beth Wilson is here to help anyone to guide through the process.

After discussion and put up the post-it notes on the flip chart on the wall, each group summarized on what they have identified and what course of actions need to be done.

Beth Wilson said she will summarize all discussions/post-it notes into a report on the behalf of the Board of Commissioners at the next meeting so the group can use it as a guide for action.

The commissioners agreed to add and hear a new business item per Steve Florio's request.

NEW BUSINESS: 1item. Please see below.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1 – Approved on an amendment of language both in the Interpreter Referral Service and CART Referral Service Policies and Procedures, clarifying on severance package for interpreter and cart provider in case of a student drops the college course after mid-semester. **Old:** An interpreter or CART provider will receive the severance package for the rest of the semester when a student dropped college course after mid-semester. **New:** An interpreter or CART provider will receive a 2-week severance package when a student dropped college course anytime during the semester.

Betsy Beach **made a motion** that the Commissioners support the new amendment described above to the Interpreter Referral and CART Referral Service Policies and Procedures. Jim Simon seconded. The motion was carried 4-1 (Jordan).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm by Chair Tina Thompson.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven A. Florio
Executive Director

(Volunteer to cover Jesus Colon's role as Secretary for the January 18, 2012 meeting because Jesus was sick.)