

The RI CDHH Commissioner approved the minutes for the 05/16/2012 meeting on June 20, 2012.

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

May 16, 2012

MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Attending: *Jordan Sack, Jesus Colon, Paul Molloy, Heather Niedbala, Travis Zellner, James Simon, Paul Hughett, and Betsy Beach.*

Commissioner(s) not Attending: *Christine Thompson*

Staff Attending: *Steve Florio (Executive Director)*

Public Attending: *Courtenay Petracca, Kelly McCorkle and John McCorkle*

Communication Accommodations:

Interpreters: Elizabeth Nadolski and Mary Ellen Baxter-Breen

CloseVision Interpreters: Carol Fay and Robb Schmiegel

CART service: Shelley Deming

Service Support Provider: Margaret Molloy

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

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Jordan Sack at 7:03pm.

Vice-Chair Sack conducted a roll call. He announced that Christine Thompson was unable to be here tonight so he assumed her place to run the meeting. The Board of Commissioners met the quorum.

Review of Meeting Minutes (04/25/2012):

- 1) Travis Zellner made a motion to approve the April 25, 2012 meeting minutes as written. Jesus Colon seconded. The motion was carried 8-0.

Steve Florio, Executive Director's Report:

1. Interview for the Position of Interpreter/CART Referral Specialist – The process went seamless so far. He said he had a good number of candidates to be interviewed tomorrow (May 17, 2012). He mentioned that it would be tough because he had a great pool of candidates this time.
2. Legislative News – HB 7445 and HB 2321 – Honor the request to turn on captioning on TV at the public places. These bills had passed in the House and Senate chambers and they were currently transmitted to Governor's Office for his signature. He had 7 days according to RI General Laws to sign, to veto, or to let the bills become law without his signature. He will give the updates on this one as soon as the Governor's decision. All other bills that the RICDHH pursued did not have strong supporters in the Legislation this time. He will re-formulate the plan to ensure that the bills are recognized by the legislators and move them through the legislative process more effective than this year.
3. He attended 1st Performance Management team meeting on June 1st. He had a good discussion with the team and a few minor suggestions were made on the template, more align with the PMT's expectation of reporting. The data supplied into intranet already started for exercise purpose but they will be actually used starting in August for FY2013.
4. Hearing Loss Awareness Month – He said it went very well so far. The office was overwhelmed with a high number of responses for free hearing screening tests. The office was trying to accommodate everyone. Originally, he and his planning team thought that the responses would be in the 20's as they prepared for 3 audiologists who would be able to accommodate this number. However, the responses were received from a little more than 260 state employees who were interested. He and his team were able to expand three more dates to accommodate up to 30 people for now. He will give the updates on this one at the next meeting. More people were aware about the Hearing Loss Awareness activities. One more left for this month... Children's Museum on Sunday. He hoped for a good turnout because this was the first time involving children and families. Hamilton Relay, AGBell, RISD, Perspectives, and RICDHH will be there at the booth.
5. He shared good news that Christine Thompson received an award, Person of the Year from Hamilton Relay on May 7th as part of the Better Speech and Hearing Month celebration.
6. Earlier this afternoon, he gave a brief presentation about healthcare system in RI for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Are the services accessible? Efficiency? for a cohort of Brown University Medical School students.

COMMITTEES' REPORT:

Board Recruitment Committee:

The commissioners recognize that this is an issue and they would want to have time to discuss on a way for the board to recruit new candidates to serve on the commission. They agreed that this will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

Travis Zellner had no report for this meeting because there was no meeting since last month.

Jim Simon shared his observation and thoughts on the seminar he went on May 10 at the RI Foundation building in Providence, RI. The seminar was basically informational on what it takes to diversify and grow your board led by MJ Caplan, Caplan Consulting Group. There were about 18 participants ranging from school board to land trusts to nonprofit organizations to etc. They were pretty diverse. This seminar was about how to recruit people on board. Many board members who were already serving for many years and often times, it was not easy to replace them. They emphasized that recruiting one person at a time is typically not successful because the pressure was put on this person and this person would feel obligated to serve. Instead, like a large fishing net thrown into the sea, catching a large group of people, a few of them would be interested in what your organization is doing with their interest. The board needs to do the self-assessment to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses on a regular basis (semi-monthly or yearly) and to see if what kind of people they are looking for to fill in the gap. There are a number of tools that would help the board to evaluate themselves. The presenter encouraged the board to create a "contract" of commitment where a new incoming board member read and sign it. They would feel responsible to serve on the board in accordance with their bylaws, etc. And also, any functions, people should talk positive about the organization or agency, what they did and what they are working on, etc., things such as natural articulation about the organization would be very helpful in finding people who are interested. This can happen anywhere and anytime. A few other areas discussed were irrelevant such as fundraising because RICDHH has nothing to do with it. Overall, it was informative.

The commissioners discussed about having sub-committees to meet during commissioner meeting hours on alternative months. Board Recruitment, membership, award, etc. as example.

The meeting was on recess at 8:03pm.

The meeting resumed at 8:12pm.

OLD BUSINESS: 1 item. Please see below.

OLD BUSINESS ITEM #1 – Revised Board Policy Manual

Steve distributed copies for each item on the list so everyone followed and understood the revisions and addendums on each while Steve walked through.

RICDHH Board Manual-

1. Letter from the Chairperson of the Board of the Commissioners
2. Adding, "Acknowledgement" to recognize Arizona and Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's work that helped creating our RICDHH Board Manual.
3. Adding Basic Parliamentary Procedures for the RICDHH Commissioners
4. Adding History of Final Rulings from RI Ethic Commissions and RI Office of General Attorney per RICDHH's Request.
5. Adding New Procedures on "Interviewing with candidates for the Commissioner seat".
6. Section II – Changed from Goals of the RICDHH to RICDHH's 4 Strategic Initiatives
7. Section III – Page 2 – Procedures on the Election of Officers on Open Meeting Act.
8. Section VI – Page 8 – revised on OMA for committees, task forces, workgroups, etc.
9. Section IX – Page 10 – the line graph will be replaced with the new one as of FY2012.

Travis Zellner **made a motion** to accept the revisions and amendments to Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Board Manual. Jesus Colon seconded. The motion was carried 8-0.

Item(s) for Next Month Meeting Agenda: Deaf-Blind

Jesus Colon wanted Deaf-Blind to be discussed at the next month meeting. Everyone agreed with his suggestion.

Jordan Sack declared to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven A. Florio
Acting Secretary