

The RI CDHH Commissioner approved the minutes for the 12/19/2012 meeting on January 16, 2013.

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

December 19, 2012

MEETING MINUTES

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

Commissioner(s) not Attending: *Paul Hughett*

Staff Attending: *Steve Florio (Executive Director,*

Public Attending: *Julia Gold, Elizabeth Morrissey, and Todd Murano*

Communication Accommodations:

Interpreters: Maureen McEntee and Elizabeth Nadolski

CloseVision Interpreters: Jonathan Henry and Kristin Marotto

CART service: Shelley Deming

Service Support Provider: Margaret Molloy (volunteer)

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jordan Sack at 6:07pm.

Chair Sack welcomed everyone. He declared that the quorum was met, therefore, the meeting was proceeded. He explained what would happen this evening and looked forward to having a successful meeting tonight.

Review of Meeting Minutes (10/17/2012):

- 1) Travis Zellner **made a motion** to approve the **October 17, 2012** meeting minutes as written. Paul Molloy seconded. The motion was carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS: 3 items. Please see below.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1 – Approval of 2013 RICDHH Meetings

1. January 16, 2013 - 6pm to 9pm
2. February 13, 2013 - 6pm to 9pm
3. March 20, 2013 - 6pm to 9pm
4. April 10, 2013 - 6pm to 9pm
5. May 22, 2013 - 6pm to 9pm
6. June 19, 2013 - 6pm to 9pm
7. July 17, 2013 - 6pm to 9pm
8. August 21, 2013 - 6pm to 9pm
9. September 18, 2013 - 6pm to 9pm
10. October 16, 2013 - 6pm to 9pm
11. November 13, 2013 – 12th Annual Coffee Hour
12. December 18, 2013 - 6pm to 9pm

All meetings except November will be held at the Conference Room A at the Department of Administration building in Providence, RI.

Betsy Beach **made a motion** to approve the **2013** Meeting Schedule for the Commissioners. Jim Simon seconded. The motion was carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM #2 – Approval of FY 2012 Annual Report

The Commissioners reviewed and liked how the Annual Report was produced, simpler and to the point.

Travis Zellner **made a motion** to approve the **FY2012** Annual Report with 2 corrections. Betsy Beach seconded. The motion was carried 6-0.

Corrections:

1. Add "Karen Davis" and as "Treasurer"
2. Eliminate the title, "Treasurer" under Jim Simon.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM #3 – RICDHH 2013 Legislative Package

Steve Florio walked the Commissioners all 6 proposed legislative bills:

1. Emergency and Public Communication Access Program
2. Movie Theaters – Captions
3. Insurance mandated coverage on implanted hearing devices
4. Insurance mandated coverage on hearing aids
5. Insurance mandated coverage on communication access services
6. State pays communication access services if court-ordered directives are made.

Travis Zellner **made a motion** to recognize all proposed legislative bills as an important package and #1 and #6 should become the primary bills to be focused on. Jordan Sack seconded. Heather and Betsy at the same time made a motion to amend by adding #2 to the main motion. Jordan Sack seconded. All agreed. Then the motion, “to recognize all proposed legislative bills as an important package and #1, #2, and #6 shall be the primary bills to be focused” was carried 6-0.

BREAK at 7:10pm

MEETING RESUMED at 7:18pm

Coffee Hour Updates:

Steve shared the updates about the Coffee Hour. The coffee hour was a success considering many things happened in the meantime. Postponement created conflicts with some people’s original schedules, illness epidemic, and weather conditions. He was still pleased with the outcome as the program went on very smoothly without a hitch.

Chair Sack said that he will make sure the coffee hour will be on agenda next month and start planning in well advance. Any new ideas are always welcomed.

Paul Molloy suggested that increasing publicity about the Annual Coffee Hour is needed as a number of people he knew did not know about this event.

Executive Director Report:

Steve reported that he met with the representatives from the Governor’s Office and Budget Office to discuss on budget plan for FY2013 and FY2014. There will be no new additional funds or new FTE. However, he said he was still working with them to see if the RICDHH could get a FTE. He should hear a response from them on his request for consideration soon.

CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONERS’ SEATS:

Chair Sack introduced all candidates, Elizabeth Morrissey, Julia Gold, and Todd Murano, to all current commissioners and explained an overview of the Commission as to what it is about, why it exists, how it is

operated, how often the commissioners meet, what expectations of the commissioners, and a brief of its history.

Chair Sack confirmed that all candidates wish to be interviewed in executive session rather than in open session.

Travis Zellner **made a motion** to go into the executive session to discuss on questions for candidates and to start interviewing with all candidates. Jim Simon seconded. The motion was carried 6-0.

The Executive Session began at 7:30pm.

Todd Murano was asked to be interviewed for the Deaf seat.
Then, Elizabeth Morrissey was asked to be interviewed for the Hearing seat.
Finally, Julia Gold was asked to be interviewed for the Hearing seat.

The Executive Session was open after Travis **made a motion** and seconded by Paul Molloy at 8:51pm.

Jim Simon **made a motion** that the board of the commissioners recommends Todd Murano to be appointed by the Governor to serve on the Commission as a DEAF commissioner. Travis Zellner seconded. The motion was carried with 5 (YES-Travis Zellner, Betsy Beach, Heather Neidbala, Jim Simon, and Paul Molloy), 1 (Abstain-Jordan Sack), and 0 (NO).

Travis Zellner **made a motion** that the board of the commissioners recommends Julia Gold to be appointed by the Governor to serve on the Commission as a HEARING commissioner. Heather Neidbala seconded. The motion was carried with 5 (YES-Travis Zellner, Betsy Beach, Heather Neidbala, Jim Simon, and Paul Molloy), 1 (Abstain-Jordan Sack), and 0 (NO).

Chair Sack reminded Elizabeth Morrissey that the Commissioners made a difficult decision to choose between two candidates and there are always opportunities for her to get involved by being part of the ongoing sub-committees or workgroups within the RICDHH.

Chairperson Jordan Sack adjourned the meeting at 8:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven A. Florio
Acting Secretary