

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes of Technology Committee Meeting held Monday 10 February 2014

A meeting of the Technology Committee (the Committee) of the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (the Commission) was held in Conference Room B of One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, beginning at 6:30 pm on Monday 10 February 2014, pursuant to notice of open meeting and posting of an agenda as required by law. Present were all members of the Technology Committee: David Abell, Heather Niedbala, Betsy Beach and Todd Murano, and the following: Jordan Sack, Chair of the Commission, Joshua Pila, Commissioner, Steven Florio, Executive Director of the Commission and two interpreters. The following is a summary of the results of the meeting.

1. **Minutes.** The summary of the meeting held 7 October 2013 was approved as minutes of that meeting.
2. **Statement of Purpose.** The Statement of Purpose – Mission Statement for the Committee was adopted as presented. [A copy is attached.]
3. **Get Acquainted.** Each of the Commissioners and staff present shared a short personal background statement and their experience being deaf or hard of hearing.
4. **Open Meetings Law and need for interpreters.** Dave went into some detail about the difficulties of setting up meetings with these two requirements. He may ask for clarification about alternative methods of meeting. We can also use outsiders who are not commissioners on our committee or to work on projects.
5. **EPCAP Coordinator.** Steve reported that Mi Ok Song Bruining had been hired as part time Emergency and Public Communication Access Program (EPCAP) Coordinator and would be working mornings, except Wednesday. She will be the primary staff support person for the Committee. [Post meeting correction: She will work under the supervision of Steve, not Pam Zellner].
6. **Deaf/Blind:** We agreed that Deaf/Blind issues would be a separate category and we would await further information from Paul Molloy before addressing this issue.
7. **Deaf.** We set the following priorities for deaf projects:
 - a. **Emergency Access.** In public facilities, such as the airport and train stations. [Steve and Todd expressed an interest in this. The initial

suggestion was to find the appropriate contact persons and schedule a meeting.]

- b. Captioning.** We will focus on local facilities, such as movie theaters and museums. [Jordan expressed an interest in this. The initial thought was to find others to collaborate with.]
 - c. Blogs.** We will focus on blogs with captioning and ASL. [Heather expressed an interest in this. The initial suggestion was to find resources to share at meetings about vlogs.]
- 8. Hard of Hearing.** Our priorities remain as set at the last meeting. The proposed survey was discussed and several suggestions were made. The survey, as amended, was approved. Dave will present this project to the Commission and he reviewed a draft letter for that purpose.
- 9. Hearing.** Our priorities remain as set at the last meeting. Specifically discussed was creation of a school curriculum about equipment for deaf and HOH. We would need to coordinate with the Community Resources Committee to avoid duplication of effort and to stay within our mandate. [Betsy expressed an interest in this. She said she might work on developing a curriculum on deaf and HOH issues for schools (grade appropriate).]
- 10. Priorities.** The HOH survey is our first project. Other projects will be addressed as information is acquired and priorities will be set later.
- 11. Follow-up.** Dave will submit the HOH proposal to the Commission and continue working on it. Others will pursue their interests and bring information back to the Committee.
- 12. Next meeting.** A date for the next meeting will be arranged by the staff using the meeting wizard. A possible date is 7 April.

Prepared by David R. Abell
19 February 2014, revised 4 March 2014

Approved by the Committee on 28 May 2014

Technology Committee
Statement of Purpose – Mission Statement

The Technology Committee will be a resource for technologies benefitting the Deaf (and Deaf-Blind), Hard of Hearing and Hearing communities.

We will identify the technologies available for Deaf, Deaf/Blind and HOH, update that information and make it available. We will support updating equipment available at the RICDHH.

We will emphasize accessibility (particularly emergency access).

We will promote community awareness, using content from others and ourselves and cover all avenues of communication (website, vlogs, Facebook, Twitter).

D. R. Abell
10 Oct 2013

Approved by the Committee 10 February 2014.