

The RI CDHH Commissioner approved the minutes for the 10/15/2014 meeting on November 19, 2014.

## Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

October 15, 2014

### MEETING MINUTES

**Commissioners Attending:** Heather Niedbala, Julia Gold, Betsy Beach, Todd Murano, Joshua Pila, Nico Sedivy, and James Simon

**Commissioner(s) not Attending:** Travis Zellner and Timothy Riker

**Staff Attending:** Steven A. Florio (Executive Director)

**Public Attending:** None

**Communication Accommodations:**

**Interpreters:** Jessica Morgan (MPA-358)

Noelle Spinale (Mentee)

**CART service:** Shelley Deming (Allied Reporters)

**Location:** Conference Room A at the Department of Administration building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

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Vice Chairperson Heather Niedbala called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

Vice Chair. Niebala conducted a roll call and reported that the quorum was met. She explained that one of two interpreters notified the RICDHH staff earlier this afternoon that she could not do the job for this meeting tonight. The staff could not locate a back-up interpreter in a very short notice. Therefore, the meeting needed to be concluded in one hour.

### Review of Meeting Minutes (08/20/2014 and 09/17/2014):

- 1) Joshua Pila **made a motion** to approve the August 20, 2014 meeting minutes as corrected. Julia Gold seconded. The motion was carried 7-0-0. (Corrected the last name of Nico Sedivy on page 5)
- 2) Todd Murano **made a motion** to approve the September 17, 2014 meeting minutes as written. Nico Sedivy seconded. The motion was carried 7-0-0.

### RICDHH Officers' Reports:

Vice-Chairperson: No Report  
Secretary: No Report  
Treasurer: No Report

### Executive Director's Report:

1. Steve Florio reported that the RICDHH has not yet received a response from the Budget Office on RICDHH's budget request that was submitted in September 2014. He will notify the Commissioners as soon as he receives a response.
2. He gave the updates on a number of issues concerning licensure for the interpreters. He attended the meeting hosted by the Board of the Examiners, Interpreters for the Deaf earlier today. He explained about a recent incident involving the letter sent by the Department of Health to a certain group of interpreters that led into wide-spreading confusion. Steve said this was the opportunity for the RICDHH and the Department of Health to work together to make sure that the interpreters are responsive to requests made by the Department of Health going forward.
3. He encouraged that the Commissioners come up with a program for the coffee hour that will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup> by tonight so the RICDHH office can move forward with the planning.

### Annual Coffee Hour:

The Commissioners brainstormed ideas and discussed pros and cons about having the town hall forum at the State House. As the result, the commissioners suggested Steve to come up with the program agenda and share with the Commissioners. Then the Commissioners send their feedback back to Steve directly.

Todd Murano **made a motion** to set up a Coffee Hour sub-committee to plan the coffee hour event. Nico Sedivy seconded. The motion was carried 7-0. Todd Murano agreed to lead the committee. He will be in touch with Steve shortly.

**RICDHH Award Program:**

The commissioners reviewed and discussed the nominations for the RICDHH Recognition Award. Todd Murano **made a motion** to approve that the Hamilton Relay receives the RICDHH 2014 Recognition Award. Julie Gold seconded. The motion was carried 7-0.

Vice Chair Niedbala adjourned the meeting at 7:08pm.

*(FTE Staff Interpreter, Legislative Update, Public Comments, and Community Concerns – time was not permitted to cover these agenda items.)*

Respectfully submitted,

Steven A. Florio  
Acting Secretary