Please Note: This is not an approved copy of the minutes for the 09/01/2016 meeting of the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

September 1, 2016

MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Attending: *Timothy Riker, Betsy Beach, Caroline O'Brecht, Heather Niedbala, Monica Bradley, Betsy Shealy, and Todd Murano*

Commissioner(s) not Attending: *George Herchenroether, Joseph Batiano, and Nico Sedivy*

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

Public Attending: *Jonathan Orent (President of Local Chapter of AGBell.)*

Communication Accommodations:

Interpreters: *Jon Henry (MPA-358) and Christine West (MPA-358)*

CART service: *Allied Reporters (MPA)*

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

Chairperson Timothy Riker called the meeting to order at 6:19pm. He rolled call on the Board of Commissioners and declared that the quorum was met with 7 Commissioners in attendance.

Review of Meeting Minutes (06/11/2016):

1) Betsy Beach made a motion to approve the June 11, 2016 meeting minutes as written. Caroline Obrecht seconded. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Review of Meeting Minutes (06/15/2016):

2) Todd Murano made a motion to approve the June 15, 2016 meeting minutes as written. Betsy Shealy seconded. The motion was carried, 7-0.

Review of Meeting Minutes (07/18/2016):

3) Todd Murano made a motion to approve the July 18, 2016 meeting minutes as written. Caroline Obrecht seconded. The motion was carried, 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Todd Murano made a motion to approve the RICDHH Strategic Plan for FY2017 and FY2018. Monica Bradley seconded.

   Amendments:

   1. Better wording under #4a, "Stimulated patient, mock trial".
   2. Add a language under #7, "Promote Equal Access to Education and Languages Used by Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing in Partnership with the RI Department of Education"

   The motion was carried, 7-0.

2. Todd Murano made a motion to approve the Budget Plan for FY2017 and FY2018 including unconstraint and constraint budget plans with 4% and 8% cuts respectively. The contractual service are considered as an area that is affected by these proposed cuts. Betsy Shealy seconded. The motion was carried, 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Todd Murano made a motion to approve that the RICDHH will participate in the Healthcare Reformation Plan Project led by the Executive Office of the Health and Human Services and has reserved its rights to opt-out anytime. Seconded by Caroline Obrecht. The motion was carried, 7-0.

OFFICERS' REPORT:

CHAIR (Riker): Since the last meeting, I have been involved in the Community Resources Committee meetings a lot through thte summer. We have already had 3 sub-committee meetings to date, all on language assessment bill.

VICE-CHAIR (Beach): No Report

SECRETARY (Sedivy): Not Present

TREASURER (Murano): No Report

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR's REPORT (Florio):

1. The Joint Committee on Legislative Services have been very busy lately. The installation of the FM loop in the Room 35, House Finance Committee room, has been completed. They are working on the other rooms to be installed. Once all identified rooms are done with the

installation, they will be tested before they actually use it. These projects are financed by the RICDHH's EPCAP Funds.

2. Steve, Tim Riker, and Jon Orent met at the Coffee Shop in Providence on August 1st to introduce ourselves and to discuss on a number of general topics related to our agency, deaf education, accessibility, and non-deaf and hard of hearing elated topics as well.

3. Deaf Awareness Month is underway! The postcards have been circulated. Thanks to Sprint for their support to defray the cost of printing the postcards. The first event will begin on Wednesday, September 7, 2016, hosted by the Perspectives Corporation in Cranston, RI. The growing number of organizations participated in the Deaf Awareness Month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Resources Committee (Riker): Two meetings so far and next meeting will be held on Sept. 12th. All are held at the Conference Room A at the Department of Administration building. We shared our views, experiences, and ideas as to how to improve the language assessment bill.

Technology Access Committee (Herchenroether): Betsy Beach said George Herchenroether agreed to be the chair of this committee. They missed each other through the summer. So at this point, no report.

Mental Health Committee (Obrecht): No meeting date has been set yet.

Ad-Hoc Committee on Emergency Interpreter Referral Service (Murano/Florio): The committee met two or three times during the summer. The most recent one was to meet with Catherine Lynn who is a Principal Nursing Care Evaluator from the Office Facilities Regulation within the RI Department of Health. She is responsible for conducting investigations on all hospitals and stand-alone emergency rooms in the State of any violations with the state and federal laws. They discussed on the Rules and Regulations for licensing hospitals and emergency rooms and they discovered that the Rules and Regulations need to be overhauled. This means they will meet again in the near future to update information in the Rules and Regulations.

Anti-Oppression Statement:

This concept was discussed at the Board of Commissioners and Staff's Retreat on June 11th. The retreat was productive and the topics like this need to be following-through. It was agreed that Tim and Betsy will start the draft and it will be shared for feedback before the next monthly meeting for further review.

Programs and Services Evaluations

The board discussed and agreed that the Executive Board will work with the members on staff to create a performance metrics so they have appropriate indicators of all programs and services offered by the RICDHH on a regular basis. As part of the process, community forums and surveys are two among appropriate tools to collect feedback.

Election of Officers

The commissioners discussed terms of current commissioners and qualifications for running the officers' positions. The election needs to be held within the 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year every year.

Announcements:

Tim Riker: I am involved with the collaboration of other organizations in RI and MA. We recently won the grant for two years. As part of the grant, it will hold a series of community forums in October and November. They plan to host a forum at RI School for the Deaf on Oct. 15th. People are encouraged to attend. This purpose of the grant is to collect feedback from the deaf and hard of hearing community about health, more specifically, informed consent. Not many of the members in the community understand the meaning of "informed consent" so this research is one way to confirm. He said he hope this grant will help the research in healthcare to make a difference by raising awareness and gaining accountability within the healthcare community.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Timothy Riker at 8:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven A. Florio, acting secretary

DRAFT