



Governor's Commission on Disabilities State Coordinating Committee on Disability Rights

Tuesday September 25, 2007 4 PM – 5 PM

John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court,
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Attendees:	John MacDonald (Chairperson); Bob Cooper (Vice Chairperson); Robert Bromley (Senate); Gail Higgins Fogarty (Courts); William Inlow (RIPTA); Kate McCarthy-Barnett (GCD); Patricia Ryherd (ORS/GCD); Lorna Ricci (OSCIL/GCD); & Alesa Sarkisian (House of Representatives) ¹
Excused:	Parisa Beers (Attorney General); Jeanne Behie (GCD); Judith Drew (GCD); Joseph Ferreira (General Treasurer); William Fiske (Education); Dexter Merry (RIPBS); Orestes Monterey (Higher Education); James Pitassi (Administration); Nancy Thomas (GCD); & Sandra Winslow (Governor)
Guests:	Representative Eileen Naughton; Adriana D.M. Thomas (RI House of Reps); Oce Harrison & Kathy Gips New England ADA Center

----- Minutes -----

Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes	John J. MacDonald, Jr., Chairperson	5 min.
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Introductions: Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented PR/WI passed unanimously

Action Items:	Discussion Leader:	Time:
Overview of the State's Obligations on the Americans with Disabilities Act		50 Min.

1. NE ADA Grant	Dr. Oce Harrison New England ADA Center Director
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Discussion: Dr Oce Harrison of the briefs the Committee on the 2nd Program Year Grant objectives and activities. She spoke about new products/publications the center has available. She then gave a detailed description of the grant's research projects and surveys to measure their outcomes: college students with disabilities – Surveys: “The ADA and You at Work”, “Reasonable Accommodations

¹ For Marisa White

Follow-up” and “Reasonable Accommodations Training” (see attached). She and Katy Gips spoke about the trainings available from the Center. They also asked the Committee to identify a college that would be interested in teaming up with the Center on a universal design classroom and stories for their “Wanted: A Few Good Success Stories” project (see attached). The Committee suggested that the Center contact RI School of Design regarding the universal design classroom.

Bob Cooper spoke about the impact the recent decision by the Budget Office to disapprove of the Commission’s request to replace two State Building Official positions (held by recently retired employees) with two Assistant ADA Coordinators will have on the state’s ability to continue as the RI Affiliate to the NE ADA Center.

2. Employment – Web-cast Training	Christine Rancourt, Assistant ADA Coordinator (Employment)
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Chris briefed the Committee on the ADA Title I (Employment) Web cast training for municipal ADA Coordinators/Human Resource Personnel developed jointly by the Commission, the NE ADA Center and Bryant University’s Chafee Center. An outline of the series was distributed (see attached); and a portion of the first episode was viewed. Committee members spoke about using it for State ADA Coordinators/Human Resource Personnel and other employers.

It was also recommended that the NE ADA Center’s parent Adaptive Environments should contact the Chafee Center regarding their International Universal Design Conferences.

3. Reasonable Accommodation’s Auxiliary Aids	Harvey Salvas, State ADA Coordinator
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Harvey presented an overview of the auxiliary aids the Commission has purchased for state employees, students at state operated schools, career and technical centers and colleges, and residents of state institutions who require as a reasonable accommodation assistive technology. He also explained the nature of the Auxiliary Aid equipment pool which recovers the assistive technology when the user no longer needs it (due to retirement, etc.) and how it’s recycled to other users. He explained that there is only about \$17,000 left of the original \$935,000 to fund the purchase of auxiliary aids.

4. Program Accessibility – State Owned and Leased Facilities	Harvey Salvas
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Harvey briefed the Committee on the status of renovations of state owned facilities; there is only about \$90,000 remaining from the \$13 million + bond issues approved since 1980; and the difficulties using RI Capital Program funding since only \$200,000 has been authorized annually. For FY 2008 only \$59,000 remains. Construction project schedules don’t easily fit within a single fiscal year. Members spoke about several facilities, including the State House that needs to be re-evaluated to identify the remaining barriers.

5. Communications Access	Bob Cooper, Vice Chairperson
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Bob talked about the newly enacted Open Meeting Reasonable Accommodation Telecommunication Waiver law that allows people whose disabilities prevents them from being physically present at meetings of a state/local government board, solely because of the disability to be exempt from the prohibition on using telephones or telecommunication devices to participate and vote. The GCD’s Assistive Technology Committee will be preparing regulations on the procedures to be used to grant the waivers.

He also spoke about the problem the Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has operating the interpreter referral service, since the resignation of the interpreter scheduler. The Commission hasn’t

received permission to fill the vacant position. Its best to fax or email requests to the Commission, since its remaining staff have to wait for an interpreter to translate all voice messages.

Members asked about the current level of accessibility of the General Assembly’s website. GCD Staff will get in contact with the Assembly’s IT director to review its compliance with the W3standard.

6. Developing an Outreach and Education Plan	Bob Cooper	
Developing an Outreach & Education Plan		
Announcements and Scheduling of Meetings	Chairperson	5 min.
<p>The members discussed polling the members to determine the best time of day/day of the week for the Committee’s meetings, delaying the next meeting until the week of January 26th (Anniversary of the Title II [State & Local Government] Regulation’s effective date) holding it at the State House.</p>		
Adjournment:	Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5:50 PM	
Resource persons:	Christine Rancourt & Harvey Salvas (GCD)	