

# Minutes



## DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE

Wednesday June 15, 2005 9 AM to 10:30 AM

Governor's Commission on Disabilities  
John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court  
Cranston, RI 02920

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**Attendees:** Bill Nieranowski (Chair); Paul Grenon (Vice Chair, for Kathleen Spangler, MHRH); Bill Anderson (for Brian Stern, Purchasing); Andy Argenbright; Christine Botts; Kevin McHale;

**Excused:** Monica Dzialo & Paul Harden

**Guest:** Rob Leader (for Doddie McShane)

### Minutes

**1 Call to Order and Acceptance of Minutes Bill Nieranowski, Chair.**

Discussion: Chair calls the meeting to order at 9:09 AM.

Members and new DBE Coordinator introduce themselves

MOTION: To accept the minutes as presented BA/PG passed unanimously

**2 Pending Certifications / Recertifications: Bill Nieranowski**

**MOTION:** To ask Vision Dynamics to resubmit a complete Form J application for DBE certification. The regulations require only certified DBEs be recertified. Because Vision Dynamics let their certification lapse in 2004 they are not currently certified. The committee agreed by consensus that upon receipt of a complete and accurate application Vision Dynamics will be certified. PG/KM passed unanimously.

**3 DBE Staff Report & HRIC Grant Activities Chris Botts**

Discussion:

- Sent out DBE Guide, Certificate and letter of introduction to the DBE's.
- Began an Operations & Procedures Manual
- Met with 4 out of the 17 DBE's to discuss the state purchasing system and find out more about the products and services they offer.
- Received two applications from woman owned businesses that were looking to become a WBE/DBE which is different from a Disability Business.

- Used Cookie Place (one of the DBE's) to cater and ADA training event
- HRIC funding will continue through June of 2006. With the remaining funds, it is estimated that we will have support for 21 hours per week.

**4 Other Business:**

○ **DBE Business Expo** **Paul Grenon**

1) Discussion: It was agreed by consensus to put planning the Expo on hold until we have established regulations for purchasing goods and services with the Department of Purchasing. It was agreed by consensus that we will support the 5% rule that is in effect for the MBE program. BA and CB will meet to work at getting the regulation in place.

○ **Old/New Business** **Bill Nieranowski**

Discussion: "The Bridge" concept was discussed. The Disability Business Enterprise Coordinator's job is to basically build a bridge with different building blocks that will help connect the DBEs, and the Division of Purchasing and State Agency buyers.

The Committee agreed by consensus that it will publish an annual report at the end of the calendar year. The report will summarize the year's activities and accomplishments, and provide an estimate of the dollars received from State contracts.

The decision to have a meeting in September was discussed and will be decided after the meeting between BA and CB.

Choosing a vendor for the Expo training was deferred until a later day.

**5 Action Items Assigned**

BN – Agenda Item for next meeting, Time periods for DBE certifications terms

BN – Review the DoP website for material on ethics for the Guide.

BA – w/Charles Newton, Do our DBEs qualify under the MBE program? (EVAS, an RI DBE has applied to the MBE program in Maryland)

BA – Review the DBE Guide accuracy of the DoP purchasing rules.

BA/CB – Proposal for DBE purchasing regulations modeled after the MBE program.

CB – Business cards for DBE Committee members

**Adjourned at:** 10:48AM passed unanimously