

Minutes



DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE

Wednesday January 12, 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); Helen Christie (for the Purchasing Dept.); Paul Harden (for Michael McMahon); Kevin McHale.

Excused:

Monica Dzialo (for Ron Lebel); Doddie McShane; & Lou Salerno

Minutes

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

Discussion: Chair calls the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Members and guests introduce themselves

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

2 Pending Certifications / Recertifications: Bill Nieranowski

Discussion: There were no certifications or re-certifications to consider this month.

3 Update on DBE Staffing & HRIC Grant Activities Bill Nieranowski

Discussion: The GCD has received a "Notice of Price Agreement Award" from the Division of Purchasing that will enable the GCD to move forward to hire a support person for the DBE and other GCD tasks.

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:

o **DBE Business Expo Paul Grenon**

Discussion: PG will continue to spearhead the DBE Business Expo effort. He will act as a clearing house for ideas until such time as we have a support person. Once the staff person is in place, the task of pulling the Expo together will be assigned.

HC suggested that the ideal time and place for the Expo is

- 1) at the bi-monthly State agency CFO's meeting.
- 2) at the quarterly CFO meeting hosted by the Controller
- 3) at the annual Providence Business Expo where DBE might pool resources and reserve a section to the floor space for their use.

○ **DBE / RIVIP Website Demonstration** **Helen Christie**

Discussion: HC demonstrated the changes to the RIVIP system that will allow DBEs to upload information about their goods and services directly into the State's purchasing system. This will enable State buyers and others to see first hand what goods and services DBEs are capable of providing. It will be a powerful tool for DBEs to use in their efforts to provide their products to the State and other agencies. The capability also exists for the DBEs to include pictures and graphics for products to create a true on-line catalog.

5 New Business

○ **New DBE Purchasing Regulations** **Helen Christie**

The Committee discussed the 2004 DBE legislation regarding the ability "...to establish rules and regulations for awarding contracts...". HC indicated that she would work to implement a rule that would allow a buyer to purchase from a DBE without competitive bid as long as the DBEs pricing was 'reasonable'. This solution works for the Committee's goal of encouraging all DBEs to conduct business by setting prices for their products. And, makes buyer's job a bit easier if they can use discretion and not seek bids for every purchase.

The key to making this rule work is having DBEs list their pricing. The Committee agreed by consensus that rule may be workable.

The Committee also discussed the tasks the Chair has proposed for the new staff person. It was agreed that the Committee would review the list and submit comments.

○ **Location of Future Meetings** **Bill Nieranowski**

Committee member Lou Salerno's business has moved from the Department of Labor & Training, into Providence. As a result the Committee no longer needs to meet at the DL&T Building.

The Committee members all agreed to move future meetings to the Commission's Conference Room.

Adjourned at: 10:08AM PG/KM passed unanimously