



Description of graphic: RI State Seal an anchor in gold behind a blue wheelchair logo. Just below is a blue banner with the state motto "Hope". All are in the center of a ring of 8 blue stars, in groups of 2 separated by the logos for Braille, hearing aids, low vision and amplified phone.

# Governor's Commission on Disabilities Disability Business Enterprise Committee Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, May 11, 2011 9-10:30 AM**

J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center  
3445 Post Road Warwick, RI.

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**Attendees:**

Terry Thielke (Chair), Paul Harden, Gayle Reid

**Excused:**

Monica Dzialo, Fred Trapassi, Jr.

**Absent:**

Andy Argenbright, Lorraine Hynes

**Guests:**

Ed LeDoux, Demi Caris, Mike Smith, Cathy Salerno, Kiernan O'Donnell

**Staff:**

Christine Rancourt Bruzzi

**Agenda Topics**

**Moderator/Leader**

**Time**



Clock graphic

**Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes and Staff Notes**

Terry Thielke,  
Chairperson

9:02

Chair calls the meeting to order at 9:02



voting check off graphic

**MOTION:** To accept the minutes of the February 9, 2011 meeting as presented and staff notes. Approved by PH/GR and unanimously accepted.

**Action Items:**



Picture of a handshake


**DBE Meet and Greet**





Christine Rancourt Bruzzi

9:04

**Purpose/Goal:** Share DBE work and ideas to assist other DBEs.

**Discussion:** 1.) Demi Caris and Mike Smith spoke about the work that the Groden Center is doing and highlighted the

	Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
	<p>green house which is the Groden Center’s core business. Also discussed was the need to balance the work with available qualified staff. 2) Gayle Reid of the Trudeau Center talked about the “potato cart” and the recent successes such as new recipes for the potatoes, identifying that consistency in the size of the potatoes is important, and the positive feedback she received from attending the business expo. Gayle also mentioned a few of the problems being addressed such as transporting the cart to various events, how winter impacts the cart’s performance, and the limitations of using propane. 3) Ed LeDoux of Ed LeDoux Freelance Photography shared what his business did and how he worked with Johnson &amp; Wales to get a business plan in place. He also expressed a need for assistance with marketing his business. Cathy Salerno from the Fogarty Center suggested Social Venture Partners of R.I. as a possible resource for him. 4) Cathy Salerno and Kiernan O’Donnell of the Fogarty Center spoke about “Keep It Clean,” the cleaning service business operated by Fogarty. Also discussed the “West Wing Café” as well as the full service catering business, which was launched less than a year ago. Frustration was expressed that although the “West Wing Café” is located in the state house vendors from Massachusetts are frequently providing food services and the “West Wing Café” is not considered for these events.</p>		
 <p>Man holding a paper with the word "Law" written under a picture of a light bulb</p>	<p>Update: Habilitation Procurement Program and DBE bills</p>	<p>Terry Thoelke</p>	<p>10:10</p>
	<p>Purpose/Goal: Share current state of the habilitation Procurement Program and DBE bills</p> <p>Discussion: The habilitation Procurement Program and DBE bills currently being heard in the senate and house were news to the DBEs. Many questions were raised regarding how the procurement program would work and how it would impact the agencies already receiving state funding. No answers to their questions were able to be provided.</p>		

	Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
 Computer	Update: Website	Christine Rancourt Bruzzi	
	Purpose/Goal: Provide update on website.		
	The website was not discussed due to lack of time.		
 calendar graphic	Next Meeting	Terry Thoelke	10:29
	Next meeting will be August 24, 2011.		
 alarm clock graphic	Adjournment	Terry Thoelke	10:30
 voting check off graphic	MOTION: To adjourn at 10:30 PH/GR unanimously accepted.		

**May 17, 2011**