

Minutes



GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES BUSINESS MEETING

Monday July 17, 2006 5:00 – 7:00 PM

John O. Pastore Center (Formerly the Howard Center)

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Cranston, RI 02920-3049

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Secretary:	Bob Cooper
Attendees:	Paul Choquette (Chair); John MacDonald (Vice Chair); Jeanne Behie; Sharon Brinkworth; Frederick Burke; Regina Connor; Joseph Corrente; Dr. Judith Drew; Binyamin Efreom; Dr. Kate McCarthy-Barnett; Lisa McKay; Bill Nieranowski; James Pitassi; Arthur Plitt; Patricia Ryherd; & Lou Salerno
Excused:	Rosemary Carmody; R. Timothy Flynn; Karen O'Connell-Lyons; Ronald McMinn; Dr. Orestes Monteracy; Lorna Ricci; & Rev. Gerard Sabourin

Minutes

5:00 PM Call to Order, Introductions and Acceptance Paul Choquette, Chair. of Minutes

Discussion Chair called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

Members, staff and guests introduce themselves

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as mailed LS/ JB passed unanimously

5:05 PM Commissioners Legal Responsibilities Patricia S. Lucarelli, Labor and as the Employer Employment Law, Chief, DoA

Discussion: Patty reviews the responsibility of individual Commissioners as the “employer” they need to report incidents to Commission Officers or Executive Secretary even if the person informing them of the incident doesn’t want it reported..

Members discussed issues of management and other personnel procedures. These issues will be reviewed during the “retreat”.

5:25 PM Action Items

1) Modification of the FY 07 Operational Plan (Budget & Staff Resource Allocation) Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary

Since the FY 07 Budget was submitted last September, circumstances have changed:

1. The Communications and Training Coordinator’s position has become vacant; as a result the:
 - a. Senior State Building Code Official has taken over the responsibility of surveying the polling places;
 - b. State ADA Coordinator has assumed the responsibility of staffing the Election Assistance Committee; and
 - c. Communications and Training Coordinator’s position has been modified to reflect the need/opportunity to create a comprehensive and coordinated training and communications strategy and permission to fill the position is underway.
2. With the passage of time since the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the overwhelming need for resources devoted to ADA technical assistance, training, and enforcement has begun to diminish.
3. The RI Disability Vote Project was created by the Commission; the RI Disability Law Center (the other RI HAVA Election Assistances to Individuals with Disabilities grant fund recipient); the Community Providers’ Network: RI; and the American Association of People with Disabilities.
 - a. The Commission’s award of \$50,000 for voter registration, education & outreach, reduces the need for HAVA funds to be used by GCD staff (state employee and/or contract employee) to undertake those tasks.
 - b. This project needs to be closely monitored to ensure its activities conform to the HAVA funds’ restrictions. The project’s governing rules require consent of the Commission, the RI Disability Law Center and the Community Providers’ Network, in effect each of us can “veto” any actions of the project. The Commission must appoint a representative to the project’s managing director’s group.
4. The Commission has begun a review of its mission, goals, objectives, operations and focus which will result in a strategic plan by the spring of 2007.
5. The Commission’s operating budget was reduced and additional costs have been added since the budget was submitted by the Governor. The changes are:
 - a. (\$307) cut for “Internal Services Funds Transparency”;
 - b. \$700 + for new printer compatible with the state’s new financial management system;
 - c. \$2,500 + for Commissioners’ Liability Insurance; and
 - d. \$4,740 adjustment to operational costs to reflect FY 06 actual expenditures.

The Commission needs to realign its FY 07 Operational Plan (Budget / Staff Workload) to reflect these changes. The Executive Committee recommends a major shift of Budget & Staff Workload to align as much of the cost of the state employees (wages/benefits) into the general revenue account, adjust work load to reflect FY 06 experience and the shift the cost of the contract employees exclusively to grants (ADA, HAVA, & 50th Anniversary).

Adopted FY 07 Plan	Recommended Change to:	% State Funded
1. Consolidates all training & public awareness activities (Able Too, etc.) under the:		

Adopted FY 07 Plan	Recommended Change to:	% State Funded
a. <u>Communications and Training Coordinator.</u>		
70% ADA Technical Assistance (state matching funds) 30% HAVA polling place surveys (grant funds)	5% ADA Technical Assistance (state matching funds), 30% Employment, & 65% general Commission public awareness.	100%
2. Shifts state employee wages & benefits to general revenue funding to the maximum extend possible:		
a. <u>Senior State Building Code Official</u>		
100% devoted to ADA Technical Assistance (state matching funds)	65% ADA Technical Assistance (state matching funds), 30% HAVA polling place surveys (grant funded) and 5% Access Complaints	70%
b. <u>Executive Secretary</u>		
100% general revenue funding 2% HAVA state matching funds); 1% ADA state matching funds; 2% disability compliance; 2% employment; 0.5% DBE & 92.5% Commission management & advocacy	12% to HAVA (grant funded), representing the Commission on RI Disability Vote Project's board. Reduce time allocated to disability compliance, employment promotion & DBE to 0.5% each reflecting FY 06 experience; & 85.5% Commission management & advocacy.	88%
c. <u>Assistant ADA Coordinator</u>		
55% ADA technical assistance (grant funded), 20% employment promotion, and 25% general Commission public awareness	18% ADA grant funded and 32% (state matching funds) focusing on ADA Customer Service technical assistance; 50% managing the DBE program.	82%
d. <u>State ADA Coordinator</u>		
30% HAVA (grant funded), 10% ADA Technical Assistance (grant funded); 30% (state ADA matching funds), 40% state compliance, and 10% general Commission management	6.5% HAVA (grant funded); 60% ADA (state matching funds), 15% state compliance and 18.5% general Commission management.	93.5%
e. <u>Principal State Building Code Official</u>		
40% ADA Technical Assistance (state matching funds); and 60% State Compliance (renovation projects)		100%
f. <u>Administrative Aide</u>		
60% general Commission public awareness	2 % general Commission public awareness and 58% ADA Technical Assistance (state matching funds)	100%
3. Shifts grant funding to fully support contract employees:		
a. <u>DBE/Public Information Coordinator</u>		
35% ADA Technical Assistance (grant funded); 40% HAVA Voter Outreach (grant funded)	upgraded to Project Services Coordinator (ADA Technical Assistance/Awareness) @ \$25/hr 100% ADA grant funded.	0%

Adopted FY 07 Plan	Recommended Change to:	% State Funded
20% DBE 5% general Commission public awareness		
4. <u>Project Services Coordinator (50th Anniversary Event Planner)</u>		
To plan & coordinate 50 th Anniversary activities. Part time (averaging 17.5 hours/week @ \$25/hr) 50th Anniversary “grant” funded.		0%
Advantages		Disadvantages
<p>Creates a comprehensive and coordinated training and communications strategy (consolidating training & communications responsibilities to 1 staff person).</p> <p>Reduces the Commission reliance on grant funds for state employees’ wages and benefits to just under 0.67 of an FTE from over 1 FTE, cutting the “structural deficit” almost in half.</p> <p>Permits greater flexibility to hire contract employees as needed and funds are available, without long term financial obligations.</p> <p>Increases flexibility for change once the strategic plan has been adopted by reducing reliance on grant funding and the accompanying obligations.</p>	<p>Lots of disruption of activities & staff routine as responsibilities and knowledge are transferred among the current staff.</p> <p>May increase tension between the state employees and the contract employees.</p>	

Position	ADA	ADA Match	HAVA	HAVA Match	Work	HRIC Work	DBE	HRIC DBE	Compliance	Core	Total	Grant Funded
FY 06 Actual & Planned												FTE
Executive Secretary		0.8%		8.4%	0.2%		0.3%		0.4%	89.8%	100%	-
Planned		1.0%		2.0%	2.0%		0.5%		2.0%	92.5%	100%	-
State ADA Coordinator	8.4%	55.0%		3.7%	1.8%		0.1%		12.5%	18.4%	100%	0.08
Planned	5.0%	30.0%		7.5%	0.0%		0.2%		40.0%	17.3%	100%	0.05
Principal State Building Code Official		74.2%					1.5%		20.7%	4.0%	100%	-
Planned		40.0%					0.0%		60.0%	0.0%	100%	-
Senior State Building Official		69.0%		30.6%							100%	-
Planned		100.0%		0.0%							100%	-
Communications & Training Coordinator		92.2%	7.8%								100%	0.08
Planned		80.0%	20.0%								100%	0.20
Assistant ADA Coordinator	40.0%				49.1%			8.8%	2.1%		100%	0.89
Planned	32.0%				30.0%			38.0%	0.0%		100%	0.62
Administrative Aide		37.7%								20.0%	58%	-
Planned		0.0%								60.0%	60%	-
Total State Employees	0.48	3.29	0.08	0.43	0.51	0.00	0.02	0.09	0.36	1.32	6.58	1.05
DBE/Public Information Coordinator	9.8%		2.1%		1.3%			71.5%		15.3%	100%	13.2%
Planned	25.0%		0.5%		0.0%			50.0%		24.5%	100%	0.26
State & Contract Employees	0.58	3.29	0.10	0.43	0.52	0.0	0.02	0.80	0.36	1.48	7.58	0.68
FTE Totals	3.87		0.53		0.52		0.82					
ADA State Match Staff Hours (> 3,600)		4,004										
Planned	0.62	2.51	0.21	0.10	0.32		0.01		1.02	1.94	6.72	0.83
Enacted Supplemental Budget	\$58,271		\$168,168			\$37,342		\$35,437		\$538,321	\$837,539	35.7%
Expended	\$42,564		\$36,807			\$38,918		\$30,758		\$536,377	\$685,423	21.7%
difference from enacted	\$15,707		\$131,361			(\$1,576)		\$4,679		\$1,944	\$152,116	98.7%
Other Accounts	RICAP		Mary Brennan Fellows		Donations			Total Other Accounts			Grand Total	
Enacted Supplemental Budget	\$200,000		\$10,000		\$9,555				\$219,555		\$1,057,094	
Expended	\$215,059		\$6,250		\$1,058				\$222,367		\$907,789	
difference from enacted	(\$15,059)		\$3,750		\$8,497				(\$2,812)		\$149,305	

Position	ADA	ADA Match	HAVA	HAVA Match	Compliance	Employment	DBE	Core	50 th	Total	Grant Funded
FY 07 Planned; Adopted Sept. '05											FTE
Executive Secretary		1.0%		2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	0.5%	92.5%		100%	-
State ADA Coordinator	10.0%	30.0%	10.0%		40.0%		0.2%	9.8%		100%	0.20
Principal State Building Official		40.0%			60.0%					100%	-
Senior State Building Official		100.0%								100%	-
Comm. & Training Coordinator		70.0%	30.0%							100%	0.30
Assistant ADA Coordinator	55.0%					20.0%		25.0%		100%	0.55
Administrative Aide								60.0%		60%	-
Total State Employees	0.65	2.41	0.40	0.02	1.02	0.22	0.01	1.87	-	6.60	1.05
DBE/Public Information Coord.	35.0%		40.0%				20.0%	5.0%		100%	0.75
Project Services Coordinator									50.0%	50%	0.50
State & Contract Employees	1.00	2.41	0.80	0.02	1.02	0.22	0.21	1.92	0.50	8.10	2.30
	3.41		0.82								
ADA State Match Staff Hours (> 3,600)		3,770									
Personnel	\$68,726	\$218,408	\$56,323	\$2,191	\$113,656	\$15,575	\$11,524	\$169,618	\$29,410	\$685,432	23%
Operation Expenses	\$6,689	\$0	\$4,661	\$0	\$0	\$398	\$1,002	\$14,253	\$4,519	\$31,522	50%
Aid to Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$28,291	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$28,291	100%
Grants	\$2,640	\$3,960	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,320	\$1,820	\$3,960	\$0	\$33,700	67%
Capital Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Total	\$78,055	\$222,368	\$109,275	\$2,191	\$113,656	\$17,294	\$14,345	\$187,832	\$33,929	\$778,945	28%
Budget as Enacted	\$77,671		\$118,010	\$556,852					\$35,000	\$787,533	
Difference from Budget as Enacted	(\$384)		\$8,735	(\$834)					\$1,071	\$8,588	

Category	ADA	ADA Match	HAVA	HAVA Match	Compliance	Employment	DBE	Core	50 th	Total	Grant Funded	
Proposed FY 07 Revised Staff Workload and Budget Allocation											FTE	
Executive Secretary		1.0%	12.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	85.5%		100%	0.12	
State ADA Coordinator	0.0%	60.0%	6.5%	0.0%	15.0%			18.5%		100%	0.07	
Principal State Building Official		70.0%			30.0%			0.0%		100%	-	
Senior State Building Official		65.0%	30.0%	0.0%	5.0%			0.0%		100%	0.30	
Comm. & Training Coordinator	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	30.0%	0.0%	65.0%		100%	-	
Assistant ADA Coordinator	18.0%	32.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%		100%	0.18	
Administrative Aide		58.3%						1.7%		60%	-	
Total State Employees	0.18	2.91	0.49	-	0.51	0.31	0.51	1.71	-	6.60	0.67	
Project Services Coordinator I	100.0%						0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%	1.00	
Project Services Coordinator II	0.0%							0.0%	50.0%	50%	0.50	
State & Contract Employees	1.18	2.91	0.49	-	0.51	0.31	0.51	1.71	0.50	8.10	2.17	
Combined FTE	4.09		0.49									
ADA State Match Staff Hours (> 3,600)	3,618											
Personnel	\$68,502	\$252,632	\$52,871	\$0	\$52,439	\$21,946	\$33,096	\$177,037	\$29,410	\$687,932	22%	
Operation Expenses	\$6,188	\$0	\$4,080	\$0	\$0	\$573	\$1,342	\$17,870	\$4,519	\$34,573	43%	
Aid to Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	100%	
Grants	\$2,588	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$32,588	100%	
Capital Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,071	\$1,071	100%	
Total	\$77,278	\$252,632	\$111,951	\$0	\$52,439	\$22,519	\$34,438	\$194,907	\$35,000	\$781,163	29%	
Difference from Budget as Enacted	\$393		\$6,059	-\$82					\$0	\$6,370		
Other GCD Accounts		RICAP	\$200,000	Mary Brennan Fellows		\$10,350	Donations	\$25,444	Total	\$1,023,327		

Discussion:

MOTION: To Adopt a revision of the FY 07 Operational Plan (including budget & staff work load) as presented JMacD/PR passed BE abstained

2) Joseph Vanni & John E. Fogarty Awards

In 1993 the Commission created the Joseph Vanni Memorial Award to recognize the role of the average citizen in the enactment and implementation of laws to improve the quality of life of the children and adults with disabilities.

Joseph Vanni was the founding director of the RI Handicapped Action Committee, a social advocacy organization. Mr. Vanni was also a member of the RI Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, the predecessor agency to the Governor's Commission on Disabilities, in the late '70s. Mr. Vanni taught individuals with disabilities how to advocate for themselves, through group and individual action. Mr. Vanni was the first client of the state's Office of Rehabilitation Service to be trained as a community organizer. Individuals awarded the Joseph Vanni Memorial Award demonstrate his commitment to social change through individual involvement, the hallmark of a democratic society.

The Legislation Committee recommends that the Joseph Vanni Awards be awarded to:

1. Fredericka Athanas on abuse and neglect 06 H-7226 Sub A Criminal Offenses – Assaults Sponsor: Rep. Naughton Identical to S 2378 Public Law 2006 Chapter -175 and 06 S-2378 Sub A Criminal Offenses – Assaults Sponsor: Sen. McCaffrey Public Law 2006 Chapter -268 and
2. Mrs. Renee Doran for their advocacy on behalf of families that lead to revisions that strengthening protections for the families of people with disabilities and the enactment of 06 S-2185 as Amended Assaults Sponsor: Sen. McCaffrey Public Law 2006 Chapter -169 and 06 H-7228 as Amended Assaults Sponsor: Rep. Naughton Public Law 2006 Chapter -196.

MOTION: To present the Joseph Vanni Awards to:

1. Fredericka Athanas for her advocacy relating to assistance to people with severe impairments who are the victims of assaults, abuse and neglect leading to the enactment of 06 H-7226 Sub A CRIMINAL OFFENSES – ASSAULTS Sponsor: Rep. Naughton Identical to S 2378 Public Law 2006 Chapter -175 and 06 S-2378 Sub A CRIMINAL OFFENSES – ASSAULTS Sponsor: Sen. McCaffrey Public Law 2006 Chapter -268 and
2. Mrs. Renee Doran for her advocacy on behalf of families of adults with disabilities that lead to amendments to legislation regarding abuse and neglect of adults with severe impairments, that strengthening protections for the families of people with disabilities and the enactment of 06 S-2185 as Amended ASSAULTS Sponsor: Sen. McCaffrey Public Law 2006 Chapter -169 and 06 H-7228 as Amended ASSAULTS Sponsor: Rep. Naughton Public Law 2006 Chapter -196.

PR/JD Passed unanimously

The Commission created the John E. Fogarty Memorial Award to recognize the efforts of members of the RI General Assembly in enacting laws to improve the quality of life of the 172,000 Rhode Islanders with Disabilities. The Commission has been awarding its John E. Fogarty Memorial Award, since 1987. John E. Fogarty, the US House of Representative member from the 2nd Congressional District of Rhode Island (1940 -1967) was a strong advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities. Congressman Fogarty was a leader, nationally and in Rhode Island to bring individuals with disabilities residing in large impersonal institutions (such as Ladd Center) to the community. Congressman Fogarty, although originally elected as a “labor” candidate, following his appointment to chair the House Appropriations Committee’s Subcommittee on Labor – Health, Education, and Welfare in 1949, became the nation’s leading advocate for children with mental retardation, mental health, health care financing, and international/national health care research.

MOTION: To recommend the Commission present its John E. Fogarty Award to the sponsors of the following legislation:

1. 06 H-7226 Sub A CRIMINAL OFFENSES – ASSAULTS Sponsor: Rep. Naughton Public Law 2006 Chapter -175 (Gov Signed) and for 06 H-7081 Sub A MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES – STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS*; &
2. 06 S-2378 Sub A CRIMINAL OFFENSES – ASSAULTS Sponsor: Sen. McCaffrey Public Law 2006 Chapter -268;
3. 06 S-2627 Sub A SENATE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION TO USE ENVIRONMENTALLY-SAFE AND HEALTH-FRIENDLY CLEANING PRODUCTS IN STATE FACILITIES AND WORKPLACES Sponsor: Sen. Perry Senate Resolution 2006 -276;
4. 06 S-2879 as Amended STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – OPEN MEETINGS Sponsor: Sen. Ciccone* & 06 H-7672 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – OPEN MEETINGS Sponsor: Rep. Kilmartin;
5. 06 S-2840 HOUSING RESOURCES – NEIGHBORHOOD OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM Sponsor: Sen. Pichardo that was incorporated into the Budget Act; &
6. 06 H-7262 HOUSING RESOURCES – NEIGHBORHOOD OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM Sponsor: Rep. Fox that was incorporated into the Budget Act (Gov Signed);
7. 06 S-2604 Sub A as Amended HUMAN SERVICES – TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES Sponsor: Sen. Blais Public Law 2006 Chapter -363; &
8. 06 H-7546 Sub A MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES – ADJUDICATION OF TRAFFIC OFFENSES Sponsor: Rep. McNamara Public Law 2006 Chapter – 456

* provided it is enacted into law.

SB/RCo passed unanimously

3) Advice and Consent on the Appointment of:

Paul Choquette

- a. **A member to the Special House Commission to Study and Establish an Olmstead Decision Task Force in the State of Rhode Island**

06-R 312
2006 – H 8115
Enacted 05/31/06
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2006

HOUSE RESOLUTION

**CREATING A SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND ESTABLISH AN
OLMSTEAD DECISION TASK FORCE IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, Slater, San Bento, McNamara, and Ginaitt

Date Introduced: May 17, 2006

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

WHEREAS, In June 1999, the Supreme Court rendered a decision that created an additional impetus for planning related to community-based services in a case that has come to be known as the Olmstead vs. L.C. decision. The ruling required states to provide community-based services for people with disabilities in facilities when:

The state's treatment professionals have determined that community placement is appropriate;
The transfer from care to a less restrictive setting is not opposed by the affected individual; and
The placement can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the state and the needs of others; and

WHEREAS, As part of the Olmstead ruling, the Supreme Court provided an example of how a state could show that it had met the standard for "reasonable accommodation" by demonstrating that it had:

"A comprehensive, effectively working plan," for placing people with disabilities in less restrictive settings; and

"A waiting list that moved at a reasonable pace," not controlled by the state's attempts to keep its facilities full; and

WHEREAS, In order to assure that a variety of community-based living arrangements and supports are available, certain services and supports need to be developed. These seven areas are:

Education and Outreach: to assure that individuals and their families have adequate and necessary information to make informed choices;

Identification of individuals: to identify individuals in facilities or at-risk of entering facilities in order to assist them in considering appropriate alternatives;

Assessment and planning: to identify the abilities, preferences, and needs of individuals and assist them in locating appropriate supports and services;

Service coordination: to offer assistance in arranging and coordinating services for those who are unable to manage arrangements on their own;

Matching services to individual needs: to develop and refine a delivery system in which eligible consumers can choose from an array of services and supports tailored to their needs and preferences;

Housing: to enhance the availability, affordability and accessibility of housing to enable individuals to live in the community; and

System monitor and evaluation: to ensure that the system of services and supports continually evolving and responding efficiently and effectively to consumers; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That a special house commission be and the same is hereby created consisting of fifteen (15) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker; one of whom shall be the Rhode Island Parent Information Network Executive Director, or designee; one of whom shall be the *Governor's Commission on Disabilities Chairperson, or designee*; one of whom shall be the Ocean State Center of Independent Living Executive Director, or designee; one of whom shall be the PARI Independent Living Center Executive Director, or designee; one of whom shall be the CHOICES Executive Director, or designee; one of whom shall be the Easter Seals of RI President, or designee; one of whom shall be the AARP President, or designee; one of whom shall be the Gray Panthers Rhode Island State Coordinator, or designee; one of whom shall be the Silver Haired Legislature Speaker, or designee; one of whom shall be the Rhodes to Independence Director, or designee; one of whom shall be the Secretary of the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, or designee; and one of whom shall be a member of the public, to be appointed by the Speaker.

In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a general assembly resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu of a legislator; provided, that the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader of the political party which is entitled to the appointment consent to the appointment of the member of the general public.

The purpose of said commission shall be to develop recommendations which will assure that Rhode Island residents with long-term support needs have access to accessible, person-centered services and community options that maximize consumer choice, direction, and dignity. All organizations represented are to have independence and self-sufficiency as a guiding principle or mission. Said commission shall study all aspects of Olmstead vs. L.C. in order to:

Provide the needed information, services and service coordination to allow informed consumer choice of available options;

Honor the preferences of elders and persons with disabilities to remain in the community whenever possible;

Improve the balance of spending between community-based and facility-based care so that expanded options for community living can be made available;

Assist individuals in transitioning from facilities to the community;

Improve access to and quality of health care for people with disabilities;

Ensure that services are accessible to all people including individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse populations;

Evaluate service and program efficacy using systematic data collection and analysis; and

Modify the culture of facilities to reflect community life, options and values more fully.

Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select, from among the legislators, a chairperson. Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information, documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

The Speaker of the House is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters for said commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives on or before June 28, 2007 and said commission shall expire June 28, 2008.

MOTION: To give advice and consent to the appointment of Judith Drew to the Special House Commission to Study and Establish an Olmstead Decision Task Force in the State of Rhode Island JMacD/LS passed, JD abstained

b. The Chairperson of the Legislation Committee

Discussion: The Chair recommends the appointment as the chairperson of the Legislation Committee, its current Vice Chair, Tim Flynn.

MOTION: To give advice and consent to the appointment of R. Timothy Flynn to be the Chairperson of the Legislation Committee JMacD/RCo passed unanimously

4) Support for RI Breast Cancer Coalition’s Access for Women with Disabilities Grant Proposal Paul Choquette

The RI Breast Cancer Coalition is a 501c3 non-profit, organized in 1992. The mission is dedicated to ensuring that all women have access to screening and treatment for breast cancer. As you know, one of our programs is the Access for Women with Disabilities. This program provides free consumer services such as breast health education, mammography scheduling and needs assessment, links to free screening in the state, individual and group support, arrangements for individual services (interpreters, transportation, volunteer companions) and provides an alternative format resource library. In addition, the program offers free mammography provider education/training and community programs.

We have presented the Access for Women with Disabilities Program model to other states as well as at state and national conferences. As with all RIBCC programs, this initiative is offered at no cost to the consumer and is run by trained/qualified volunteers.

The grant that we are applying for is through the National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund and will directly support grassroots advocacy organizations, such as ours, who have programs that address critical issues in breast cancer education and screening.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Marlene McCarthy, H.L.D.

Chair, RI Breast Cancer Coalition

MOTION: To send a letter of support of the RI Breast Cancer Coalition’s Access for Women with Disabilities Grant Proposal. JD/RCo passed, KMcCB abstained

6:00 PM

RECESS FOR DINNER

5) Accessibility Capital Budget Request for FY 2008 - 2012 Harvey Salvas, State ADA Coordinator

Discussion: HOS distributed a list of potential accessibility renovation projects

Accessibility Renovation Capital Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2008 - 2012

Project ID	Project Location	Project Group	Project Detail	RICAP#	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY2011	FY2012	Post FY 2012	Total
490	1% for the Arts	1% for the Arts		1022.25961015	\$2,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$74,500
492	Groden Center	Children, Youth & Families		1022.25961015	\$0	\$150,000	\$146,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$325,000
316	All State Facilities	GCD Projects	for State Employment	1022.25961015	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$158,000
317	All State Facilities	GCD Projects	Door hardware	1022.25961015	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$125,000
552	State House	DOA Projects	Upgrade lower level entrance, door hardware, etc.	1022.25961015	\$0	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$200,000
574	Fort Adams	DEM Parks		1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
362	All State Facilities	GCD Signage	Raised	1022.25961015	\$0	\$6,500	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,500
439	Beach Pond Boat Ramp	DEM Fish and Wildlife	Boat Ramps - Dock & Parking	1022.25961015	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
453	Echo Lake Boat Ramp	DEM Fish and Wildlife	Boat Ramps - Dock & Parking	1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$40,000
331	Lafayette Fish Hatchery	DEM Fish and Wildlife	access to educational program sites	1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
328	North Kingstown Boat Ramp	DEM Fish and Wildlife	Boat Ramps - Dock & Parking	1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$55,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$55,000
489	Shore Fishing Stations (multiple sites)	DEM Fish and Wildlife	Parkings, pathways and fishing platforms	1022.25961015	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$125,000
334	Slatersville Reservoir Boat Ramp	DEM Fish and Wildlife	Boat Ramps - Dock & Parking	1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
326	Chopmist Hill	Forest Management	to Rest Rooms	1022.25961015	\$0	\$35,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,000

Accessibility Renovation Capital Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2008 - 2012

Project ID	Project Location	Project Group	Project Detail	RICAP#	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY2011	FY2012	Post FY 2012	Total
327	Great Swamp Management Area	DEM Forest Management	Entrance, Rest Rooms, & Interior Access	1022.25961015	\$0	\$65,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$115,000
311	Benjamin Rush	Human Services	design in 9024-01415	1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
504	MHRH leaser properties	MHRH leaser properties		1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$200,000	\$225,000
178	Residential Treatment Facilities	MHRH Residential Substance Abuse	Kent House	1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$130,000
333	Colt Park, Bristol	Parks & Recreation	to Rest Rooms and Changing Rooms	1022.25961015	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$320,000
315	Browne Hall	RIC Projects	Modify 13 shower stalls	1022.25961015	\$0	\$13,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,000
310	Main Campus	RIC Projects	Horace Mann	1022.25961015	\$0	\$10,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$110,000
329	Main Campus	RIC Projects	Adams, Alger, Alumni, Art Center, Clarke, Cont. Ed., Craig-Lee, Faculty, Fogarty, Gaige, HBS, Mann, Roberts, SSW, St. Union, & Willard	1022.25961015	\$0	\$11,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,000
533	Main Campus	RIC Projects	Door hardware: Alger, Alumni, Art Center, Browne, Econ. Ed., Child Co-op, Clarke, Craig-Lee, Donovan, Faculty, Fogarty, Gaige, HBS, Mann, Phys. Plant, Roberts, SSW, St. Union, Weber, & Willard	1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$90,000	\$160,000	\$250,000
540	Main Campus	RIC Projects	Alger, Alumni, Art Center, Econ. Ed., Cont. Ed., Craig-Lee, Donovan, Fogarty, Phys. Plant, Roberts, SSW, & St. Union	1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000

Accessibility Renovation Capital Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2008 - 2012

Project ID	Project Location	Project Group	Project Detail	RICAP#	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY2011	FY2012	Post FY 2012	Total
573	Pastore Center	State Projects		1022.25961015	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$600,000
554	Main Campus	RIC Projects	All Campus	1022.25961015	\$0	\$17,000	\$0	\$220,000	\$150,000	\$0	\$387,000
371	Alton Jones	URI Alton Jones		1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
479	Narragansett Bay	URI Bay	including at - Mosby, Fish Lab., Marine, Wave Tank, Pell Library	1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
506	Butterfield Dining Hall	URI Elevators		1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,200	\$250,200
321	Lippitt Hall	URI Elevators		1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000
487	Bay Campus	URI Elevators		1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$550,000
546	Ranger Hall	URI Elevators	& entrance	1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
319	Roosevelt Hall	URI Elevators		1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
545	All Campuses	URI Kingston	Door hardware	1022.25961015	\$0	\$20,000	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
373	Kingston	URI Kingston		1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$490,000	\$0	\$0	\$540,000
562	Kingston	URI Kingston		1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
564	Kingston	URI Kingston	Automatic Door Openers	1022.25961015	\$0	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$70,000	\$0	\$140,000
318	Residence Halls	URI Kingston	Rest Room, Common Space & ? Dorm Suites - Weldin & Barlow Residence Halls	1022.25961015	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$75,000
					\$27,000	\$665,000	\$1,221,000	\$1,220,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,580,200	\$0

MOTION: To adopt the Accessibility Renovation Capital Budget FY 08 – 12, as presented AP/JB passed unanimously

6:25 PM Questions Concerning the Reports from

Questions about the committee, liaison and staff reports, sent out prior to the meeting.

Questions:

1. What has the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee accomplished? The Committee Chair will be sending out his report later this week.
2. What has happened on emergency evacuation? The Elderly & Disability Work Group has been meeting on the creation of a registry of people who need assistance. E 911 is in the process of purchasing equipment that will enable the system. Once the registry is in place, then the Work Group will review each of the municipal plans.

The Accessibility Committee has requested that when the State Building Code is updated that it makes clear that school construction/renovation plans must be reviewed by the Commission's staff.

Adjourned at: 7:12 PM

Resource People: John Desautel & Harvey Salvas (GCD)

FY 2006 Annual Reports from Committees, Liaisons, & Staff
(submitted prior to the meeting)

Bill Nieranowski, **Disability Business Enterprise Committee Chairperson**

1. Please describe the project's activities that took place during FY 06.

* Certified 19 businesses as DBEs (one still pending, one chose to not recertify)

* Met with the Division of Purchases to discuss a draft of a regulation to support the purchasing preference accorded to DBEs in the RIGL. We supplied a proposed draft of the regulation written by Bob Cooper.

* Conducted two training sessions for DBEs with Jim Jackson from the Essex Group. The first was titled "What Are You Selling...Really?" with 18 attendees, the second "Secrets to Trade Show Success" with 10 attendees.

2. Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered during FY 06.

* Meeting Quorums -- Had to cancel the June meeting due to the lack of a quorum. Attempting to reschedule the meeting. Looking into the steps necessary to allow for substitute designates.

* Waiting for the Division of Purchasing to come back to us with the DBE Regulation.

Division of Purchasing resources are tied up bringing a new purchasing system on line.

* Getting State contracts awarded to DBEs.

* Prompt payment to the training vendor.

a. Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the original goals?

b. What options are available to:

i. put the project back on track, and

ii. avoid such difficulties in the future.

3. Please discuss planned activities for FY 07 (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007).

* Most importantly, increase the number of contracts awarded to DBEs. Would like to see 7 contracts awarded in FY '07.

* Offer a follow-up training to DBEs on Trade Shows before the Division of Purchasing has their vendor fair this fall.

* Develop a training plan for future DBE training.

* Increase program awareness with State agency buyers.

* Increase awareness of the State agencies and their buyers with the DBEs.

* Increase the dollar volume of contracts awarded to DBEs.

* Increase the number of DBEs.

Ronald McMinn, **Disability Parking Committee Chairperson**

Due to not having members present to run the meetings, we did not meet for Several months. Scott Greco has left the committee and the commission. Thanks to Nick for getting the letters out to the police departments in the state. Only a few have not sent in their reports. Hopefully the committee can get more members, and we can once again meet.

Rosemary C. Carmody, **Election Assistance Committee Chairperson** & Liaison to: **American Association of People w/ Disabilities - Disability Voting Project; State Board of Election's Voter Registration Advisory Committee; RI One Stop Advisory Committee (Health Care Resource Center)**

1. Please describe the project's activities that took place during FY 06.

Voting; money giving to RIDVP to help establish the project to do outreach to all disability groups, activities include education, voter registration, and outreach. Also trying to build a coalition of disability groups through a membership driven organization. Working with the AAPD. Wrote three grants to help fund project, (NO from Catholic Campaign, waiting on Chris Reeve and RI Foundation. Renewed HAVA Grant will get more money for '07 (\$100,000?)

Elections; grants to 4-5 communities to make polling places accessible, grants to Pawtucket, Westerly, N. Smithfield. Nick has been out to a majority of polling places helping BOE make polling places accessible. Developed video for poll worker training, will add to video, make it more "RI" over the next year.

2. Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered during FY 06.

Not having enough staff available to carry out some of the goals, time, always a shortage, including for the volunteers/chairs

a. Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the original goals?

Perhaps in getting the polling places reviewed and assessed for accessibility, sustaining the RIDVP project (depending on membership and grants)

b. What options are available to:

i. put the project back on track, and

ii. avoid such difficulties in the future.

iii. a lot has to do with available staffing.

3. Please discuss planned activities for FY 07 (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007).

Adding to polling video

Dedicate HAVA funds as needed for ongoing training, education, etc.

Maybe purchase an Automark voting system at the Commission to do training with throughout the year.

Patricia Ryherd, **Employment Committee Chairperson**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Employee Committee successfully completed the work plan, including requirements of the funding sources, i.e. the Adaptive Environments of Boston ADA contract and the Human Resource Investment Committee Employment awareness grant.

- 1.) Twelve Employment awareness Able Too.. shows were completed and aired which portrayed individuals with disabilities in a variety of occupations.. The programs were filmed both at the work sites and in the studio. In addition, another 12 programs were filmed about ADA issues.
- 2.) Four competitive mini-grants were awarded to R.I. colleges to improve the job search skills of students with disabilities. Brown and Johnson & Wales combined to have the national Job Accommodation Network present information on reasonable accommodations. URI had a job fair and one on one coaching.
- 3.) Two half-day ADA trainings were organized for state ADA coordinators, with Kathy Gips of Adaptive Environments as keynote speaker. Approximately 100 coordinators attended. Training to other organizations was provided on demand, including the annual training for real estate agents.
- 4.) Technical information and information dissemination was provided by telephone and by exhibiting at a number of conferences and workshops, including the RTI job fair.
- 5.) An ADA webcast was developed with Bryant University, utilizing several resource people. The target audience is officials in cities and towns. It is anticipated this will be aired in the next fiscal year.
- 6.) An ADA and Law Enforcement two day conference was held in June, with Approximately 100 law enforcement staff attending. The keynote presenter was Liz Stanosheck from Nebraska Department of Corrections.
- 7.) Chris Rancourt attended two national training conferences on ADA in St. Louis, Mo. and San Francisco. One immediate result of these was the connection with the Nebraska Corrections Department resource.
- 8.) Chris attended Regional meetings of the Adaptive Environment ADA Technical Assistance grant program to share results and keep up-to-date on contract requirements.

OBSTACLES

- 1.) GCD was required to submit an rfp for a contract for ABLEtoo. Production which delayed production of the cable TV shows. It was not realized at that time that the shows required travel to remote sites and transportation funding was required for the producer.
- 2.) The five year ADA grant ends September 30, 2006 and Adaptive Environments must compete for a new grant which requires a research component. GCD is a subcontractor of Adaptive Environments so future funding is uncertain. The HRIC grant has ended.

RI Business Leadership Network ?

Regina Connor, **Information and Adaptive Technology Committee Chairperson & Harvey Salvas**

The Committee approved 4 requests form State agencies

Three have been delivered and are in use.

2 CCTVs

1 Computer

1 specialized computerized hearing system for the Courts.

One agency was to be paid as a reimbursement, has not requested payment as of 7/06

Placing orders for equipment in a timely manner has been extremely difficult, with some purchase orders taking over 5 months to execute.

I look forward to the use of RIFANS to resolve this situation.

Paul Choquette **Executive Committee Chairperson,**

1. Please describe the project's activities that took place during FY 06.

The Executive Committee continued to meet regularly to address Personnel issues (staff discipline, selecting of Fellows), general Commission activities, develop agendas for Commission meetings and respond to time sensitive issues.

2. Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered during FY 06.

The major difficulties were in the area of Commission staff disciplinary issues. There were two issues this past year that needed to be addressed. Both issues were addressed ultimately in a satisfactory manner.

a. Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the original goals?

They should not be an impediment to the overall goals of the Commission; in fact the opportunities that have presented themselves as a result of the problems will ultimately result in a staffing pattern that will more adequately meet the Commission's goals in the future.

b. What options are available to:

i. put the project back on track, and

Job descriptions for staff positions are being re-written to more adequately reflect the staffing needs of the Commission

ii. avoid such difficulties in the future.

An new orientation format for Commissioners and staff is currently being developed and will be implemented in the late summer/early fall time frame. This orientation is designed to inform Commission members of their responsibilities as employers to promote a better working environment for the staff. Also formal Orientation packets for Commissioners and for individual Committees are being developed to provide reference materials for Commissioners and Volunteer Committee members.

3. Please discuss planned activities for FY 07 (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007).

A comprehensive Orientation program is being designed and will be implemented in late summer/early fall. This will be followed by a strategic planning retreat involving Commissioners and staff. A more formalized Orientation/Re-Orientatation program will be developed and take place on a regular basis each year.

Paul Choquette, **Legislation Committee Chairperson**

1. Please describe the project's activities that took place during FY 06.

The Legislation Committee, reviewed 233 bills, took no position on 163, monitored 5 bills, in case they were amended in a manner that would impact people with disabilities and issued legislative impact statements on 55.

The Commission:

Opposed 5 Bills, none were enacted into law

Supported 18 Bills,

3 were signed by Governor

06 H-7226 Sub A CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- ASSAULTS Sponsor: Rep. Naughton Public Law 2006 Chapter -175

06 H-7120 Art. 34 Sub A as Amended INSURANCE - MANDATED BENEFITS Sponsor: Rep. Watson Public Law 2006 Chapter -246

06 S-2378 Sub A CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- ASSAULTS Sponsor: Sen. McCaffrey Public Law 2006 Chapter -268

4 were incorporated into Budget Act

06 H-7159 HEALTH CARE SERVICES - UTILIZATION REVIEW ACT Sponsor: Rep. Story
Identical to S 2209 House Health, Education, & Welfare Committee

06 S-2209 HEALTH CARE SERVICES - UTILIZATION REVIEW ACT Sponsor: Sen. Pichardo
Identical to H 7159 Senate Health and Human Services Committee

06 S-2840 HOUSING RESOURCES - NEIGHBORHOOD OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM Sponsor:
Sen. Pichardo Identical to H 7262 Senate Finance Committee

06 H-7262 HOUSING RESOURCES - NEIGHBORHOOD OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM Sponsor:
Rep. Fox Identical to S 2840 House Finance Committee

2 became effective without the Governor's signature

06 S-2604 Sub A as Amended HUMAN SERVICES -- TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES Sponsor: Sen. Blais Identical (as sub A as Amended) to H 7546 Sub A Public Law 2006 Chapter -363

06 H-7546 Sub A MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- ADJUDICATION OF TRAFFIC OFFENSES
Sponsor: Rep. McNamara Identical as Sub A to S 2604 Sub A as Amended Public Law 2006 Chapter -456

1 resolution was adopted

06 S-2627 Sub A SENATE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION TO USE ENVIRONMENTALLY-SAFE AND HEALTH-FRIENDLY
CLEANING PRODUCTS IN STATE FACILITIES AND WORKPLACES Sponsor: Sen. Perry
Senate Resolution 2006 -276

1 passed in concurrence but hasn't been acted upon by the Governor yet

06 H-7081 Sub A MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING
RESTRICTIONS Sponsor: Rep. Naughton

1 passed in concurrence but haven't been transmitted to the Governor yet

06 S-2879 as Amended STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN MEETINGS Sponsor: Sen. Ciccone Identical to S 2779 & H 7672 House Desk

4 of the bills that died had their "companion bills enacted

The other 2 bills that died were:

06 S-2334 Towns And Cities -- Zoning Ordinances Sponsor: Sen. Levesque and

06 S-2269 Civil Rights Of People With Disabilities Sponsor: Sen. Polisena

Supported if amended 4 bills, they were not amended as the Commission recommended, none were enacted into law.

The Legislation Committee found:

- Beneficial 27 bills, 2 were signed by governor, 2 were incorporated into budget act, 6 effective without governor's signature, 1 was vetoed by governor, 1 was transmitted to governor and not been acted upon, and 15 died.
- Beneficial if amended 2 bills, which were not amended as the commission recommended, none were enacted into law.
- Harmful 3 bills, none were enacted into law.
- Harmful unless amended 6 bills, which were not amended as the commission recommended, none were enacted into law.

The legislation committee monitored 5 bills, incase they were amended in a manner that would impact on people with disabilities, all 5 become effective without governor's signature, and will have no negative impact on people with disabilities

The legislation committee reviewed but took no position on 163 bills, 14 were signed by governor, 6 became effective without governor's signature, 2 were vetoed by governor, 14 resolutions were adopted, 8 were transmitted to governor, 4 withdrawn by their sponsors, 4 were defeated, 6 had a recommendation of "no passage" from a house of representative committee, and the other 105 died.

2. Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered during FY 06.

No major problems were encountered during the past fiscal year in terms of the Legislation Committee. Tim Flynn the Vice-Chair presided over the majority of the meetings this past year and showed excellent leadership. The only issue was the instances when health issues prevented the Committee's staff person from being as involved in Legislative efforts as he wanted to, and there was not a clear plan in place for such a contingency.

a. Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the original goals?

Luckily other staff at the Commission was able to perform some of the duties of the Executive Secretary in terms of Legislative work, and Commissioners and Committee members were able to testify on key pieces of legislation.

b. What options are available to:

i. put the project back on track, and

Now that the legislative session has ended there is no need to take immediate action.

ii. avoid such difficulties in the future.

A plan on delegating responsibilities amongst members of the Committee, Commissioners and other Commission staff should be drawn up to provide better continuity in the event that staff is unavailable in the future.

3. Please discuss planned activities for FY 07 (July 1, 2006 - June 30,2007).

Now that Tim Flynn has been appointed to the Commission, he will be named Chair-Person of the Legislative Committee and a new Vice-Chair will be appointed.

State Coordinating Committee on Disability Rights, Chairperson

1. Please describe the project's activities that took place during FY 06.

The SCCDR continues to provide support to the Commission's staff in the provision of ADA Training opportunities. Two trainings of note in the past year were: ADA Webcasts produced in cooperation with Bryant University and training conducted for law enforcement and corrections on ADA issues.

2. Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered during FY 06.

No major difficulties or problems occurred during the past year

a. Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the original goals? N/A

b. What options are available to:

i. put the project back on track, N/A

ii. avoid such difficulties in the future N/A

3. Please discuss planned activities for FY 07 (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007).

SCCDR will continue to meet regularly to coordinate ongoing training activities and to identify needs for future trainings and resources to carry them out.

Liaison to: RI Emergency Management Agency's Elderly and Disability Work Group

1. Please describe the project's activities that took place during FY 06.

The Commission Chairperson has taken over the responsibility for representing the Commission on the EMA Domestic Preparedness subcommittee from recently retired GCD staff. Also during the year, this subcommittee established a "Special Needs" work group, which the Chair leads. This group is charged with providing assistance to EMA in terms of issues surrounding people with disabilities. This group meets on a monthly basis and is currently working on enhancements to the "Special Needs Registry".

2. Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered during FY 06.

The retirement of the Commission staff member has placed more responsibility on the Chair in terms of coordination of activities for the "Special Needs Workgroup"

a. Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the original goals?

It could cause some activities of the group to be delayed as there is not as much support available.

b. What options are available to:

i. put the project back on track, and

At this point there is not a need for any action as the core functions of the group are being met.

ii. avoid such difficulties in the future.

N/A

3. Please discuss planned activities for FY 07 (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007).

The workgroup will complete it's work in redesigning the registry form and assist in developing an outreach plan for the Special Needs Registry and then move on to reviewing the Emergency plans of individual cities and towns in terms of addressing the needs of people with disabilities.

John J. MacDonald Vice Chairperson

This has been a challenging year for the Executive Committee with regard to personnel issues. We have been called upon to consider appropriate responses to employee actions, to interview applicants for fellowships and to recommend the hiring of a contract employee.

Without question, the most challenging issues surrounded our role, individually and collectively, as the employer of the staff and fellows, as well as our responsibility for the working environment for contractor working for the commission. We have learned and are still learning in these areas.

Liaison to: **State Planning Council's Transportation Advisory Committee;**

This year's efforts have concentrated on amendments to the State Transportation Improvement Plan. After two years of working through hundreds of proposals to develop the plan, the committee was surprised by changes brought about by changes in the rules regarding "earmarked funding". In the past, earmarked funding was above and beyond formula funds. Under the latest transportation funding law, known as SAF-T-LU, earmarked funds are taken out of formula funds causing states to reprogram funding plans. In Rhode Island we have not had to cancel projects, but we have had to move some into out years of our plan.

Representative to: **Special Legislative Commission to Study Transit Services in RI**

The commission chaired by Senator Dan Connor and Representative Ed Pacheco met on eight occasions over twelve weeks this spring hearing testimony from nearly a dozen interested parties including; the Department of Elderly Affairs, the Department of Transportation, this commission, the Statewide Planning Program, the American Public Transportation Association and the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority. The culmination of this effort was a draft report to the general assembly that was reviewed by the commission at its last meeting. The report has yet to be approved for final publication.

Judith Drew, Ph.D. Liaison to: **State Rehabilitation Council**

State Rehabilitation Council Summary of Annual Activities FY 05 – FY 06

The State Agency developed and submitted a new state plan. Comments from collaborative state agencies and others raised issues related to the lack of opportunity for career ladders for ORS counselors, dealing with state-wide transportation issues and improving job training for clients and counselors.

The Employer Honor Roll breakfast is scheduled for October 27, 2006. The time and location are still to be determined.

The SRC held an orientation for new council members in May. New members include a prominent attorney and a representative from the Disability Law Center.

The SRC had a site visit from central office of OSERS. The visit was very positive. The OSERS representatives were pleased with the progress ORS has made to improve outcomes and increase employment of people with disabilities. A web-site for the National Business Network is under construction. The goal is to provide better outreach to employers. Recommendations have been made for ORS and the RI Business Leadership Network to work more cooperatively together. The SRC Employment Committee has taken on that challenge.

This past year ORS has done well on performance objectives. They passed all standards and indicators for this year. 64% of the clients served at ORS exited with employment outcomes. Of that number, almost 91% were earning at or above minimum wage. 100% of these individuals were considered to have significant disabilities.

Committees and subcommittees are meeting over the summer to develop the strategic plan for each committee for next fiscal year. The quarterly meeting in September will be a retreat with formal planning for goal setting for next year.

As of the June 12, 2006 committee meeting, the SRC has organized an ad hoc committee to tackle issues related to transportation barriers around the state. Dr. Drew has been appointed chair of that committee.

Kate McCarthy-Barnett, EdD. Liaison to:

Housing Resource Commission's Policy Strategic Housing Planning Committee

Please describe the project's activities that took place during FY 06.

The Five Year Strategic Housing Plan 2006-2010 is a planning document required by the "Comprehensive Housing Production and Rehabilitation Act of 2004." The Five Year Strategic Housing Plan is the result of a collaborative effort by the state's key housing agencies and housing interest groups.

Over the last year, the planning process to create the Strategic Housing Plan involved the assessment of the state's housing need, recent development trends, housing affordability and strategic planning recommendations and guidelines for inclusion. The Strategic Housing Plan describes the current status of Rhode Island's housing development needs and resources and proposes strategies and actions to be completed during 2006-2010. The guiding principles for the plan include the following:

- Preserve Assets
- Minimize Costs
- Promote Economic Development
- Encourage Diversity
- Target Populations

The following provides a brief overview of the approval process:

- January, 2006: Introduction of draft to the State Planning Council
- February, 2006: Preliminary Review Completed by the Technical Review Committee
- February, 2006: Additional comments/edits completed at Technical Committee Workshop
- March, 2006: Recommendations are made to the State Planning Council
- April, 2006: Statewide Planning Council holds a public hearing for comments and review
- April, 2006: Statewide Planning Council reviews public comments
- May, 2006: Statewide Planning Council approved the Plan

Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered during FY 06.

The following were identified as difficulties/problems with the Housing Plan:

1. Plan points out that there are no silver bullets; to answer the goal of "Five Thousand in Five Years" will only be achieved with a combination of solutions.
2. The challenge of overcoming "the attitude barrier" is significant. The fact that the overwhelming majority of cities and town in RI have not achieved their 10% affordability factor is not a coincidence.
3. The largest cohort who, according to the Plan, will increase the most dramatically over the next five years will be the "empty nesters" whose space requirements by definition will change significantly.
4. Create an ongoing, relatively predictable source of funds, so that when the cry and the need is for "Five Thousand in Five Years" it has an independent, private mechanism available to achieve it.
5. While it makes sense for universities to do more to create housing for their students, is it realistic to suggest that municipalities have the legal authority to require universities to house all of their students?
6. Committee members identified multiple barriers to affordable housing development

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the original goals?

The planning committee has addressed each of these issues and has provided recommendations in the final plan so they will not impact the original goals.

Please discuss planned activities for FY 07 (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007).

The Strategic Housing Plan identifies multiple strategies, action plans, lead parties and dates for completion of activities. A more detailed review of the specific actions schedule to be completed during this timeframe can be reviewed at www.planning.state.ri.housing.

National Organization on Disability

Please describe the project's activities that took place during FY 06.

The National Organization on Disability (N.O.D) continues to promote the full and equal participation and contribution of people with disabilities in all aspects of life. The most recent annual report is not available at this time.

The N.O.D initiatives included the following programs:

Community Partnership Program - Helping mayors and their communities to become disability-friendly

Accessible America Award - Recognizing America's most disability-friendly communities

National Partnership Program - Partnering with major organizations to carry out disability programs

CEO Council - Recognizing CEOs and companies committed to the employment of people with disabilities

Emergency Preparedness Initiative - Ensuring inclusion of disability issues in preparedness planning

N.O.D./Harris Surveys - Gathering benchmark data on state of disability in America

Religion and Disability Program - Encouraging faith communities to remove barriers to full religious participation

World Committee on Disability - Strengthening the U.N. World Program of Action Concerning Disabled Persons

FDR International Disability Award - Recognizing nations' progress toward expanding disability participation

Start on Success - Providing paid internships to high school students with disabilities

FDR Wheelchair Statue Campaign - Celebrating FDR's source of strength: his disability

Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered during FY 06.

No problems or difficulties have been reported.

Please discuss planned activities for FY 07 (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007).

The N.O.D will continue to promote the full and equal participation and contribution of people with disabilities in all aspects of life. The N.O.D website and e-newsletter will continue to provide updates on recent developments, disability-related news, statistics, information and resources (www.nod.org).

Arthur M. Plitt Liaison to:

Department of Education's Comprehensive System of Personnel Development Advisory Committee

This committee has met once with the past director of special ed, but there was a postponed meeting and then cancelled until fall sometime with some reports being assembled. Some progress seemed to be made as part of long term planning, but the new laws w/o regulations have made absorbing and planning frustrating more difficult. The RIDE leadership meeting showed a good direction for 2007 and beyond.

Department of Elderly Affairs Health Care Resources Center Advisory Committee

Good effort to support multilingual and diversity in the community and recognized the little items brought up of the varied needs for the disabled community in communications

Rhodes to Independence Steering Committee

Good efforts with success on new grants and continuation and with the efforts in Housing Success and Youth efforts a good direction for more successes as the 2nd Job Fair kicks in on even more attendees on Oct 25th and the Medicaid buy in works out the wrinkles as well as the Job Guide Book successfully received by many.

Youth Leadership Forum

Good enrollment at about 12 and still difficulties in getting youth referrals from schools especially with non profound type of disabilities. An ongoing effort to form a separate 501c3 is onboard and with Susan Shapiro retired and still willing to help direct, it should get even stronger legs for the future especially if efforts are made to educate on all disabilities. There was one excellent student that I was part of the interview team that may indicate more of those youth from the school district(s) if we help to promote especially with a dinner with companies and schools.

Mentoring Day Organizing Committee

This has been a successful program and with earlier efforts this year for the Oct 18th event and the Social Security endorsement as the key supporter, it is felt this will help enroll more youth for the employers willing to offer a mentoring shadowing option to students for career choices. We will be embarking on a Mentoring Promotion with less emphasis on disabilities and more on mentoring abilities and career choices. Efforts towards and thru the colleges and the RI Mentoring Partnership should also give it significant strength for much more success. I will be attending the Boston Mentoring Conference in Sept for Youth with disabilities and am also part of the planned RI Mentoring Partnership Summit planned for RIC in Oct/Nov this year

Orestes P. Monterey, Ph.D. Liaison to: **Rehabilitation Building Code's Drafting Committee**
The Drafting Committee never met during FY 06.

Lorna Ricci Liaison to: **Governor's Workforce Investment Council & Human Resource Investment Council**

Board officially constituted 9/22/05 by Executive Order.

Board has 6 standing committees: Executive; Strategic Investments; Board Development; Planning & Evaluation; Youth Development; & Adult Education/Literacy

Board oversees activities authorized by the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) legislation and the funding allocated to RI's Human Resource Investment Council (Job Development Fund (JDF)). The Board administered approximately \$7 million in FY '06 and awarded over 70% of the funds to workforce/education initiatives.

Strategic Investments activity to-date include:

Approximately \$2 million was awarded to 102 RI companies and used to train 2,663 current employees - 80 of the companies are classified as "high wage", i.e., paying salaries of over \$40K avg.

\$900K was awarded to companies that were either new to RI or were RI based and were expanding their workforce.

The Adult Education Committee is focusing on improving content standards and staff professional development – has also developed a 5 year plan to improve adult education and literacy statewide.

\$1.8 million was earmarked and awarded to adult education and literacy initiatives throughout the state with a focus on workplace related literacy skills.

The Youth Development Committee developed two summer jobs initiatives for youth: "Yes to Work" (ages 16-19 ages) and "We Can 2" (ages 14-15). Over 112 jobs for older youth have been developed.

\$600K was awarded to 11 community-based agencies to provide career awareness, leadership skills, etc. to younger youth. Over 330 youth are to be enrolled.

The Committee is also working on developing a Youth Development Office within the structure of the Board to work on creating a single focus on youth workforce and education issues.

Board Development Committee crafted Board By-Laws and operational procedures. The Committee will now focus on ongoing member education and a Board retreat/strategic planning in the fall.

Planning & Evaluation Committee undertook two issues: Consolidation of the two local Workforce Boards and restructuring RI's One-Stop Career Centers – netWORKri.

The local board consolidation issue has been tabled given the current WIA legislation which requires their existence. However, the committee has worked to encourage and support greater collaboration between the two – resulting in greater efficiencies and commonality, thus better customer service and hopefully fiscal efficiencies.

The netWORKri restructuring work has resulted in the Board's endorsement of a plan to make the one-stop centers more effective and efficient with greater use of improved technology, consolidation of services, etc. A report is currently being compiled of their findings and recommendations to be presented to the Governor within the near future.

This Committee will now undertake the work of trying to unify a number of federal and state workforce initiatives to foster greater efficiencies and improved customer service.

In summary: Given the 9 months the Board has been active, much has been accomplished and more ambitious undertakings are planned to advance the Governor's workforce, economic and education development agenda.

Reports from Staff

Christine Botts, **Disability Business Enterprises Grant**

See Disability Business Enterprise Committee Report

John M. Desautel Liaison to: **John O. Pastore Center Council**

At the last meeting GCD staff reported that disabled parking is needed at the GCD office located at 41 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston. The GCD provided funding to complete disabled parking at their office location.

GCD staff person also reported that approximately 29 million dollars in bond funds was requested through the Governor's Office to provide accessibility to all occupied state owned facilities in the November 2006 ballot. This request was rejected by the Governor's Office.

GCD staff person requested that all state owned facility project plans be submitted to the GCD for ADA plan review. The Chairman indicated that efforts would be made to provide all state plans at the Pastore Center to the GCD. The GCD has requested and awaits plans for the new Youth Assessment Correctional Facility constructed adjacent to the GCD office.

The Chairman has suspended all committee meetings through the summer months.

Recommendation:

Assign a permanent Chairman and Secretary to the Pastore Center Council. This responsibility revolves among several assigned personnel. Active involvement of the City of Cranston Planning Department and Pastore state department personal is suggested in an effort to promote interagency communication relative to long range planning regarding state and city projects on and in the vicinity of the John O. Pastore Center.

State Agency Renovation Projects

DEM Stillwater Dam: Path of travel and access to the disabled for fishing located at the head and rear of the dam was completed with GCD bond funds.

DEM Jerusalem ADA Dock Access: Awaits FY '07 GCD Bond funds.

Rhode Island College ADA Lifts: 3 new lifts were installed in Horace Mann (1) & Roberts Hall (2)

Rhode Island School for the Deaf ADA Restroom renovations: Renovated restrooms to provide accessibility in vicinity of gymnasium completed.

Pasteur Restroom Renovations: ADA renovation of six restrooms throughout the Pasteur facility for the Department of Human Services is completed.

Recommendation:

In FY '05 the GCD lost the FTE which provided a fiscal person which among many other financial responsibilities included the GCD renovation projects. GCD staff worked ceaselessly to develop ADA projects authorized and prioritized by the Accessibility Committee only to lose capital funding sources due to untimely or lack of submittal by Central Business Office.

There is also a lack of effective communication between the Budget Office and the GCD staff assigned with the task of committing and expending state funds through a very small window of opportunity. Budget has also failed to communicate effectively capital fund availability on a timely basis.

It would appear that without a full time fiscal person assigned to the GCD communication with CBO and Budget is highly fragmented and unlikely to provide a seamless continuity of administrative process required with the quirky capital funding process. However, RIFANS, the State of Rhode Island's new fiscal management system, purports to enable even small agencies like the GCD with an integrated system thereby allowing staff to initiate, track and complete the capital funding process on a timely basis. I look forward to successfully utilizing RIFANS in FY'07

Harvey O. Salvas Liaison to:

Department of Administration's Information Resources Management Committee; Did not meet.

Websites Standards Committee & Webmasters Committee;

Continues to meet mostly to provide information and technical "stuff" for webmasters.

Department of Environmental Management's Parks & Trails Committee;

I was never notified that I was placed on committee by DEM and never received notice of meetings.

Department of Labor & Training's Elevator Committee;

Did not meet. I think this committee has completed its work.

Emergency Management Agency Advisory Committee & Task Force;

I have not been notified of any meetings since Al left.

HAVA (Help America Vote Act) Grant; & New England Accessible IT Advisory Board

Bob Cooper Liaison to: **Paratransit Task Force**

The Governor on June 13th issued Executive Order 06-9 Continuation of Paratransit Task Force, only slightly modifying a draft provided by the Commission. The Task Force has not met for several years.

1. Task Force is charged as follows:

- a. Improve the mobility of Rhode Islanders, with particular emphasis on the elderly and disabled;
- b. Promote the collaboration among all statewide entities involved directly or indirectly in paratransit services;
- c. Effective coordination of both the RIPTA fixed route and RIDE paratransit services;
- d. Develop initiatives to expand and improve services to under-served populations;
- e. Ensure conformance to funding mandates and state transportation plans;

- f. Seek all possible revenue streams to strengthen the statewide system and insure cost-effective and cost-efficient operation; and
 - g. Monitor the services provided by paratransit carriers to ensure an appropriate level of customer service.
2. The Task Force shall consist of eight members and one non-voting ex-officio member. The Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, or designee, will serve as chair, the Director of Department of Elderly Affairs, or designee; the Executive Secretary of the Governor's Commission on Disabilities, or designee; the Director of the Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals, or designee; the Director of the Department of Human Services, or designee; a consumer of paratransit services to be appointed by the Governor; two public members to be appointed by the Governor, and the General Manager of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, or designee, shall serve ex-officio.
 3. The Task force shall develop an annual report to the Governor of procurements and program performance.
 4. A Paratransit Carrier Procurement Subcommittee shall be appointed, by the Chair of the Task Force, consisting of three or more members of the Task Force who do not represent either the paratransit broker or paratransit carriers. The Subcommittee shall be responsible for:
 - a. Monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of all paratransit contracts and, where necessary, making recommendations for the termination or modification of such contracts.
 - b. Coordinating with the Bureau of Audits in its regular review process.
 5. All state agencies and departments that procure paratransit services shall utilize the RIde system, unless the Task Force or Governor determines it is in the best interest of the state to do otherwise. Each state agency or department that procures paratransit services shall be solely responsible for establishing eligibility criteria for those services.
 6. All participating agencies and departments shall cooperate fully in providing staff and technical support as required by the Task Force.
 7. Executive Orders 94-5, 95-6, 97-6 and 01-1 are hereby superceded and rescinded.”

RI Disability Vote Project:

The organization hired a disability vote project organizer, James deBoer, last winter, has established a governing structure and in the process of adopting bylaws. These meet the Commission’s funding condition that at least 50% of the governing board (steering committee) would be people with disabilities. This steering committee would meet quarterly. On a more frequent basis a smaller group the “Managing Directors” will be in charge of the project. The major funding organizations, the Commission, the RI Disability Law Center and Community Provider Network of RI are members of this group along with a small number of consumers. Again at least 50% of the managing directors have to be people with disabilities. Since all decisions of this group have to be by consensus, the Commission can veto any actions it feels are not consistent with the HAVA funds. The Disability Vote Project will be strictly non-partisan and will not take positions on disability issues, except those related to access to the voting process. It will provide organizations with the tools and training needed for them to be more effective advocates for whatever issues are important to them.

On May 12th Hans Johnson, President of Progressive Victory and a consultant for the American Association of People with Disabilities, will present on the technical aspects of voter registration and get out the vote planning, including Voter List Enhancement. List Enhancement allows organizations to keep better track of your members and donors; sort members, staff, and volunteers by state legislative districts, to streamline advocacy efforts; identify who the consistent voters are, and recruit them for your voter registration drives; target who is not yet registered or who doesn't vote consistently to get them registered and to the polls. Many of the organizations that joined the project have submitted their lists which are being electronically matched with the state's central voter registry and the Post Office's change of address lists and returned to the individual organizations (in a manner consistent with RI and federal health insurance confidentiality regulations).

As of the end of June the following organizations had joined the project: Advocates in Action; ARC of Northern Rhode Island; Community Living of Rhode Island; Community Provider Network of RI; Cranston Arc; Governor's Commission on Disabilities; J.A. Trudeau Memorial Center; Mental Health Advocate; Mental Health Consumer Advocates of RI; National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Rhode Island; New England RMS; Ocean State Center for Independent Living; Opportunities Unlimited; PARI Independent Living Center; Rhode Island Parent Information Network; RI Developmental Disabilities Council; RI Disability Law Center; Spurwink/RI; and United Cerebral Palsy of RI.

In addition several organizations are considering membership: Easter Seals – RI; RI Association of the Deaf; Kent House; and Fogarty Center.

Teresa J. Carr-Hopkins Liaison to: RIPTA Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee & Arthritis Action Plan Committee

For the past year and before, the main focus of the Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee has been on shortening response time for lift failures and increasing stop announcements. Bill Inlow, RIPTA's ADA Paratransit Manager, also does a good job keeping the Committee informed of GCD Legislative activities, when I'm not there, which unfortunately has been often this year. Complaints about service issues have been voiced by members and for the most part, responded to by RIPTA officials.