

# Minutes



## GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES ORIENTATION Friday September 29, 2006 3-6:15 PM Arnold Conference Center, Eleanor Slater Hospital OR

**Tuesday October 3, 2006 9:15 AM – 12:30 PM**  
**Commission Office, 41 Cherry Dale Court,**

(voice) 401-462-0100 (tty) 462-0101 (fax) 462-0106

(e-mail) [disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) (website) [www.disabilities.ri.gov](http://www.disabilities.ri.gov)

### Attendance:

**9/29/03**

Paul Choquette (Chair); John MacDonald (Vice Chair); Joseph Corrente; Judi Drew; Bin Efreom; Sanford Lupovitz; Kate McCarthy-Barnett; Lisa McKay; Bill Nieranowski; Patricia Ryherd;

Associate Members: Liberty Goodwin; Michael Spoerri; & David Gallagher

Staff: Terry Carr-Hopkins; John Desautel; & Bob Cooper

**10/03/06**

Paul Choquette (Chair); Jeanne Behie; Sharon Brinkworth; Regina Connor; Tim Flynn; Ron McMinn; Orestes Monterey; Karen O'Connell Lyons; Arthur Plitt; Rev. Sabourin

Associate Members: Gwen Reeve, Janet Spinelli

Guests: Dori Blacker

Staff: Chris Botts; Nick Capobianco; Chris Rancourt; Harvey Salvas & Bob Cooper

### Excused:

Rory Carmody; Fred Burke; Jim Pitassi; Lorna Ricci; & Lou Salerno

## Minutes

**9:15 AM / 3 PM**

**Opening and Introductions**

**Paul Choquette,  
Commission Chair**

Chairperson called the meeting to order and made a short overview of the orientation agenda.

**9:30 AM / 3:15 PM**

**Commission History**

**Bob Cooper**

Executive Secretary presented a history of the Commission 1956 – 2006.

**9:45 AM / 3:30 PM**

**Functions of the Commission meetings**

**Paul Choquette**

Chair described the purpose and function of Commission meetings

**10:00 AM / 3:45 PM**

**Functions of commissioners, committees, staff,  
fellows & volunteers**

**Paul Choquette**

Chairperson reviewed the roles, functions and interactions of: Commissioners; committees; Associate (committee) members, staff, fellows and volunteers.

**10:20 AM / 4:05 PM**

**Break**

<b>10:30 AM / 4:15 PM</b>	<b>Highlight 1 project or task that the staff/committee is currently working on or have recently completed</b>	<b>Staff, Committee Chairs &amp; Liaisons</b>
Committee chairpersons, staff, and liaisons that were present made brief presentation of one project or task and responded to questions.		
<b>11:30 AM / 5:15 PM</b>	<b>Break / View ABLE TOO...Segment</b>	
Due to technical difficulties the video wasn't shown on 09/29/06, but was shown on 10/03/06		
<b>11:45 AM / 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Making the Connection</b>	<b>Small Groups</b>
<p>Groups of 5 to 6 people, broke into small discussion groups and talked about:          “How your personal involvement with the GCD allows the GCD to achieve the GCD’s goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocates on behalf of People with Disabilities;</li> <li>• Expand economic opportunities for businesses owned by or employing people with disabilities;</li> <li>• Increase the general awareness of the rights and concerns of individuals with disabilities and their families; and</li> <li>• Ensures that people with disabilities have access to their government.”</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">After 20 minutes or so each group reported on this discussion:</p>		
<p>Increase awareness of rights relating to employment, planning skills          Advocacy – job opportunities, educating employers, attitudes in employment, health care rights, educating students, fellowships, coaching &amp; teaching for disabled involvement, peer mentoring, physical access, website improvement, communications</p>		
<p>Regulations to clarify state purchasing rules leading to employment of disability business enterprises (DBE).          Advocate DBEs, special forum for people with household chemical sensitivity, legislation for indoor air quality regulation, amendment to school health regulations – all school construction plans will be submitted to GCD, GCD regulatory authority for violation of school health regulations; putting bond referendum to require state agencies to fund unmet access projects          Integrate people with disabilities into state agency priorities          Advocate for funding for disability issues.</p>		
<p>I help find technology that will help people expand employment opportunities and allow them to do their job          By representing GCD on outside boards, general awareness of the folks I serve, re: concerns of people with disabilities.          In my role on the Employment Committee – awareness &amp; promote employment opportunities. My job is mostly information &amp; referral. I provide info to community referrals that can assist them.          By serving on the Transportation Committee of the State Rehabilitation Council, I am helping to ensure that people with disabilities have access to public transportation &amp; that the system becomes fully accessible.</p>		
<p>Education of specific disabilities – organization website, go to meetings &amp; educate          Staff function – refer calls to appropriate – identify disability problems, initiate process i.e.</p>		

mediation

Able Too – Commission website, educate – advertise Pro Jo // radio – election series, housing transportation

Job awareness of discrimination – economic impact – State ADA Coordinators

Raised awareness in committee meetings

Testify for MR residential regulations

Special Olympics – Awareness of Commission

Better service faculty & students for the disability needs

Make sure buildings are accessible

At Department of Health – working on transition project – helping families with information & resources on transitioning from pediatric to adult care

Make recommendations on code violations – provide technical assistance – make suggestions & very creative

Organized government relations committee, supporting bills, testifying, writing letters

Advertising opportunities to self advocate, give workshops on ADA, disclosure

Advertise information on public forums, refer consumers to GCD, for more information

Works on federal level to pass legislation

Speaks with our legislative regularly.

Provide access to govt. information through information technology, Making people aware of information technology and adaptive technology, going to State House – advocated for Newslite

Able Too get brain injury services funded through line item in DHS budget by the General Assembly

Develop year round recreation programs across all disabilities by conducting a needs assessment & developing programs that meet those needs.

Created 2 brochures for GCD / fellowship program, disseminate to agencies & colleges

Took part in committee meetings at State House for purpose of photo ID on handicapped placard

Took part in public forums – making people with disabilities aware of this opportunity to come & speak

**12:25 PM / 6:10 PM    Completing Self-Evaluation Forms**

**Paul Choquette**

**Adjourned:                    12: 30 PM / 6:15 PM**