

Minutes



GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday January 3, 2007 5:00 – 7:00 PM

John O. Pastore Center (Formerly the Howard Center)

- 41 Cherry Dale Court,

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; Rosemary Carmody; Dr. Judith Drew; Binyamin Efreom; R. Timothy Flynn; Sanford Lupovitz; Dr. Kate McCarthy-Barnett;; Dr. Orestes Monteracy; Bill Nieranowski;; James Pitassi; Arthur Plitt; & Lou Salerno
Excused:	Joseph Corrente; Regina Connor; Lisa McKay; Karen O'Connell-Lyons; Ronald McMin;n Lorna Ricci Patricia Ryherd; & Rev. Gerard Sabourin

Minutes

5:00 PM	Call to Order, Introductions and Acceptance of Minutes	Paul Choquette, Chair.
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Discussion Chair called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Members, staff and guests introduce themselves

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as mailed JMacD/TF passed unanimously

5:05 PM	Action Items
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1) Budget Recommendation Response

The Chairperson's letter to Governor Carcieri said "I am scheduling an emergency meeting of the Commission for early January, so all of your appointees have a chance to debate and vote on a list of legislation that would need to be repealed or drastically amended to absorb the impact of the **(33.62%)** reduction in annual staff hours."

The Executive Committee appealed the Budget Office's FY 08 Budget Recommendation, the Commission's task tonight is to determine what activities/services the Commission would no longer be able to provide, so the Governor can weight the impact of these "service cuts" when he makes his decision on what budget level to recommend the General Assembly fund the Commission.

The following is from the Commission's Operational Plan. It includes the state laws that spell out the Commission's responsibilities, and the staffing & funding levels the Commission proposed for Fiscal Year 2008. Please review them and be prepared to prioritize those responsibilities so we can identify the service cuts and the corresponding laws the Governor would have to ask the General Assembly to repeal or amend.

We must identify **\$66,300** savings of state funds.

Goal I. To include (integrate) people with disabilities in all aspects of society

Objective A. To enact into law the Commission's Legislative Package and the enactment of legislation that would have a beneficial impact on people with disabilities, and the defeat of harmful legislation.

RIGL 42-51-6(1) Governor's Commission on Disabilities – Duties. – It shall be the duty of the commission to work in cooperation with the national council on disability and other interested federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and employers in: (1) Promoting on behalf of the people with disabilities and assuring, on behalf of the state, that people with disabilities are afforded the opportunities to exercise all of the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of this state.

The chart below includes all state funded public awareness activities: legislative lobbying; ABLE TOO... production; and information and referral services.

Totally State Funded	FY 08 Annual Hours Worked	FY 08 Funding
Salary/Wages and Other Compensation		\$43,068
Employee Benefit Programs		\$28,553
State Employees – Union ¹	161.7	\$12,319
State Employees – Nonunion	940.8	\$59,302
Contracted Professional Services		\$12,732
Smart Staffing Employees	350.0	\$10,182
ABLE TOO Production		\$1,584
Interpreters/Captioners		\$966
Operating Supplies and Expenses		\$2,616
Assistance and Grants		\$0
Capital Purchases and Equipment		\$0
Aid to Local Units of Government		
Total	1,452.5	\$86,968
Full Time Equivalent Staffing	0.9	
Average staff Hours/Week	31.5	
OPTIONS:		Potential Savings
1. Reduce hours for nonunion employees below the current 35 hrs/wk		Up to \$59,302
2. Shift Smart Staffing responsibilities to nonunion employees		\$10,182
3. Reduce or eliminate non-grant funded ABLE TOO programs		\$1,584

¹ Any changes to job duties, hours or other conditions of the job of union employees will be subject to the Seniority, Subcontracting, and Temporary Services, provisions of the State / Council 94 AFSCME Master Agreement.

Law that would have to be amended (if option 1 is chosen):

42-51-3. Governor’s Commission on Disabilities – Officers.

The governor shall designate one member of the commission to serve as its chairperson during the governor’s term of office or until he or she appoints another member of the commission to serve in that capacity. The commission shall elect from its own membership a vice-chairperson, who shall serve until his or her successor is elected, and who is authorized to act as chairperson pro tempore of the commission should there be a vacancy for any cause in the office of the chairperson. The commission shall elect from its own membership other officers it deems necessary. The commission shall appoint an executive secretary to serve as executive officer and secretary of the commission, who shall be a ~~full~~ ~~time~~ employee. The commission may appoint additional personnel as may be necessary for the efficient performance of the duties prescribed by this chapter.

Objective B. To provide technical assistance to agencies, businesses, and citizens in complying with federal & state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities.

RIGL 42-51-6(4) Governor’s Commission on Disabilities – Duties. – It shall be the duty of the commission to work in cooperation with the national council on disability and other interested federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and employers in: (4) Providing technical assistance to public and private agencies, businesses, and citizens in complying with federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities.

1. Equal Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities
2. Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services
4. Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability by Public Accommodations and in Commercial Facilities

State Funding	FY 08 Annual Hours Worked	FY 08 Funding
Salary/Wages and Other Compensation		\$138,401
Employee Benefit Programs		\$90,460
State Employees – Union	2,543.4	\$157,047
State Employees – Nonunion	1,040.2	\$71,814
Contracted Professional Services		\$0
Smart Staffing Employees	0.0	\$0
Operating Supplies and Expenses		\$0
Assistance and Grants		\$0
Capital Purchases and Equipment		\$0
Aid to Local Units of Government		
Total²	3,583.6	\$228,861
Full Time Equivalent Staffing	2.3	
Average staff Hours/Week	80.4	
NE ADA Grant Funding	FY 08 Annual Hours Worked	FY 08 Funding
Salary/Wages and Other Compensation		\$14,495
Employee Benefit Programs		\$7,463
State Employees – Union	0.0	\$0
State Employees – Nonunion	495.6	\$21,959
Contracted Professional Services		\$20,833
Smart Staffing Employees	525.0	\$15,272
Operating Supplies and Expenses		\$5,672
Assistance and Grants		\$2,588
Capital Purchases and Equipment		\$0
Aid to Local Units of Government		
Total	1,020.6	\$51,052
Full Time Equivalent Staffing	0.6	

² NE ADA Grant requires state funded maintenance of effort = 3,600 hrs/yr.

Average staff Hours/Week	21.0	
OPTIONS		Potential Savings:
1. Reduce hours for nonunion employees below the current 35 hrs/wk		\$213.52 ³
2. Shift Smart Staffing responsibilities to nonunion employees		\$15,272
<p>3. To ensure that every state and local police entity has an effective program for enforcement of the state's disability parking laws.</p> <p>RIGL 31-28-7.3 Parking Facilities and Privileges – Disability parking enforcement program (a) The state police, department of environmental management, airport corporation, capitol police, department of mental health, retardation and hospitals, and the state operated colleges shall establish a disability parking enforcement enhancement programs no later than January 1, 2000. The program will be designed to improve enforcement of disability parking laws on state-owned property and in parking facilities serving space leased or owned by the state, including state departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and quasi-governmental corporations. Citations issued in conjunction with this program shall be submitted to the traffic tribunal or its successor entity for collection pursuant to §§ 31-28-7 and 31-28-7.1 and the fines collected through shall be paid over to the state agency or college that issued the citation.</p> <p>(b) The several cities and towns shall establish disability parking enforcement enhancement programs. Citations issued in conjunction with local enforcement programs shall be submitted to the municipal court, where established, or to the traffic tribunal or its successor entity. Fines collected through citations issued in accordance with local enforcement program specifications shall be paid over to the city or town or pursuant to §§ 31-28-7 and 31-28-7.1.</p> <p>(c) Disability parking enforcement enhancement plans.</p> <p>(1) The state police, department of environmental management, airport corporation, capitol police, department of mental health, retardation and hospitals, and the state operated colleges shall submit a disability parking enforcement enhancement plan to the governor's commission on disabilities.</p> <p>(2) Cities and towns shall submit a disability parking enforcement enhancement plan to the governor's commission on the disability.</p> <p>(3) The disability parking enforcement enhancement plans shall describe the enforcement program which the state police, department of environmental management, airport corporation, capitol police, department of mental health, retardation and hospitals, the state operated colleges or the municipality intends to establish.</p> <p>(4) The disability parking enforcement enhancement plan shall be reviewed by governor's commission on disabilities within sixty (60) days of receipt and suggest improvements to the disability parking enforcement enhancement plans, that shall not be construed as required amendments.</p> <p>(d) Beginning January 1, 2001 and on each January 1 thereafter, cities and towns and the state police, department of environmental management, airport corporations, capitol police, department of mental health, retardation and hospitals, and the state operated colleges shall be required to submit to the governor's commission on disabilities an annual progress report chronicling the collections of fines, procedures used, convictions, and any problems or successes which result from the disability parking enforcement enhancement program. Following receipt of an annual program report, the governor's commission on disabilities may suggest improvements to a disability parking enforcement enhancement program.</p>		
State Funding	FY 08 Annual Hours Worked	FY 08 Funding
Salary/Wages and Other Compensation		\$1,297
Employee Benefit Programs		\$817
State Employees – Union	19.99	\$1,409

³ Only 3 staff hours over the maintenance of effort

State Employees – Nonunion	9.90	\$704
Total	29.89	\$2,114
Full Time Equivalent Staffing	0.02	
Average staff Hours/Week	0.68	
OPTIONS		Potential Savings
1. Reduce hours for nonunion employees below the current 35 hrs/wk		\$704
2. Shift Union employees to other activities		\$1,409
Law that would have to be amended (if option 1 & 2 are chosen):		
(d) Beginning January 1, 2001 and on each January 1 thereafter, cities and towns and the state police, department of environmental management, airport corporations, capitol police, department of mental health, retardation and hospitals, and the state operated colleges shall be required to submit to the governor's commission on disabilities an annual progress report chronicling the collections of fines, procedures used, convictions, and any problems or successes which result from the disability parking enforcement enhancement program. Following receipt of an annual program report, the governor's commission on disabilities may suggest improvements to a disability parking enforcement enhancement program.		

Objective C. HAVA (Help America Vote Act) Grant		
HAVA Grant Funding ⁴	FY 08 Annual Hours Worked	FY 08 Funding
Salary/Wages and Other Compensation		\$26,745
Employee Benefit Programs		\$16,892
State Employees – Union	457.8	\$32,278
State Employees – Nonunion	159.6	\$11,359
Contracted Professional Services		\$673
Smart Staffing Employees	0.0	\$0.0
Operating Supplies and Expenses		\$1,085
Assistance and Grants		\$50,000
Capital Purchases and Equipment		\$0
Aid to Local Units of Government		\$20,000
Total	30.00	\$115,395
Full Time Equivalent Staffing	0.02	
Average staff Hours/Week	0.68	
OPTIONS		Potential Savings:
1. Reduce or cancel FY 08 contract with the RI Disability Vote Project c/o Community Providers Network of RI and bring voter outreach, education, & registration “in-house”		Up to \$50,000

Goal II. To ensure full participation in state government services, activities and benefits by people with disabilities

RIGL 42-51-6(3) Governor’s Commission on Disabilities – Duties. – It shall be the duty of the commission to work in cooperation with the national council on disability and other interested federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and employers in: (3) Coordinating compliance with federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities by state agencies.

Objective A. To ensure state employees with disabilities, students with disabilities attending state operated colleges and schools, and residents of state operated institutions are able to fully participate in state programs and services

⁴ No state funding or maintenance of effort required.

Objective B. To ensure that programs and employment opportunities in facilities leased or owned by the state are accessible and usable by people with disabilities

RIGL 37-8-15. Public Property and Works – Access for people with disabilities.

The design of all public buildings to be constructed, leased, or rented by the state or any municipality of the state must be in compliance with all the standards promulgated by the Rhode Island State Building Code, chapter 27.3 of title 23, which make buildings and facilities accessible to and usable by people with disabilities.

1. Accessibility Renovation Projects
2. State Building & Design Plan Reviews

Objective C. To ensure that open meetings are accessible to people with disabilities

42-46-13 Open Meetings – Accessibility for persons with disabilities. –

(a) All public bodies, to comply with the nondiscrimination on the basis of disability requirements of R.I. Const., Art. I, § 2 and applicable federal and state nondiscrimination laws (29 U.S.C. § 794, chapter 87 of this title, and chapter 24 of title 11), shall develop a transition plan setting forth the steps necessary to ensure that all open meetings of said public bodies are accessible to persons with disabilities.

(f) Each municipal government and school district shall, with the assistance of the state building commission, complete a transition plan covering the location of meetings for all public bodies under their jurisdiction. Each chief executive of each city or town and the superintendent of schools will submit their transition plan to the governor’s commission on disabilities for review and approval. The governor’s commission on disabilities with assistance from the state building commission shall approve or modify, with the concurrence of the municipal government or school district, the transition plans.

Objective D. To investigate and resolve disability discrimination complaints

42-87-5 Civil Rights of People with Disabilities – Enforcement of anti-discrimination provisions. – (b)

(1) The governor’s commission on disabilities is empowered and directed to investigate and hear all complaints relating to alleged violations of this chapter relating to the physical inaccessibility of buildings and structures.

42-51-6.1. Governor’s Commission on Disabilities. – Hearing boards. – (1) The commission’s chairperson shall appoint five (5) commissioners as the hearing board for the purpose of conducting hearings and rendering decisions on matters relating to the provisions of chapter 87 of this title and §§ 37-8-15.1 and 42-46-13 within the jurisdiction of the commission.

State Funding	FY 08 Annual Hours Worked	FY 08 Funding
Salary/Wages and Other Compensation		\$53,838
Employee Benefit Programs		\$33,082
State Employees – Union	839.30	\$64,202
State Employees – Nonunion	319.20	\$22,718
Contracted Professional Services		\$136
Smart Staffing Employees	0.00	\$0
Operating Supplies and Expenses		\$833
Assistance and Grants		\$0
Capital Purchases and Equipment		\$0
Aid to Local Units of Government		
Total	1,158.50	\$87,890
Full Time Equivalent Staffing	0.75	
Average staff Hours/Week	26.25	
OPTIONS		Potential Savings

1. Reduce hours for nonunion employees below the current 35 hrs/wk	Up to \$22,718
2. Shift Union employees to other activities	Up to \$64,202
<p style="text-align: center;">Laws that would have to be amended (if option 1 & 2 are chosen):</p> <p>42-46-13 Open Meetings – Accessibility for persons with disabilities. –</p> <p>(f) Each municipal government and school district shall, with the assistance of the state building commission, complete a transition plan covering the location of meetings for all public bodies under their jurisdiction. Each chief executive of each city or town and the superintendent of schools will submit their transition plan to the governor’s commission on disabilities for review and approval. The governor’s commission on disabilities with assistance from the state building commission shall approve or modify, with the concurrence of the municipal government or school district, the transition plans.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Impact on other entities – the Attorney General’s Office would be responsible for enforcing this section and may need appropriately trained staff.</p> <p>42-87-5(b) Civil Rights of People with Disabilities – Enforcement of anti-discrimination provisions. –</p> <p>(1) The governor’s commission on disabilities is empowered and directed to investigate and hear all complaints relating to alleged violations of this chapter relating to the physical inaccessibility of buildings and structures.</p> <p>(2) The governor’s commission on disabilities shall have the power and duties to adopt, promulgate, amend and rescind rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions of this section.</p> <p>(i) Prior to instituting a formal hearing, the governor’s commission on disabilities shall attempt by informal methods of conference, persuasion and conciliation, to induce compliance with this chapter. If the complaint or any portion of the complaint cannot be resolved by these informal methods, the governor’s commission on disabilities shall conduct a hearing as provided by this section.</p> <p>(ii) If the governor’s commission on disabilities shall upon all the evidence find that the respondent has not engaged in violations of the civil rights of individuals with disabilities caused by the physical inaccessibility of buildings and structures, the commission shall state its findings of fact and shall issue and cause to be served on the complainant an order dismissing the complaint as to the respondent.</p> <p>(iii) If upon all the testimony taken, the commission shall determine that the respondent has engaged in violations of the civil rights of individuals with disabilities caused by the physical inaccessibility of buildings and structures, then the commission shall state its findings of fact and shall issue and cause to be served upon the respondent an order requiring the respondent to cease and desist from such practices, and to take any further action that will effectuate the purposes of this chapter.</p> <p>(iv) Any complainant or respondent claiming to be aggrieved by a final order of the commission may obtain judicial review of the final order; any party may obtain an order of court for enforcement of a final order of the commission. These proceedings shall be brought in the superior court within any county where the unlawful practices, which are the subject of the commission’s order, were committed or where any respondent, required in the order to cease and desist from unlawful practices or to take other affirmative action resides or transacts business.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Impact on other entities – The RI Commission for Human Rights would become responsible for enforcing this section, and would need appropriately trained staff.</p>	

Goal III. To expand economic opportunities for people with disabilities

Objective A. To assist rehabilitation agencies, small business owners with disabilities and businesses employing workers with disabilities win state contracts for goods and services

RIGL 37-2.2. Disability Business Enterprises.

§ 37-2.2-3. Preference for products and services produced by persons with disabilities. – (a)

Whenever any products made, manufactured by, or services provided by nonprofit rehabilitation facilities, or in profit making facilities where sixty percent (60%) of the work hours or direct labor is performed by employees who are disabled, meet the requirements of any department, institution, or agency supported, in whole or in part, by the state as to quantity, quality, and price, those products shall have preference over products or services from other providers.

(b) All departments, institutions, and agencies supported, in whole or in part, by the state shall purchase articles made or manufactured and services provided by persons with disabilities. Any political subdivision of the state may purchase those articles and services directly from those agencies.

(c) A list describing the styles, designs, sizes, and varieties of articles made by persons with disabilities and describing all available services and subcontract work which can be provided by those persons shall be prepared by the governor's commission on disabilities, disability business enterprise committee in cooperation with the state office of rehabilitation services. The governor's commission on disabilities shall cooperate with various facilities for persons with disabilities by submitting necessary information concerning the products and services to the state purchasing agent.

§ 37-2.2-3.1. Policy and applicability. – It is the policy of the state of Rhode Island that small disadvantaged disability businesses shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of procurements and projects as outlined in this chapter. This chapter shall apply to any and all state purchasing, including, but not limited to, the procurement of goods and services, construction projects, or contracts funded in whole or in part by state funds, or funds which, in accordance with a federal grant or otherwise, the state expends or administers or in which the state is a signatory to the construction contract.

The director of administration, in consultation with the governor's commission on disabilities, is authorized and directed to establish rules and regulations for awarding contracts to small disadvantaged businesses owned and controlled by persons with disabilities in the procurement of goods, services, construction projects, or contracts funded in whole or in part by state funds, in accordance with § 37-2-9(b)(14).

§ 37-2.2-4 Disability business enterprise committee – Membership – Duties. – (a) There is hereby established within the governor's commission on disabilities a committee, consisting of nine (9) persons, to be known as the disability business enterprise committee.

(b) The committee, shall consist of the director of the department of human services or his or her designee; the director of the department of mental health, retardation, and hospitals or his or her designee; the director of the economic development corporation or his or her designee; the state purchasing agent or his or her designee; and two (2) persons with disabilities and three (3) representatives of rehabilitation facilities in the state of Rhode Island appointed by the chairperson of the governor's commission on disabilities. All members of the committee shall serve without compensation. Of the number appointed originally under this chapter, one-third (1/3) shall be appointed for a term of one year; one-third (1/3) shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years; and one-third (1/3) shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. Thereafter, vacancies created by expiration of terms shall be filled with appointments for terms of three (3) years. Members whose terms expire may be reappointed to succeed themselves. The chairperson of the governor's commission on disabilities or his or her designee shall serve as chairperson of the committee. The members of the committee shall elect a vice chairperson and other officers as are necessary from amongst themselves annually.

(c) The governor’s commission on disabilities shall promulgate such rules and regulations, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, chapter 35 of title 42, as are necessary and proper to ensure responsible management, operation, oversight of the committee, and ensure that all facilities, both nonprofit and profit-making, referred to in §§ 37-2.2-3 and 37-2.2-3.1 meet all applicable government regulations and standards, including those of the United States department of labor, the state department of human services, and the chief purchasing officer with regard to developing a program which involves small disadvantaged businesses as contractors, § 37-2-9(b)(14).

(d) The committee shall establish a procedure to certify small disadvantaged disability businesses and rehabilitation facilities that qualify under their regulation for a preference under § 37-2.2-3 or 37-2.2-3.1 and submit a list of the certified small disadvantaged disability businesses and rehabilitation facilities and the products and services provided by them to the chief purchasing officer at least once a year. The chief purchasing officer shall utilize that list in the program which involves small disadvantaged businesses as contractors established by § 37-2-9(b)(14).

State Funding	FY 08 Annual Hours Worked	FY 08 Funding
Salary/Wages and Other Compensation		\$0
Employee Benefit Programs		\$0
State Employees – Union	0.0	\$0
State Employees – Nonunion	0.0	\$0
Contracted Professional Services		\$26,086
Smart Staffing Employees	875.0	\$25,454
ABLE TOO Producer		\$132
Trainer – Marketing		\$500
Operating Supplies and Expenses		\$209
Assistance and Grants		\$0
Capital Purchases and Equipment		\$0
Aid to Local Units of Government		
Total	875.0	\$26,295
Full Time Equivalent Staffing	0.5	
Average staff Hours/Week	17.5	

OPTIONS	Potential Savings
1. Shift Smart Staffing responsibilities to nonunion employees	\$25,454

Law that would have to be amended:

RIGL 37-2.2-3. Preference for products and services produced by persons with disabilities.

~~(e) A list describing the styles, designs, sizes, and varieties of articles made by persons with disabilities and describing all available services and subcontract work which can be provided by those persons shall be prepared by the governor’s commission on disabilities, disability business enterprise committee in cooperation with the state office of rehabilitation services. The governor’s commission on disabilities shall cooperate with various facilities for persons with disabilities by submitting necessary information concerning the products and services to the state purchasing agent.~~

Objective B. To promote work as a life choice for people with disabilities

RIGL 28-5.1-9. Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action – State employment services.

(d) The department of labor and training, the governor’s commission on disabilities, the advisory commission on women, and the Rhode Island economic development corporation shall fully utilize their knowledge of the labor market and economic conditions of the state, and their contacts with job applicants, employers, and unions, to promote equal employment opportunities, and shall require and assist all persons within their jurisdictions to initiate actions which remedy any situations or programs which have a negative impact on protected classes within the state.

State Funding	FY 08 Annual Hours Worked	FY 08 Funding
Salary/Wages and Other Compensation		\$21,743
Employee Benefit Programs		\$11,195

State Employees – Union	0.00	\$0
State Employees – Nonunion	743.40	\$32,938
Contracted Professional Services		\$1,590
Smart Staffing Employees	0.00	\$0
ABLE TOO Producer		\$1,090
Trainer – Interviewing skills		\$500
Operating Supplies and Expenses		\$455
Assistance and Grants		\$0
Capital Purchases and Equipment		\$0
Aid to Local Units of Government		
Total	743.40	\$34,983
Full Time Equivalent Staffing	0.45	
Average staff Hours/Week	15.75	

OPTIONS

Potential Savings

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Reduce hours for nonunion employees below the current 35 hrs/wk | Up to \$32,938 |
| 2. Cancel 2 ABLE TOO programs promoting employment | \$545 ⁵ |

Law that would have to be amended

RIGL 28-5.1-9. Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action – State employment services.

(d) The department of labor and training, the ~~governor’s commission on disabilities~~, the advisory commission on women, and the Rhode Island economic development corporation shall fully utilize their knowledge of the labor market and economic conditions of the state, and their contacts with job applicants, employers, and unions, to promote equal employment opportunities, and shall require and assist all persons within their jurisdictions to initiate actions which remedy any situations or programs which have a negative impact on protected classes within the state.

RIGL 42-51-11. Governor’s Commission on Disabilities. – Mary Brennan fellowship fund. – (a)

There is established the Mary Brennan fellowship fund (“the fellowship fund”), which shall be utilized to create a fellowship program for college students with disabilities.

State Funding	FY 08 Annual Hours Worked	FY 08 Funding
Assistance and Grants		\$10,350
Total	0.0	\$10,350

OPTIONS

Potential Savings

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Reduce the number or eliminate entirely the fellowship program, to shift staff supervisor to other activities. | Up to \$10,350 |
|---|----------------|

Law that would have to be amended

42-51-11. Mary Brennan fellowship fund.

~~(a) There is established the Mary Brennan fellowship fund (“the fellowship fund”), which shall be utilized to create a fellowship program for college students with disabilities.~~

~~(b) These fellowships shall provide a semester long, part-time placement with the commission in Rhode Island, working on disability policy and research. Each fellow will be assigned to a specific placement, providing assistance to the commission in disability policy. Mentor experiences will introduce the fellows to disability policy issues and actions at the local, state and federal levels. The fellowships will offer students an opportunity to:~~

- ~~(1) Gain perspective on the role and responsibility of the commission;~~
- ~~(2) Knowledge of national/state disability programs;~~
- ~~(3) Policy issues and research;~~
- ~~(4) Meet with decision makers, experts and critics in disability and related policy fields; and~~
- ~~(5) Develop networks with local, regional, and national based experts, and researchers who can assist in career development and future endeavors.~~

⁵ ABLE TOO producer is under contract through December 31, 2007.

~~© The commission will provide each fellow with a stipend of at least one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) and reimbursement for authorized travel.~~

~~(d) This fellowship program is designed for individuals with demonstrated leadership and expertise in policy and research affecting people with disabilities. Applicants must have:~~

~~(1) Completed at least three (3) semesters of college level study;~~

~~(2) Be enrolled as a full or part time student in an accredited college or university in Rhode Island;~~

~~(3) Leadership ability;~~

~~(4) The endorsement of a current/former supervisor;~~

~~(5) Approval on the part of the college/university to receive credit for the fellowship if selected; and~~

~~(6) The ability to participate in the semester long program in Providence for at least two hundred and forty (240) hours during the spring and fall semesters or in the summer.~~

~~(e) The commission shall give preference in its selection of fellows to Rhode Island residents who are:~~

~~(1) College students with disabilities, and then to~~

~~(2) College students enrolled in a course of study in education and/or human services for persons with disabilities.~~

~~(f) The general assembly shall appropriate ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998 and annually the sums it deems necessary to implement the purposes of this section.~~

~~(g) The commission is authorized and empowered to receive donations and grants from sources including, but not limited to, the federal government, governmental and private foundations, and corporate and individual donors; these donations and grants to be deposited in the fellowship fund. The commission may create additional fellowships from available funds.~~

50th Anniversary Celebration		
State Funding	FY 08 Annual Hours Worked	FY 08 Funding
Contracted Professional Services		\$13,289
Smart Staffing Employees	439.69	\$12,791
Operating Supplies and Expenses		\$2,061
Total	439.69	\$15,350
OPTIONS		Potential Savings
1. Reduce the number or eliminate entirely the 50 th Anniversary Events in FY 08.		Up to \$15,350

The Executive Secretary presented three options that combine a number of the elements above for the Commissioners to consider.

1. General Reduction across the board of 10% Shutting the office 1/2 day per week and reducing hours and salaries

- A Shut the Office two days a week, reduce all employees hours by 40%, but not eliminate any positions
- B Shift FY 08 50th Anniversary Fundraising and Event Coordinator to Restricted Receipts
- C Integrate the July Public Forums into other 50th Events, & use current balance to cover some of the 50th Fundraising & Event Coordination
- D Amend the Disability Business Enterprise Law, for lack of support staff & shift most funding to Disability Rights Technical Assistance (ADA Maintenance of Effort)
- E Repeal Disability Parking Enforcement Annual Reports Law, for lack of support staff, and shift funding to Disability Rights Technical Assistance (ADA Maintenance of Effort)
- F Amend RIGL 28-5.1-9. Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action – State employment services and terminate “promoting work” activities shift most funding to Disability Rights Technical Assistance (ADA Maintenance of Effort)
- G 20% reduction in voter education, registration, awareness grant to the RI Disability Vote Project c/o Community Providers Network of RI

2. 10% Reduction in workweek for Non-union employees & Transfers to Restricted Receipt Accounts

- A Shift FY 08 50th Anniversary Fundraising and Event Coordinator to Restricted Receipts
- B Integrate the July Public Forums into other 50th Events, & use current balance to cover some of the 50th Fundraising & Event Coordination
- C Repeal Disability Parking Enforcement Annual Reports Law, for lack of support staff, and shift funding to Disability Rights Technical Assistance (ADA Maintenance of Effort)
- D Amend the Disability Business Enterprise Law, for lack of support staff & shift most funding to Disability Rights Technical Assistance (ADA Maintenance of Effort)
- E 20% reduction in voter education, registration, awareness grant to the RI Disability Vote Project c/o Community Providers Network of RI
- F 10% reduction in the workweek for all non-union personnel
- G 20% reduction in workweek for Smart Staffing - DBE/PI Coordinator

3. HRIC Funded Program Reduction & Transfers to Restricted Receipt Accounts

- A Shift FY 08 50th Anniversary Fundraising and Event Coordinator to Restricted Receipts
- B Integrate the July Public Forums into other 50th Events, & use current balance to cover some of the 50th Fundraising & Event Coordination
- C Repeal Disability Parking Enforcement Annual Reports Law, for lack of support staff, and shift funding to Disability Rights Technical Assistance (ADA Maintenance of Effort)
- D 20% reduction in voter education, registration, awareness grant to the RI Disability Vote Project c/o Community Providers Network of RI
- E Repeal Disability Business Enterprise Law, for lack of support staff & shift funding to Disability Rights Technical Assistance (ADA Maintenance of Effort)
- F Amend RIGL 28-5.1-9. Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action – State employment services and terminate “promoting work” activities shift funding to Disability Rights Technical Assistance (ADA Maintenance of Effort)
- G Elimination of the Smart Staffing DBE/PI Coordinator's Position

6:00 PM

RECESS FOR DINNER

Commissioners discussed the three options and the 14 individual activities outlined above. The target is **\$66,900** savings of state funds.

MOTION: To adopt the HRIC Funded Programs Program Reduction & Transfer to Restricted Receipt Programs

- A. Shift FY 08 50th Anniversary Fundraising and Event Coordinator to Restricted Receipts
- B. Integrate the July Public Forums into other 50th Events, & use current balance to cover some of the 50th Fundraising & Event Coordination
- C. Repeal Disability Parking Enforcement Annual Reports Law, for lack of support staff, and shift funding to Disability Rights Technical Assistance (ADA Maintenance of Effort)
- D. 20% reduction in voter education, registration, awareness grant to the RI Disability Vote Project c/o Community Providers Network of RI
- E. Repeal Disability Business Enterprise Law, for lack of support staff & shift funding to Disability Rights Technical Assistance (ADA Maintenance of Effort)
- F. Amend RIGL 28-5.1-9. Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action – State employment services and terminate “promoting work” activities shift funding to Disability Rights Technical Assistance (ADA Maintenance of Effort)

G. Elimination of the Smart Staffing DBE/PI Coordinator's Position

JMacD/TF

MOTION: Moving the previous question – BE/SF passed unanimously

The Original Motion passed; Nay RC, BN, & JP

Commissioners discussed whether going forward with hiring through Smart Staffing the Public Information Officer – 50th Anniversary to raise funds and coordinate events, was appropriate given the prospective budget cuts to services for people with disabilities, regardless of whether the funds are donated rather than tax revenue.

MOTION: To finish the 50th Anniversary Celebration Events by June 30, 2007, and to cancel immediately the Public Information Officer – 50th Anniversary Smart Staffing position. MO/BE

MOTION: Moving the previous question AP/JP passed unanimously

The Original Motion passed unanimously

Commissioners discussed reinstating the July 2007 Public Forums given that there will be no 50th Events to “integrate” the forums into.

MOTION: To reinstate the July 2007 Public Forums using only restricted receipts.

TF/AP passed unanimously

Commissioners discussed the impact on current staff’s availability to assist with the remaining 50th Anniversary Events in FY 07, in the absence of the Public Information Officer – 50th Anniversary

MOTION: The remaining 50th Anniversary Activities in FY 07 are done with volunteers or are canceled. JD/BE passed, AP abstaining.

A. The Commission Chairperson will advise the Governor and Budget Officer ,that this evening the Commission in light of the state’s current fiscal circumstances ordered the following:

1. Cancelled all further 50th Anniversary Celebration Activities, that can not be accomplished solely by volunteers, events that could be cancelled include:

- January 2007 Home Modification & Assistive Technology Workshop
- February 2007 Free Tax Preparation Workshop
- March 2007 Disability Film Festival
- April 2007 Health and Wellness Workshop
- May 2007 Recreation with a Disability/ Access to Adventure
- June 2007 Pawsox Baseball Game/Barbeque

2. Cancelled its contract with Smart Staffing to hire a part time Public Information Officer – 50th Anniversary, to raise non-governmental funds and coordinate the Anniversary events, immediately;

3. Completion of all the 50th Anniversary Celebration Events by June 30, 2007, canceling, regardless of funding source:

- July 2007 Waterfire
- October 2007 Employment Job Fair
- October 25, 2007 Gala Celebration

B. The Commission Chairperson will advise the Governor and Budget Officer that the impact of the FY 2008 General Revenue Budget proposed by the Budget Office, if

adopted should include the following changes in law, so the Commission is capable of focusing on the remaining core services:

1. Repeal subsection (d) of RIGL 31-28 RIGL 31-28-7.3 Parking Facilities and Privileges – Disability parking enforcement program

~~(d) Beginning January 1, 2001 and on each January 1 thereafter, cities and towns and the state police, department of environmental management, airport corporations, capitol police, department of mental health, retardation and hospitals, and the state operated colleges shall be required to submit to the governor's commission on disabilities an annual progress report chronicling the collections of fines, procedures used, convictions, and any problems or successes which result from the disability parking enforcement enhancement program. Following receipt of an annual program report, the governor's commission on disabilities may suggest improvements to a disability parking enforcement enhancement program.~~

2. Repeal Chapter 37-2.2 of the General Laws entitled "Disability Business Enterprises"

3. Amend subsection (d) of RIGL 28-5.1-9. Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action – State employment services, to read as follows.

(d) The department of labor and training, ~~the governor's commission on disabilities~~, the advisory commission on women, and the Rhode Island economic development corporation shall fully utilize their knowledge of the labor market and economic conditions of the state, and their contacts with job applicants, employers, and unions, to promote equal employment opportunities, and shall require and assist all persons within their jurisdictions to initiate actions which remedy any situations or programs which have a negative impact on protected classes within the state.

C. The Executive Secretary will provide the Budget Officer and the Governor's Office, a detailed listing of the services that will no longer be provided including the names of businesses, public and private agencies, etc. provided those services in the recent past.

6:45 PM Announcements and Scheduling of Meetings

The planned Strategic Planning Retreat for January '07 has been cancelled, in light of this evening's meeting.

Adjourned at:	7:45 PM
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