



Governor's Commission on Disabilities Business Meeting

Monday April 30, 2007 5 – 7 PM

John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court,
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Attendees:	Paul Choquette (Chair); John MacDonald (Vice Chair); Jeanne Behie; Sharon Brinkworth; Frederick Burke; Joseph Corrente; Binyamin Efreom; Sanford Lupovitz; Lisa McKay; Dr. Orestes Monteracy; Bill Nieranowski;; James Pitassi; Lorna Ricci; Patricia Ryherd; & Rev. Gerard Sabourin		
Excused:	Rosemary Carmody; Regina Connor; Dr. Judith Drew; R. Timothy Flynn; Dr. Kate McCarthy-Barnett; Ronald McMinn; Karen O'Connell-Lyons Arthur Plitt; & Lou Salerno		
----- Minutes -----			
Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes	Paul Choquette, Chairperson	5 min.	
Introductions: Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM			
MOTION: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as: presented BE/LR passed unanimously			
Action Items:	Discussion Leader:	Time:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointments of Liaisons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disability and Society Partnership @ URI ○ RI Housing Resource Commission's Bond Review Committee ○ The Point Advisory Committee 	Paul Choquette	10 min.	
MOTION: To give advice and consent to the chairperson's appointment of the following liaisons to the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability and Society Partnership @ URI – Paul Choquette; • RI Housing Resource Commission's Bond Review Committee – Bob Cooper; and • The Point Advisory Committee – Bob Cooper OM/PR passed unanimously 			
Strategic Planning Continued	Paul Choquette	60 minutes	
Discussion: In July two of the Commission's staff will be retiring; Nicholas Capobianco, Senior State Building Official and John Desautel, Principal State Building Official. The Commission needs to determine what skills/abilities will be needed from staff members to continue to meet our legal obligations in the near future.			
In January in response to the budget proposals we undertook a review of the Commission's priorities and identified the programs which are critical to the Commission's mission. Without revisiting that discussion we now have the opportunity to match our staffing needs with our mission.			
The Major Issues for discussion and initial decisions are:			
A. Should the staff be structured around:			

1. Content knowledge: ADA Title I & Employment; ADA Title II & III – Government & Customer Services; Facility Accessibility; Disability Business Enterprises; etc.;
2. Skills: Trainers; Public Relations; Advocacy; Financial Management; Personnel Management; etc.; or
3. A Mix of content knowledge & skills

- B. Supervision: The current structure (with minor adjustments) is for the:
1. Accessibility staff [John & Nick) reporting to Harvey with the recent addition of DBE [Chris B];
 2. Employment & Information/Referral staff [Chris R & Terry], along with Harvey reporting to Bob.

- C. Management: The current process is for:
1. Payroll - Harvey
 2. Purchasing - Bob
 3. Financial:
 - a) Grant financial reporting - Bob
 - b) Inter account transferring of funds – Bob
 - c) Quarterly budget reports, etc. – Bob
 - d) Employee Expenses - Harvey & Bob

OM recommends replacing 1 of the positions with an architect, JB questioned do we need an architect or a technician with knowledge, can require the person to be an “alternate building inspector”, PR both positions should require training / public speaking skills, we need to identify skills and knowledge that can be shared.

MOTION: To direct the Executive Committee to will review the staffing needs, based on # calls, # surveys, and # other services, and past issues raised at the public forums, and incase the smart staffing position is eliminated, incorporate those duties into one or both of the 2 state positions. BE/PR passed unanimously

	Actions that need to be taken:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
A	Tally the number of calls, surveys, etc. by topic for the past year	Bob & Harvey	5/8/07
B	Compile a list of services that were identified by the public forums, as not available that the Commission could undertake	Bob	5/8/07

Questions on Reports (attached at the end of the minutes)

20 min.

The Legislation Committee found 21 bills harmful, only 2 of those bills have passed (the House of Representatives, and now will be considered by the Senate).

- H 5267 AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- DISABLED VETERANS
 This act would extend to veterans who have a "Disabled Veteran" license plate with all the rights and privileges of handicapped persons without display the disability parking privilege placard. This act would take effect upon passage. Substitute removes references to parking without being charged a fee at on-street parking meters or municipally owned parking lots nor being charged for overtime parking. (the Senate version S 0307, has not made it out of committee, yet)
 The reasons that the Legislation Committee found it harmful are that Disability parking placards are assigned to the individual with a mobility impairment, not to a vehicle. This allows the individual to use the placard whenever she or he is traveling. There are 43,863 active disability parking placards as of January 2006. Many of the placard holders are disabled veterans. Authorizing the 309 vehicles with disabled veteran's license plates, regardless of whether the operator of the vehicle have a mobility limitation or not, or even is the disabled veteran will, without adding a single disability parking space will in all likelihood make is more difficult for people with mobility limitations to find

a disability parking space.

- **H 6187 AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES – PHARMACEUTICALS**
This act would provide that the department of human services would be authorized and directed to impose co-payments for prescription drugs in the amount of \$1.00 for generic drug prescriptions and \$3.00 for brand name drug prescriptions as part of the medical care benefits to eligible beneficiaries through the direct vendor payment plan. This act would take effect upon passage and would apply retroactively to February 1, 2007. Substitute would change the effective date to upon passage. (This was put in at the request of the Administration)
The reason the Legislation Committee found it harmful is the bill makes no exception for very low income persons who rely on numerous prescription drugs to remain in the community and would have to be institutionalized if they can not afford even this small co-payment.

- The Legislation Committee is also concerned about a budget article.
5300 Art. 06 AN ARTICLE RELATING TO MAKING REVISED APPROPRIATION IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE FY 2007 - this article's SECTION 3 would direct the Public Utilities Commission shall transfer from the Dual Party Phone Relay Fund to the General Fund the sum of four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000) prior to June 30, 2007. This fund is an assessment on telephone lines to pay for the Access to telephone information services for persons with disabilities programs: (1) statewide telephone relay service; (2) adaptive telephone equipment loan program; and (3) telephone access to the text of newspapers.
The Legislation Committee found it harmful unless amended - the FY 2007 appropriation for the adaptive telephone equipment loan program has been fully expended with 1/4 of the fiscal year left. The program provides adaptive telephones servicing the needs of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, severely speech impaired, or those with neuromuscular impairments for use with a single party telephone line, to any subscriber who is certified as deaf, hard of hearing, severely speech impaired, or with neuromuscular impairments. This equipment provides a critical lifeline to emergency services as well as telephone access to the wider world.

The Senate Constitutional and Regulatory Issues Committee is scheduled for a vote Wednesday on a resolution that the Legislation Committee found harmful. This resolution would create an eleven (11) member special legislative commission whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study of the impact of mandates on Rhode Island's school district's and who would report back to the general assembly no later than January 8, 2008 and whose life would expire on March 8, 2008.

MOTION: To oppose the following bills:

- H 5267/S 307 Acts Relating To Motor and Other Vehicles -- Disabled Veterans;
- H 6187 An Act Relating To Human Services – Pharmaceuticals; and
- 5300 Article 06 Section 3 An Article Relating To Making Revised Appropriation In Support Of The State FY 2007 - Dual Party Phone Relay Fund. LR/BE passed unanimously

The Commission is mentioned in the following bills:

H 5145 HOUSE RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND ESTABLISH AN OLMSTEAD DECISION TASK FORCE IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND – Chairperson or designee a member of this commission

H 5613 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -RHODE ISLAND HOUSING AND MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION – Rhode Island housing and mortgage finance corporation shall adopt rules and regulations in conjunction with the governor's commission on disabilities for a \$5 million home modification loan program.

S 0142 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -OPEN MEETINGS –

issue regulations & conduct hearings and issue “permits” to attend via telecommunication devices		
The Disability Parking Committee was unable to meet during the last quarter for lack of a quorum.		
MOTION: To disband the Disability Parking Committee and shift its responsibilities of to the Accessibility Committee JB/OM passed unanimously		
Next meeting will be on:	Monday July 16, 2007	Starting at: 5 PM
Adjournment:	Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM	
Observers:	A Providence College Student (unknown)	
Resource persons:	Bob Cooper, Secretary & Harvey Salvias, State ADA Coordinator	

Other Information (Committee, Liaison, & Staff Reports)

<p>Name of the Activity: Accessibility Committee Submitted by: John Desautel/Binyamin Efreom Prepared on: 4/26/07 Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period. Cranston Street Armory (State Fire Marshall’s Office) Department of Administration requested technical assistance in the removal of architectural barriers from the proposed new relocation of the State Fire Marshall’s Office from Quonset Point to the former Cranston Street Armory in Providence, RI. The Armory is a state owned facility that was formerly occupied by the film industry in the production of movies. The primary accessible entrances and path of travel through the facility to the upper floors is non-existent. The GCD required that a LULA to be installed from the lower level to the parade floor. Also, a lift is to be installed from the parking garage floor to the lower level. A modular lift will be installed on the exterior entrance from the parking lot to the entrance door to the parade room as the primary entrance to the building. The upper levels in each tower have been closed off and not to be occupied. The GCD was informed that the Fire Marshall’s office located in Quonset is going to be demolished. Several years previous, the GCD expended accessibility funds on the Fire Marshall’s office to purchase and install a LULA to provide accessibility to the building. The GCD staff was of the opinion that in view of the impending demolition, the newly installed LULA should be captured and relocated to the computer center in Johnston prior to demolition of the building in Quonset. Upon learning that the LULA could be relocated, DOA, informed the GCD that the LULA would be retained for the Fire Marshall’s Office in Providence and not for the Computer Center in Johnston. After having been refused, GCD staff agreed and funded the relocation along with the project as stated above. Funding for this project was retracted and eventually reinstated at the urging of the DOA administration. Colt State Park Colt State Park is a widely used DEM recreational facility on the East Bay. In 2005 the GCD successfully funded the revamp of a large highly utilized restroom facility on the site. The cost was approximately \$120,000 funded with GCD accessibility funds. On three separate occasions funding has been rescinded from this project. This project has been approved by the Building Commissioner’s Office and Purchasing. The GCD staff was informed on Monday, April 16, 2007 that funding has been rescinded once more. Health Department Regulations The R I Department of Health regulations incorrectly cited R I building code accessibility regulations that are no longer in effect. The Health Department legal staff was notified several weeks prior to the public hearing process. GCD staff attended the public hearing to testify to the same. The Health Department regulations were not changed to reflect the correct accessibility code. Architectural Plan Review - Schools and state projects.</p>

A request was made by GCD staff to the Department of Education to include in their application for school house funds the stipulation that all plans are to be reviewed and approved by GCD staff prior to release of funds. In addition, a letter should be forwarded to all architects working on state and school projects indicating the same.

Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

Yes, Colt Park Toilet #2 will not be completed for Summer of 2007.

Yes, Health Department regulations incorrectly direct architects to R. I. Accessibility Codes no longer in effect.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Better control over our finances.

An adequate system of interagency communication.

Please discuss planned project activities for the next reporting period.

Name of the Activity: Disability Business Enterprise Committee

Submitted by: Christine Botts/Bill Nieranowski

Prepared on: 4/26/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

1. In January, the Commission received a grant for \$6,000 to develop and implement a pilot recycling project with the Department of Elderly Affairs and the Governor's Commission on Disabilities. Better Shred, a certified DBE was awarded the grant. The program will run from April 16th thru July 16th.

- Coordinated recycling education training for the employees
- Distributed recycling containers to the employees
- Met with superintendent of the Benjamin Rush Bldg. to ensure the janitors are educated about the program

2. Worked with Linda Roche, State purchasing agent on developing a Master Price Agreement for Shredding/Document Destruction with the disability business enterprise, Better Shred. The MPA will be utilized by ALL state agencies needing document destruction services.

3. Revised and submitted the Disability Business Enterprise regulations to the Department of Purchasing.

4. Currently in the process of planning a training for the DBE's - "Creating a Vision and Roadmap for your Business" with Wendy Hanson, a corporate trainer with Corley Hanson & Associates.

Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

Finding a location for the pilot recycling project on the Pastore campus.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

No. Finding a location in the DEA building just delayed the start of the project.

Please discuss planned project activities for the next reporting period.

Name of the Activity: Disability Parking Committee

Submitted by: Nicholas Capobianco/Ronald McMinn

Prepared on: 4/30/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

No quorum for any of the meetings this quarter

Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

Yes

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Consider merging this Committee's responsibilities into the Accessibility Committee

Please discuss planned project activities for the next reporting period.

Name of the Activity: Election Assistance Committee; Disability Voting Project; State Board of Election's Voter Registration Advisory Committee / Liaison to AAPD

Submitted by: Rosemary Carmody

Prepared on: April 18, 2007

1. Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

RIDVP vote project held first convention, close to 100 people in attendance.

Increasing number of participating agencies including, but not limited to:

1. Advocates in Action
2. Aktion Club
3. Community Living of RI
4. Community Provider Network of RI
5. Cranston Arc
6. Developmental Disabilities Council
7. Disability Law Center
8. Fogarty Center
9. Governor's Commission on Disabilities
10. Homestead Group
11. J. A. Trudeau Memorial Center
12. Kent House, Inc
13. Mental Health Consumer Advocates / Oasis
14. National Alliance on Mental Illness
15. New England Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America
16. New England RMS
17. NRI Community Services
18. Ocean State Center for Independent Living
19. Opportunities Unlimited
20. PARI Independent Living Center
21. Providence Center
22. Rhode Island Parent Information Network
23. Rhodes to Independence
24. Spurwink, RI
25. Statewide Independent Living Council
26. United Cerebral Palsy of RI

Working with BOE in development of training video for poll workers re: use of Automark and supporting voters w/disabilities use the machines independently and successfully

Producing the video with assistance from eh Dunklin Donuts Center

Grants for polling accessibility: monies given out to a couple of communities, waiting on Westerly still re: installation of a lula lift.

Members have met with Robert Kando, BOE, to discuss resolve issues around poll training, use of the Automark, having it ready and operational on all voting day.

2. Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

Getting cities/towns to apply for monies for access.

Recruiting new members for RIDVP

Problems with Automark (15 complaints files with RIDLC), vendor indicates it is a software problem and have requested Federal Approval to introduce the software correction.

Getting enough (new) people to volunteer, become involved in projects.

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

May slow things down a little, bit still moving towards the goal

b. What options are available to:

i. put the project back on track, and

ii. avoid such difficulties in the future?

? hard to say.... It would be lovely to have more staff and volunteer resources, added support from the administration (Smith Hill) when needed....

3. Please discuss planned project activities for the next reporting period.

Hopefully we will have a poll worker training video for review by August '07 and ready to use in poll work trainer prior to the '08 election. We intend to do a generic video re: sensitivity issue when working with folks with disabilities. Te video would have a broad application and could be used with other professional groups (realtors, merchants, etc.)

Name of the Activity: Employment Committee

Submitted by: Christine Rancourt/Patricia Ryherd

Prepared on: 4/30/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

The GCD is a subcontractor to the New England ADA Center in the new (as of 10/1/06) five year Grant. The requirements have changed somewhat, with a new emphasis on research about the impact of students with disabilities and higher education support services, and employers in understanding of rights and responsibilities by providing training on Title I (Employment.) and on increasing awareness of the importance of accessible IT/AT and universal design. The goal is to work with at least 2 higher education institutions in 2007. The contract also provides for continuing technical assistance, training and information dissemination. Quarterly reports are submitted.

Given the above focus, Commission staff began meetings with colleges and universities to understand their needs and how the Commission can be of most help.

Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

Surveys are required pre and post training. Some have not yet been provided and others create concerns about confidentiality and willingness to provide the information.

This will be discussed at a regional advisory committee meeting.

The pending GCD staffing changes will impact since technical assistance is part of the sub-contract.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

College time schedules are not flexible and some activities will have to wait until fall.

However, preliminary plans have been made to do a "just in time" job developer training, i.e. web or CD based and to promote internships as important to obtaining employment

What options are available to:

put the project back on track, and

avoid such difficulties in the future?

This is the beginning of the contract, ongoing communication.

Please discuss planned project activities for the next reporting period.

Depend on availability of staff time. Plan continued contact with higher education support services.

Name of the Activity: Executive Committee

Submitted by: Bob Cooper/Paul Choquette

Prepared on: 4/20/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

In January the Committee selected Jennifer Bernier of Bryant University as the Spring 2007 Mary Brennan Public Awareness Fellow. The Committee also adopted 2 personnel procedures.

1. The Commission and Committee Chairpersons (& Vice chairs) will submit all requests for staff support directly to the Executive Secretary (in the absence of the Executive Secretary, the Special Projects [State ADA] Coordinator); the Executive Secretary shall consult all other Chairpersons whose committee operations could be affected; then the Executive Secretary shall assign to the appropriate staff person: the tasks, set deadlines for completion of those tasks; and outcome measures. This change was made to reduce conflicting demands of staff resources from the difference committees.
2. Staff person call in and leave a voice message for both the Executive Secretary & the Special Projects [State ADA] Coordinator if not coming in (sick leave, personal leave, etc.) on a scheduled work day.

In February the Committee met and prepared the Commission's response to the Governor's Budget Recommendations; to request from the General Assembly in FY 08 an additional 20% \$9,933 for the staff/contract employees to restore the Promoting Work activities position and a transfer of \$13,350 from the 50th anniversary account to the Commission's operations account.

Name of the Activity: 50th Anniversary Planning Committee

Submitted by: Paul Choquette

Prepared on: April 20, 2007

1. Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

Activities to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the GCD that took place in the last quarter were:

- Free Tax Preparation workshops conducted by the IRS in partnership with the AARP in February of 2007
- Screening of the film "Murderball" and Disability Culture discussion, in partnership with the RI Department of Health and Rhode Island College. Held at RI College on March 28, 2007

Also a Grant from the CVS Charitable Foundation was secured to conduct the Sports and Recreation Day planned for May.

2. Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

A lack of staff support, due to budgetary constraints, has made it difficult to coordinate these activities and plan subsequent activities. However members of the Committee have taken on a great deal more responsibility for the tasks associated with these events and have also been able to utilize their own personal contacts to publicize and coordinate the activities.

c. Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

The project's original goals were scaled back by the GCD as well as staff availability as a result of budget constraints so these issues were somewhat expected.

d. What options are available to:

- i. put the project back on track, and
- ii. avoid such difficulties in the future?

The remaining events are adequately staffed by volunteers so these issues should not be cause for concern. The activities will be completed by the end of this quarter so these won't be issues in the future.

3. Please discuss planned project activities for the next reporting period.

Two more events are scheduled to occur:

- Adapted Sports and Recreation Expo, in partnership with Access2Adventure, the National Disability Sports Alliance and City Year and funded by a grant from the CVS Charitable

Foundation. This will occur on May 12 at RI College, activities will include Rock Climbing, SCUBA Diving, wheelchair basketball, track and field activities.

- Home Modification workshop organized and conducted by the Ocean State Center for
- Independent Living and held at the Warwick Public Library.

Name of the Activity: Hearing Board

Submitted by: Harvey Salvas/John MacDonald

Prepared on: 4/30/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

No meetings this quarter

Name of the Activity: Information & Assistive Technology Committee

Submitted by: Harvey Salvas/Regina Connor

Prepared on: 4/30/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

The committee approved 2 employee reasonable accommodation requests for software upgrades (JAWS Speech Readers) for the Courts and the Commission on Disabilities.

Name of the Activity: Legislation Committee

Submitted by: Bob Cooper/Tim Flynn

Prepared on: 4/20/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

Laura McCarthy, the Edward J. Schroeder Legislative Fellow has identified 403 bills & budget articles relating to people with disabilities. The Legislative Committee members reviewed 197 of those bills. The Commission's Legislative Package consisted of 12 bills: 3 have been reported out of committee with a recommendation of passage; 2 may be reported out of committee the week of April 23rd; 1 other had a hearing but was not acted on; 5 haven't been scheduled for a hearing; and 1 is scheduled for a hearing the week of April 23rd.

The bills that have been recommended for passage are:

07 S-0142 An Act Relating To State Affairs and Government -- Open Meetings, Sponsor: Senator Ciccone;

07 S-0330 An Act Relating To Courts and Civil Procedure - Procedure Generally Governmental Tort Liability - Department Of Attorney General Sponsor: Senator Lenihan; And

07 H-5371 Sub A An Act Relating To Public Utilities and Carriers – Handicapped Accessible Taxicabs Sponsor: Representative Coderre.

The Legislation Committee found 15 bills Beneficial: 7 have been reported out of committee with a recommendation of passage; 5 others had a hearing but were not acted on; 2 haven't been scheduled for a hearing; and 1 is scheduled for a hearing the week of April 23rd.

The Legislation Committee found 5 bills Beneficial if amended, none have had a hearing.

The Legislation Committee found 20 bills Harmful: 2 R have been reported out of committee with a recommendation of No Passage & 2 with a recommendation of passage; 8 others had a hearing but were not acted on; and 8 haven't been scheduled for a hearing.

The Legislation Committee found 1 bill Harmful unless amended: it had a hearing but was not acted on.

The Legislation Committee reviewed but took no position on 142 bills, it tabled for more information from Department of Human Service 1 bill and from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education 1 bill.

Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

The limited number of hours in a day.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals? Yes

What options are available to:

- put the project back on track, and**
- avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Please discuss planned project activities for the next reporting period.

Monitor bills as they are amended and review those amendments and take appropriate action to ensure the General Assembly and Governor understand the impact of these bills on people with disabilities.

Name of the Activity: State Coordinating Committee on Disability Rights

Submitted by: Harvey Salvas/Paul Choquette

Prepared on:

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

No meetings this quarter

Name of the Activity: Mentoring Day

Submitted by: Arthur Plitt

Prepared on: 4/19/07

1. Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

Preparations for the October date include national teleconferences, planning posters and printings for distribution in the fall.

2. Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report. Change of coordinators at AAPD

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

New coordinator has a good handle and looks for input

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 project activities for the next reporting period.

October Mentoring Teleconferences monthly

Name of the Activity: RI Department of Elementary & Secondary Education Comprehensive System of Personnel Development Advisory Committee

Submitted by: Arthur Plitt

Prepared on: 4/19

1. Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

Meeting on the progress, but sadly students with disabilities are not signing up to be teachers.

2. Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report. Change in federal regulations and change in Special Ed Director

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

Moving forward

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 project activities for the next reporting period.

The grant time is almost over but there will be another meeting and reports

Name of the Activity: Rhodes To Independence

Submitted by: Arthur Plitt

Prepared on: 4/19

1. Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

Several meetings and some changes expected with chair stepping down as well as the Social Security conference effort to get people into the work force with the disconnects in govt agencies

2. Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

Changing format from steering to advisory

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

Maybe with less buyin by agencies and consumers with the dimishing attendance

b. What options are available to:

i. put the project back on track, and

ii. avoid such difficulties in the future? Better feedback to partners

3. Please discuss planned project activities for the next reporting period.

Social Security and Housing Follow-up

Name of the Activity: Youth Leadership Forum

Submitted by: Arthur Plitt

Prepared on: 4/19/07

1. Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

Preparations for the August event for about 12 youth. Some excellent candidates being interviewed

2. Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

Getting the schools to recommend youth

a. Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals? We are doing multitasking in getting the word out

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 project activities for the next reporting period.

August 4 day conference at Camp Canonicus

Name of the Activity: State Planning Council's Transportation Advisory Committee

Submitted by: John J. MacDonald

Prepared on:

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

The Committee worked on the Public Participation Plan, which was approved by the Statewide Planning Council. Currently the committee is reviewing the combined transportation work-plan and preparing for the next round of the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

The only difficulty is disbursement of federal funds (delayed because of late enactment of the federal budget).

Please discuss planned project activities for the next reporting period.

There will be a series of public hearing on the Transportation Improvement Plan in the fall.

Joint Legislative Commission to Study Transit in RI –

The Study Commission reviewed the Transit 2010 Working Group's Report. By the end of May the Study Commission expects to submit its report to the General Assembly and legislation.

Name of the Activity: Governor's Workforce Investment Council & Human Resource Investment Council; **from:** Lorna Ricci

Prepared on: 4/27/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

Missed the meetings for this quarter.

Name of the Activity: State Rehabilitation Council

Submitted by: Judith Drew, Ph.D.

No Report submitted

Name of the Activity: Housing Resource Commission's Policy Strategic Housing Planning Committee

Submitted by: Kate McCarthy-Barnett, Ed.D

Prepared on: April 25, 2007

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

1. The Housing Resource Commission (HRC) adopted the RI Building Homes Program regulations and the application for funding through the \$50 Bond will be available beginning FY08. Funding priority will be provided to the 29 cities and towns with below 10% affordable housing units.
2. A report on the status of Implementation of the Comprehensive Housing Production and Rehabilitation Act of 2004 was posted on the HRC's website. HRC will report annually on the progress.
3. In addition, the committee is developing TA and affordable housing tools to assist in affordable housing strategies.

Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

At this point, the committee does not report any difficulties.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

NA

Please discuss planned project activities for the next reporting period.

Although the Strategic Housing Planning Committee has not met in a while, this HRC meets regularly to monitor and track progress made. The HRC annual report will be available in the next week, please visit the Housing Resources Commission website at <http://www.hrc.ri.gov/index.php>.

Name of the Activity: National Organization on Disability

Submitted by: Kate McCarthy-Barnett, Ed.D

Prepared on: April 25, 2007

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

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 2006 NOD Annual Report is now available on the NOD web site (<http://www.nod.org>). The report, which commemorates NOD's 25th anniversary, includes a special section chronicling the main events and achievements in NOD's quarter century history.

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 with the project since the last report.

No problems or difficulties have been reported.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

NA

Please discuss planned project activities for the next reporting period.

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).

Name of the Activity: RI Business Leadership Network

Submitted by: Sanford Lupovitz

Prepared on: April 25, 2007

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

1. The BLN Steering Committee continues to meet monthly on the first Thursday morning.

A breakfast for interested employers was held March 15th at the Radisson. It was well attended and companies heretofore not involved were recruited. Power point and film presentations were included in the program.

BLN received a write up in the newsletter of the RI Hospitality & Tourism Assoc. It is hoped that this will lead to an outreach project for members of H & T. A staff person at H & T has been assigned to work with BLN. Close follow up is planned.

The new BLN brochure is off the press and being distributed.

While maintaining the B 2 B concept, BLN is developing more relationships with related job development agencies.

BLN participated in the Partnerships to Employment April 24th with an information table and session presentation.

2. BLN is looking into whether it makes sense to apply for 501 C 3 status. A major company is considering financial assistance but can only contribute to a non-profit.

3. Follow up with companies that have expressed interest in BLN has been weak. A committee to study the issue and develop action has been formed. First meeting in May.

In keeping with an event every quarter the possibility of sponsoring a function in the northern part of the state is on the table for discussion May 3. Assignments for preliminary contacts were made at the last meeting.

Name of the Activity: RI Emergency Management Agency's Elderly and Disability Work Group

Submitted by: Paul Choquette

Prepared on: 4/30/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

No meetings this quarter.

Name of the Activity: Department of Human Services Center for Adult Health's Consumer Advisory Committee

Submitted by: Jeanne Behie

Prepared on: April 23, 2007

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

Health Care Delivery Options:

The State of Rhode Island's General Assembly passed legislation authorizing the Department of Human Services (DHS) to plan and implement a system of health care delivery through a voluntary

managed care health system. DHS is proposing two options: a primary care case management model and a health plan option. Public forums were held at four locations throughout the state in March and April to listen to the public's input, concerns, and questions regarding these two options.

PersonalChoice Waiver: Rollout of web-based application was successful.

Real Choice Grant: Final report has been submitted to CMS. This grant helped purchase Synergy service tracking software, funded a 2-day

Community Living Options Conference, an analysis of the dually (Medicare/Medicaid) population done by URI College of Pharmacy, a

Behavioral Health training Module edited by the Drug & Alcohol Treatment Association of RI, the Ask Rhody online resource directory and benefits screener, and a survey of elders on Medicaid living in the community completed by Brown University, and an analysis of residential settings and community behavioral health services for kids with behavioral health issues done by DCYF and Yale University.

2007 Real Choice Grant: Will focus on an assessment of the LTC system in RI, particularly funding. As part of preparing for the Healthcare

Delivery Options for Adults on Medicaid, RI has brought the Stanford training model in the state. It is a peer train the trainer program to prepare peers to train other peers on managing chronic healthcare conditions. Off to a successful start.

System Transformation Grant: Will focus on technology, utilization, etc

Money Follows the Person Grant: Under the auspices of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), Rhode Island is proposing to transition three distinct populations from institutional to community-based living settings:

(1) persons under the care of the

Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals (MHRH) who have a primary diagnosis of mental illness managed by a psychiatrist, (2) persons under the care of MHRH with a chronic medical illness and a secondary diagnosis of mental illness managed by a physician other than a psychiatrist; and (3) children and youth under the care of the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) who have multiple LTC needs, associated with serious emotional illness. The project goal is to enable these target populations to integrate back into the community so that they can live more satisfying and productive lives, and at reduced costs.

Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

None, that I am aware.

Please discuss planned project activities for the next reporting period.

Attend meeting and share information with commission and consumer groups.

State Affiliate Quarterly Report for Rhode Island's State Affiliate

For the

DBTAC: New England ADA Center

October 1, 2006-September 30, 2007

Please circle the date of your current reporting period:

1. **Dec. 31, 2006**

2. **March 31, 2007**

3. **June 30, 2007**

4. **September 30, 2007**

Post office mail a hard copy of your quarterly report, & invoice on letterhead. The following is the format for reporting. This data is required by the *National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation & Research* (NIDRR), however, reporting requirements may change in within the year.

2. Have you expanded the ADA coalition to include high growth, demand driven employer expertise? Yes

3. Have you provided an annual ADA Coalition meeting schedule to ADA Project Director?
Yes No

4. Have you provided the list of names of ADA Coalition organization membership?
Yes No

5. Have you provided contact information about the *New England ADA Center* in your communications to the public? Yes

6. Have you participated in two Regional Advisory Board Meetings annually?

? Have you provided the Center with news & photos for the Center's *Access New England* Newsletter three (3) times a year?

Winter Yes

Name of the Activity: Civil Rights Roundtable;

Submitted by: Chris Rancourt

Prepared on: 4/20/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

Primary project of the Civil Rights Roundtable was Racial Profiling by Law Enforcement.

Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

None.

Name of the Activity: New England ADA & Accessible IT Center Advisory Committee

Submitted by: Chris Rancourt

Prepared on: 4/20/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

New contract was introduced. The employees of the Commission are doing what they can to comply with the contract. Training for Architects was provided, Universities and Colleges were visited, etc.

Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

- The contract is vague.
- Not all the surveys to be used by the Commission in the training have been developed yet by NEADA.
- The research component of the grant has not been fully identified yet.
- No date has been set for the Advisory Committee Meeting

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

No impact as of yet since NEADA is aware of these problems and is working to resolve them.

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Please discuss planned project activities for the next reporting period.

- Attend Advisory Committee Meeting
- Follow up on needs of colleges and universities

Provide research information as directed

Name of the Activity: US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy

Submitted by: Chris Rancourt

Prepared on: 4/20/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

As the liaison, I participate in conference calls when time permits and read materials as they are provided.

Name of the Activity: National Association of Governor's Committees on People with Disabilities

Submitted by: Chris Rancourt

Prepared on: 4/20/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

As the liaison, I participate in conference calls when time permits and read materials as they are provided.

Name of the Activity: John O. Pastore Center Council

Submitted by: John Desautel

Prepared on: 4/20/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

No meetings in 2007

Name of the Activity: Emergency Management Agency Advisory Committee

Submitted by: John Desautel

Prepared on: 4/20/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

No meetings in 2007

Name of the Activity: Department of Administration's Information Resources Management Committee & Webmasters Committee

Submitted by: Harvey Salvas

Prepared on: 4/20/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

No meetings this quarter

Name of the Activity: Department of Environmental Management's Parks & Trails Committee

Submitted by: Harvey Salvas

Prepared on: 4/20/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

No meetings this quarter

Name of the Activity: Paratransit Task Force

Submitted by: Bob Cooper

Prepared on: 4/20/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

The task force has been meeting monthly since the beginning of the year, reviewing the last time the state solicited bids for paratransit vehicle operators and the ramifications if the RIPTA doesn't retain responsibility for maintenance of the vehicles.

Please explain any difficulties or problems encountered with the project since the last report.

The differences of opinion on the role of RIPTA in drafting the next request for proposals (RFP)

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

Maybe

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Please discuss planned project activities for the next reporting period.

Begin preparation of a new RFP for services to begin in the spring of 2008.

Name of the Activity: Department of Health's Arthritis Action Plan Committee

Submitted by: Teresa J. Carr-Hopkins

Prepared on: 4/27/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

No meetings this quarter.

Name of the Activity: RIPTA Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee

Submitted by: Teresa J. Carr-Hopkins

Prepared on: 4/27/07

Describe the project's activities that took place during this time period.

RIPTA will be installing security cameras on all RIdе vans over the next year to improve safety for both riders and drivers.

RIPTA will be installing a GPS-based stop announcement system on all buses; to ensure all major stops are announced to assist vision impaired riders know when the bus has reached their stop.