

# **Child Advocate Search Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**February 5, 2010**

**2:00 – 4:00**

**Department of Administration**

**Conference Room B, Second Floor**

### **Members present:**

**The Honorable Stephen Capineri**

**Sarah Fine, Ph.D.**

**Brother Brendan Gerrity**

**Peter Howland, MD**

**Philip Keefe**

**Lorraine Newton Lalli, Esq.**

**Charles E. Maynard**

**Sharon O'Keefe, Esq.**

**The Honorable Kathleen Voccola**

### **Members absent:**

**Deborah Barclay, Esq.**

**The Open Session of the Child Advocate Search Committee was called to order at 2:02 pm, by Chairman Charles Maynard, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meeting Law, so called, and**

**other applicable provisions of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, as amended. A quorum was established.**

**Chairman Maynard called the committee to review the minutes from January 29, 2010 and called for a motion to approve. Dr. Peter Howland made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Phil Keefe. The Committee unanimously approved the minutes.**

**Chairman Maynard informed the committee that he would like to establish rules around the interview process and discuss whether the interview process should be open to the public.**

**Phil Keefe suggested that the interview process should be open. Judge Capineri informed the committee that he had served on a Child Advocate Search Committee in the past and recommends the interview process be open. The Committee concurred.**

**Chairman Maynard questioned that if it was open to the public, would other candidates be allowed to attend the other candidates interviews. Sharon O'Keefe stated that allowing other candidates to attend the interview would create an unfair advantage to hear the questions in advance of their own interview.**

**Chairman Maynard moved that the interview process would be open to the public, with the exception to other candidates. Sharon O'Keefe made a motion to restrict other candidates attending the interview**

**process, seconded by Phil Keefe, the Committee unanimously voted in favor of the motion.**

**Chairman Maynard stated that the committee will review the list of candidates and determine which candidates will be interviewed, and reminded the Committee that it needed to forward a minimum of three candidates to the Governor.**

**Chairman Maynard asked the committee at what point would we make public the list of candidates proceeding to the interview process. The Committee concurred before we release the names of the candidates, we first needed to notify the candidates who did not make it to the interview process and we needed to receive a response from the candidates accepting our invitation to be interviewed.**

**Dr. Howland asked whether members of the general public would be allowed to ask the candidates questions at the interview. It was made clear that interview process is not a public hearing and it was agreed that there would not be any public comment permitted.**

**Phil Keefe asked whether background checks would be performed on the candidates prior to the interviews.**

**Chairman Maynard stated that with the permission of the candidate, background checks would be performed prior to the interviews.**

**Chairman Maynard moved that the committee retire into Executive Session to review and rate the candidates that would move forward to the interview process.**

**On motion of Brother Gerrity, seconded by Lorraine Newton Lalli, it was unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session. The Open Session adjourned at 2:40 pm.**

**On motion of Chairman Maynard, seconded by Phil Keefe, it was unanimously voted to adjourn Executive Session and return to Open Session. The Open Session was called back to order at 3:45 pm**

**Of the 24 applicants for the position of Child Advocate, it was determined that 9 candidates would move forward to the interview process. The next committee meeting that was scheduled on February 12th would not take place and we would move forward with the interviews on February 26, 2010 beginning at 12:30 pm.**

**Chairman Maynard asked the Committee if there were any further questions or discussion. The Committee did not have anything further to state. Having no further business, on motion of Chairman Maynard, seconded by Sarah Fine, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.**

**The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.**