

Minutes



Information & Assistive Technology Committee

Wednesday November 17, 2004

2:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Governor's Commission on Disabilities

John O. Pastore Center

41 Cherry Dale Court

Cranston, RI 02920-3049

401-462-0106 (v); 401-462-0101 (tty)

e-mail) disabilities@gcd.ri.gov

Note taker: Harvey Salvas

Attendees: Regina Connor (Chair), Howard Boksenbaum, Fred Burke, Monica Dzialo, Bill Nieranowski, Kathy Sherman & David Gallagher

Absent: Linda Benvinuti, Doris Duarte, Lorna Ricci, & Berry-Jean Murray

Guests: Gail Higgins-Fogarty, Eugene McMahon

Agenda topics

1.	Call to order/ Approval of Minutes	Regina Connor
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Executive Secretary called the meeting to order at 2:35

2.	Request from the Courts	Gail Higgins-Fogarty
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GF & employee explained requirements and essential functions of the job.

Employee explained the history of his hearing loss and how it is affected by the courtrooms. Employee described how he has been using hearing aids for 2 1/2 years, although they do not perform well in the courtrooms.

GF explained that in her opinion that this request was not necessary for the employee's every day personal functions, but is necessary for the essential functions of the job.

Jim Healy recommended the he be fitted with Phonak units which are compatibility with the courts audio system.

Regina recommended that he be fitted with the appropriate personal hearing aids and then if there are other audio problems with the courtrooms that he than approach the committee for a reasonable accommodation, based on section 35.135 of UFAS

§35.135 Personal devices and services.

This part does not require a public entity to provide to individuals with disabilities personal devices, such as wheelchairs; individually prescribed devices, such as prescription eyeglasses or hearing aids; readers for personal use or study; or services of a personal nature including assistance in eating, toileting, or dressing.

Motion to deny the purchase by HB and second DG, based on the fact that this request is for a personal device. Vote was unanimously.

Adjournment:

at 3:55 Motion by MD second FB