



# Minutes for Governor's Commission on Disabilities Election Assistance Committee (Revised)

**Thursday, October 1st, 2009 @ 9:00 – 10:30 AM**

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<b>Attendees:</b>	Rory Carmody, Kate Bowden, Christopher DeGrave, Regina Connor, Jean Lawlor, Casey Gartland, Steven Florio, Grace Pires	
<b>Absent:</b>	Miguel Nunez, Robert Rapoza, , Lorna Ricci, Leo Canuel, Michelle Hayes, Arthur Plitt,	
<b>----- Agenda Topics -----</b>		
<b>Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes</b>	<b>Rory Carmody</b>	<b>5 min.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Introduction: 9:15- Minutes Approval from 8/5/09 (revised)- Motion by Kate Bowden, Seconded by J. Lawlor- Unanimous Vote</li> </ul>		
<b>Action Items:</b>	<b>Discussion Leader:</b>	<b>15min</b>
<b>1. HAVA Grant Funding/ Budget Update</b>	<b>Rory Carmody/ C. DeGrave</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ HAVA Grant Application has been submitted. Waiting on State Govt. approval of award &amp; receipt.</li> <li>➤ Current State Govt. vs. Union Dispute over possible time-off &amp; layoffs causing many issues and poor morale. Christopher DeGrave's job loss would negatively impact the HAVA grant as well as the Election Assistance Committee.</li> </ul>		
<b>2. RI Disability Vote Project Update</b>	<b>Jean Lawlor</b>	<b>10 min.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ J. Lawlor &amp; R. Carmody are looking to meet with B. Cooper in the near future regarding fiscal status &amp; continuance of the RIDVP for the next three (3) years. ** Will contact for meeting**</li> </ul>		
<b>3. Board of Elections Update</b>	<b>C. DeGrave</b>	<b>5 min.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ B. Rapoza, M. Nunez unavailable to attend w. apology</li> <li>➤ (C. DeGrave) RIGCD attended election training on 9/22/09- The Agency now is fully compliant with Rhode Island Law concerning the ability to register voters interested. We have forms and signage posted.</li> </ul>		
<b>4. Poll Workers w/ Disabilities: Discussion</b>	<b>Rory Carmody</b>	<b>20 min.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Committee to continue to brainstorm the recruitment of poll workers, to supplement the low</li> </ul>		

numbers available currently before the 2010 elections in RI.

- Present committee members discussed best methodology for the recruitment of poll workers with disabilities. Various ideas introduced including newspaper ads, posters, signage, mailings, and advocacy.
  - (Rory Carmody) Pilot program in the big three “Providence, Cranston, Warwick” to be designed to boost polling worker numbers. As a pilot program, adjustments can be made to strategy as time goes forward.
- (C Degrave) Volunteers/ Poll Workers large issue in preparing for and executing elections. We have a major election **1 year away**. Limited number of staff available, over 500 polling locations in the State.
- (R Carmody)- Goal to get 2-3 individuals from a variety of agencies in the state to make a strong volunteer workforce.
  - Pre- Training (Unpaid)
  - Polling Worker Training (Paid)
  - Work on Election Day (Paid)
  - BOA to allow 4hr. time-shift blocks as reasonable modification to schedule
- (R Carmody) - Letters to be sent out to local municipalities regarding polling place access. We will inform them that moneys are available for reasonable modifications. Committee will review letters of requests and will make timely decision on awards.

**5. Announcements & Meeting Schedule**

Rory Carmody

10 min.

- (K. Bowden) – Kate has been continuing to work on research concerning Election Day polling place accessibility surveys. Several states have enacted similar ideas including training and spot-check surveys. She is continuing to look into ways to locate, identify and mitigate issues on or before Election Day.

**\*\*\* Special vote taken to change meeting time to 9:30AM due to building access and scheduling issues. \*\*\***

***K. Bowden Motion- R. Connor Seconded- Vote Unanimous***

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 29th, 9:30 -11:00AM**

Adjournment:

*Kate Bowden - Motion, Seconded by Regina Connor: Vote Unanimous.*

**GCD Staff Attendees:**

Christopher DeGrave