



# Governor's Commission on Disabilities Legislation Committee

Monday September 10, 2007 3 – 4:30 PM

John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court,  
Cranston, RI 02920-3049

(voice) 401-462-0100 (tty) 462-0101 (fax) 462-0106

(e-mail) [disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) (website) [www.disabilities.ri.gov](http://www.disabilities.ri.gov)

<b>Attendees:</b>	Timothy Flynn (Chair); Kate McCarthy-Barnett (Vice Chair); Jeanne Behie; Sharon Brinkworth; Linda Deschenes; Elaina Goldstein; William R. Inlow; Dianne Kayala; Paula Parker; Arthur M. Plitt; Gwendolyn Reeve;
<b>Excused:</b>	Raymond Bandusky; Rosemary C. Carmody; Paul Choquette; Deborah Garneau; Liberty Goodwin; Ken Pariseau; Rev. Gerard O. Sabourin; Janet Spinelli; & Michael Spoerri

----- Minutes -----

<b>Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes</b>	<b>Tim Flynn Chairperson</b>	<b>5 min.</b>
--	------------------------------	---------------

Introductions:

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented SB/AP passed unanimously

<b>Action Items:</b>	<b>Discussion Leader:</b>	<b>Time:</b>
<b>1. Feedback on this year's public forums: locations, turnout, outreach, etc.</b>	<b>Tim Flynn</b>	<b>30 min.</b>

<b>Locations:</b>	<b>Use Again</b>	<b>Do Not Used</b>	
Independence Square, Kingston	yes		
Middletown Public Library	yes		
Woonsocket Senior Center	Larger room		
Barrington Public Library	yes		
Warwick Public Library	yes		
Department of Health, Providence		Instead use Network RI in Cranston/Prov, 5 to 7, St Joseph Rehab, Neighborhood Health Care	
<b>Time of Day:</b>		<b>Use Again</b>	<b>Do Not Used</b>
3:30 – 5:30 PM		Yes	
10 AM – Noon		Yes	Avoid Fri PM
5 – 7 PM		Yes	

<b>Turnout:</b>		
<b>Communities not represented:</b> Minorities, Zambarano, parents, young adults in transition		
<b>Ideas for better outreach:</b>		
Schedule locations and sponsors before new year, localize the ads to the closer forums, listing issues to come and speak-out – i.e. transportation, health care,		
Moderators and panelists do more “drawing out more in-depth testimony” – better instructions list of “no no” questions in public		
Restrict the 5-6 panelists, with introductions of co-sponsors in the audience		
Outreach through houses of worship, posted on websites, community calendars, etc.		
<b>2. Process for reviewing the testimony</b>	<b>Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary</b>	<b>10 min.</b>
<b>The procedure the Commission uses to develop its legislative package</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public forums are conducted by the Commission and other agencies during the week of July 26<sup>th</sup> (anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA]) to determine the issues of concern to people with disabilities and their families</li> <li>2. The public forum sponsors and the Commission’s Legislation Committee meets in September – October to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Identify the concerns raised at the public forums</li> <li>b) Develop recommendations for the sponsoring organizations to address those concerns.</li> <li>c) Group those recommendations by action required: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) changes in state law</li> <li>ii) changes in federal law</li> <li>iii) changes in state policies / regulations</li> <li>iv) changes in federal policies / regulations</li> <li>v) improving information and outreach to create better awareness of existing solutions.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>3. The Commission’s Legislation Committee reviews the results of the issues the Commission worked on during the last General Assembly session (which ends in June or July): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Identifying which were accomplished and which need additional advocacy;</li> <li>b) Selecting from the public forum state legislative recommendations those that <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) the Commission is best able to act as lead advocate for, so</li> <li>ii) next year’s legislative packet will have no more than 10 to 12 issues, to</li> <li>iii) recommend the Commission should work on during the next General Assembly Session (starting in January)</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>4. The Commissioners (24 + members appointed by the Governor) meets in November to review the Legislation Committee’s recommendation. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Commission either approves their recommendations or modifies them.</li> <li>b) The final list of issues (the Commission’s Legislative Package) is then forwarded to the Governor for his/her consideration.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. In January the Governor may choose to incorporate some of those issues into her/his legislative agenda and announce them as part of his/her State of the State Address.</li> <li>6. In January the Commission identifies members of the RI General Assembly to introduce in</li> </ol>		

bill form those issues from the Commission's Legislative Package, the Governor does not choose.

The Legislation Committee also reviews other bills introduced at the RI General Assembly that may impact on the lives of people with disabilities and their families and sends comments on 40 – 50 of them to the Governor and the House and Senate Committees that are considering them. Since about 400 bills relating to people with disabilities are introduced each year, the Legislation Committee (volunteers) is unable to review every bill. Each year the Commission develops a list of topics it directs the Legislation Committee to review bills related to and comment on.

	<b>In 2007 the list was limited to:</b>	<b>The topics could have, but did not include:</b>
	Civil Rights Disability Prevention Employment Health Care Services Housing Special Education Transportation	Appropriations / Budget Education Financial Assistance Health Care Rules Motor Vehicle Insurance/Registration Taxes

<b>3. Establishing working groups:</b>	<b>Tim Flynn</b>	<b>40 min.</b>
--	------------------	----------------

Discussion: Volunteers to serve on the working groups are:

Accessibility – Tim, Kate

Health Care – Ken P. Linda D, Gwen, Kate, Elaina, Dianne K., Deb G.

Housing – Elaina,

Support Agencies and Programs - Pat Ryherd, Sharon, Jeanne B, Dianne K

Transportation – Bill, Tim Flynn, Arthur (convener),

	Items to be accomplished before the next meeting:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
A	Accessibility Working Group Recommendations	Tim	10/03/07
B	Health Care Working Group Recommendations	Ken	10/03/07
C	Housing Working Group Recommendations	Elaina	10/03/07
D	Support Agencies and Programs Working Group Recommendations	?	10/03/07
E	Transportation Working Group Recommendations	Arthur	10/03/07

Members discussed the need for oversight of the implementation of newly enacted legislation.

MOTION: To recommend the Commission the establishment of a subcommittee on oversight of the implementation of newly enacted legislation. JB/EG passed, AP nay

Announcements and Scheduling of Meetings	Chairperson	5 min.
Next meeting will be on:	Monday October 15, 2007	Starting at: 3 PM
Adjournment:	Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:20	
<b>Resource persons:</b>	Bob Cooper, Committee Secretary	