



**Governor's Commission on Disabilities  
Legislation Committee  
Monday August 4, 2014 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court,  
Cranston, RI 02920-3049  
(voice) 401-462-0107 (fax) 462-0106 (tty) via RI Relay 711  
(e-mail) [GCD.Disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:GCD.Disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) (website) [www.disabilities.ri.gov](http://www.disabilities.ri.gov)

**Attendees:** Linda Ward (Chair.); Jack Ringland (Vice Chair.); Rosemary C. Carmody; Linda Deschenes; Timothy Flynn; Casey Gartland; Arthur M. Plitt; Angelina Stabile;  
**Absentees:** Nicole Bucka; Regina Connor; Heather Daglieri; Elaina Goldstein; Kathleen Heren; William R. Inlow; Paula Parker; Msgr. Gerard O. Sabourin; Meredith Sheehan; & Dawn Wardyga  
**Guests:** Colleen Polselli, Vincent Dejesus, Barbara Henry  
**Staff:** Bob Cooper



***3:00 Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes, Linda Ward, Chair***  
Chair calls the meeting to order at 3:05 PM  
Introductions of Commissioners and guests



**MOTION:** To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented  
Motion moved by AS, seconded by JR, passed unanimously

**Action Items:**



***3:05 Review of the 2014 Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families, Linda Ward, Chair***

**Purpose/Goal:** To review the 2014 Public Forums, what worked, what did not, problems at any of the locations?

Public Forum	Turn out	Use Again?	Key Topics
Monday, July 21 <sup>st</sup> , 1 - 3 PM, Zambarano	27	yes	Move to 1:30 start
Monday, July 21 <sup>st</sup> , 4 - 6 PM, Woonsocket Harris Public Library	19	yes	
Tuesday, July 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2 - 4 PM, Warwick Public Library	28	yes	Move to 3-5 PM
Wednesday July 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 5:30 - 7:30 PM, Middletown Public Library	11 + 15 not signing in	yes	Move to earlier 2 - 4
Thursday, July 24 <sup>th</sup> , 4 - 6 PM, Rogers Free Library (Bristol)	15	yes	
Thursday, July 24 <sup>th</sup> , 4 - 6 PM, Charlestown Town Hall Chambers	1	no	Move within Ride ADA service (Wakefield)
Friday, July 25 <sup>th</sup> , 1:30 - 3:30 PM, South Providence Library	11	yes	Move to 3:30-5:30 PM not Friday
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>		

Discussion:

- Turnout was low
- Panel representation was strong with at least 6 sponsors at each forum.
- The majority of the concerns expressed at the forums and submitted testimony were:
  - Accessible Buildings Local
  - Businesses that are Open to the Public
  - Accessible Parking
  - Accessible Voting
  - Accessible Websites
  - Breadth of Services for for Adult Developmental Disabilities
  - Changes Under Obama Care
  - Disability Awareness Community
  - Outreach
  - Employment Continuing
  - Job after Disability, Discrimination
  - Loss of Mental Health Funding
  - Nursing Care
  - Transition of Disability Services
  - Transportation LogistiCare, RIdc, RIPTA

MOTION: To direct staff to collect testimony regarding Medicaid transportation, meet with RI Disability Law Center and jointing presenting information to EOHHS, BHDDH & DHS, House and Senate Finance Cmtes. RC/CG passed, LD abstained.

***3:35 Final Status of the Commission's 2014 Legislative Package, Bob Cooper***



**Purpose/Goal: To review recently filed legislation, determine the potential impact on people with disabilities, and adopt legislative impact statements**

<b>Legislation Committee, Linda Ward, Chair/Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary</b>			
<b>2014 Legislative Package:</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Outcome Description</b>	<b>Position</b>
2	2	1 signed by Governor 1 not enacted	Commission Neutral now that it has been amended
6	2	Signed	Commission Supports
1	1	Withdrawn	Commission Supports if amended
<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>55.56%</b>	<b>Commission Total</b>
57	16	15 signed by Governor 1 resolution adopted (study)	Legislation Committee finds these bills Beneficial
2	2	2 signed	Legislative Committee finds beneficial as Amended
21	15	15 not enacted 6 signed by Governor	Legislation Committee finds these bills Beneficial if amended
21	20	Not enacted 1 signed by Governor	Legislation Committee finds these bills Harmful
4	2	Not enacted 2 signed by Governor	Legislation Committee finds these bills Harmful unless amended
2	2	Signed	Resolutions not Harmful as Amended
<b>107</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>53.27%</b>	<b>Legislation Committee Total</b>
<b>116</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>53.45%</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
34			Reviewed but took no position on

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2014 Legislative Priorities</b>
----------------	------------------------------------

Outcome	2014 Legislative Priorities
Yes	1) Transportation to Employment, job training, education, health care, etc. a) Maintain the existing RIPTA/RIde service areas;
Yes	b) Adequate funding/new & stable funding source;
No	c) Expand the RIPTA/RIde service areas/hours beyond the existing service/hours; and
No	d) Require RIPTA to establish a sliding scale RIde fare.
No	2) Global Medicaid Consumer Choice Waiver; making sure the 2008 level of services stay in place for persons with severe disabilities: a) Restore the 2008 Katie Beckett and children with autism spectrum disorders eligibility rules;
No	b) Restore the right to medically necessary brand name drugs without requiring two generic failures before allowing brand name;
No	c) Improve services for adults with autism spectrum disorders;
Yes	d) Retain multiple behavioral healthcare service delivery models;
Just	e) Maintain disability service funding;
No	f) Post-Global Medicaid Consumer Choice Waiver Transition Plan; and
No	g) Clarify eligibility for Medicaid/Sherlock services.
Yes	3) Housing Supports and other services for people with behavioral health concerns: a) Restore the Neighborhood Opportunities Program funding;
No	b) Create a supportive housing program; and
No	c) Expansion of Affordable Housing – require at least 2 additional affordable housing units for cities and towns that have not met the affordable housing goals.
No	4) Accessibility to Services: a) Provide interpreter services for ancillary healthcare programs or supports (including peer supports); and
No	b) Provide closed captions of all Capitol Television programing.
No	5) Employment a) Improve school to adult transitional to adult services / employment / post-secondary education; and
Yes	b) Maintain non-competitive employment options.
No	6) Direct the Legislation Committee to monitor progress on requiring Health Insurance Plans to cover specialty drug (Tier 4 Drug Category) in Tier 3, to determine impact of Affordable Care Act.
On hold	7) Shift to the Employment Committee the Commission’s efforts on Refocusing State and Municipal Disability Pension Systems to become Reemployment Systems.
	See attached report
	<b><i>3:45 The Legislation Committee’s FY 2015/16 Strategic Plan, Bob Cooper</i></b>
	<b>Purpose/Goal: To set priorities, coordinate and align resources and actions with mission, vision and strategy throughout the organization and among your teams.</b>



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
**DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION**

**OFFICE of MANAGEMENT & BUDGET**  
 One Capitol Hill  
 Providence, RI 02908-5890

Office: (401) 222-2280  
 Fax: (401) 222-6436

TO: Department Directors  
 FROM: Peter Marino, Director Office of Management and Budget



5. Develop **action plans** to implement the strategies. These are specific steps to implement your organization’s strategies. Action plans should be more precise and measurable as to whether they are achieved or not.
6. Establish **responsibilities and timelines** for each action to ensure accountability and evaluation.
7. **Monitor implementation and measure progress** towards achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan. Develop performance measures and review progress on a regular basis. Most importantly, update the plan as needed – this is an ongoing, living plan. It needs constant refinement and course corrections. If it becomes static or dated, it loses value. Strategic planning should be updated at least annually and submitted as part of the budget process.

	<p>The Commission’s <b>FY 2014/15 Budget Request</b> included a Program Narrative Information, below are the overall objective/mission:</p> <p>The Commission’s objective/mission is to ensure “that people with disabilities are afforded the opportunities to exercise all the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of this state” {RIGL 42-51-6(1)} and each person with a disability is able “to accomplish the maximum potential in independence, human development, productivity and self-sufficiency” {RIGL 42-51-6(2)}.</p> <p><b>Program Explanation:</b> The Commission has five (5) performance management “programs”:</p> <p> 1) Advocacy and Awareness on Behalf of People with Disabilities and their Families <b>Objective:</b> To foster the adoption of policies that will make sure every person with disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Is able to work;</li> <li>➤ Is able to live in her/his own (with least amount of help); and</li> <li>➤ Is involved in her/his neighborhood.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Annually conduct a weeklong series of Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identify common concerns expressed at the Public Forums;</li> <li>✓ Develop recommendations to resolve the Public Forums’ concerns;</li> <li>✓ Develop a package of legislation based on the Public Forums’ recommendations;</li> <li>✓ Draft legislation, arrange for its introduction, present testimony, and advocate its enactment; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Identify other legislation that could have an impact on people with disabilities, determine that impact, and submit testimony on that impact to the Governor and General Assembly, to propose amendments more beneficial to people with disabilities, to advocate for beneficial legislation and against harmful legislation.</li> <li>➤ Present evidence and make arguments before any federal, state or local agency or public body regarding matters pending before that agency or public body that may have an adverse effect on persons with disabilities {42-51-9(6)}.</li> </ul> <p><b>Achievements:</b> The Legislation Committee reviewed 335 bills and budget articles that could impact the lives of people with disabilities, their families and service providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Commission Supported 5 Bills/Budget Articles {40% success}</li> <li>✓ Commission Supported 1 Budget Article if amended {0% success}</li> <li>✓ Commission Opposes 1 Budget Article unless amended {0% success}</li> </ul>
--	--

- ✓ Legislation Committee found 31 bills Beneficial {54% success}
- ✓ Legislation Committee found 7 bills Beneficial if amended {43% success}
- ✓ Legislation Committee found 10 bills Harmful {100% success}
- ✓ Legislation Committee found 2 bills Harmful unless amended {100% success}

MOTION: To recommend the Commission Adopt the following Legislation Committee's Strategic Plan:

1. Vision Statement:
2. Mission Statement: The Commission's mission is to ensure "that people with disabilities are afforded the opportunities to exercise all the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of this state" {RIGL 42-51-6(1)} and each person with a disability is able "to accomplish the maximum potential in independence, human development, productivity and self-sufficiency" {RIGL 42-51-6(2)}.
3. The Legislation Committee's Goals: To foster the adoption of policies that will make sure every person with disabilities:
  - a. Is able to work;
  - b. Is able to live in her/his own with the right services at the right time and right place; and
  - c. Is involved in her/his neighborhood and community.
4. The Legislation Committee's Strategies and Objectives are "to:
  - a. Study the concerns of people with disabilities in reaching the maximum in independent living and human development and exercising all of the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of this state {RIGL 42-51-6(2)};
  - b. Arouse community interest in the concerns of people with disabilities {RIGL 42-51-6(2)} [and]
  - c. Mobilize the community, people with disabilities, their family, friends, etc. to address the "concerns" and influence policy makers.
5. The Legislation Committee's Action Plans, Responsibilities and (Timelines):
  - a. Annually (during the ADA Anniversary week) conduct a weeklong series of Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families:
    - i. Identify common concerns expressed at the Public Forums (by mid-September);
    - ii. Develop recommendations to resolve the Public Forums' concerns (by November);
    - iii. Develop a package of legislation based on the Public Forums' recommendations (By mid-January);



- iv. Draft legislation, arrange for its introduction, present testimony, and advocate its enactment (during the General Assembly session); and
- b. Identify other legislation (during the General Assembly session) that could have an impact on people with disabilities, determine that impact, and submit testimony on that impact to the Governor and General Assembly, to propose amendments more beneficial to people with disabilities, to advocate for beneficial legislation and against harmful legislation.

**6. Monitor Implementation and Measure Progress**

**Measure:** The objective and mission of the Governor's Commission on Disabilities is to ensure that all people with disabilities are afforded the opportunities to exercise all the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of this State, and is able to reach his/her maximum potential in independence, human development, productivity and self-sufficiency. The figures below represent the percentage of successful outcomes relative to the Commission's advocacy for disability-friendly policy, adopted by the General Assembly (laws and budget articles), Executive Branch and General Officers (regulations), and Judiciary and quasi-judicial entities (decisions).

Performance <sup>1</sup>	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Actual	58%	35%	53%	53%	--	--
Target	100%	100%	100%	75%	75%	75%

Motion moved by TF, seconded by JR, passed unanimously



***4:25 Agenda for the Next Meeting, Linda Ward***

**Purpose/Goal: To set the agenda for the next meeting.**

Discussion: The Legislation Committee meetings in 2014 will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 3 - 4:30 PM: 09/08<sup>th</sup>; 10/27<sup>th</sup>; and 12/01<sup>st</sup>.

The September 8<sup>th</sup> agenda should include:  
A general review of the public forum testimony, identify the main topics and create topical working groups to conduct in-depth review to identify the concerns and make recommendations to resolve those.



**MOTION: To adjourn at 4:05 PM**

Motion moved by CG, seconded by JR, passed unanimously

<sup>1</sup> Performance data and targets are provided by State fiscal year.