

Minutes



Executive Committee

Wednesday January 25, 2006 4 PM to 5:30 PM

Governor's Commission on Disabilities

John O. Pastore Center (Formerly the Howard Center)

41 Cherry Dale Court

Cranston, RI 02920

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Secretary:	Bob Cooper
Attendees:	Paul Choquette (Chair); John McDonald (Vice Chair); & Ronald McMinn & Bill Nieranowski
Excused:	Rosemary Carmody; Regina Connor; Judi Drew; Binyamin Efreom; Scott Greco; Paul Grenon; Vicki Ferrara; & Timothy Flynn

Minutes

4:00 PM Call to Order Paul Choquette, Chair

Discussion: Call to order at 4:00PM.

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting, as RMcM/JMacD passed, BN abstained

4:05 PM Interviews & Selection of Fellows John MacDonald, Vice Chair

Discussion: There are three fellowships available, but only one applicant.

The Committee interviewed Leah Charpentier, from URI for the Mary Brennan Public Awareness Fellowship.

MOTION: To appoint Leah Charpentier the Mary Brennan Fellow for the Spring '06 Semester RMcM/PC passed, BN abstained

MOTION: To readvertise the remaining 2 Fellowships Edward J. Schroeder for the spring semester, with an application deadline of February 10, 2006 PC/RMcM passed unanimously

4:45 PM Commission Personnel: John MacDonald

MOTION: To close the meeting to the public pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) regarding the discussion of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons. RMcM/PC passed, BN abstained

MOTION: To end the closed session. BN/RMcM passed unanimously

5:10 PM Construction Impact on Commission Operations Bob Cooper

The Department of Administration's Construction and Property Management Division wants to have the authority to draw up to:

- \$83,000 from the Commission's RICAP Account for Architectural and Engineering Studies of accessibility needs in the Pastore Center facilities and
- ~\$40,000 from General Obligation Bond Fund Account (?) for creating a parking lot adjacent to Slate Hill Road, 2 disability parking spaces on either side of the ramp, 4 standard parking spaces on the north side of the ramp and 2 disability spaces off Cherry Dale Court, between the Commission's Office and the Juvenile Probation Building.

MOTION: To grant the Department of Administration's Construction and Property Management Division Authorized Agent status to expend up to \$83,000 from the Commission's RICAP Account for Architectural and Engineering Studies of accessibility needs in the Pastore Center facilities and expend up to ~\$40,000 from General Obligation Fund Account for a parking lot at the Commission office. PC/RMcM passed, BN abstained

5:15 PM HRIC Grant Application Bill Nieranowski

Discussion: Would the Commission be eligible to apply on behalf of the Disability Business Enterprises for the **2006 WORKFORCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM?**

The Governor's Workforce Board – RI is pleased to announce that funding is now available for the new 2006 Workforce Improvement Grant Program. This program coincides with the Board's mission to develop and evaluate strategies designed to increase the skill base of the workforce and build RI's economy. Dedicated organizations that are willing to invest in the development of training programs designed to improve skills of the incumbent workforce are urged to apply for this program.

Purpose - The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to solicit applications for workforce improvement programs designed to increase the skills of the incumbent workforce. As a result of improving this capacity, the proposer must indicate how the organization will become more efficient, productive and competitive.

Funding - Up to \$2 million allocated through the Job Development Fund; a state fund financed entirely by RI employers

Awards - Maximum award up to \$30,000

Match Requirement - Employer pays for 50% of allowable training activity

Eligibility Requirements

Previous grant recipients - if any organization has received an incumbent worker training grant in the past, all training activity and reports including the Final Summary must be submitted and accepted by the GWB-RI prior to March 10, 2006.

Employers - For profit and not for profit are eligible but must pay into the Job Development Fund (JDF). If unsure contact the Division of Taxation at 222-3688. Labor organizations and Trade Associations can apply for training of their members but participating member companies must also pay into the JDF.

Employees - Must earn at least 150% of RI minimum wage, currently \$10.13 (not including benefits) and be employed a minimum of six (6) months.

Allowable Activities – Acceptable training activity is varied due to the diverse business culture in the state. Organizations may apply for training activity that will increase the skill base of their employees.

The Committee decided neither the Commission nor many of the rehabilitation facilities

would be eligible for the grants.

5:25 PM Other Business

Paul Choquette

Discussion: None

Adjournment at: 5:45 PM