

# Minutes



50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee

Wednesday, January 24, 2007 3:30pm-5:00pm

Governor's Commission on Disabilities

John O. Pastore Center

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### Minutes

#### **Staff:**

Christine Botts, Harvey Salvas

#### **Attendees:**

Paul Choquette (Chair) Deb Golding (DOH), Kate McCarthy-Barnett (GCD) Camilla Vollaro (DLT)

#### **1 Call to Order, Introductions and Acceptance of Minutes Paul Choquette**

Discussion: Paul Choquette called the meeting to order at 3:38 PM.

Motion: A motion was made to table the minutes due the fact that the members present did not participate in the December 6, 2006 Planning Committee Meeting. PC/KMB Passed unanimously

#### **2 State Budget Impact on 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Activities Paul Choquette**

Discussion: The Budget Office has proposed a large reduction in the Governor's Commission on Disabilities FY 2007 Supplemental and FY 2008 Budget. In response to the proposed cuts, the Commission has sent a letter to Governor Carcieri (*copy provided to committee members*) appealing the budget recommendations and providing measures to address the proposed cuts in staff and operating functions. As a result of the budget reduction, the Commission felt that it was not appropriate to have a celebration/party and made the decision to defer hiring an Event Coordinator and cancel all events after July 1<sup>st</sup> and any events that cannot be accomplished solely by volunteers prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>. The events currently scheduled prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> include the following: *Home Modification & Assistive Technology Workshop; Tax Preparation Workshop; Disability Film Festival; and Recreation with a Disability/Access to Adventure*. Chris Botts was asked to provide an update on the status of the events and tasks still pending for completion.

#### **Disability Film Festival**

**Status:** The Department of Health has committed to fund the film festival which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at Rhode Island College. Ann Roccio, Director of Disability Services has been contacted regarding the screening and she has agreed to assist with promoting the film throughout the campus.

**Tasks Pending:** Completing and submitting contracts; meeting with RIC and deciding on food & beverages; writing and submitting press releases; ordering and distributing posters;

ordering ipods to give away at the screening; corresponding with the agent for Keith Cavhill and making travel arrangements (if the decision is made to have him attend for a question and answer session following the film).

**Decisions Still Pending:** Do we bring Keith Cavill to RI for the film festival? If yes, can we commit to assisting with making the travel and logistical arrangements? Can we commit to volunteering the time needed to complete the remaining tasks for the Disability Film Festival?

### **Tax Preparation Workshop**

**Status:** AARP will be sponsoring free tax preparation workshops on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The locations and times have been confirmed (Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm at the Middletown Public Library and Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9am-12:30pm at the Cranston Public Library; 9am-12pm at the Pilgrim Senior Center in Warwick; 12pm-3pm at the North Providence Senior Center and 10am-12pm at the Center South Senior Center in Peace Dale).

**Tasks Pending:** Correspondence and final details with Holly Longley (IRS); develop and submit press releases; assist with distribution of flyers; identify outreach strategies and implement for advertisement of the workshops; secure funding for interpreters.

**Decisions Still Pending:** Can we commit to volunteering the time needed to complete the remaining tasks for the Tax Preparation Workshop?

### **Home Modification & Assistive Technology Workshop**

**Status:** The Home Modification & Assistive Technology workshop is still in the early planning phase. An initial brainstorming session was held with Lorna Ricci (OSCIL), Leo Canuel (PARI) and Pat Ryherd (ORS). The original Home Modification workshop that was planned for January was moved to April, 2007 and changed to a workshop for architects on ADA accessibility guidelines. Kathy Gips from Adaptive Environments and Harvey Salvas, State ADA Coordinator will be the presenters for the workshop. The date and location are still pending.

**Tasks Pending:** Planning and implementation of the Home Modification & Assistive Technology workshop. The tasks pending for the additional Home Modification workshop for architects include finalizing the date, location and continuing education credits.

**Decisions Still Pending:** Do we continue to move forward with the original Home Modification & Assistive Technology Workshop (noting the early stages of planning)? If yes, can we commit to the time needed to complete the tasks for the planning and implementation of the workshop?

### **Recreation with a Disability/Access to Adventure**

**Status:** The planning is still in the preliminary stages pending location and final costs. In addition, the funding from CVS has not been confirmed. Chris Botts will forward all relevant e-mail correspondence to Paul Choquette.

**Tasks Pending:** Follow-up with CVS and City Year to finalize commitment of funding and volunteers; planning of events; identification of location and date.

**Decisions Still Pending:** Can we commit to completing the necessary follow-up and volunteer the time needed to plan and support the Recreation with a Disability event?

### **3 Next Steps**

**Paul Choquette**

Discussion: The minutes from the meeting will be distributed to the planning committee and a meeting will be scheduled within 1 month to make a final decision regarding which events to be implemented including the identification of volunteers to complete the necessary planning and support tasks.

Motion: A motion was made to accept the information shared regarding the status of the State Budget impact on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities discussed including the *Home Modification & Assistive Technology Workshop*; *Tax Preparation Workshop*; *Disability Film Festival*; and *Recreation with a Disability/Access to Adventure* and the tasks pending for the activities and make a final decision at the next meeting scheduled for February 14<sup>th</sup> on the events to be held and the volunteers who will commit time to complete the necessary tasks and support for each event. PC/KMB Passed unanimously

### **4 Announcement and Schedule of Meetings**

**Paul Choquette**

Discussion: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:30pm-5:00pm.

### **5 Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:33 PM