



# Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Executive Committee

**Mondays April 21 & May 5, 2008 4 – 6 PM**

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<b>4/21/08</b>	<b>Meeting Canceled</b>	
<b>5/5/08 Attendees:</b>	John MacDonald (Acting Chair); Rosemary Carmody; Kate McCarthy-Barnett; Ronald McMinn; & Bill Nieranowski	
<b>Excused:</b>	Regina Connor; Judi Drew; Binyamin Efreom; Timothy Flynn; Patricia Ryherd; & John Treat	
<b>----- Minutes -----</b>		
<b>Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes</b>	<b>John J. MacDonald Jr., Chairperson</b>	<b>5 min.</b>
<p>Introductions: Chair calls the meeting to order at 4:00 PM</p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. RC/RMcM passed unanimously</p> <p>The Committee takes up item #2 Interviews first, since some of the interviewees have arrived.</p>		
<b>2. Interview and Recommendations for Appointments to the Commission</b>	<b>John MacDonald</b>	
<p><b>4:00 Joshua Joyal</b> did not arrive</p> <p><b>4:15 Katherine Lowe</b></p> <p><b>Education</b> Katherine (Katie) Lowe, graduated with a diploma from Tollgate High School, Warwick, RI in 2001, and participated in graduation with her peers after being the victor in an interim hearing with the school department</p> <p><b>Employment and volunteering</b> Katie has been employed at Bob's Store in Cranston and The Body Shop. She has volunteered at Hasbro Children's Hospital and the Sand Castle Preschool until its' closing in 2004. She is currently Lead Volunteer 4 days per week at the Cornerstone Adult Day Care on Warwick Neck Avenue, Warwick.</p> <p><b>Leadership and Self-Advocacy</b> Katie served on the RI Developmental Disabilities Council as an Associate Council Member, on the Individual and Family Advocacy Committee for two and a half years until her appointment to the Full Council in Fall 2007. Katie is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Down Syndrome Society of Rhode Island and the RI Arc. As a graduate of the leadership series offered by Advocates in Action-The RI Chapter of the national movement, SABE (Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered), Katie participates annually in their conference, and is an active, contributing member of each of her committees and commitments.</p> <p><b>National Presentation</b> Katie presented a Healthy Nutrition program at the National Down Syndrome Conference in 2006.</p> <p><b>Personal</b> Katie is 27 years old and lives in Warwick with her family.</p>		

## **4:45 Linda N. Ward**

### **EXPERIENCE**

September 1996 – Present                      OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED FOR PEOPLE WITH DIFFERING ABILITIES, INC.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Responsible for the founding and development of agency in 1996. Facilitated the systematic growth of the agency with the focus on providing support services designed to meet individual needs. During this time budget grew from \$210,000 in 1997 to current \$3.2 million.

Primary responsibility is to ensure adherence to and implementation of agency mission – **SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO LEAD RICH AND FULFILLING LIVES.**

Ongoing responsibilities include: budget development and ongoing oversight and monitoring of fiscal operations of the agency; negotiations with Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals regarding funding levels including serving on a work group charged with development of the document known as the **CERTIFICATION AGREEMENT**; development of new models of service delivery including participating in the work group developing regulations on the **SHARED LIVING MODEL**; continuous assessment and development of management structure and supervision models within the agency with the goal of providing best services to individuals who elect to receive support services from this agency; ongoing assessment of training needs and development of training to meet identified needs; interface with various levels of State government including other State departments and the General Assembly; represent the agency within the provider group – Community Provider Network of Rhode Island - both as a Board member and as current President of the Board of Directors.

July 1975 – September 1996    THE CRANSTON CENTER

**DIRECTOR, RESIDENTIAL SERVICES**

January 1986- September 1996

Responsible for day-to-day administration of the residential program providing varied supported living arrangements to 100 adults with differing abilities. Supervised 125+ professional, middle management and support staff.

**QMRP/SOCIAL WORKER**

January 1977 – January 1986

Coordinated and implemented services to 60 individuals living in group homes and apartments. Insured ongoing compliance with ICF-MR regulations and state law.

**WORKSHOP AIDE**

July 1975- January 1977

Provided vocational and support services to adults with differing abilities within a work activity program.

### **EDUCATION**

Rhode Island College:                      Master of Arts in Counseling    May 1978

Rhode Island College                      Bachelor of Arts in Sociology    May 1975

### **MEMBERSHIP/RELATED EXPERIENCES**

Past President, Board of Directors, Community Provider Network of Rhode Island

Member, State Committee, Alliance for Full Participation

Provider representative, Incident Management Trends Committee, Department of MHRH, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Provider representative, licensing workgroup on Person Centered Planning, Department of MHRH, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Founding member of Rhode Island Disability Voting Initiative

Provider representative, Health and Wellness Standards workgroup, Department of MHRH, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Provider representative, Certification Agreement workgroup, Department of MHRH, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Provider representative, Shared Living workgroup, Department of MHRH, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Member, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)  
Treasurer, Rhode Island Chapter AAIDD  
Member, Women Ending Hunger, Rhode Island Community Food Bank  
Member, National Association of Social Workers  
Member, Statewide Housing Action Coalition (SHAC)  
Member, Family Readiness Group, 169<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company  
Mentor, Sophia Academy  
Leadership Rhode Island, Gamma II class  
Women's Fund of Rhode Island

References are available upon request.

### **5:15 Cristina M. Amedeo**

**From:** "Cristina Amedeo" <camedeo@crossroadsri.org>  
**To:** "Bob Cooper" <bcooper@gcd.ri.gov>  
**Date:** 5/5/2008 10:29:36 AM  
**Subject:** today

Bob:

I am so sorry to have to do this, but for personal reasons, I am unable to attend the commission's hearing today. I honestly hope to be considered in the future, but today I just can not.

Take care,

Cristina

Director, United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island

Crossroads Rhode Island

Cristina Amedeo came to the United States on December 6, 1989 as student. She came to the US with a degree in Public Relations and Public Administration, from High School in Rio Maior, Portugal in 1989. She began college immediately after arriving in the US at the Community College of Rhode Island, transferring after two years to Rhode Island College. Amedeo graduated from Rhode Island College, Providence, RI with a Bachelors of Arts, concentration in communications, in May 1996. She also completed an Associate degree in Business Administration at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Amedeo began her work in the social services profession in 1994 when she became a volunteer Travelers Aid of Rhode Island, now called Crossroads Rhode Island. She became a full time Information & Referral Specialist/Interpreter in January of 1995. She was promoted to Volunteer Coordinator and supervisor of community/I&R services in January of 1997. In 2000 she was again promoted to Director of Community Services. That same year she became a Certified Information & Referral Specialist (CIRS) by the Alliance of Information & Referral Systems.

As an interpreter Amedeo, worked on a project for AT&T in Disney World Florida, as a research specialist collecting information on the very famous Spaceship Earth ride, owned by AT&T. She also did free lance translation for court, medical and immigration appointments for the Portuguese and Hispanic community. As a special skills she is 100% Fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Amedeo has lead state efforts to have a 2-1-1 statewide system in Rhode Island since 1999. By attending the yearly national conference of information and referrals specialists, chaired by the Alliance of Information & Referral Systems, she has been able to keep Rhode Island on the map for a 2-1-1 system and kept information flowing between other states and Rhode Island. Amedeo has been working in collaboration with the Unite Way of Rhode Island with its decision to move to a priority on "community impact" in 2002. The United Way assumed primary overall responsibility for the development of 2-1-1 and for mobilizing the resources required to ensure that it will remain a high-quality resource for all people in Rhode Island. Amedeo has been part of the system change including 2-1-1 in the UWRI plans. Also in 2004 Amedeo was actively involved in a feasibility study performed by the Unite Way. She is currently the program director for the United Way 2-1-1 in RI.

Amedeo is an active member of the Rhode Island Library Board, the I&R New England Association, a member of the Rhode Island Food Stamps Advisory Committee, a grantee of the state's Aging and Disability Resources Center, for the Providence area State Health Insurance (SHIP) and Senior Medicaid Patrol (SMP) volunteer and services coordinator, and also manages the state's gamblers hotline.

Amedeo is the state director of the United Way 2-1-1 HELPLINE. While services that are offered through 2-1-1 vary from community to community throughout the country, 2-1-1 provides callers with information about and

referrals to human services for every day needs and in times of crisis. For example, 2-1-1 can offer information and referral and access to the following types of services:

- **Basic Human Needs Resource:** food banks, clothing closets, shelters, rent assistance, utility assistance.
- **Physical and Mental Health Resources:** health insurance programs, Medicaid and Medicare, maternal health, Children's Health Insurance Program, medical information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention and rehabilitation.
- **Employment Supports:** financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance, education programs.
- **Support for Older Americans and Persons with Disabilities:** adult day care, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, home health care, transportation, homemaker services.
- **Support for Children, Youth and Families:** childcare, after school programs, Head Start, family resource centers, summer camps and recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, protective services.
- **Volunteer Opportunities and Donations.**

Demographic	#	% of Total	Demographic	#	% of Total
American Indian (including Alaskan Native)	1	4.5%	Industry	2	9.1%
Asian (Including Pacific Islander)	1	4.5%	Labor	0	
Black	0		Business	5	22.7%
Hispanic	0		Veteran	2	9.1%
White	21	95.5%	Government	1	4.5%
Female	10	45.5%	Religious	1	4.5%
Male	12	54.5%	Charitable	6	27.3%
			Fraternal / Civic	0	
Person with a Disability	14	63.6%	Educational	2	9.1%
Parent of a person with a disability	2	9.1%	Medical	1	4.5%
Provider of Services to persons with disabilities	9	40.9%	Legal	0	
			Professional	1	4.5%
Developmental	1	4.5%	Bristol County	3	13.6%
Hearing	0		Greater Providence	6	27.3%
Medical	2	9.1%	Kent County	3	13.6%
Mental Health	0		Newport County	0	
Orthopedic	5	22.7%	Northern Providence	3	13.6%
Vision	3	13.6%	Washington County	5	22.7%

MOTION: To recommend to the Governor the appointment of the following as Commissioners with a term ending May 1, 2011: Katherine Lowe of Warwick; Linda N. Ward of Cranston; and Cristina M. Amedeo of ? (and advise the Governor that Mr. Corrente may not be able to serve another term – but could he be appointed an “emeritus” member). RMcM/KMcCB passed unanimously.

Action Items:	Discussion Leader:	Time:
<b>1. Review of Commission Operations</b>	<b>John MacDonald</b>	<b>10 min.</b>
Discussion: Update on the status of the Commission and the consolidation of Advocacy Agencies		
FY 08 Expenditures to date:		

Item	Amount Spent	Balance Available to 6/30/08	Projected Expenses to 6/30/08	Notes
Payroll	\$257,389.16	\$39,470.00	\$53,646.57	= 4.6 pay periods (without 6 furlough days)
DBE Consultant	\$25,308.15	\$4,691.85	\$8,041.57	Funding for only 161.7 hrs or 7.7 wks remaining (from 4/7 to 6/30)
Postage	\$1,489.22	(\$2,781.42)	\$484.47	= April – June '08
Mileage	\$111.07	\$984.36	\$410.32	
Telephones	\$879.96	\$399.04	\$175.99	= April – May '08
General Revenue Total	<b>\$310,094.90</b>	<b>\$40,531.10</b>	<b>\$60,914.86</b>	

Members discussed how to address the shortfall. It was recommended that we have only 2 furlough days before the end of June and they are used around the Memorial Day holiday (2 different pay periods). Bill and Bob will discuss the best use of the remaining DBE Consultant hours.  
Members discussed using sunshine fund to cover TCH's health insurance co-pay while she is on leave without pay. A collection will be taken up at the Commission meeting.

Announcements and Scheduling of Meetings	John MacDonald, Chairperson	5 min.
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The May 13<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting will be for the Summer Fellowship interviews

The June 24<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting will be for the Fall Fellowship interviews

Next meeting will be on:	Tuesday May 13, 2008	Starting at: 4 PM
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Adjournment:	Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5:50 PM.
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### Other Information

<b>Observer:</b>	Kathleen Fresher-Samways
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<b>Resource persons:</b>	Bob Cooper, Secretary
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