



Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Executive Committee

Tuesday December 8, 2009 4 – 5:30 PM

John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court,

Cranston, RI 02920-3049

(voice) 401-462-0100 (fax) 462-0106 (tty) via RI Relay 711

(e-mail) disabilities@gcd.ri.gov (website) www.disabilities.ri.gov

Attendees:	Timothy Flynn (Chair.); Kate McCarthy-Barnett (Vice Chair.) William Inlow;; & Patricia Ryherd	
Absent:	Rosemary Carmody; Judi Drew; Paul Harden; Ronald McMinn; & Linda Ward	
----- Minutes -----		
Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes	R. Timothy Flynn, Chairperson	5 min.
Chair calls the meeting to order: 4:10 PM		
Action Items:	Discussion Leader:	Time:
1. Interview and Selection of Fellows	R. Timothy Flynn	60 min.
<p>Discussion:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROGRAM DESCRIPTION</p> <p>The Governor's Commission on Disabilities (GCD) Fellowships provides semester long part-time placements with the Commission in Cranston, RI, working on disability policy and research. The Fellow will assist one of the committees and, through individualized learning experiences, become familiar with procedures used to design and implement disability policy. Mentor experiences will introduce the Fellow to disability policy issues and actions at the local, state, and federal levels. The Governor's Commission on Disabilities is an independent state agency responsible for reviewing all state laws, programs, and policies concerning children and adults with disabilities and making policy recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE FELLOWSHIP OFFERS</p> <p>As a GCD Fellow, you will be assigned to a specific placement, providing assistance to the Commission in disability policy. The fellowship offers you a unique opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Gain perspective on the role and responsibility of the Commission; ◆ Expand your knowledge of national/state disability programs, policy issues and research; ◆ Meet with decision makers, experts and critics in disability and related policy fields and; ◆ Develop networks with local, regional, and national based experts, and researchers who can assist in career development and future endeavors. <p>The Commission will provide a living expense stipend of \$3,450 during the semester and reimbursement for authorized travel.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHAT YOU OFFER THE FELLOWSHIP</p> <p>As a GCD Fellow, you will provide assistance to the Commission as it relates to disability policy and</p>		

/ or the formulation of legislation. At least one GCD Fellowship is available each semester. Students wanting to see the "policy" side as opposed to the "clinical" side of the human service system would find the fellowships a worthwhile experience. The "**Mary Brennan Fellow**" assists in the Commission's conduct a series of Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families are held annually during the week the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities (July 26th). The "**Edward J. Schroeder Fellow**", which is offered in the spring, tracks legislation, edits a weekly news bulletin and assists in the development of legislation impact statements for the Governor and General Assembly. The "**G. Frank Hanaway Fellow**" assists in Civil Rights enforcement and technical assistance activities. A Complete description of each of the fellowships is attached.

ELIGIBILITY

This program is designed for individuals with demonstrated leadership and expertise in policy and research affecting people with disabilities. Candidates must:

- ◆ Have completed at least 3 semesters of college-level study;
- ◆ Be enrolled as a full or part-time student in an accredited college or university in Rhode Island;
- ◆ Have leadership ability;
- ◆ Have the endorsement of a current/former supervisor;
- ◆ Have approval on the part of the college/university to receive credit for the fellowship if selected;
- ◆ Have the ability to participate in the semester-long program in Rhode Island for at least two hundred and forty (240) hours during the semester; and
- ◆ Demonstrate the ability to perform the duties of the fellowship (see list of duties on the attached pages).

APPLICATION FORMAT

- ❖ **Biographical data:** A listing of the following information on a single sheet or two:
 - Name, home & school addresses, and day time telephone numbers;
 - Education data (including universities or colleges attended, major fields, degree(s) granted and dates);
 - Employment history for two most recent positions (including title and dates, name of employer, and description of duties), and
 - Life experience(s) related to people with disabilities
- ❖ **Indicate whether you are:**
 - A resident of Rhode Island with disabilities, enrolled in a Rhode Island college or university;
 - A resident of Rhode Island enrolled in a Rhode Island college or university's course of study in education and/or human services for persons with disabilities;
 - A non- resident of Rhode Island with disabilities, enrolled in a Rhode Island college or university; or
 - A non-resident of Rhode Island enrolled in a Rhode Island college or university's course of study in education and/or human services for persons with disabilities.
- ❖ **Narrative Statement:** A one-page typewritten description (ASCII disk or audiotape) identifying:
 - Which Fellowship(s) you are interested in;
 - Why you are applying for that (those) Fellowship(s);
 - What skills and experience you offer the Commission;
 - What you expect to gain and how will you use the knowledge and skills gained after you complete your fellowship; and
 - A description of your ability to perform the duties of the fellowship(s) [see list of duties on the attached pages]

- ❖ **Letter of Recommendation:** A letter of recommendation from a current or most recent supervisor (i.e. employer, teacher, counselor) describing your:
 - Skills and abilities as they relate to the duties of the fellowship(s);
 - Ability to work with groups; and
 - Relationship to the supervisor (i.e. employer/ employee, teacher/ student, counselor/ client).
- ❖ **College Credit:** A letter from your college/university stating that if you are selected, the college will award credit for the fellowship.

EDWARD J. SCHROEDER LEGISLATIVE FELLOW
(Available Spring Semester)

The Fellow's duties include:

1. Reviewing each bill introduced into the Rhode Island General Assembly to identify those that might impact on the quality of life of individuals with disabilities (children or adults).
2. For each bill identified as impacting on the lives of individuals with disabilities, writing a summary that includes:
 - a) a brief concise description of the intent of the bill,
 - b) the names of the sponsors of the bill,
 - c) the committee the bill has been assigned to,
 - d) the date the bill was introduced,
 - e) the area the bill is most likely to impact on [appropriation, civil rights, health care, social services, education, employment, independent living, etc.],
 - f) the current laws to be amended by the bill.
3. Tracking the movement of each bill, through hearings, amendments, votes, etc.
4. Editing a weekly newsletter that includes the summaries of bills, and reports on any changes to the bills throughout the legislative session, including:
 - a) dates of hearings,
 - b) outcomes of the hearings,
 - c) a description of how any amendment to a bill, changes the original description of the bill;
 - d) dates for votes by the House or Senate,
 - e) the number of votes for and against the bill,
 - f) the committee the bill has been assigned to after passage by the House or Senate,
 - g) the action of the Governor on bills passed by both House and Senate, and
 - h) the effective date of any bills signed into law.
5. Preparing a monthly status report on bills the Legislation Committee is interested in, and reporting to the Committee at their monthly meeting on bills.
6. Observing the rules of confidentiality regarding the privacy of the parties and cases before the Commission.

G. FRANK HANAWAY ARCHITECTURAL ACCESSIBILITY FELLOW
(Available Any Semester)

The Fellow's duties include:

1. Assisting the Commission's Civil Rights enforcement and technical assistance activities including:
 - a) Processing of discrimination complaints relating to architectural barriers;
 - b) On Site Investigations of those complaints;
 - c) Researching case law regarding those complaints;
 - d) Complaint resolution; and

- e) Architectural Plan Reviews
- 2. Disability Rights and Services Information:
 - a) Assist in answering telephone inquires regarding federal and state disability rights and services, utilizing CD-ROM searches of disability law, case law, regulations, and technical manuals;
 - b) Assist in preparing and mailing information in response to specific telephone inquires from businesses, organizations, or individuals; and
 - c) Assist in preparing general information packets on the federal/state laws and regulations regarding accessibility to and the use of facilities, programs, services, opportunities by individuals with disabilities, as well as tax credits and other benefits of accessibility, and mailing them as requested.
- 3. Preparing a monthly status report on:
 - a) Updating the Commission's Website's relating to architectural accessibility; and
 - b) ADA technical assistance and disability rights and service inquires to the ADA Accessibility Subcommittee.
- 4. Observing the rules of confidentiality regarding the privacy of the parties and cases before the Commission.

Interviews:

Questions asked of each applicant:

1. Concisely tell us about yourself
2. Example of Time management and meeting deadlines
3. What attributes do you have that apply to the Commission's work
4. Computer skills
5. Time constraint
6. Do you have any questions or of us or is there anything else you feel we should know about you?

4:15 PM Keith Flanagan, RI College

4:45 PM Morgan Fuchs, RI College

5:00 PM Nell Carpenter, Community College of RI

MOTION: To appoint Keith Flanagan the Edward J. Schroeder (Legislative) Fellow for the 2010 Spring Semester KMcC-B/PR passed unanimously

Chairperson, Tim Flynn, turned over chairing the meeting to the Vice Chairperson.

MOTION: To appoint Morgan Fuchs the G. Frank Hanaway Architectural Accessibility Fellow for the 2010 Spring Semester BI/PR passed, chair Abstained. If either declines the fellowship, then staff may offer the Hanaway fellowship to Nell Carpenter.

2. Recommendations to fill vacant Commissioner positions	T. Timothy Flynn	20 min.
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Curriculum Vitae

Sarah Everhart Skeels, MPH

15 Jacqueline Way; Tiverton, Rhode Island 02878

1. Education:

- * The University of Virginia, 1985 - 1989, B.S., Health and Physical Education/Exercise Physiology

* The George Washington University, 1993 – 1995, Master of Public Health, Concentration in Health Promotion/Disease Prevention & Disability

2. Completed Publications:

Book Chapters:

Druin, E., Planten, K., (editors). Everhart, S., Moving Ahead with Life, Therapeutic Interventions for Patients with Spinal Cord Injuries. (February, 2008).

Block, P., Skeels, S., Keys, CB & Rimmer J. (2007). Shake It Up! Health promotion and capacity building for persons with traumatic spinal cord injury and other neuromuscular disabilities. Case Studies in Community Based Collaborative Research. Institute for Community-Based

Refereed Journal Articles:

Block, P., Skeels, S., & Keys CB (2006). Participatory intervention research with a disability community: A practical guide to practice. International Journal of Disability, Community & Rehabilitation. 5(1).

Block, P., Skeels, S., Keys, CB & Rimmer J. (2005). Shake-It-Up: Health promotion and capacity building for people with Spinal Cord Injuries and related neurological disabilities. Disability and Rehabilitation. 27(4): 185–90. February 18, 2005.

Block, P., Skeels, S., Keys, CB & Rimmer J. (in press). Shake It Up! Health promotion and capacity building for persons with traumatic spinal cord injury and other neuromuscular disabilities. Case Studies in Community Based Collaborative Research. Institute for Community-Based Research.

Block, P., Skeels, S., & Keys CB (2006). Participatory action research with & within a disability community. International Journal of Disability, Community & Rehabilitation.

Block, P., Bock, B., Becker, B., & Everhart, S. (2001). Alcohol and substance use by adolescents and young adults with recent spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries. Disability Studies Quarterly. 21(2).

Everhart, S. (1998). Exercise and spinal cord injury, Rhode Island Medicine Health. 81(3).

Invited Lectures:

Everhart, S., (1997). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Department of Physical Therapy, University of Rhode Island, April 10, 1997.

Everhart, S. (1997). Adjusting to Life after Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury. Department of Psychology, University of Rhode Island, July 12, 1997.

Everhart, S., (1997). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Physical Therapy Assistant Program. Community College of Rhode Island, November 15, 1997.

Everhart, S., (1998). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Department of Physical Therapy, University of Rhode Island, March 15, 1998.

Everhart, S. (1998). Adjusting to Life after Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury. Department of Psychology, University of Rhode Island, June 19, 1998.

Everhart, S., (1998). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Physical Therapy Assistant Program. Community College of Rhode Island, November 10, 1998.

Everhart, S., (1999). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Department of Physical Therapy,

University of Rhode Island, March 18, 1999.

Everhart, S. (1999). Adjusting to Life after Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury. Department of Psychology, University of Rhode Island, June 23, 1999.

Everhart, S., (1999). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Physical Therapy Assistant Program. Community College of Rhode Island, November 11, 1999.

Everhart, S., (2000). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Department of Physical Therapy, University of Rhode Island, April 9, 2000.

Everhart, S. (2000). Adjusting to Life after Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury. Department of Psychology, University of Rhode Island, July 7, 2000.

Everhart, S., (2000). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Physical Therapy Assistant Program. Community College of Rhode Island, November 20, 2000.

Everhart Skeels, S., (2001). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Department of Physical Therapy, University of Rhode Island, April 2, 2001.

Everhart Skeels, S. (2001). Adjusting to Life after Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury. Department of Psychology, University of Rhode Island, June 27, 2001.

Everhart Skeels, S. (2001). The Importance of Sports & Recreation in Maintaining Health and Well-Being for Persons with Disabilities. Rhode Island Annual Independent Living Conference, September 12, 2001.

Everhart Skeels, S., (2001). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Physical Therapy Assistant Program. Community College of Rhode Island, November 16, 2001.

Everhart Skeels, S., (2002). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Department of Physical Therapy, University of Rhode Island., March 28, 2002.

Everhart Skeels, S. (2002). Adjusting to Life after Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury. Department of Psychology, University of Rhode Island, July 8, 2002.

Everhart Skeels, S. (2002). Sports & Recreation for People with Disabilities. Rhode Island Annual Independent Living Conference, September 13, 2002.

Everhart Skeels, S., (2002). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Physical Therapy Assistant Program. Community College of Rhode Island, November 2, 2002.

Everhart Skeels, S., (2003). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Department of Physical Therapy, University of Rhode Island, March 26, 2003.

Everhart Skeels, S., Choquette, P. (2003). Sexuality & Disability. Department of Nursing, University of Rhode Island, April 15, 2003.

Everhart Skeels, S. (2003). Adjusting to Life after Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury. Department of Psychology, University of Rhode Island, June 30, 2003.

Everhart Skeels, S., Choquette, P. (2003). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Assumption College, Worcester, MA., July 10, 2003.

Everhart Skeels, S., Holdridge, J., Skeels, B., (2003). Sports & Recreation for People with Disabilities. Rhode Island Annual Independent Living Conference, September 14, 2003.

Everhart Skeels, S., (2003). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Physical Therapy Assistant Program. Community College of Rhode Island, November 12, 2003.

Everhart Skeels, S., Choquette, P. (2004). Sexuality & Disability. Department of Nursing, University of Rhode Island, March 23, 2004.

Everhart Skeels, S., (2004). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Department of Physical Therapy, University of Rhode Island, April 15, 2004.

Block, P., Skeels, S., Choquette, P. (2004). Collaborative Research with and within a Disability Community. Crossroads: Critical Issues in Community-Based Research Partnerships. Conference Organized by the Institute for Community-Based Research, Hartford, CT, June 11, 2004.

Everhart Skeels, S. (2004). Adjusting to Life after Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury. Department of Psychology, University of Rhode Island, June 25, 2004.

Everhart Skeels, S., Choquette, P. (2004). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Assumption College, Worcester, MA., July 11, 2004.

Everhart Skeels, S., (2004). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Physical Therapy Assistant Program, Community College of Rhode Island, November 15, 2004.

Everhart Skeels, S., Choquette, P. (2005). Sexuality & Disability. Department of Nursing, University of Rhode Island, April 13, 2005.

Everhart Skeels, S., (2005). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Department of Physical Therapy, University of Rhode Island, April 20, 2005.

Everhart Skeels, S. (2005). Adjusting to Life after Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury. Department of Psychology, University of Rhode Island, July 12, 2005.

Everhart Skeels, S., Choquette, P. (2005). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Assumption College, Worcester, MA., July 16, 2005.

Everhart Skeels, S., Catrambone, J., Skeels, B., (2005). Sports & Recreation for People with Disabilities. Rhode Island Annual Independent Living Conference, September 12, 2005.

Everhart Skeels, S., Choquette, P. (2005). Health Promotion Strategies for People with Neurological Disabilities. Southern New England Rehabilitation Center Annual Conference, September 30, 2005.

Everhart Skeels, S., (2005). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Physical Therapy Assistant Program. Community College of Rhode Island, November 20, 2005.

Everhart Skeels, S., Choquette, P. (2006). Sexuality & Disability. Department of Nursing, University of Rhode Island, April 16, 2006.

Everhart Skeels, S., Choquette, P. (2006). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Assumption College, Worcester, MA. July 15, 2006.

Everhart Skeels, S., (2006). Psychosocial Aspects of Disability. Physical Therapy Assistant Program. Community College of Rhode Island, November 13, 2006.

Everhart Skeels, S., Choquette, P. (2007). Sexuality & Disability. Department of Nursing, University of Rhode Island, April 18, 2007.

Jette, A., Everhart Skeels, S. (2008). Defining Disability. School of Public Health, Boston University, January 18, 2008.

Everhart Skeels, S. (2008). Preventing Disability. School of Public Health, Boston University, February 1, 2008.

Everhart Skeels, S., Choquette, P. (2008). Sexuality & Disability. Department of Nursing, University of Rhode Island, October 25, 2008.

3. Research Grants

Current Grants:

Health and Disability Research Institute, Boston University, US Department of Education, NIDRR Award H-25959, Improving the Lives of People with Spinal Cord Injury through Innovative Science and Technology: "Development of a Functional Assessment Tool for Patients with Spinal Cord Injury". January 2008 – present.
Consultant.

Completed Grants:

Center for Alcohol Addiction and Studies, Brown University, NIDRR Field Initiated Award CFDA Program 84.133 PR/Award No: H133G010094. "Shake It Up for Alcohol and Substance Use Reduction: Health Promotion and Capacity Building for Persons with Traumatic Spinal Cord Injuries". January, 2002 – December, 2005. Co-Principal Investigator & Project Director. \$450,000.

4. Service & Non-Academic Experience:

- Consultant, Boston Medical Center SCI Model System (2008 – present)
- Consultant & Facilitator, Disability and Health Program, RI Department of Public Health, September 2005 – present
Design, direct and implement health promotion and self-advocacy programs for clients of the State of RI Office of Rehabilitation Services and Rhode Island Centers for Independent Living.
- Member, Board of Directors, New England Disabled Sports (2002 – present)
- Member, Board of Directors, access2adventure (2004 – present)
- Director, Paralympic Sailing Campaign (2006 – 2008)
- Member, Advisory Committee, RI Department of Health, Disability & Health Program (2003-2004)
- Member, Board of Directors, Rhode Island Disability Law Center (1998 – 2001)
- Co-Founder, RI Spinal Cord Injury Support Group (1997)
- Program Director, Shake-A-Leg, Inc., Newport, RI, June, 1996 – September, 2000
Organized, Directed, Created, Marketed and Implemented programs and services for a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit, second phase therapeutic and recreational rehabilitation center.

5. Academic Honors:

- Member, DELTA OMEGA, the National Public Health Honorary Society, 1995
- Honorary Mention for Best Master's Thesis Project, 1995

6. Teaching

Brown University, Co-Instructor, BC168 Disability, Community & Health

Co-teach and manage a course exploring Disability & Empowerment. Throughout this

course, students study and examine a variety of issues that affect the lives of people with disabilities in the United States.

- F2004 33 students enrolled, Directed 1 Honors thesis
- F2005 42 students enrolled, Directed 1 Independent Study
- F2006 46 students enrolled, Directed 1 Honors thesis
- F2007 38 students enrolled
- F2008 53 students enrolled
- F2009 66 students enrolled, Directing 1 Honors Thesis

MOTION: To recommend the Governor appoint Sarah Everhart Skeels to the Commission BI/PR passed

Adjournment:

Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM

Resource persons:

Bob Cooper, Secretary and Harvey Salvas, State ADA Coordinator