



**Governor's Commission on Disabilities**  
**Executive Committee**  
**Monday January 13, 2014 3:30 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) [GDC.Disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:GDC.Disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) (website) [www.disabilities.ri.gov](http://www.disabilities.ri.gov)


**Attendees:** Timothy Flynn (Chair.); Andrew Argenbright; Judi Drew; Jack Ringland;  
**Absentees:** Rosemary Carmody, (Vice Chair.); Jonathan Dupre; Sarah Everhart  
 Skeels; Casey Gartland; Ronald McMinn; Harvey Salvas; & Linda Ward  
**Guests:**

**Staff:** Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary


**3:30 Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes, Timothy Flynn, Chair**

Chair calls the meeting to order at 3:30 PM  
 Introductions of Commissioners and guests


**MOTION:** To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented  
 Motion moved by AA, seconded by JD passed unanimous

**Action Items:**


**3:35 Interviews and Selection of Fellows, Timothy Flynn**  
**Purpose/Goal:** To select college fellows for the next semester

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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.

**THE FELLOWSHIP OFFERS**

- 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:
- ◆ 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.
- The Commission will provide a living expense stipend of \$3,312 during the semester and

reimbursement for authorized travel.

#### WHAT YOU OFFER THE FELLOWSHIP

As a GCD Fellow, you will provide assistance to the Commission as it relates to disability policy and / 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. 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, email address, 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 Fellowship

#### *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.

The applicant Samuel Futardo Vaz, did not appear. He was reached by telephone and told the Committee may contact him to set up another appointment.

	<p>MOTION: To re-solicit applicants for the following fellowships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architectural Accessibility, Accessible Elections, Communications,</li> <li>• Employment , Legislation, Public Policy. Application period will close on January 24, 2014.</li> </ul> <p>Motion moved by JD, seconded by JR, passed unanimous</p>
	<p><b><i>4:05 Appointment/Re-Appointment of Commissioners, Timothy Flynn</i></b></p> <p><b>Purpose/Goal: To make recommendations to the Governor on appointments and reappointments of Commissioners.</b></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p><b>Commissioners whose term ended on 5/1/2013</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Andrew Argenbright East Providence, RI</li> <li>2. Sharon Brinkworth Barrington, RI</li> <li>3. Rosemary Carmody Coventry, RI</li> <li>4. Ronald C. McMinn Cumberland, RI</li> <li>5. Arthur M. Plitt Pawtucket, RI</li> <li>6. Vacant - held for business person</li> <li>7. Vacant - held for business person</li> </ol> <p><b>Commissioners whose term end on 5/1/2014</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Christopher Butler Cumberland, RI</li> <li>2. Joseph Cirillo Middletown, RI</li> <li>3. Judith Drew, Ph.D. Cumberland, RI</li> <li>4. Kate McCarthy-Barnett, EdD Coventry, RI</li> <li>5. James A. Pitassi, Jr. Johnston, RI</li> <li>6. Patricia Ryherd Barrington, RI</li> <li>7. Angelina Stabile East Providence, RI</li> <li>8. Linda N. Ward Cranston, RI</li> </ol>
	<p>Motion: To recommend the following Commissioners be reappointed (if they are interested in serving again:</p> <p>For a term ending 5-1-2016</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Andrew Argenbright East Providence, RI</li> <li>2. Sharon Brinkworth Barrington, RI</li> <li>3. Rosemary Carmody Coventry, RI</li> <li>4. Ronald C. McMinn Cumberland, RI</li> <li>5. Arthur M. Plitt Pawtucket, RI</li> </ol> <p>For a term ending 5-1-2017</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Christopher Butler Cumberland, RI</li> <li>2. Joseph Cirillo Middletown, RI</li> <li>3. Judith Drew, Ph.D. Cumberland, RI</li> <li>4. James A. Pitassi, Jr. Johnston, RI</li> <li>5. Patricia Ryherd Barrington, RI</li> <li>6. Angelina Stabile East Providence, RI</li> <li>7. Linda N. Ward Cranston, RI</li> </ol> <p>Motion moved by JD, seconded by JR, passed unanimous</p>

	<p><b><i>4:15 Agenda for the Next Meeting, Timothy Flynn</i></b></p> <p><b>Purpose/Goal: To set the agenda for the next meeting.</b></p> <p>Discussion: The next meeting, to interview fellowship applicants or budget articles will be at the call of the chair.</p>
	<p><b><i>4:30 Adjournment, Timothy Flynn</i></b></p>
	<p><b>MOTION: To adjourn at 4 PM.</b>  <b>Motion moved by AA, seconded by JR, passed unanimous</b></p>