



# Governor's Commission on Disabilities Executive Committee Minutes

## Monday February 10, 2014 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court,  
Cranston, RI 02920-3049

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**Attendees:** R. Timothy Flynn (Chair.); Rosemary Carmody; (Vice Chair.); Judith Drew; Sarah Everhart Skeels; Casey Gartland; Ronald McMinn; Jack Ringland; & Linda Ward

**Absentees:** Andrew Argenbright; Jonathan Dupre; & Harvey Salvas

**Staff:** Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary



**4:30 Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes, Timothy Flynn, Chair**

Chair calls the meeting to order at 4:37 PM  
Introductions of Commissioners and guests



**MOTION:** To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented  
Motion moved by RMcM, seconded by LW, passed unanimously

### Action Items:



**4:35 Interviews and Selection of Fellows, Timothy Flynn**

**Purpose/Goal:** To select college fellows for the next semester

Applicant not available



**4:35 Reconsideration of Appointment/Re-Appointment of Commissioners, Timothy Flynn**

**Purpose/Goal:** To make recommendations to the Governor on appointments and reappointments of Commissioners.



MOTION: To reconsider the recommendation of the following Commissioners be reappointed, based on resignations and attendance:

For a term ending 5-1-2016

1. Andrew Argenbright East Providence, RI
2. Sharon Brinkworth Barrington, RI
3. Rosemary Carmody Coventry, RI
4. Ronald C. McMinn Cumberland, RI
5. Arthur M. Plitt Pawtucket, RI

For a term ending 5-1-2017

1. Christopher Butler Cumberland, RI
2. Joseph Cirillo Middletown, RI
3. Judith Drew, Ph.D. Cumberland, RI
4. James A. Pitassi, Jr. Johnston, RI
5. Patricia Ryherd Barrington, RI
6. Angelina Stabile East Providence, RI
7. Linda N. Ward Cranston, RI

Motion to reconsider moved by RMcM, seconded by LW, passed unanimously

Commissioners	PwD	Parent	Provider	Business	Govt.	Other
1. Andrew Argenbright East Providence, RI	X			X		
2. Rosemary Carmody Coventry, RI			X			
3. Ronald C. McMinn Cumberland, RI	X					
4. Arthur M. Plitt Pawtucket, RI	X			X		
Marylouise Gamache, Jeannie Behie, & Sharon Brinkworth have resigned						
<b>Term Ending 5/1/2013 # of Commissioners: 4</b>						
5. Judith Drew, Ph.D. Cumberland, RI			X	X		
6. James A. Pitassi, Jr. Johnston, RI	X				X	
7. Angelina Stabile East Providence, RI	X					
8. Linda N. Ward Cranston, RI			X			
Joseph Cirillo & Patricia Ryherd do not want to be reappointed						
Kate McCarthy-Barnett & Christopher Butler have resigned						
<b>Term Ending 5/1/2014 # of Commissioners: 6 to 4</b>						
9. Frederick Burke Scituate, RI	X					
10. Jonathan C. Dupre Providence, RI	X					
11. Sarah Everhart Skeels Tiverton, RI	X					
12. R. Timothy Flynn Ashaway, RI	X					
13. Casey Gartland North Kingstown, RI			X			
14. William R. Inlow Cranston, RI	X					
15. Monsignor Gerard O. Sabourin Exeter, RI						X
16. Dawn Wardyga Barrington, RI		?	X			

Commissioners	PwD	Parent	Provider	Business	Govt.	Other
17. Gary Witman, MD Providence, RI	X					
<b>Term Ending 5/1/2015 # of Commissioners: 9</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

**Demographics:**

11 males 6 females

**GCD Draft Bill**

**AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Sections 42-51-2 and 42-51-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-51 entitled "Governor's Commission on Disabilities" is hereby amended to read as follows:

**§ 42-51-2 Composition of commission.** - Effective on July 1, 2014 the ~~The~~ commission shall be composed of a ~~minimum of twenty-four (24)~~ eighteen (18) members, ~~and any additional members the governor may appoint.~~ Insofar as practicable, the commission shall consist of people with disabilities and state leaders of industry, labor, business, veterans, women, and federal, state, and local governments, and representatives of religious, charitable, business, labor, industrial, fraternal, civic, educational, medical, legal, veterans, welfare, and other professional groups and organizations.

**§ 42-51-4 Term of office.** - a) Of the number of members appointed originally under this chapter, one-third (1/3) shall be appointed for a term of one year; one-third (1/3) shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years; and one-third (1/3) shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. Thereafter, vacancies created by the expiration of terms shall be filled with appointments for terms of three (3) years. Members whose terms expire may be reappointed to succeed themselves.

b) Effective on July 1, 2014 of the number of members appointed between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, two (2) shall be appointed for a term of one year; two (2) shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years; and six (6) shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. Thereafter, vacancies created by the expiration of terms shall be filled with appointments for terms of three (3) years. Members whose terms expire may be reappointed to succeed themselves.

	<p>MOTION: To recommend the Governor reappoint of the following Commissioners: For a term ending 5-1-2016</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Andrew Argenbright East Providence, RI</li> <li>2. Rosemary Carmody Coventry, RI</li> <li>3. Ronald C. McMinn Cumberland, RI</li> <li>4. Arthur M. Plitt Pawtucket, RI</li> </ol> <p>For a term ending 5-1-2017</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Judith Drew, Ph.D. Cumberland, RI</li> <li>2. James A. Pitassi, Jr. Johnston, RI</li> <li>3. Angelina Stabile East Providence, RI</li> <li>4. Linda N. Ward Cranston, RI</li> </ol> <p>Moved by JR, seconded by SES, passed unanimously</p>
	<p>MOTION: To authorize and direct the staff to submit legislation to reduce the Commission membership from a minimum of 24 to a membership of 18. Moved by RMcM, seconded by SES, passed unanimously</p>

	<p>MOTION: To include “persons with disabilities” in the list of groups to draw its members.  Moved by RMcM, seconded by SES, passed unanimously</p>
	<b><i>5:00 Recess for the Commission Meeting</i></b>
	Chair recessed the meeting at 5 PM.
	Chair reconvened the Executive Committee meeting at 6:07 PM.
	The Chair tabled the remainder of the Agenda.
	<b><i>6:07 Agenda for the Next Meeting, Tim Flynn, Chair</i></b>
	<b>Purpose/Goal: To set the agenda for the next meeting.</b>
	<p>Discussion:  The next scheduled meeting is on 3/17/14.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GCD Legislative Package</li> <li>2. Interview summer &amp; fall fellows - 2 months earlier?</li> </ol>
	<b><i>6:08 Adjournment, Tim Flynn, Chair</i></b>
	<p>MOTION: To adjourn at 6:08 PM  Motion moved by RMcM, seconded by SES, passed unanimously</p>