



Governor's Commission on Disabilities
Executive Committee
Monday December 8, 2014 4:30 - 5:15 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 (website)
www.disabilities.ri.gov

	<p>Attendees: Timothy Flynn (Chair.); Rosemary Carmody, (Vice Chair.); Casey Gartland; Jack Ringland; & Linda Ward</p> <p>Absentees: Andrew Argenbright; Judi Drew; Sarah Everhart Skeels; Ronald McMinn; & Harvey Salvas</p> <p>Guests: Clinton Crete, Chrystal Vott</p> <p>Staff: Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary</p>
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	<p><i>4:30 Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes, Timothy Flynn, Chair</i></p> <p>Chair calls the meeting to order at 4:45 PM Introductions of Commissioners and guests</p>
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	<p>MOTION: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented Motion moved by LW, seconded by JR, passed unanimously</p>
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Action Items:

	<p><i>4:35 Interviews and Selection of Fellows, Timothy Flynn</i></p> <p>Purpose/Goal: To select college fellows for the 2015 spring semester</p> <p>Discussion: We have 1 application for the Edward J. Schroeder Legislative Fellowship</p>
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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,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

Fellowship Selection Committee Governor's Commission on Disabilities John Pastore Center
41 Cherry Dale Court Cranston, RI
02920-3049

Biographical Data:

Clinton C. Crete Johnston,
RI 02919

Rhode Island College (RIC)

- Master of Social Work, Clinical and Macro anticipated May 2015
University of Rhode Island

- Bachelor of Science 2002
- Major: Human Development and Leadership Studies
- Minor: Family Studies

Employment:

- Sherlock Center for Disabilities @ RIC
 - o Trainee Fellowship (Employment)
 - Some of the duties include: advocacy training, educational advocacy, competence in field of disabilities, interdisciplinary collaboration, and research. My most pertinent experience so far is attending several Pediatric Fellowship Conferences and Grand Rounds at Rhode Island Hospital (RIH) as part of the

collaboration between the Sherlock Center and RIH.

- Learning for Life Project@ RIC
 - Navigator (Employment)
 - Liaison to Disability Services Center @ RIC.
 - Assist and connect students with multiple barriers to services that they need on campus. Advocacy, self-determination skills, and awareness building. My main experience was in the RIC Disability Services Center (DSC), where I assisted students with disabilities connect and advocate for themselves. My entire caseload and subsequent specialty became students referred to me as having disabilities.
 - Within my role in the DSC, I was a research assistant on the newly formed, interdisciplinary Taskforce for Online Content Accessibility @ RIC. There, I learned a great deal about college student were lacking in resources, and how RIC as a whole needed updating and awareness on these issues.

My life experience is rich and poignant. For 13 years I worked directly with juvenile delinquents, most of who could be classified as having some form of mental, behavioral, developmental, or medical disability. Also, their parents, caretakers, or family members were also very likely to have a disability as well.

College Credit

- I consulted the chair of the MSW program at RIC, Jayshree Nimmagadda, PhD. She can confirm that I will receive at least three credits from RIC, depending on the number of hours. According to her, it will most likely be a seminar course with an instructor or advisor to be decided later if I am selected for the fellowship. She can be contacted at jnimmagadda@ric.edu to confirm that I would receive college credit.

Letter of Recommendation attached

- From Melinda Gushwa. PhD. RIC professor and supervisor for my field experience in the Fall '13 and Spring '14.

Here is where I will indicate that I am a resident of RI with an acquired disability.

Narrative Statement

I am a survivor of a moderate Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in March 2013, requiring 13 days in the hospital in NYC. I not only survived, but thrived academically, as an advocate, and clinically. I am grateful for a few specific Social Work professors at RIC who helped get me on track. I am very thankful for being connected to the RIC DSC, where the staff helped with accommodations and assistive technology. I recently attended the Assistive Technology Conference in Warwick and was excited about the possibilities. I am very interested in the **Accessibility Fellowship**. I hope to gain insight, to advocate from the "inside" of the "system," so to speak. It is important to build competence and empathy from all sides of the issue, learning more about how government works, with the ultimate goals of helping as many people with disabilities as possible. I am particularly interested in the Outreach duty as I enjoy engaging people, especially the vulnerable populations listed. While I am not a Veteran, TBI is listed on the application as one of the areas for advocacy. I would also like to develop a way to research or survey capacity building and needs responses from vulnerable populations, to get the people's perspective.

My fateful experience lead to a new calling - to bring awareness and social justice to the field of disabilities. I am part of the Brain Injury Association of RI and wish to become more involved upon graduation in the May. My advocacy and persistence lead to my trainee fellowship with the Sherlock Center @ RIC, where it is the goal to build future community leaders in the field of disabilities. Now I have unique,

inside knowledge of the struggle that others face on a daily basis. I even have larger concerns about employing people with disabilities, as I was "let go" from my job following my injury. Hence, I attended the Employing People with Disabilities discussion at the Statehouse last Fall. I became more hopeful when I heard how large employers like CVS and Cox were making employment more accessible.

I am able to do the tasks of the fellowship; I do not need special accommodations, by choice. While a LiveScribe pen was necessary after my accident to record lectures and do my school work, I have adapted on my own. Now it would just be a bonus during times of multitasking (due to slight working memory issues). The only other "barrier" is my beautiful daughter, where I am a stay at home dad most of the week by choice, again. I can make arrangements to complete the duties of the fellowship if selected.

December 3, 2014

To: Rhode Island & Providence Plantations Governor's Commission on Disabilities

RE: Clinton Crete

I am pleased to recommend Clinton Crete for the **Edward J. Schroeder Legislative Fellowship**. I have known Clinton since the summer of 2012, when he first took one of my classes at the Rhode Island College School of Social Work. I have had the pleasure of teaching Clinton in four courses-Human Behavior, Diversity & Oppression I & II and Generalist Practice & Direct Skills I & II. These are important courses that will inform his work in this fellowship, as HBDO I & II explored issues of privilege and oppression, with an emphasis on exploring the needs of vulnerable populations. We had many discussions regarding able-bodied privilege and oppression and discrimination faced by people who experience disabilities. In the GPDS courses, Clinton was a true classroom star: always prepared, dedicated to learning and building knowledge base, and continually engaged in critical thinking about his practice. He embraced and consistently demonstrated the core helping conditions (genuineness, empathy, and respect) in the context of the core values of the social work profession (social justice, competence, service, dignity & worth of the person, the importance of human relationships, and integrity).

Clinton is truly a dream social work student. He is interested in the world around him, has a keen eye for policy and has embodied the role of advocate for vulnerable and oppressed populations. He has strong individual practice skills and has equal facility for working in groups. His field placement with the Rhode Island College Office of Disability Services prepared him well for this Fellowship. I have had the opportunity to see Clinton in action, as we both served on the Americans with Disability Act Workgroup at RIC. He has continually impressed me with his vision and skill in working from an equality and justice paradigm.

I think very highly of Clinton and believe strongly that he is an excellent fit for this fellowship. He has a strong foundation in disability policy and action, and I believe that he will work well with advocates and legislators. Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you require additional information about this most remarkable student.

Respectfully,

Melinda Gushwa, PhD, LICSW Assistant Professor

MSW Program (401) 456-8627

mgushwa@ric.edu

	<p>Applicant: Clinton C. Crete Fellowship(s) interested in: <input type="checkbox"/>Architectural Accessibility <input type="checkbox"/>Communications <input type="checkbox"/>Accessible Election <input type="checkbox"/>Employment Policy <input type="checkbox"/>Legislative <input type="checkbox"/>Public (Forums) Policy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please tell us about yourself i.e. where you're going to school, what your studying, why, etc. 2. What interests you about the work that the Commission does? 3. Tell us about your experience working/interacting with people with disabilities. 4. Why are you interested in becoming a fellow with the Governor's Commission? 5. What knowledge or skills do you currently have that can be applied to the Commission's work? 6. Tell us about your computer skills: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Describe your experience with Microsoft products including Access. b. Describe your experience building or maintaining web sites? (only necessary for the communication fellowship) 7. We're interested in your availability and time constraints, given this: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. When would you be able to work during regular business hours 9 - 4 weekdays? Not available on Monday & Thursday b. Occasionally, work needs to be done, primarily for presentations, would you be available before or after regular business hours? c. Do you participate in other activities or have another job, in addition to attending classes? 8. Please share with us your approach to managing your time and meet deadlines. 9. How do you expect to use what you acquire during this fellowship, in the future? 10. Do you have any questions for us or is there anything else you feel we should know about you?
	<p>MOTION: To appoint Clinton Crete. to be the Spring Semester Legislation Fellow. Motion moved by LW seconded by RC, passed unanimously</p>
	<p><i>5:05 Agenda for the Next Meeting, Timothy Flynn</i></p> <p>Purpose/Goal: To set the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>Discussion: The Executive Committee meetings the 3rd Mondays 4 - 5 PM: 05/11th (spring & fall fellowship interviews); 08/29th and 12/07th (winter fellowship interviews).</p>
	<p><i>5:15 Adjournment, Timothy Flynn</i></p> <p>MOTION: To adjourn at 5:19 PM Motion moved by LW, seconded by JR, passed unanimously</p>