

**Mental Health Advocate Search Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**April 6, 2010**

**3:00 – 3:40**

**Department of Administration**

**Conference Room C, Second Floor**

**Members present:**

**Joseph Bevilacqua, Ph.D.**

**James Curran, Jr., Ph.D.**

**Charles Feldman**

**Chaz Gross**

**Rick Harris, LICSW**

**Jim McNulty**

**Beverly Najarian**

**Claude-Anthony Pierre, MD**

**Kathleen Sherlock, Esq.**

**James Sullivan, MD**

**Vivian Weisman**

**The Open Session of the Mental Health Advocate Search Committee was called to order at 3:05 pm, Deborah Smith, Director of External**

**Affairs, and Beverly Najarian, Acting Chair, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meeting Law, so called, and other applicable provisions of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, as amended. A quorum was established.**

**Deb Smith asked the committee to introduce themselves and the organization that they represent. Deb Smith informed the committee that Beverly Najarian, Acting Chair will present the mission and time line of the Search Committee's responsibilities, thereafter the committee will then elect a Chair and a Vice Chair**

**Beverly Najarian stated that she was impressed with the search committee members stating that she has had the opportunity to work with several of the committee members while she was the Interim Director of Cranston ARC. Ms. Najarian informed the Committee that the Mental Health Advocate position is a five year term and the appointee shall be a member of the Rhode Island Bar who has been practicing law for at least five years prior to the appointment of Mental Health Advocate. The purpose of the Search Committee is about the process and not the individual, to take a look at all the applicants, evaluate and interview the candidates so that at least three candidates may be forwarded to the Governor for his deliberation. The Governor would then send the appointment to the Senate for senate confirmation.**

**Beverly Najarian called the committee to nominate a Chair and Vice**

**Chair.**

**Charles Feldman nominated Joseph Bevilacqua as Chairman, seconded by Vivian Weisman. The Committee unanimously voted Joseph Bevilacqua as Chairman of the Search Committee.**

**Chairman Bevilacqua then called the committee to nominate a Vice Chair of the committee.**

**Charles Feldman nominated Chaz Gross as Vice Chair, seconded by Vivian Weisman. The Committee unanimously voted Chaz Gross as Vice Chairman of the committee.**

**Chairman Bevilacqua asked if the Governor's Office had a time frame in which they were to forward candidates for the Governor to review.**

**Beverly Najarian stated that the appointment of Mental Health Advocate requires senate advice and consent and that the General Assembly would adjourn sometime in June. Ms. Najarian advised that candidates should be forwarded to the Governor as soon as possible in order for an appointment to be taken up by the Senate in a timely manner.**

**Chairman Bevilacqua suggested that the committee take the next week to review the candidate's resumes and return to determine which candidates will be elevated to an interview process.**

**Draft interview questions were distributed to the committee for their review. Ms. Najarian stated that the committee was certainly not limited to the questions that were distributed. The committee agreed the questions were appropriate and that they would like to have the same questions asked of each of the candidates so they may evaluate the candidates equally. The committee also agreed that follow up questions may be also asked of the candidate as needed.**

**It was determined that the time and date for future search committee meetings would be as follows: Monday, April 12, 2010 at 3pm in Conference Room C, Department of Administration. It was also determined that the interviews of candidates would be held on Monday, May 3, 2010 at 1:00 pm.**

**Having no further business, on motion of Chairman Bevilacqua seconded by Chaz Gross, the meeting was unanimously approved to adjourn.**

**The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm**