



Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Executive Committee

Tuesday, December 11, 2007 4 – 6 PM

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

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| Attendees: | John MacDonald (Acting Chair); Rosemary Carmody; Binyamin Efreom; Kate McCarthy-Barnett; Bill Nieranowski; Patricia Ryherd; & John Treat | | |
| Excused: | Timothy Flynn; Regina Connor; Judi Drew; Ronald McMinn; | | |
| Absent: | | | |
| ----- Minutes ----- | | | |
| Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes | John J. MacDonald Jr., Chairperson | 5 min. | |
| Introductions: Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM | | | |
| MOTION: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented KMcCB/RC passed unanimously | | | |
| Action Items: | Discussion Leader: | Time: | |
| 1. Interview and Selection of Fellows | John MacDonald | 80 min. | |
| <p>Review of criteria for fellowship selection:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ELIGIBILITY</p> <p>This program is designed for individuals with demonstrated leadership and expertise in policy and research affecting people with disabilities. Candidates must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 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). <p style="text-align: center;">APPLICATION FORMAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Biographical data: A listing of the following information on a single sheet or two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 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

➤ **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 (LEGISLATION) FELLOW
(Available Spring Semester Only)

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.

Statutory selection priority: **“42-51-11. Mary Brennan fellowship fund.**

(e) The commission shall give preference in its selection of fellows to Rhode Island residents who are:

(1) College students with disabilities, and then to

(2) College students enrolled in a course of study in education and/or human services for persons with disabilities.”

The Committee interviewed: Katherine Balmforth of RI College; Leah Charpentier of URI; Rebecca Breene of URI & J. John Pimentel of URI

MOTION: To appoint J. John Pimentel the Spring 2008 Semester Edward J. Schroeder Fellow. RC/JT passed (KMCCB left during the interviews, BN arrived and abstain).

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| 2. Status of Commission Operations/Budget & Department of Advocacy | John MacDonald & Bob Cooper | 15 min. |
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Department of Advocacy



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

November 27, 2007

John J. MacDonald, Chairman
 Governor’s Commission on Disabilities
 41 Cherry Dale Lane
 John O. Pastore Center
 Cranston, RI 02920

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

We are writing out of concern that the Board of Directors of the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities has apparently voted to approve of the proposed consolidation of the five so-called “human rights advocacy agencies” in state government. In addition, the Executive Director of the Commission has engaged in communications with the Budget Director’s office that, by implication, speak on behalf of all the five agencies.

This concerns us because the other four agencies—the Developmental Disabilities Council; the Governor’s Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing; the Office of the Child Advocate; and the Office of the Mental Health Advocate—all oppose the consolidation plan, and all have decided to resist the consolidation proposal. These four agencies share an interest in challenging the proposal, and we are coordinating our efforts to accomplish this end. This is not to say that we are all acting in unison; rather we are allies with a common goal.

We are saddened by the fact that the Governor’s Commission has chosen to facilitate, rather than resist, the consolidation proposal. We four agencies are particularly saddened by the fact that we are in many ways constituents of your commission.

We request that you communicate with your board and consider scheduling a special board meeting so that we may address our concerns directly to the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities. As a group, we regret that we appear to be in a position adverse to yours, and we can present your board with several

arguments against consolidation that have not perhaps been previously considered.

We request a meeting, at the earliest convenience of the Board, to explore the possibilities of finding common ground.

Respectfully submitted,

Commission on the & Hard of Hearing

Office of the Child Advocate

Developmental Disabilities Council

Office of the Mental Health Advocate

cc: Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary, GCD

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| MOTION: To invite the “Advocacy Agencies” to the January 15 th Executive Committee (5 PM). BN/RC passed unanimously | | | |
| Commission’s Accessibility Renovation Capital Budget Request | | | |
| | FY 08 Supplemental | FY 09 Request | FY 10 Request |
| Request | \$202,000 | \$202,000 | \$713,000 |
| Budget Office Recommendation | \$236,551 | \$300,000 | \$400,000 |
| No information has been received on the status of the Commission’s FY 08 & 09 Budget Requests nor the Department of Advocacy. | | | |
| Status of Activities Oct. – Dec. 7th | | Units Provided | |
| ADA Technical Assistance Grant Activities | | | |
| Accessibility Construction Plans Reviewed | | | 0 |
| Accessibility Training: # participants | | | 0 |
| Accessibility Technical Assistance: # provided | | | 181 |
| Accessibility Presentations/Public Awareness | | | 0 |
| Accessibility Complaints Resolved | | | 5 of 5 |
| Employment Training: # participants | | | 8 |
| Employment Technical Assistance: # provided | | | 22 |
| Employment – Presentations | | | 1 |
| Services (Government, Public Accommodations & Commercial Facilities); Technical Assistance | | | 4 |
| Services: Trainings, Presentations, etc. | | | |
| State Facility Barriers eliminated | | | 0 of 0 |
| Open Meeting Accessibility Survey Barriers eliminated | | | 0 of 0 |
| Open Meeting Telecommunication Waivers Granted | | | 0 of 0 |
| Assistive Technology Provided to State Employee/Client | | | 1 of 1 |
| Promoting Work & Work Incentives | | | 0 |
| Fellowship Applicants | | | 4 for 1 |
| General Information | | | 30 |

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| Referral | 22 |
| Legislation: | 2 bills drafted, leaders identified in 3 of 4 issues |
| 3. Disability Business Enterprise Program | Bill Nieranowski, Chair 15 min. |
| Status of Activities Oct. – Dec. 7th | Units Provided |
| Disability Business Enterprises Contracts Awarded | 5 |
| Acquire grant for Phase2 of the Pilot Recycling Program with DEA and GCD | RI Resource Recovery Corp's Finance Cmte. recommended approval |
| Implement Phase2 of the Pilot Recycling Program with DEA and GCD | Completed |
| Coordinate meeting with Purchasing to discuss DBE participation in statewide recycling contract due to be released in December 2007. | C-Informed by purchasing that the current contract has been extended until June 2008 |
| Assist DBEs responding to Recycling Program RFQ from DoP when it is released | In Progress |
| Study the potential expansion of the pilot recycling program on Pastore Campus and beyond | In Progress |
| Line up additional sites on the Pastore Campus for the Pilot Recycling Program | Contracted DOC and MHRH |
| Develop Recycling Work Distribution Plan to incorporate all parties in the recycling program | In Progress |
| Develop a recycling plan for all State agencies include Agency, Location, Contact info, number of Ees | In Progress |
| Work with DBEs to complete the recertification process for 2008 | In Progress |
| Review all recertification materials and prepare report for the DBEC | In the process of receiving the recertification materials |
| Plan three DBE training to be completed by June 30, 2008 to include 2 to 3 of the following | Was informed by Bob, there is no money for training. However, I contacted RIEDC to sponsor a training to be held in January 2008. |
| Pursue grants for training DBEs: | In Progress |
| Contact Nancy Olson to identify which DBEs pay into the Job Development Fund | Completed |
| Contact ORS to discuss DBE training through their programs. | Completed |
| Follow-up with EDC to publish DBE brochures with improved graphics and information | C-Met with Paul Harden and discussed updated brochure. However, there is no money to print the brochure to market to the state agencies. |
| Use brochures to market DBE program to State buyers | C- Using old brochures until there is funding for printing the updated version |
| Investigate the current Workforce Development Grant | Completed |
| Increase the number of contracts awarded to DBE's | Completed |

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| Meet with three State agency buyers | Completed |
| Facilitate 1 meeting between a DBE and State buyers | Completed |
| Develop and distribute survey to State agency buyers that polls which DBE products and services their agencies use | In Progress |
| Develop process to identify dollar volume of contracts awarded to DBE's | Access to RIFANS is necessary for this task. |
| MOTION: To request extension of the DBE contract position until June 30, 2008, BN/JT passed unanimously | |
| Announcements and Scheduling of Meetings | John MacDonald, Chairperson 5 min. |
| Public Hearing on the proposed Open Meeting Telecommunication Accommodation Waiver Requests Regulation | |
| Next meeting will be on: | Tuesday January 15, 2008 Starting at: 4 PM |
| Adjournment: | Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 6:20 PM |
| Resource persons: | Bob Cooper, Secretary |