



Public Hearing of the Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Executive Committee & Assistive Technology Committee

Tuesday January 15, 2008 4 – 4:20 PM

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

(voice) 401-462-0100 (fax) 462-0106 (tty) via RI Relay 711

(e-mail) disabilities@gcd.ri.gov (website) www.disabilities.ri.gov

Executive Committee Attendees:	John MacDonald (Acting Chair); Rosemary Carmody; Regina Connor; Judi Drew; Kate McCarthy-Barnett; Bill Nieranowski; & Patricia Ryherd	
Excused:	Binyamin Efreom; Timothy Flynn; Ronald McMinn; John Treat	
Assistive Technology Committee Attendees:	Regina Connor (Chair), Fred Burke, Bill Nieranowski, Lorna Ricci, & Arthur Plitt	
Excused	Howard Boksenbaum, David Gallagher, Ron McMinn, Ben Efreom, Monica Dzialo, Lisa McKay & Kathy Sherman,	
Public Hearing on Proposed Regulations for the Open Meetings Telecommunications Waiver Requests		John MacDonald
		20 min.
Chair calls the meeting to order at 4:10 PM		
Testimony given by: Bill Inlow, a private citizen, spoke in favor of the proposed regulation and statute. No other testimony was received or presented.		
MOTION: To hold the record open until Tuesday, January 22, 2008 and submit the entire testimony to the Commission for its consideration on February 4 th . RC/JD passed unanimously		
The Chairperson closes the public hearing on the proposed regulations for Open Meeting Telecommunications Waiver Requests at 4:28 PM.		
Observers:	Harvey Salvas, State ADA Coordinator (GCD)	
Resource persons:	Bob Cooper, Secretary	



Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Executive Committee

Tuesday January 15, 2008 4:20 - 5:30 PM

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----- **Minutes** -----

Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes	John J. MacDonald Jr., Chairperson	5 min.
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Introductions: Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as: presented KMcC-B/PR passed Abstained JD.

Action Items:	Discussion Leader:	Time:
1. Status of Commission Budget Requests	Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary	15 min.

Discussion: The Budget Office hasn't distributed any information on their recommendations to the Governor nor his decisions as of 4 PM today.

The Budget Officer/Director of Administration has indicated that the Commission can move forward on extending the ADIL Contract for the Disability Business Enterprise Coordinator's position until June 30, 2008.

2. Updating Commission's An Initiative for Freedom: Promoting Independence Report	Bob Cooper	20 min.
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Members discussed the earlier reports.

MOTION: To present the Commission at its Feb. 4, 2008 meeting adopt the Promoting Independence Report BN/RCa passed, Abstaining PR

3. Department of Advocacy	Advocacy Agency Administrators	25 min.
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Discussion: Committee members are joined by:
Steven Florio, Ed Rawlings & Travis Zellner from the Commission on the Deaf & Hard of Hearing; Mary Okero, Helen Sebesta, Anne Rule & John Susa from the Developmental Disabilities Council; and Bruce Todesco from the Office of the Mental Health Advocate

The guests spoke about their concerns regarding the creation of the Department of Advocacy and why the GCD should also oppose its creation. TZ spoke about process leading to the development of this the department, that the CDHH needs to be centrally located, and not should not be under some

other entity.

MO said the DDC is not allowed to be placed in any service providing agency due to restriction on their federal funds.

BT spoke of the legal conflicts of interest between the MHA & Office of the Child Advocate.

GCD Commissioners spoke about their concerns that this department could save money, but also the commissioners believe that we should not let the Dept of Administration develop the legislation to create the Department of Advocacy without any input. Commissioners also spoke about the potential for sharing “back-office” operations that could free up staff time for more important priorities of each of the agencies.

JS expressed his thought that maybe the law can be repealed.

ER spoke about the need the CDHH has for special communication accommodations.

SF recommends that a meeting with all the advocates happen after the Governor’s proposal is unveiled, to review the plan and develop a common position.

GCD Commissioners discussed the possible creating of an Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Executive Committee to examine the specific concerns raised by the other advocacy agencies, the lack of time to do that and instead waiting for the Governor’s proposal.

All parties agreed to meet after the Governor’s Budget Proposal on the Department of Advocacy is presented to the General Assembly.

Announcements and Scheduling of Meetings		John MacDonald	5 min.
Next meeting will be on:	April 8, 2008	Starting at: 4 PM	
Adjournment:	Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 6:20 PM		
Observers:	Fred Burke, Commissioner and Harvey Salvas, State ADA Coordinator (GCD)		
Resource persons:	Bob Cooper, Secretary		