



Description of graphic: RI State Seal an anchor in gold behind a blue wheelchair logo. Just below is a blue banner with the state motto "Hope". All are in the center of a ring of 8 blue stars, in groups of 2 separated by the logos for Braille, hearing aids, low vision and amplified phone.

Governor's Commission on Disabilities Executive Committee

Monday June 14, 2010 4:30–6:00 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

Minutes

| | |
|--|--|
|  Attendees: | Timothy Flynn (Chair.); Judi Drew; Patricia Ryherd & Linda Ward |
| Absent: | Bill Inlow; Kate McCarthy-Barnett (Vice Chair); Rosemary Carmody; Paul Harden; & Ronald McMinn |
| Guests: | Stephanie Behie, Jonathan Moffat, & Richard Costa |
| Staff: | Bob Cooper |

| | Agenda Topics | Moderator/Leader | Time |
|--|---|----------------------------|------|
|  <small>Clock graphic</small> | Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes | Timothy Flynn, Chairperson | 4:30 |
| Chair calls the meeting to order at 4:35 PM | | | |
| MOTION: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented PR/LW passed, JD abstained | | | |

| | Action Items: | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|------|
|  <small>Interview graphic</small> | Interview and Selection of Fellows | Kate McCarthy Barnett, Vice Chairperson | 4:35 |
| Purpose/Goal: To select fellows for the summer and fall semesters | | | |
| Discussion: Three applications for the summer and fall fellowships were submitted by the deadline. @ 4:30 Stephanie Behie, URI @ 4:50 Jonathan Moffat, CCRI @ 5:10 Richard Costa, URI | | | |

Stephanie L. Behie

119 Briarwood Drive • Wakefield, RI 02879 • (401)-932-9490 • steph88@mail.uri.edu

My name is Stephanie Behie and I am a resident of Rhode Island with a learning disability. I will receive my bachelor's degree in Communication and Writing in May 2011 from The University of Rhode Island. I am interested in the Mary Brennan Public Policy Fellowship for the summer or fall semester of 2010. The fellowship will allow me to gain a better perspective on the current issues and policies relating to people with disabilities. This fellowship will also give me the opportunity to utilize my creative attitude, communication skills, and organizational and leadership abilities in the planning, implementation, and follow up activities of the public forums. This fellowship will also allow me to prove my exceptional ability to communicate through a diverse group of people in written and verbal settings. The experiences I gain from this fellowship will serve to improve my personal skills and attributes towards my future career in Public Relations.

My educational background, work ability, and life experience with disabilities all demonstrate the positive qualities I possess that will contribute successfully towards this fellowship. My work experience in customer service has helped me develop a personable attitude in effectively dealing with individuals. My educational background has given me the chance to learn and present effective communication in verbal and written forms. One class in particular that is especially significant for this fellowship is the Media Writing course I completed. This class provided me with the skill set of writing newspaper articles and press releases that interest the local media. I am comfortable in addressing individuals or groups and am able to communicate clearly in various modes. My education and work experience both helped me understand the importance of meeting a deadline. This fellowship will also allow me to demonstrate my understanding and respect for the importance of confidentiality and accurately illustrate it.

I know that my outgoing personality and passion for creativeness will best suite me for this fellowship. I would love to prove my communication and writing expertise in assisting the Governor's Commission on Disability in conducting the public forums and in working towards ensuring that all people with disabilities are afforded equal opportunity to be independent, productive and self-sufficient citizens.

Growing up with an older brother who has developmental disabilities has significantly influenced my life. My brother, Brendan, has orthopedic problems, is visually impaired, deaf in his right ear, and has learning disabilities. Over the years I have learned more about my brother's disabilities, which has helped me to understand the different types of challenges that he or any individual may face. His disabilities helped me understand my own personal challenges and realize that I too have a learning disability.

In school I noticed when I completed work I took more time than most of the other students. My struggles in school showed in my grades because of the inconsistency. I never spoke out about the challenges I was dealing with because I was in denial and did not want to accept the fact I had different learning style than my friends. My parents noticed I was not working to my full potential, but thought it was because of a phase I was going through. I knew my inconsistency was not because I did not want to learn, it was because I was having difficulty staying focused. I was unknowingly battling the symptoms of ADHD and had to work extra hard at things that came easy to others. This was especially difficult for me because I was attending a Catholic high school noted for the academic success of its students. Being in this environment lowered my self-esteem and knew that I had to work extra hard and accept additional help from my parents and teachers to keep my grades consistent. I was determined to succeed and did when I finally got accepted into The University of Rhode Island.

At URI I had no idea the challenges that I was about to encounter. I was yet to be diagnosed with ADHD, but started questioning the possibility when I noticed I was having trouble staying focused and always seemed to procrastinate when doing my schoolwork. Living on my own at URI meant I was in charge of my own life and how I went about getting my work done. Keeping up with assignments was difficult when I would become distracted because it took me forever to get back on track. I was becoming very discouraged and felt as though I was drowning in my schoolwork. Once again I knew I was capable of much more, but needed help to learn how to work with my problems rather than against them. I met with a neurologist to discuss the possibility of ADHD. I was diagnosed with ADHD in my sophomore year at URI. I have accepted the fact that I have a

learning disability and know that having the support you need can make success obtainable. I am still battling ADHD, but understanding what I need to do every day in order to complete my work is crucial. To-do lists and daily planners have become my best friends and follow me wherever I go.

Even though my brother's disabilities create more challenges for him, he is an inspiration to me. One would think that because of his daily struggles and medical issues he has much to complain about, but that is not the case. My brother has helped me realize that if he can live a normal life with his disabilities, so can I. Living with someone who has a disability and learning more about my own disability has helped me to become the person I am today. My life experience with disabilities has helped me to become an empathic person and gain an appreciation for everything and everyone in my life. Brendan has taught me that life is all about perspective and the challenges I face are manageable and I can overcome them. Brendan has helped me to gain a better perspective of other people's disabilities and has helped me to understand and appreciate the differences of others. Even though most people cannot notice my disability, I too face the daily challenges of having a disability.

Stephanie L. Behie

Wakefield, RI

Education

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

- Bachelor of Arts in Communication
- Minor in Writing

Related Coursework

- Persuasion: Rhetoric of Influence
- Public Speaking
- Dynamics of Marketing
- Media Writing
- Writing Culture
- Scientific and Technical Writing
- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics

Employment

Sweenor's Chocolates, Wakefield, RI

Assistant Manager

- Customer Service, Cashier
- Responsible for opening and closing the store
- Managing daily income
- Processing shipping orders through UPS

October 2001-Present

A Royal Tan- South Kingstown, RI

Salesperson

- Customer Service
- Responsible for greeting and servicing customers upon arrival

May 2009-February 2010

Casey's Grill & Bar, Wakefield, RI

Hostess

- Customer Service
- Responsible for greeting and seating customers upon arrival
- Representing a positive environment for the restaurant

May 2008-January 2010

Tropic Frost- Charlestown. RI

Salesperson

- Customer service, Cashier
- Responsible for managing daily income

May 2004-September 2005

Skills and Proficiencies

-
- Strong interpersonal communication skills and ability to interact with a team

- Computer competence- Microsoft Office, Excel, Power Point, XP, Vista, Windows 7
- Accomplished in merchandising and customer service

Volunteer Activities

- Completed 120 hours of community service for The Prout High School *Sept. 2003- June 2007*
- Mentored children at Heritage Village in North Kingston, RI *Sept. 2009-Dec 2009*
- Volunteered walk for American Cancer Society *Oct. 2007*

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

SWEENOR'S CHOCOLATES

3rd & 4th GENERATION CONFECTIONERS

To Whom It May Concern:

Stephanie Behie has worked with me at Sweenor's Chocolates in Wakefield, R.I. for many years. In that time she has shown that she is an excellent employee; Stephanie is reliable, conscientious, and thorough.

Stephanie has demonstrated to me (her direct supervisor here in the shop) that she can be relied upon to work in a group and that she is able to work solo. In her job Stephanie is responsible for dealing extensively with the public, which she does with the utmost professionalism. Stephanie must also process daily receipts, and prepare the financial journal; both tasks require careful attention to detail.

Stephanie has proven to me that she is able to follow instructions in a thorough manner, and is always ready to do the work at hand. She is continually pleasant and maintains a positive relationship with her fellow employee(s) and her employee(s) here at Sweenor's Chocolates in Wakefield, R.I.

Sincerely Yours,

Martina Graziano

TWENTY-ONE CHARLES STREET, WAKEFIELD, RHODE ISLAND 02879 (401) 783-4433

Jonathan Moffat
Cranston, RI

I am interested in the Mary Brennan Public Policy fellowship for the summer. I am applying for this fellowship to gain experience and knowledge regarding the governor's commission on disabilities and policy writing for people with disabilities. I have worked for the past four years at the state house as a page working with the House of Representatives. I have also had the experience of working with the Superior court, PBS, and the International Institute. Through my diverse experiences I bring to the commission a well rounded and unique perspective.

I would like to gain the knowledge of public policy and working with the commission. Through this fellowship I plan to gain real world experience that will give me insight into the political aspects of commissions and policy writing. After the fellowship I plan to use my knowledge to help me with future internships and future employment.

Securing rooms for the forum I would ask my immediate supervisor if the forum is held in a specific place and if so I would contact the necessary person and book the room for the date of the event or events. If not I would research potential options, see if they're available for the date and time of the event and check with my supervisor to see if it is a viable option. In order for me to find a host for the forum initially I would contact the members of the governor's commission to inquire about their

willingness to host the forum. I would contact members to determine if they had any knowledge of people who may fit the panel as related to the topic. I would also contact my supervisor to make sure that these are viable options. I would obtain a list of elected and state officials and forward the invitations. I would obtain a list with the addresses and a contact person for the local media and report upcoming events. Obtain the name of the contact person at the local newspapers from my supervisor or via the internet ad forward advertisement. I would determine the cost and present the cost and advertisement to my supervisor for approval before sending it out to the paper. I would gather all the information needed and using my computer skills I would develop a brochure.

Jonathan Moffat
Cranston, RI

Community College of Rhode Island
400 East Ave
Warwick, RI 02886

Major-International Relations

- 10/2009-present Mohegan Sun
Arena Security
Helping patrons with directions, problems and other issues also protecting customers and performers.
- 06/2000-08/2009 Rhode Island International Institute
Screener and intern
Translating important documents, corresponding with immigration and embassies.

Over the years through my community service and job experiences I have been exposed to adults and youth with disabilities. I have used my knowledge and experience to assist these people by simply offering necessary accommodations.

I am a Rhode Island resident with a disability enrolled at CCRI.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OF RHODE ISLAND

TRiO
Student Support Services

Access ... an opportunity for success!

March 19, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this recommendation letter for Mr. Jonathan Moffat. I met Jonathan several years ago as a participant in the Access to Opportunity Program here at the Community College of Rhode Island. Jonathan is a wonderful individual who has a lot going on. While attending CCRI, Jonathan has become an active member in several student organizations and has often gone out his way to assist new incoming students in the Access program get adjusted to college.

Jonathan is a responsible, dedicated individual, which makes him stand out from the rest. Upon first meeting him, I found Jonathan to be very driven towards achieving his academic goals. I also discovered his wonderful sense of humor. He has a positive approach towards resolving challenging situations. He is truly a leader and it has been a pleasure to advise him. I have always been encouraged with Jonathan's determination and endurance as he continues to strive towards his education. His ability to analyze, organize and apply information makes him a great asset to any classroom.

I am confident in my recommendation that Jonathan Moffat would be an excellent student for your prestigious college. Please feel free to contact me at work if you would like more information or clarification about this recommendation. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Mane
Coordinator/Counselor
Access to Opportunity Program
Community College of Rhode Island

Knight Campus. 400 East Avenue, Warwick, Rhode Island. 02886-1807 ~ (401) 825-2305
Flanagan Campus. 1762 Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln, Rhode Island. 02865-4585 • (401) 333-7280
Providence Campus. One Hilton Street, Providence, Rhode Island. 02905-2304. (401) 455-6084

May 30, 2010

Governor's Commission on Disabilities
John O. Pastore Center
41 Cherry Dale Court
Cranston, RI 02920

Dear Fellowship Selection Committee,

I am applying for the Mary Brennan Fellowship which will be offered in this years fall school semester from September 2010 through December 2010. As a previous recipient of the summer session 2008 Mary Brennan fellowship, I was able to experience the conception of several pieces of extremely important legislation such as the Global Medical Waiver, assist in the public forums, and attend committee meetings and resource agencies which service the needs of the person with a disability. . As the fall semester Mary Brennan fellow I look forward to continuing my education of the disabled community by observing the legislation process, advocacy efforts and how they can affect the person with a disability.

As we know the State of Rhode Island is in a financial crisis. Many issues such as medical insurance and transportation along with other crucial issues and their documentation will not only increase my knowledge of the legislation process but will also help me as an advocate for the person with a disability.

I have worked in an office environment in my past experience. I have professional telephone skills and I can work with people whether one on one or in a group situation. I work hard to not only complete any work assignment but I take an enormous pride in completing a task well. My computer skills are adequate and have not failed me through my studies at the University of Rhode Island. I am self motivated, hard working and need little to no supervision.

As a past Mary Brennan fellow the knowledge I gained about ADA law, legislation for persons with disabilities, the services and referrals distributed by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities was enormously helpful to me as an advocate and person with a disability. The knowledge I received helped me to become more of a contributing consumer for the volunteer organizations such as RISILC, The Governor's Advisory Council for the Blind and Vision Impaired and the National Federation of the Blind. The Mary Brennan Fellowship will increase my knowledge and experience and give me a better understanding of the disabled community. The knowledge and experience received through this fellowship along with my college education will

enhance my opportunities to work with the person with a disability in my future endeavors.

I will be very proud to be the Mary Brennan fellow. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

[Richard Costa signature]

RICHARD J. COSTA
Bristol, RI

OBJECTIVE: To ensure quality, long term employment using my experience, skills and abilities.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

2004-1999 CARDI'S FURNITURE
1 Furniture Way, Swansea, Massachusetts 02771
Position: Bedding Specialist
Supervisor: Raymond Deuso
Job Responsibilities: Met with customers interested in proper bedding.
Responsible for orders and scheduling delivery dates in specialized computer system.

2001-1995 ANN & HOPE
1 Ann & Hope Way, Cumberland, Rhode Island 02764
Position: Regional Food Service Supervisor
Supervisor: Saul Alpert
Job Responsibilities: Financial responsibilities of overseeing all inventories, profitability, payroll of employees assigned to food service positions in six units. Personnel responsibilities of hiring, terminating, training of all personnel. Responsibilities of all advertising. Responsible for purchasing of all food items, equipment.

1982-1995 Ann & HOPE

55 Faunce Corner Road, North Dartmouth, Massachusetts
Position: District Food Service Supervisor
Supervisor: Steven Bonzagni
Job Responsibilities: Responsible for daily operations of menu planning, schedules, inventories, personnel of one unit.

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY:

Current-2007 University of Rhode Island
Program of Study: Psychology

2005 Carroll Center for the Blind
Completion of Certified Independent Living Program

1975-1973 Bryant University

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

June-August 2008 Governor's Commission of Disabilities

Position Held: Mary Brennan Fellow

Present-2006

Rhode Island Statewide Independent Living Council

Current Positions: Secretary, Member of Executive Committee , , Financial Committee State Plan committee and the Former Treasurer.

Duties: To attend committee meetings and transcribe the minutes of the meeting. Working in collaboration with the Office of Rehabilitation Services and the two state centers for independent living (PARI and OSCIL) Assist in the development and composition of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), along with monitoring the 704 Report.

Present-2006

Rhode Island State Rehabilitation Council

Position Held: Member (Liaison)

Duties: Transcribe a report from the Rhode Island Statewide Independent Living Council to the RI Rehabilitation Council and report it back to the Rhode Island Statewide Independent Living Council.

Present-2004

National Federation of the Blind

Position: Executive Board Member of the state affiliate, Chapter Building Committee Chairperson. Treasurer for the Mount Hope Chapter.

"Hope, Consciousness and Reality "

May 28, 2010

Fellowship Selection Committee
Governor's Commission on
Disabilities John O. Pastore Center
41 Cherry Dale Court Cranston,
RI02920-3049

Dear Selection Committee:

This letter is to recommend Richard Costa for the Mary Brennan (Public Awareness) Fellowship.

Mr. Costa began volunteering for the Rhode Island Statewide Independent Living Council (RISILC) in 2006 when he joined the RISILC's Finance/Resource Committee. Since then, he has played a vital role in overseeing the Council's budget and personnel policies. Since April 2007, Mr. Costa has served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Council. Mr. Costa also serves on the Executive Committee.

Mr. Costa has been an active and contributing Council Member. He is dedicated to and exemplifies the Independence Living Philosophy. In addition, Mr. Costa works extremely well with others; he is a team player and respects the values of others. He is proficient at computer word processing, database and internet navigation.

In my opinion as Executive Director of the RISILC, Mr. Costa is deserving of the Mary Brennan (Public Awareness) Fellowship.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Camille L. Pansa Executive Director

93 Gooding Ave. • Suite 3 • Bristol, RI 02809 • (401)253-8949 • (800)745-5555 (Relay) • www.risilc.org

The members discussed the qualifications of the applicants and how 2 of the applicants' skills could best match the Commission's needs in regards to the public forums. Members were concerned that we didn't have a applicant capable of completing the local government accessibility to open meetings surveys. The Executive Secretary reported that the State ADA Coordinator & Assistant ADA Coordinator (Accessibility) had requested the Committee consider reappointing Nell Carpenter to complete the remaining 6 communities, this summer. The members discussed the option and thought completing the surveys and writing a report on her findings would meet the Commission's need.



voting check off graphic

MOTION: To appoint Jonathan Moffat the summer Mary Brennan Fellow;
 To appoint Stephanie Behie the fall Mary Brennan (Public Policy) Fellow; and
 To appoint Nell Carpenter the summer G. Frank Hanaway (Architectural Access) Fellow (to complete the open meeting accessibility survey and report). LW/JD passed unanimously



Balancing Budget graphic

Commission Operations and Budget

Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary

5:30

Purpose/Goal: To brief members on the 2011 Commission Budget allocation and make adjustments to the Commission's operational plan if needed.

Discussion: The Commission's budget as passed by the House in FY 2011 reduces the amounts requested by the Governor by \$803.



voting check off graphic

No action needed because of the small reduction in the appropriation

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|  | Appointment / Reappointment of Commissioners | Tim Flynn | 5:35 |
| Purpose/Goal: To recommend to the Governor potential appointees to fill vacant Commissioner positions Discussion: Status of earlier recommendations and consideration of others to be recommended. | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <small>voting check off graphic</small> | The recruitment/outreach to Hispanic and Asian Communities will continue | | |
| | | | |
| | Legislation Committee Recommendations | Bob Cooper | 5:40 |
| Purpose/Goal: To recommend to the Governor that he sign or veto legislation Discussion: The Legislation Committee met just prior to the Executive Committee to make recommendations regarding the Governor sign or veto the following acts, upon the Executive Committee's concurrence: The Governor should sign: 10 S 2133 Sub A as Amended and H 7300 Sub A ACTS RELATING TO HIGHWAYS ACCESSIBLE CROSSWALKS; 10 S 2055 and H 7044 ACTS RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- STATE POLICE; 10 H 7490 As Amended and S 2323 Sub A ACTS RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - CRIMINAL PROCEDURE SENTENCE AND EXECUTION - HATE CRIMES; 10 H 7118 Sub A AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - - SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSES; 10 S 2783 and H 7378 ACTS RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, RETARDATION AND HOSPITALS -- NEW TITLE; and 10 H 7498 Sub A and S 2674 Sub A ACTS RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS--WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION (and arrange for status reports on the implementation of the acts to the Legislation Committee). The Governor should veto 10 H 7331 As Amended and S 2425 Sub A ACTS RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - LICENSING OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES. | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <small>voting check off graphic</small> | MOTION: To recommend to the Governor that he: Sign following acts: 10 S 2133 Sub A as Amended and H 7300 Sub A ACTS RELATING TO | | |

HIGHWAYS ACCESSIBLE CROSSWALKS;
 10 S 2055 and H 7044 ACTS RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- STATE POLICE;
 10 H 7490 As Amended and S 2323 Sub A ACTS RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - CRIMINAL PROCEDURE SENTENCE AND EXECUTION - HATE CRIMES;
 10 H 7118 Sub A AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSES;
 10 S 2783 and H 7378 ACTS RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, RETARDATION AND HOSPITALS -- NEW TITLE; and
 10 H 7498 Sub A and S 2674 Sub A ACTS RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS--WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION (and arrange for status reports on the implementation of the acts to the Legislation Committee)

Veto following act: 10 H 7331 As Amended and S 2425 Sub A ACTS RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - LICENSING OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

PR/JD Passed unanimously

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|  <small>Announcer graphic</small> | Announcements | Tim Flynn | 5:57 |
|  <small>calendar graphic</small> | Agenda and Scheduling the Next Meeting | Tim Flynn | 5:58 |
| Next meeting will be on: August 31 st (planning for the annual meeting – FY 2011+2012 budgets/operational plan). | | | |
|  <small>alarm clock graphic</small> | Adjournment | Tim Flynn | 6:00 |
|  <small>voting check off graphic</small> | MOTION: To adjourn PR/JD passed unanimously at 6:15 PM | | |