

Minutes



Employment Committee Thursday Nov. 30, 2006 9 AM to 10:30 AM Governor's Commission on Disabilities John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court Cranston, RI 02920

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Recorder: Chris Rancourt
Attendees: Pat Ryherd (Chair), Bill Nieranowski, Linda Milner, Arthur Plitt, Vicki Ferrara, Judi Drew, Jim Pitassi, Sandy Lupovitz
Excused: Dimity Peter

Minutes

9:00 Call to Order Pat Ryherd, Chair.

Discussion: Chair calls the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

9:05 Meeting Minutes from July Meeting Pat Ryherd

MOTION: MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes from the Sept. 28, 2006 Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

9:10 Employment Staff Report

○ **ADA Grant Chris Rancourt**

Update on NEADA Contract/Grant

-CR reported on the NEADA conference call held on Nov. 28th. Oce Harrison and Valerie Fletcher discussed the new contract specifically mentioning that the scope of work was now on employment and research. Also mentioned was the partnership with Northeastern University and the fact that they were not strong on disability issues but were strong in research. The New Board of Higher Education was also discussed as was the College Ready New England program. With respect to training at institutions of higher education, Oce committed to reformulating the surveys currently used based on input from 2 and 4 year colleges and universities. Virginia Commonwealth University was identified as the new national partner. Oce was unsure of the expectations or what NIDRR wants.

Also discussed was the newsletter articles which were due by Dec. 1st. The theme of the articles was students with disabilities but the content for the articles was open-ended.

Oce reported that the quarterly report format will remain the now but eventually will be reformatted.

Finally, the alliance with the University of Southern Maine and their internships was briefly touched on.

CR will get copies of the new contract and distribute to the committee.

Web cast

-CR reported that the hold-up on the web cast was financial and that she was working on this. VF asked for an outline of the specs for the web cast (RIC may be able to help). CR will provide. Also discussed was the need to develop a marketing strategy for the web cast.

Able TOO...

-Of the four shows identified to meet the requirements of the NEADA grant the employment accommodations show is the only one in progress. The other three shows (transition from high school to college, universal design and, transportation) have not been worked on because of work being done on the Fogarty/Vanni Awards, the ATAP show and the Ms. Wheelchair RI show.

Department of Corrections

-CR and LM the transcript was done and in the hands of the DOC. New ADA policies are being written as a result of this training.

9:30	Pods Overview	Jim Pitassi
	<p>-JP gave an overview of the pods. Governor Carcieri issued an Executive Order in June '05 creating 4 pods. Three of the pod leaders have been identified, Deb George, Paul Pise, Paul Mancini. Melonie Marcaccio is the contact person with respect to pods. The pods will not impact ADA coordinators.</p> <p>JP mentioned that on Commission website, the list of ADA Coordinators needs to be updated. PR will ask Paul Choquette what the priority of the web site is at the next Commission meeting. PR emphasized that it needs to be accessible, customer-friendly and, usable.</p>	
9:40	Liaison Reports	Liaisons

AP discussed the Rhode Island Department of Education's (RIDE) quarterly meeting. These meetings are full days and in attendance ranges from training coordinators to superintendents. AP will get CR a schedule of the meetings.

VF spoke about the upcoming partnership to employment conference scheduled for 4/24/07. She is in the process of looking for sponsors. She also has a need for outreach to employers and requests by presenters. There will be five tracks to the conference: Employer/HR; management systems change; employment professional track; job seekers; school to career. Exhibitors must relate to employment. There is a travel reimbursement (see VF) for specifics. The key note speaker is Denise Bissonnette.

VF spoke about the Employer Honor Roll (EHR). It was very successful and one of our new committee members, Sandy Lupovitz, was an award recipient. If there will be an EHR next year still is to be decided.

PR reviewed the mentorship program. ORS registered itself as the liaison with the national mentoring program ORS successfully matched 18 individuals with employers. There is still one person who has not completed the mentoring program. . A big difference this year is that more families were involved in the transportation process. ORS is working towards using the labor market model.

CR reported on the job fair held in October at the Providence netWORKri facility. There were over 850 participants which was the good and the bad news. NetWORKri is too small of a facility to handle all of the participants. If there is job fair next year, it will be held in a different location according to Valerie Shore of Rhodes to Independence, the primary sponsor of the job fair.

9:55	Next meeting	Chris Rancourt
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The next meeting is Feb 22, 2007. CR will send out a schedule of the meetings for 2007.

10:00	Meeting Adjourned	Pat Ryherd
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