



Governor's Commission on Disabilities Employment Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 16, 2008 9:00 – 10:10 AM

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

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Attendees:	Pat Ryherd, Vicki Ferrara,, Vincent Rossi, Paul Harden
Excused:	Arthur Plitt, Melanie Sbardella, Linda Milner, , Ann Roccio, Bill Nieranowski, Jim Pitassi, Dimity Peter, Judi Drew, Sandy Lupovitz

----- Agenda Topics -----

Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes	Pat Ryherd, Chair	5 min.
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MOTION: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Approved by P.H. and V.F..
Accepted unanimously.

Discussion Items:	Discussion Leader:	Time:
1. NEADA Contract Status	Pat Ryherd	75min

- PR reported that interviews had taken place on Oct. 15th for a new Assistant State ADA Coordinator who would focus on Accessibility and therefore help us meet the goals of the grant.
- On Oct. 2, the 3rd meeting with college and university staff (contract requirement) took place at NEIT. David Sienko was the guest speaker. A focus group on internships was conducted (data sent out in a previous e-mail). Also discussed were the issues of transportation and getting the Chamber of Commerce involved (with respect to internships). Work Opportunity Tax Credit materials were also disseminated and reviewed by PR. CR again asked for assistance getting into classroom to talk about the ADA and Employment. Comments from the committee members which stemmed from this meeting included: Transition coordinators – educational fairs (FV); Year Up program (PH); RIPEN (VR); State Internship Summer Program (PR); LMI (VR).
- CR attended the NEADA meeting (contract requirement) in Boston on Oct. 7th. Highlights: *Adaptive Environments has changed their name to Institute for Human Centered Design. *Paul Harrington from Northeastern spoke for 2 hours about the changes in the economy and employment opportunities for people with disabilities being dependent on education. * Kathy Gips provided information on the ADA Amendments Act which goes into effect January of 2009. With respect to Title I, there are 5 major changes all of which concern the definition of the

word disability 1. Determine if “substantially limited” without regard to mitigating measure such as hearing aid, medication, prosthetic device (except eyeglass and contact lens) 2. Discrimination illegal if “on the basis of disability” rather than “because of the disability of such individual” 3. Includes examples of major life activities 4. Includes “major bodily functions” as major life activities: Functions of the immune system, normal cell, growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions and 5. Still meet definition of disability if impairment is episodic or in remission if it substantially limits a major life activity when active.

- CR reported lack of success getting colleges and universities to make time for the ADA and Employment training. The committee wants her to “nag” her contacts in order to get presentation in by Nov.17th (end of 1st semester). Bob Cooper did a training at RIC to 15 students studying social work on September 24th.
- Title I presentation was held on Sept. 18th. Kathy Gips did the presentation. 10 employers attended (see details about this meeting in the staff report). A second presentation is scheduled for Nov. 13th. Kathy Gips will again present.
- An article written by CR was sent to NEADA (contract requirement) for inclusion in the next newsletter. The article’s topic was “accessibility.” CR noted that she had sent in an article for the last NEADA newsletter but it was not included (another state’s article was also excluded.)

5. Next Meeting	Pat Ryherd	5 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec. 18, 2008 in the Commission Conference Room from 9:00 -10:30. 		
6. Meeting Adjourned	Pat Ryherd	5 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 		