



Governor's Commission on Disabilities Employment Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:00 – 10:30 AM

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

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Attendees:	Pat Ryherd Sandy Lupovitz, Vincent Rossi, Arthur Plitt, Melanie Sbardella, Linda Milner, Vicki Ferrara, Paul Harden, Meryl Berstein, Kerri Sorresen, Elaina Goldstein	
Excused:	Bill Nieranowski, Jim Pitassi	
Absent:	Lorna Ricci, Nancy Thomas	
Staff:	Chris Rancourt Bruzzi	
----- Agenda Topics -----		
Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes	Pat Ryherd, Chair	5 min.
MOTION: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Approved by PH and VR		
Discussion Items:	Discussion Leader:	Time:
1. State of the Contract with NEADA	Pat Ryherd/Chris Rancourt Bruzzi	50 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR distributed a handout which identified the changes from the 2007-2008 and the 2008-2009 NEADA contract as it pertains to education. Specifically, the new contract requires outreach to high schools and college/university students and support staff. CR reported that she will be attending 3 of the 4 Regional Transition Outreach Events that are being sponsored by Rhode Island's Parent Information Network (RIPIN). VF suggested looping the NEADA videos at the outreach events. It was also suggested that CR meet with Sue Donovan of RIPIN to see what they are using as transition materials. MB from JWU offered materials on transition for the GCD to use. MS suggested speaking with Alice Woods about the Life after High School program. • The next meeting with college and university staff will be held at CCRI in Warwick on March 19, 2009. Ann LeClerc from RITPA will do a presentation about transportation. Internships and transition from high school to college will also be discussed. • CR distributed a chronology of the work done to date on Internships in the state. It was recognized that meetings were held with a representative from the Providence Chamber of Commerce and Tech Collective and that a meeting is set 		

up with Patti Goff, the career services person from Providence College who is working on the upcoming Intern Fair, on February 18, 2009.

2. Governor’s Workforce Board – Strategic Workforce Plan 2009-2014 Objectives and Strategies	Elaina Goldstein	30 min
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- EG asked to speak to the Employment Committee to bring up concerns about the Draft – Strategic Workforce Plan 2009-2014 plan regarding the language in the plan as it pertains to people with disabilities. EG also wanted the Commission to take a position and/or recommend changes and to do this collaboratively with Rhodes to Independence. (Prior to the meeting the draft plan was e-mailed to the Employment Committee.)
- MOTION: Where ever specific disabilities are mentioned in the plan replace with individuals with disabilities as defined by the ADA. Motion unanimously approved.
- MOTION: Revise Objective 4.3 to ...Increase the capacity of all youth serving state agencies to support at-risk youth *and youth with disabilities* to have a productive work life. Motion unanimously approved.
- Question to ask at hearing for clarification: In Section 4.3.1 does the term “special needs” mean youths with disabilities? If so, then the language should be changed to reflect this.
- Question to ask at hearing for clarification: In Section 4.3.3 is there a youth population at the DOC?
- PR will attend the public hearing is scheduled for Feb 18th--from 10-12 and will present language agreed upon in the motions and ask the clarifying questions.
- GCD will collaborate with Rhodes to Independence on the Strategic Workforce Plan.

3. Meeting adjourned. Next Meeting	Pat Ryherd	5 min
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- April 16, 2009 in the Commission Conference Room from 9:00 -10:30.