



# Governor's Commission on Disabilities Employment Committee Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, July 28, 2009 9:00 – 10:10 AM**

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<b>Attendees:</b>	Pat Ryherd, Vincent Rossi, Melanie Sbardella, Sandy Lupovitz, Paul Harden, Vicki Ferrara, Grace Pires (guest)
<b>Excused:</b>	Jim Pitassi, Arthur Plitt, Linda Milner, Meryl Berstein
<b>Staff:</b>	Chris Rancourt Bruzzi

## ----- Agenda Topics -----

<b>Call to Order and Introductions</b>	<b>Pat Ryherd, Chair</b>	<b>5 min.</b>
<b>Discussion Items:</b>	Discussion Leader:	Time:
1. Impact of FY 2010 Budget Decisions of the General Assembly on Commission and Employment Operations	Pat Ryherd	40 min

- PR explained that the purpose of this special meeting was to identify priorities for the employment committee in light of budget cuts and new responsibilities assigned to the employment committee staff person with respect to the DBE. The employment priorities identified (see below) will be discussed at the GCD's Executive Committee meeting scheduled August 11, 2009.

The committee addressed the eight items set forth by Bob Cooper to help determine priorities. These items were:

1. Review its operations – Provide ADA core services to employers, businesses, state and local government, architects, disability organizations and advocates, individuals with disabilities and their families. Core services consist of:

- technical assistance via telephone, email and in-person
- training
- publication distribution
- staff DBTAC conference exhibit tables and actively pursue two exhibit opportunities per year.

CR incorporated a summary of employment related work completed in the last 3 quarters as required in the NEADA contract.

2. Identify critical activities [required by either state law or grant]: Contract Core services (as listed above) and mediation. Committee goal to train 100 college

students in their rights and responsibilities under the ADA including the value the internships.

3. Prioritize the critical activities (see FY2010 priorities).
4. Identify methods used to achieve those critical activities: a) Prepared and presented customized ADA presentations for specific audiences i.e. employers, disability organizations, state and local government agencies, etc. b) Brought various college/university staff together to identify their ADA needs, identify resources and provide information. Topics included internships, accommodations, transportation, etc. c. Educated college students on their rights and responsibilities to increase their understanding of the ADA and improve employment outcomes of students with disabilities. d. Provided outreach to high school students/parents and staff (new to '08-'09 contract). e. Provided technical assistance to employers and employees regarding their rights and responsibilities under the ADA via phone, e-mail, or in person. f. Provided NEADA with articles for the newsletter 3 times a year. g. Distributed materials relevant to issue/concern. h. Participated in exhibits and on panels.
5. Identify the methods that have been successful ...see response to item 4.
6. Determine the best utilization of staff, volunteers, fellows, grants, etc. to achieve those critical activities. a) Vin Rossi to make connection with a volunteer agency to obtain a volunteer to assist with copying and preparation of materials as needed; b) where appropriate use e-mail with links rather than hand-outs; c) have committee members identify contacts and training opportunities to maximize efficiency.
7. Identify the methods that have not been successful ... e.g. meetings limited to students with disabilities.
8. Recommend alternative methods to achieve the critical activities...see response to item 4.

Questions from the committee concerned are we meeting the contract specific requirements and what else are we required to do. NEADA needs to know how we are fulfilling the contract. The NEADA provides the CGD flexibility on how to achieve results. With regard to other activities that are not identified in the contract, CR responded that the GCD is required to provide mediation and this is done as requested. Training needs to be provided to people interested in mediation.

2. Review and Prepare FY 2010 Priorities	Pat Ryherd	45 min
<p>The priorities agreed to were, as specified in the contract:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue with ADA technical assistance;</li> <li>b. Maintain outreach to students with disabilities and their support services in high school and higher education. Identify and network with state education</li> </ol>		

associations such as guidance counselors, disability services and career counselors e.g. continue with College/University staff events (2 a year);

c. Disseminate LMI information to encourage students to high wage/high demand careers;

d. Increase direct employer contact (Chambers of Commerce, TACs, TLS network) and obtain input from employers on their needs;

e. Mediation to resolve employee/employer disputes related to the Title I ADA;

f. Continue to work with transition age students and their support systems to provide ADA information.

3. Meeting adjourned. Next Meeting

Pat Ryherd

1 min

• **Oct. 15, 2009 in the Commission Conference Room from 9:00 -10:30.**