



**Meeting Notice for the  
Governor's Commission on Disabilities  
Employment Committee Agenda  
Thursday, April 4, 2013 9:30 AM-10:30AM**

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](mailto:disabilities@gcd.ri.gov)  
(website) [www.disabilities.ri.gov](http://www.disabilities.ri.gov)

**Agenda**

- 9:30 Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes, Sarah Everhart Skeels, Chair ..... 1
- 9:50 Employment section for the GCD website, Sarah Everhart Skeels, Chair ..... 1
- 10:15 Ideas for direction of this committee (esp. in regard to meeting the NEADA grant obligations), Sarah Everhart Skeels, Chair ..... 2
- 10:25 Agenda and Scheduling the Next Meetings, Sarah Everhart Skeels, Chair ..... 2
- 10:30 Adjournment, Sarah Everhart Skeels, Chair ..... 2

**Special notes:**

We ask that you use unscented personal care products - that you not wear perfumes or scents. Please realize that what may seem to you to be a mild scent can make other people sick.

Anyone may come to meetings of the Commission or its committees.

If you need someone to read, large print, Braille, interpreters or captioners for the deaf and hard of hearing, at our meetings, please call (401-462-0100, via RI Replay 711) or email ([disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:disabilities@gcd.ri.gov)) the Commission at least 3 business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting it.



No perfume or scents graphic



sign language logo



assistive listening logo



large print logo



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**Attendees:** Sarah Everhart Skeels (Chair), Meryl Bernstein (Vice Chair), Paul Harden, Melanie Sbardella, Pat Ryherd

**Excused:** Vincent Rossi, Vicki Ferrara, Arthur Plitt

**Guests:** Alyssa Sarault

**Staff:** Chris Rancourt Bruzzi


**9:30 Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes, Sarah Everhart Skeels, Chair**  
 Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30. The committee welcomed Pat Ryherd's return.  
 Update on Employment Activities provided by Chris Rancourt Bruzzi - Working on a dispute resolution presentation to be delivered at the National ADA Symposium in May 2013 in San Antonio; Developed and delivered a Sensitivity Awareness presentation to a local Police Department in February in response to a complaint; Working with the DLT on the new DEI (Disability Employment Initiative); and, difficulty with overcommitted fellows who were not able to fulfill their fellowship obligations resulting in staff spending more time than necessary on some tasks and tasked planned not being completed or completed unsatisfactorily.


**MOTION:** To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. PH and MB approved. Unanimously approved.  
**MOTION:** To have representation from the employment committee involved in the selection of future Pat Ryherd Employment Policy Fellows. MS and PH approved. Unanimously approved.

**Action Items:**

**9:50 Employment section for the GCD website, Sarah Everhart Skeels, Chair**  
 Purpose/Goal: To review of the current employment info on the Commission's website and obtain suggestions as to what else to include


 Discussion: Invited AS into the meeting since she is the website designer. It was agreed that a lot of work had been put into the website but with more links and less narrative, the site would be more effective and user friendly. Other ideas discussed were moving "why it is good to work" and "work incentives including tax credits" to the top of the site and "reasonable accommodations" to the bottom of the site and that "Employment assistance" should focus on what the GCD does including mediation services and to downplay supported employment since the GCD is not involved in this. In addition, having someone work with AS on the site was seen as beneficial.

 voting check off graphic	<p><b>MOTION:</b> To make the site more user friendly through the use of links, header menus, and more focused on what the GCD does. MS and PH approved. Unanimously approved.</p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> To have MS work with AS on the website. PR and SES approved. Unanimously approved.</p>
 Man holding a light bulb graphic	<p><b>10:15 Ideas for direction of this committee (esp. in regard to meeting the NEADA grant obligations), Sarah Everhart Skeels, Chair</b></p> <p>Purpose/Goal: To get the committee more involved</p>
	<p>Discussion: Discussed how to get some of the presentations and other work produced by the staff out to a broader audience. No motion.</p>
 calendar graphic	<p><b>10:25 Agenda and Scheduling the Next Meetings, Sarah Everhart Skeels, Chair</b></p> <p>Purpose/Goal: Reschedule the Increasing Opportunities meeting that had to be cancelled - necessary or not and why aren't people coming/what can we do to increase attendance? Next meeting date?</p> <p>Discussion: Next meeting topics will include website update.</p>
 voting check off graphic	<p><b>MOTION:</b> Next meeting date is June 13, 2013 at 9:00 am.. MS and PH approved. Unanimously approved</p>
 alarm clock graphic	<p><b>10:30 Adjournment, Sarah Everhart Skeels, Chair</b></p>
 voting check off graphic	<p><b>MOTION:</b> To adjourn at 10:40. MS and PH approved. Unanimously approved.</p>