RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
Executive Department
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
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Governor's Commission on Disabilities 2014 Meeting Schedule

The Commission's aim is to make sure that all people with disabilities have the same rights and duties as anyone else. They also should be able to be work and live independently.
The Commission meets 3rd Mondays 5 – 6:30 PM: 01/27th; 04/14th; 07/14th; 09/15th; and 12/01st.

Accessibility Committee

The Committee develops state's 504/ADA Transition Plan, for removing access barriers in state owned buildings, schools, colleges, beaches, and parks. The Committee also oversees the ADA accessibility training and services.
The Accessibility Committee meets the 4th Monday 2 – 3 PM: 02/24th; 04/28th; 06/23rd; 8/25th; 10/27th and (if necessary) 12/22nd.

Disability Business Enterprise Committee

The Committee helps small business owner with a disability try to win state contracts.
The Disability Business Enterprise Committee meets the 2nd Monday 9 – 10 AM**:** 01/13th; 04/10th; 06/12th; 08/18th; 11/20th; and (if necessary) 12/15th.

Election Assistance Committee

The Committee makes sure voters with disabilities can cast a secret vote without help. Local boards of canvassers are paid to remove access barriers at polling places. A videotape is used to train election officials and poll place workers. Adults with disabilities are trained on how to vote and registered to vote. They are also encouraged to serve as poll workers.
The Election Assistance Committee meets the 3rd Thursday 2 – 3 PM: 01/16th; 03/20th; 05/15th; 08/14th; 09/18th; and 11/20th.

Employment Committee

The Committee oversees the ADA employment training and services. The Committee promotes work and work incentives. The Committee also plans an annual employment conference, in October (National Disability Employment Awareness Month).
The Employment Committee meets the 2nd Thursday 9:30 – 11 AM: 02/13th; 04/10th; 06/12th; 08/14th; 09/11th; 10/09th and (if necessary) 12/11th.

If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners), or any other accommodation is needed to ensure equal participation, please contact the Commission at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting it.

Hearing Board

The Board decides if unfairness (discrimination) was caused by access barriers. [RIGL 42-87]
The Board approves state agencies requests to lease places with access barriers. The agency must have a plan to make all services and employment accessible. [RIGL 37-8-15.1]
The Board decides if a member of a government committee who is disabled can take part in meetings by telephone or aid. The member is not able to get to the meeting room due to the disability. [RIGL 42-46-5(b)(3&4)]
The Board approves Open Meeting Access Plans from local and state government. [RIGL 42-46-13]
The Hearing Board meets to conduct hearings, upon request.

Legislation Committee

The Committee runs meetings to find out the concerns (fears) of people with disabilities and their families, the last full week in July. The Committee writes bills to better the lives of people with disabilities. The Committee reads other bills that might help or hurt on people with disabilities. The Committee lets the General Assembly know about the bills. The Committee then lets the Governor know about the bills.
The Legislation Committee meets the 1st Monday 3 – 4:30 PM: 01/06th; 02/03rd; 03/03rd; 04/07th; 05/5th; 06/02nd; 07/07th; 08/04th; 09/08th; 10/27th; and 12/01st.

State Coordinating Committee on Disability Rights

The Committee steers the State Government's carrying out of the disability rights laws. [Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504, Civil Rights of People with Disabilities, etc.]
The State Coordinating Committee on Disability Rights only meets if needed to coordinate compliance activities amongst the difference branches of government (executive, judicial, and legislative).

Executive Committee

This Committee is in charge when the Commission is not meeting. The Committee talks to students who want to be fellows. Then the Committee hires the Fellows. The Committee talks to people who want to work for the Commission. The Committee advises the Commission who to hire.
The Executive Committee meetings the 3rd Mondays 4 – 5 PM: 03/17th; 05/12th (spring & fall fellowship interviews); 08/27th and 12/08th (winter fellowship interviews).

August annual planning meetings to review of achievements and develop operations plans and budget requests for the next two program years.

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