

RI Governor's Commission on Disabilities 2007 Schedule of Meetings

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

telephone: 401-462-0100 fax: 401-462-0106 tty: via RI Relay 711

website: www.disabilities.ri.gov email: disabilities@gcd.ri.gov

Commission: is responsible for advocates on behalf of people with disabilities; expands economic opportunities for businesses owned by or employing people with disabilities; increases the general awareness of the rights and concerns of individuals with disabilities and their families; and ensures that people with disabilities have access to their government.

The Commission meets Mondays 5 to 7 PM: 02/05, 04/30, 07/16, 09/05, 11/05

Accessibility Committee: is responsible for overseeing the removal of environmental and communication barriers at state owned facilities.

The Committee meetings Mondays 2:30 – 4 PM: 01/22, 03/26, 05/21, 06/18, 09/24, 11/26

Disability Business Enterprise Committee: certifies small disadvantaged disability businesses and rehabilitation facilities for a preference under Rhode Island Government's Purchasing system as part of the state's effort to support participation of small disadvantaged businesses owned and controlled by persons with disabilities or where sixty percent (60%) of the work hours or direct labor is performed by employees who are persons with disabilities, or non-profit rehabilitation facilities in state funded and state directed public construction, public projects, and in state purchases of goods and services.

The Committee meets Wednesdays 9 – 10:30 AM: 01/10, 02/14, 03/14, 06/13, 10/10

Disability Parking Committee: is responsible for reviewing municipal and state agency Disability Parking Enforcement Annual Reports and recommending improvements. Annual the cities and towns and the state police, department of environmental management, airport corporations, capitol police, department of mental health, retardation and hospitals, and the state operated colleges are required to submit to the Governor's Commission on Disabilities an annual progress report chronicling the collections of fines, procedures used, convictions, and any problems or successes which result from the disability parking enforcement enhancement program. Following receipt of an annual program report, the Disability Parking Committee suggests improvements to a disability parking enforcement enhancement program.

The Committee meets: Thursdays 11 AM – Noon: 02/08, 03/08, 04/12, 05/10

Election Assistance Committee: is responsible for overseeing the Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities: develop training modules to be used by election officials and poll place workers to better prepare them to meet a variety of voter needs; recruit people with disabilities to serve as trained poll workers; and/or serve, on an as-needed basis, as advisors to the Commission, the RI Disability Law Center, Secretary of State's Election Division, and the State Board of Elections' ongoing attempts to ensure polling site accessibility and greater participation by people with disabilities in the electoral process.

The Committee meets Wednesdays 9 – 10:30 AM: 2/28, 4/25, 6/27, 10/24, 12/5

Employment Committee: is responsible for promoting work the implementation and the provision of the ADA training and technical assistance regarding the employment.

The Committee meets Thursdays 9 – 10:30 AM: 2/22, 4/26, 6/28, 10/18, 12/6

If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please contact the Commission, 462-0100, via RI (tty) Relay 711 or disabilities@gcd.ri.gov 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.

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Executive Committee: is responsible for the general management of the commission, including the: development of policy between commission meetings; approval, prior to submission, of all grant proposals and applications; securing of non-state funding or sponsorship of certain commission activities; drafting of the Commission's state budget request, for commission approval, at the annual meeting; coordinating of the activities, including public relations, of the committees and volunteer units; developing the annual operational plan and assessment of the Commission's goals and objectives; the management of personnel, hearing any grievance of staff persons, interns, fellows or volunteers and rendering decisions upon such matters; interviewing applicants for employment and recommending candidates to the Commission; nominating people to the Governor for appointment to the Commission; and awarding fellowships.

The Committee meets Tuesdays 4 - 5:30 PM: 2/20, 5/8, 8/21, 9/11, 12/11

50th Anniversary Planning Committee: is responsible for planning and implementing a year long series of event celebrating the changes in disability policy in the last 50 years.

The Committee meets Wednesdays 3:30 – 5 PM: 2/21, 4/18, 6/20

Hearing Board is responsible for conducting hearings and rendering decisions on matters relating to the provisions of RIGL 42-87 Civil Rights of People with Disabilities and RIGL 37-8-15.1 Public Buildings: Accessibility of leased or rented facilities for people with disabilities and RIGL 42-46-13 Open Meetings: Accessibility for persons with disabilities. The Board only meets to conduct hearings.

Information & Assistive Technology Committee: is responsible for promoting accessible design of information technology; authorizing the purchase of assistive technology as responsible accommodations for state employees, clients and residents of state institutions and providing assistive technology for state employees with disabilities, students with disabilities attending state operated colleges and schools, and residents of state operated institutions.

The Committee meets Wednesdays 2:20 – 4 PM: 01/17, 03/21, 05/16, 07/18, 09/19, 11/21

Legislation Committee: conducting public hearings to elicit public comments prior to the development of the Commission's Legislative Package; proposed a Legislative Package for the Commission to review and approve; and prepares and disseminate statements as to the impact of legislation being considered by the RI General Assembly, on the quality of life of individuals.

The Committee meets Mondays 3 – 4:30 PM: 01/08, 02/12, 03/12, 04/16, 05/14, 06/11, 07/16, 09/10, 10/15, 12/10

State Coordinating Committee on Disability Rights is responsible for overseeing the State Government's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other federal/state disability rights laws.

The Committee meets Tuesdays 4 – 5:30 PM: 02/27, 05/29, 09/25, 11/27

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