



**RI GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON
DISABILITIES**



FY 2005 Annual Report

And

FY 2006 & 2007 Operational Plan

Donald L. Carcieri, Governor

Paul Choquette, Chair

John J. MacDonald, Vice Chair

Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary

Adopted at the September 10, 2005 Annual Meeting

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Goal I. To include (integrate) people with disabilities in all aspects of society

Authority: RIGL 42-51-6 Governor's Commission on Disabilities. – Duties. – It shall be the duty of the commission to work in cooperation with the national council on disability and other interested federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and employers in:

(1) Promoting on behalf of the people with disabilities and assuring, on behalf of the state, that people with disabilities are afforded the opportunities to exercise all of the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of this state;

42-51-9 Definitions – (6) "Promoting on behalf of the people with disabilities and assuring, on behalf of the state, that people with disabilities are afforded the opportunities to exercise all of the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of this state" means the authority to act and appear on behalf of the people with disabilities to present evidence and make arguments before any federal, state or local agency or public body regarding matters pending before that agency or public body that may have an adverse effect on persons with disabilities.

Objective A. To enact into law the Commission's Legislative Package and the enactment of legislation that would have a beneficial impact on people with disabilities, and the defeat of harmful legislation.

Policy and Oversight by:	Manager:
Legislation Committee	Executive Secretary

Measurement

Percentage of State Legislation Affecting Persons with Disabilities that is Favorably Disposed This performance indicator measures the favorable disposition of state legislation affecting persons with disabilities. The measure is related to the commission's stated role of advocating for the concerns of people with disabilities. Commission staff keeps records of the disposition of legislation.

The commission's objective is a favorable disposition rate for state legislation of one hundred percent.

Legislation acted about favorably	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
Objective	100 %	100%	100%	100%	100%
Actual/Estimated	39.34%	47.37%	55.81%	50.00%	50.00%
Bills enacted that the Commission supported or defeated the Commission opposed	20	4	15		
Bills enacted that the Legislation Committee found beneficial or	12	5	15		
Bills defeated that the Legislation Committee found needed amending to be beneficial			17		
Bills defeated that the Legislation Committee found harmful	16	18	25		
Total acted about favorably	48	27	72		

The Legislation Committee also monitored 18 (Separation of Powers) bills to ensure they were not amended in a manner that would be harmful to people with disabilities and reviewed 105 additional bills which it did not issue a legislative impact statement on.

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.¹

The key legislative achievements during the 2005 General Assembly Session, which the Commission working with other organizations supported, include:

1. The establishment of a Medicaid Managed Care option for adults with disabilities, which will assist families in navigating through the chronic health care systems:
 - a. **Senator M. Teresa Paiva-Weed** prime sponsor of 05 S-0801 Sub A An Act Relating to Health Care For Elderly And Disabled Residents, and
 - b. **Representative Eileen S. Naughton** prime sponsor of 05 H-5734 Sub A An Act Relating to Human Services -- Health Care For Elderly And Disabled Residents Act,
2. Funding & licensure to create the first in-state transitional housing/treatment services for persons with traumatic brain injury:
 - a. **Senator Leo R. Blais** prime sponsor of 05 S-0114 Sub A An Act Relating to Motor And Other Vehicles -- Adjudication Of Traffic Offenses, and
3. Continued funding of accessible and affordable housing,
 - a. **Senator Walter S. Felag, Jr.** prime sponsor of 05 S-0651 An Act Relating to Housing Resources - Neighborhood Opportunities Program, and
 - b. **Representative Gordon D. Fox** prime sponsor of 05 H-5175 An Act Relating to Housing Resources - Neighborhood Opportunities Program,
4. Cost of living adjustment for (Medicaid) personal care attendants,
 - a. **Senator Hanna M. Gallo** prime sponsor of 05 S-0413 An Act Relating to Human Services -- Personal Care Attendant Program, and
5. Cost of living adjustment for disability (Medicaid) service providers,
 - a. **Representative Thomas C. Slater** prime sponsor of 05 H 5484 An Act Relating to State Affairs And Government, and
 - b. **Senator John F. McBurney** prime sponsor of 05 S 0237 & S 0831 Acts Relating to State Affairs And Government
6. The withdrawal of 05 H-5270 Article 14 Medical Assistance For Certain Disabled Children which would required co-payments for Medicaid participation for families above 250 percent of the federal poverty limit, who have enrolled their children with disabilities, whose level of disability would otherwise require institutionalization, the Katie Beckett program.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

The overwhelming number of bills 123 which the Commission/Legislation Committee took positions on spread its the lobbying effort too thin to be successful.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project’s original goals?

Yes

**What options are available to:
put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Narrow the Legislation Committees’ Scope of Review, presently:

Included in Scope of Review	Total	Not Included in Scope of Review	Total
Budget	4	29 appropriations	1 5
Civil Rights	19	19	
Confidential Information	6	7	
Employment	5	5	
Health Care Services	74	75 health care/rules	7 66
Housing	12	12	

¹ Includes 2005 Legislation that was enacted or defeated prior during the 2005 General Assembly Session, including after June 30, 2005.

Included in Scope of Review		Total	Not Included in Scope of Review		Total
Human Services	11	12	financial assistance	9	49
Life Safety & Health / Disability Prevention	38	39	taxes	5	22
People with Disabilities	18	20	government operations		22
Special Education	22	22	education	0	4
Transportation	9	10	motor vehicle insurance / registration		
Total Number of Disability Related Bills Tracked				240	418

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Coordinate a series of Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families with other agencies and advocacy organizations. From the testimony at those forums develop a legislative package and work for its enactment.

Objective B. To provide technical assistance to public and private agencies, businesses, and citizens in complying with federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities.

Authority: RIGL 42-51-6 Governor’s Commission on Disabilities – Duties. – It shall be the duty of the commission to work in cooperation with the national council on disability and other interested federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and employers in:

(4) Providing technical assistance to public and private agencies, businesses, and citizens in complying with federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities;

42-51-9 Definitions:

(5) "Providing technical assistance to public and private agencies, businesses, and citizens on complying with federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities" means information dissemination and training designed to encourage the voluntary compliance with laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities; conducting disability accessibility surveys and providing advice on how to overcome any barriers to accessibility; and a mediation service to assist parties who voluntarily chose to utilize that service to resolve allegations of discrimination on the basis of disability.

The Commission is the RI Affiliate to the New England ADA and Accessible Information Technology Center and has a grant from the Center to provide general Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

- 1. Training to audiences upon request and to targeted populations²;**
- 2. Public awareness to audiences upon request and to targeted populations;**
- 3. Technical assistance to audiences upon request and to targeted populations; and**
- 4. Materials upon request and to targeted populations.**

Policy and Oversight by:	Manager:
State Coordinating Committee on Disability Rights	State ADA Coordinator Assistant ADA Coordinator (Technical Assistance)

² Target populations include: State and Municipal ADA Coordinators; Librarians; the Hospitality Industry; ILC staff, board and consumers; ILC staff, Developmental Disabilities groups; and Museums, immigrants, other ethnic minorities, building inspectors, African Americans, college students, Hispanic population, human resource personnel, architects, distribute 800 # through libraries to library patrons

Policy and Oversight by:	Manager:
	Assistant ADA Coordinator (Accessibility Complaints Investigation and Resolution) Disability Business Enterprise / Public Information Coordinator
Accessibility Committee	Assistant ADA Coordinator (State Compliance)
Employment & Economic Opportunities Committee	Assistant ADA Coordinator (Employment and Services)
Information and Assistive Technology Committee	State ADA Coordinator

Measurement

These indicators measures the number of, up-to-date, and useful technical assistance provided to people with disabilities and their friends and family; businesses; employers; public and private agencies; merchants; realtors and property managers that seek our assistance. Technical assistance is provided in a variety of forms: ADA trainings; information provided upon request via phone; email or mail; on site accessibility surveys and advice on overcoming any barriers; building plan reviews; public awareness events; and resolution of complaints through mediation and/or advice on barrier removal.

These measures are related to the commission's stated role of providing technical assistance to people with disabilities, their families, businesses and agencies on issues related to people with disabilities. The data is from commission records.

The commission's objective is to expand awareness of the availability of technical assistance by increasing by 10% over the prior year, assistance provided.

ADA Technical Assistance	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
Objective	110.00%	2,448	2,178	110%	110%
Actual/Estimated	2,225	1,998	4,611	5,027	5,579
Actual Count	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
# People Trained	590	946	361		
# Technical Assistance	1586	722	3892		
# On Site Access TA		174	217		
# Building Plans Reviewed	2	2	18		
# Public Awareness Events	49	80	45		
# Successful Resolution of Complaints	0	58	78		

a) Employment Related Technical Assistance

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

- *Goal achieved-* Coordinate training & exhibit opportunities with NEADA & IT Center Staff – provided 4 trainings and exhibited at 3 events
- *Goal achieved-* Training w/ Employers –provided 2 trainings *and* provided technical assistance to 28 employers and materials to 50 employers.
- *Goal in process-*Market to and Enlist Participants in ADA NEADA & IT training participated in 2 sessions. Staff, Christine R., attended National ADA Symposium
- *Surpassed Goal -* Public Awareness/Outreach to Target Audiences - Produced 5 Able Too programs

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

- Developing a work plan took longer than expected, i.e. understand project goals, objectives and grant requirements, budget and work accomplished to date. Staff learning curve, the creation of the new EEO committee, learning curve of leadership and obtaining a clear history and budget impacted the development of plan.

- Marketing/promotional materials- Current exhibit lacks professionalism and does not project the image to enhance our cause. PRIORITY--We need professional looking exhibit display and related materials.
- Lack outreach to inform public and target audience about NEADA&IT Center teleconferences.
Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals? What options are available to put the project back on track, and avoid such difficulties in the future?
The newly established Employment / Economic Opportunities Committee is addressing this issue.
- A work plan is being drafted with targeted objectives for last quarter identified. The Role of Employment and Economic Opportunity Committee's leadership, staff and members will be more clearly defined. Having the committee meet regularly should help additionally, increasing clear and consistent information regarding grant objectives, obstacles, budget and tracking outcomes should help.
- A new GCD exhibit and a proactive exhibit plan is needed. The lack of visibility and unprofessional image of existing materials sends the wrong message.
 - Short Term Goal- revise the current material
 - Long term goal – identify funds to purchase and develop professional exhibit and materials.
- NEADA & IT Center teleconference- The Committee will be more proactive and identify outreach plans for upcoming sessions.

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

- Short-term-Update and Revise GCD exhibit-Long term- Request GCD identify funding to develop a professional exhibit and materials.
- Fall 05- 3 sessions ADA Coordinator training for state and municipal employees
- Coordinate NEADA teleconference Outreach and Conference Calls
 - June 21- Getting on the Bus: Update on accessibility of our public transportation systems. (currently not participating)
 - July 19- ADA update:14 years later
 - August 16- Gaining Access to the Doctor's Office: What is the state of the art of accessible medical equipment?
 - September 20, Readily Available Barrier Removal: What does it mean 15 years later?
- US Department of Education /Office for Civil Rights, RI Department of Education /Office of Equity and Access

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

Worked on the North Kingstown Band Room have reached a tentative resolution with the Superintendent (remove the risers)

Monitored, for the US Department of Educations' Office for Civil Rights implementation by ## School Districts of 504 Compliance Agreements.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

None

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

None

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

None

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

None

b) Access to Services

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

Technical assistance has increased over the past year, the staff responded to an average of five telephone calls per day regarding plan review or ADA code relevant questions.

On-site assistance has also been provided to facility owners/managers as a result of informal complaints from consumers. In the absence of a formal written complaint, the Commission provides advice to the facility owners/managers to encourage cost effective voluntary compliance. Voluntary compliance has increased as a result of the establishment of the Hearing Board, to the point that no formal complaints needed to be referred to the Board for hearing, this year {see Goal II.Objective B}.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

The increased level of technical assistance requests from businesses has stretched resources, to the point that the staff isn't always able to respond quickly to requests for assistance. The nature of technical assistance requests does not have a planned work load, since they are generated by the public and should be handled as quickly as possible to avoid litigation.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

The increased requests for technical assistance have so far been offset by not having to devote staff resources to the Hearing Board. If the time lag continues to grow between the date of the request and on-site assistance to the business, consumers may, out of frustration convert their informal complaints into formal ones, forcing hearings/litigation which, in turn will consume more of the resources, and create more delays and litigation.

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Additional staff that are knowledgeable in construction, life safety and accessibility codes, would allow the Commission to provide assistance quicker.

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Technical assistance is consumer and business generated; the Commission will continue to respond as quickly as possible to assist both the business and disability communities overcome barriers to full inclusion. The Commission will also work with other state regulatory bodies to harmonize our joint responsibilities to ensure compliance with both life safety and accessibility code compliance in cost effective manners.

In FY 2006 the Commission will be working with the Commission for Human Rights, the Department of Health's Food Protection Office, and the Department of Environmental Management to address implementation of RIGL 40-9.1-5. Family therapy pets in public places.

c) Accessible Information Technology Grant

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

Three workshops were conducted for special education teachers, school social workers and special needs parents, the evaluation sheets showed they all were informed, concerned and would try to effect reform within their schools. The Commission has not been able to meet with an information technology administrators at either the state or school district level.

- o Department of Administration's Information Resources Management Committee – The Committee has not met.
- o RI Websites Standards Committee – The Committee has not met.
- o RI Webmasters Committee –The Committee has not met.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

It has been very difficult to "interest" the state and school districts' IT administrators in training or technical assistance to establish accessible IT policies and procedures.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

Yes, it's almost impossible to meet the vast majority of the goals/objectives without the cooperation of the schools; information technology administrators.

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Seek the active support from the RI Commissioner of Education and/or

Work with TechACCESS and the local special education directors to convince superintendents to accept the technical assistance being offered by the Commission and NE ADA & Accessible IT Center.

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Work with TechACCESS and the local special education directors to convince superintendents to accept the technical assistance being offered by the Commission and NE ADA & Accessible IT Center.

d) New England ADA & Accessible IT Advisory Board

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.



Above: Regional advisory board members enjoy a moment of sunshine during their June 7 meeting at Fort Adams in Newport, RI. From left to right: Mike Kurs, Will Miller, Christine Botts, Lisa Caron, Tom Mercier, Dale Sandy, Oce Harrison, Cathy Taylor, Christine Rancourt, and Harvey Salvas. Front row: Cheryl Killam and Annette Bourbonniere.

We participated in two Advisory Board meetings that include representatives from all the New England state affiliates to the NE ADA and Accessible IT Center. The Regional Board's June 7, 2005 meeting took place at the Eisenhower House and included a guided tour of the accessibility renovations at Fort Adams.

During the year, three articles from RI were published in the Center's Newsletter; RI Families PLAN for Quality of Life; Rhode Island's Public Art Law; and Rhode Island: First to Make All Voting Places Accessible.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

None

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

NA

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

The Commission will continue to participate on the Regional Advisory Board, sharing information on which strategies work and what doesn't, as well as promote RI as an accessible place to vacation.

Objective C. To ensure that every state and local police entity has an effective program for enforcement of the state's disability parking laws.

Authority: RIGL 31-28-7.3 Parking Facilities and Privileges – Disability parking enforcement program.

– (a) The state police, department of environmental management, airport corporation, capitol police, department of mental health, retardation and hospitals, and the state operated colleges shall establish a disability parking enforcement enhancement programs no later than January 1, 2000. The program will be designed to improve enforcement of disability parking laws on state-owned property and in parking facilities serving space leased or owned by the state, including state departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and quasi-governmental corporations. Citations issued in conjunction with this program shall be submitted to the traffic tribunal or its successor entity for collection pursuant to §§ 31-28-7 and 31-28-7.1 and the fines collected through shall be paid over to the state agency or college that issued the citation.

(b) The several cities and towns shall establish disability parking enforcement enhancement programs. Citations issued in conjunction with local enforcement programs shall be submitted to the municipal court, where established, or to the traffic tribunal or its successor entity. Fines collected through citations

issued in accordance with local enforcement program specifications shall be paid over to the city or town or pursuant to §§ 31-28-7 and 31-28-7.1.

(c) Disability parking enforcement enhancement plans.

(1) The state police, department of environmental management, airport corporation, capitol police, department of mental health, retardation and hospitals, and the state operated colleges shall submit a disability parking enforcement enhancement plan to the governor's commission on disabilities.

(2) Cities and towns shall submit a disability parking enforcement enhancement plan to the governor's commission on the disability.

(3) The disability parking enforcement enhancement plans shall describe the enforcement program which the state police, department of environmental management, airport corporation, capitol police, department of mental health, retardation and hospitals, the state operated colleges or the municipality intends to establish.

(4) The disability parking enforcement enhancement plan shall be reviewed by governor's commission on disabilities within sixty (60) days of receipt and suggest improvements to the disability parking enforcement enhancement plans, that shall not be construed as required amendments.

(d) Beginning January 1, 2001 and on each January 1 thereafter, 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 shall be 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 governor's commission on disabilities may suggest improvements to a disability parking enforcement enhancement program.

Policy and Oversight by:	Manager:
Disability Parking Committee	Assistant ADA Coordinator (Accessibility Complaints Investigation and Resolution)

Measurement

Performance Measurement: Percentage of the 48 municipal and state law enforcement agency disability parking enforcement annual reports received; reviewed by the Disability Parking Committee and recommendations send back to those law enforcement agencies.

This indicator measures the percentage of disability parking enforcement plans received, reviewed and recommendations send back to the law enforcement agencies. The measure is related to the Commission's responsibility to annual review the results of municipal and state enforcement of disability parking laws.

The Commission's objective is to receive the annual disability parking enforcement reports from 100 % of the municipal and state agencies and review all those reports and send recommendations for improving enforcement back to those municipal and state agencies. The data is from commission records.

Disability Parking	FY 03		FY 04		FY 05		FY 06		FY 07	
	Objective	100%	Objective	100%	Objective	100%	Objective	100%	Objective	100%
Actual/Estimated		85.42%		91.67%		85.42%		90.00%		95.00%
Actual Count	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total
# Plans Reviewed	41	48	44	48	41	48	43	48	46	48

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The Commission's staff contacted all 48 state and local agencies required to submit Annual Disability Parking Enforcement Reports, and received 41 reports.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

The Disability Parking Committee had difficulty completing its review of the Annual Disability Parking Enforcement Reports, due to lack of a quorum at most of its meetings.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project’s original goals?

Yes, without the Committee’s review, none of the state & local agencies’ Annual Disability Parking Enforcement Reports could be accepted, nor innovative program results shared amongst the law enforcement community,

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

The Commission recruited new members for the Disability Parking Committee..

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Once reconstituted the Disability Parking Committee should complete its review of the Annual Disability Parking Enforcement Reports for calendar year 2005, by the end of March 2006 and share those results with the 48 state and local law enforcement agencies.

Objective D. HAVA (Help America Vote Act) Grant

Authority: State Grants for Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (EAID) funds set aside by Section 261 of the Help America Vote Act

The Commission has been designated the recipient of Rhode Island’s Section 261 of the Help America Vote Act funds, which require that the some portion of the funds be used in the following four ways:

- 1. “Making polling places, including the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of each polling facility, accessible to individuals with the full range of disabilities,**
- 2. Provide the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) to individuals with a full range of disabilities,**
- 3. Train election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers on how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with a full range of disabilities, and**
- 4. Provide individuals with the full range of disabilities with information about the accessibility of polling places.”**

Policy and Oversight by:	Manager:
Election Assistance Committee	Assistant ADA Coordinator (Technical Assistance)

Measurement

Performance Measurements: Percentage of polling places used in elections that conform to the US Department of Justice’s ADA Checklist for Polling Places.

These indicators measure the percentage of:

- polling places that conform to the ADA Checklist for Polling Places;
- election officials and poll workers trained in how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with a full range of disabilities; and
- citizens with disabilities provided with information on accessibility of polling places, as well as their responsibility as citizens to register and vote.

The measures are related to the Commission's responsibility as the designated recipient of State Grants for

Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities.

The Commission's objectives are to ensure 100 % of the polling places used in every election conforms to the ADA Checklist for Polling Places; 100% of election officials and poll workers are trained in how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with a full range of disabilities; and increasing the number of citizens with disabilities who are registered and voting. The data is from commission records and voter list enhancement records.

Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
Objective	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Actual/Estimated					
Accessible Polling Places	100%	86%	NA	100%	100%
Election Officials Trained	NA	NA	NA	100%	100%
Citizens with Disability Registered to Vote	NA	NA	NA	7,000	NA
Newly Registered Voting	NA	NA	NA	7,000	NA

a) Election Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities Grant

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

HAVA (Help America Vote Act) Grant - The Board of Elections and staff have made a presentation/training on how to use the voting equipment at a local school to seniors.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

Disseminating information, making sure each polling place considered has been or can be made accessible. Doing outreach to nontraditional sites for polling places (i.e. community sites that are already accessible, business, rehabilitation agencies, etc.).

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project’s original goals?

With more locations we can be more immediate accessible to voters.

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Further discussion need to include people from represented/interested groups who can make decisions re: purchasing services.

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

The Elections Assistance Committee will soon be reviewing applications from the Boards of Canvassers to assist in making accessibility renovations to some of their polling places. Applications and Guidelines were sent out approximately 2 weeks ago and have a deadline of July 31st 2005, so we can act on applications.

b) American Association of People with Disabilities – Disability Vote Project

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

American Association of People with Disabilities – Disability Vote Project - Jim Dickson, VP, AAPD presented information from two other states who utilized the vote project. Mr. Dickson described their outcomes and the possibility of adapting their program to RI. Jim presented materials to all attendees, copies available at GCD.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

Currently there are over 47,000 people eligible to vote who do not, either because they haven't registered to vote or don't know how/who they are voting for.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project’s original goals?

Yes, if we are unable to mobilize people their impact will not be felt/measured by the politicians and other related groups.

**What options are available to:
put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

The RI Disability Vote project would continue to grow and add new groups to the initiative. We would be able to track voters and provide them with information about upcoming elections, candidate profiles, access to the polls and assistance as needed in getting to their voting places.

c) State Board of Elections' Voter Registration Advisory Committee

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The Committee has not met.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

The Committee has not met.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

Yes!

**What options are available to:
put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

The State Board of Elections should call a meeting to review the status of compliance with the

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Shift the Voter Registration Advisory Committee' Liaison to the Election Assistance Committee Chair or her designee, to bring all election related activities under that committee.

Objective E. The adoption by federal, state and local agencies/public bodies of policies that would have a beneficial impact people with disabilities, and the defeat of harmful policies.

1. National Organization on Disability

Liaison: Kate McCarthy-Barnett, EdD

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The National Organization on Disability fulfills its mission to expand the participation and contribution of America's 54 million men, women and children with disabilities in all aspects of life through programs that raise disability awareness, encourage physical and attitudinal accessibility, create community partnerships, and provide opportunities for employment and growth. These programs include:

Community Partnership Program (CPP): Helping mayors and their communities to become disability-friendly

National Partnership Program (NPP): Partnering with major organizations to carry out disability programs

CEO Council: Recognizing CEOs and companies committed to the employment of people with disabilities

Accessible America Award: \$25,000 annual award competition for disability-friendly communities

FDR International Disability Award: Recognizes and encourages progress by nations toward the fulfillment of the goal of the U.N. Program of Action

Emergency Preparedness Initiative (EPI): Ensuring inclusion of disability issues in preparedness planning

N.O.D./Harris Surveys: Gathering benchmark data on state of disability in America

Religion and Disability Program: Encouraging faith communities to remove barriers to full religious participation

World Committee on Disability: Presenting the annual FDR Award to nations expanding disability participation

Start On Success (SOS): Providing paid internships to high school students with disabilities
The NOD provides ongoing information and resources for via the website www.nod.org and the NOD e-newsletter

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

At this time, there are no difficulties or problems to report.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals? NA

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

None

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Continue to review and provide updates on relevant information from NOD. NOD will be continuing work on all its initiatives and activities including the Religion and Disability Program

<http://www.nod.org/./content.cfm?id=79>; Emergency Preparedness Initiative; Start On Success, National Partnership Program and the Accessible America Award

<http://www.nod.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=168> .

2. Governor's Advisory Council on Health

Liaison:: Kate McCarthy-Barnett, EdD

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The Council did not meet during this time period.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

None

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

None

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

None

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

None

3. Department of Human Services' Center for Adult Health Consumer Advisory Committee

Liaison: Kate McCarthy-Barnett, EdD

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The CAC meets on a quarterly basis. The CAC is working to provide the beneficiaries of the Medicaid program in RI with updates on the Medicaid program. In addition, the Committee is gathering input from beneficiaries on their experience with the program and provides updates on related grant activities, policy issues, etc.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

The main challenge that the CAC identified is the limited involvement of consumers. The CAC has several agencies that represent and advocate for consumers but few consumers consistently attend the meetings. In addition, the Committee members do not submit suggested agenda items (e.g., questions or topics related to Medicaid) that could be addressed by the CAC.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

It is critical to have the consumer involvement to meet the goals of the Consumer Advisory Committee.

**What options are available to:
put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Continued outreach to consumers to increase attendance at the meetings.

Request the submission of agenda items from members to guarantee that specific questions and topics are addressed.

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Over the next few months, the CAC will be working to provide resources on Part D. In addition, the CAC will be discussing a possible Managed Care option for Medicaid and will continue to provide information on the activities of the Center for Adult Health. The Committee will meet in June and September.

4. Department of Elderly Affairs' Health Care Resource Center Advisory Committee

Liaisons: Arthur M. Plitt & Christine Botts:

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The Health Care Resource Center is creating partnerships with groups from MS Society to International Institute and inclusion in the ARDC & Rhodes programs sharing resources.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

Publicizing the potential for the Resource Center has been difficult due to limited funding.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

Has been delayed in some areas but expanded with more partnerships.

**What options are available to:
put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Good learning from some errors.

Expectations not realized but modified plans up.

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Public relations and advertising program on specific programs to be tied into a TV/radio lead station sponsorship.

5. Department of Health's Arthritis State Plan Advisory Committee

Liaison: Teresa Carr-Hopkins

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The committee approved the adoption of the *Rhode Island State Arthritis Action Plan* is modeled after the *National Arthritis Action Plan: A Public Health Strategy*. The ultimate aims of this initiative are to: Increase public awareness of arthritis as the leading cause of disability and an important public health problem.

Prevent arthritis whenever possible.

Promote early diagnosis and appropriate management for people with arthritis to ensure them the maximum number of years of healthy life.

Minimize preventable pain and disability due to arthritis.

Support people with arthritis in developing and accessing the resources they need to cope with their disease.

Ensure that people with arthritis receive the family, peer, and community support they need.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

None

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

None

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

None

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

None

6. Housing Resource Commission's Policy Strategic Housing Planning Committee

Liaison: Kate McCarthy-Barnett, EdD

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

Since December 2004, the HRC Strategic Housing Planning Committee has met monthly. The Committee is working to develop a five-year strategic plan for housing to be completed by December 2005. The Committee meets under the direction of hired consultants Abt Associates Inc. and Barbara Sokolof Associates in conjunction with statewide planning.

The Committee has held discussions on the need for current and projected housing needs, population projections, building trends and job development to become factors to consider when determining the housing needs within the state.

In the May, the Committee received a working draft called "Rhode Island Housing Needs" from the consultants as the basis to make decision on the data to be used in the final plan. The draft covered issues including the projection of housing needs, housing production, special needs populating and implications for strategy. This was accompanied with an action plan reviewing the planning process including a monthly work plan.

The suggested content for the plan include: Introductory background and context; assessment of the state and local housing production needs; analysis of land use capacity issues, guidelines that address local accommodation of housing production needs; issue analysis that outlines the nature and significance of each issue and its impact on housing production; vision for housing production that addresses the identified needs; quantifiable goals to be achieved within five year time frame of the strategic plan; and implementation program of measurable strategies.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

The Housing Resource Commission Policy Strategic Housing Planning Committee does not report any difficulties or problems at this time. The Committee is following the planned schedule of tasks to be completed to meet the deadline of the completion of the strategic plan.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

NA

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

NA

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

July Meeting: Presentations on the status of local discussions (e.g. inclusionary zoning, land trusts, etc.) and on land management tools utilized by other states

August Meeting: Discussion on current resources targeted to affordable housing in RI; preliminary assessment of financial resources needed; and best practices in financing affordable housing (e.g. housing trust funds, 4% bonds, TIFs, linkage fees, etc.)

September Meeting: Distribute draft detailed outline of RI's Strategic Housing Plan and Development Guidelines Review of other State Housing Plans (strategies, needs, goals, etc.)

October Meeting: Distribute preliminary draft of Housing Strategy; present additional information as necessary to inform decision-making and prepare memo highlighting key outstanding policy issues

November Meeting: Provide more detailed Action Plan for implementing the Housing Strategy; provide additional information as needed to finalize policy issues for plan and a proposal for graphic layout of plan

December Meeting: Distribute final plan for review and comment, including Development Guidelines

7. Rehabilitation Building Code's Drafting Committee

Authority: RIGL 23-29.1-3. Rehabilitation Building And Fire Code For Existing Buildings And Structures – Content, adoption, and administration of the rehabilitation building code for existing buildings and structures.

(a) Content. The rehabilitation building and fire code for existing buildings and structures shall have a building code element and a fire safety code element and shall make provisions for the repair, renovation, alteration, reconstruction, and change of use of and additions to existing buildings and structures. The code shall set forth standards for different types of uses; and for mixed-use buildings and structures, each portion of the building or structure shall be separately classified as to use. The standards shall include, but not be limited to, standards for building; for load bearing and structural elements; for plumbing, electrical, and mechanical systems; for fire resistant walls and for fire suppression, fire alarm, and fire detection systems; for accessibility, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, means of egress, elevators, escalators, stairways, doors, ramps, fire alarms, floor surfaces, restrooms and corridors; for vents and ventilation systems; and for historic buildings; provided however that such standards shall not affect minimum standards for habitancy.

(b) Committee on drafting. There shall be a sixteen (16) member committee on drafting the rehabilitation building and fire code for existing buildings and structures which shall have as its members the ten (10) voting members of the joint committee, the state fire marshal, the state building code commissioner, a representative of grow smart RI appointed by the chairperson of grow smart RI, a representative of the Rhode Island builders association appointed by the president of the Rhode Island builders association, a representative of the governor's commission on disabilities, appointed by the chairperson of the governor's commission on disabilities, and an historical preservation architect appointed by the executive director of the Rhode Island historical preservation and heritage commission. The executive secretary of the joint committee shall serve as secretary of the committee on drafting and be a nonvoting member of the committee. It shall be the duty of the joint committee to develop a rehabilitation building and fire code for existing buildings and structures, which shall have an element pertaining to fire safety and an element pertaining to building standards, and to recommend said rehabilitation building and fire code for consideration by the joint committee. The committee on drafting shall terminate upon an affirmative vote of the joint committee to recommend the rehabilitation building and fire code for existing buildings and structures for adoption by the building code standards committee and the fire safety code board of appeal and review.

Liaison: Orestes P. Monterey, PhD

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The Committee did not meet during FY 05.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

NA

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

NA

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

NA

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

NA

8. Special Commission to Study Transit Service in the State of Rhode Island & State Planning Council's Transportation Advisory Committee

Liaison: John J. MacDonald

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The State Planning Council's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) spent the year drafting the Federal FY06/07 Transportation Improvement Plan.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

The Special Commission to Study Transit Service in the State of Rhode Island was never convened to my knowledge.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

In the coming year the TAC will be spent on addressing issues that arose during the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) recertification process as well as reviewing and acting on proposed amendments to the TIP.

9. RI Public Transit Authority's Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee

Liaison: Teresa Carr-Hopkins

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The Advisory Committee met frequently during the year, received periodic reports from the on-the-bus monitors evaluation of 117 drivers compliance with the ADA mandated route and stop announcements. The drivers made 79% of the required route and stop announcements. There were 5 drivers who made zero announcements.

The Committee was advised that the GCD supported legislation to require at least one paratransit rider be appointed to the RIPTA Board. The Advisory Committee sent a letter to the Governor stressing the importance of having a RIPTA customer with disabilities on the RIPTA Board of Directors.

Issues discussed included the difficulty many people with disabilities have in applying for a no-fare bus pass. Currently, people have to go all the way out to the Cranston office of the Department of Elderly Affairs, at the Pastore Center. Two years ago it was suggested that RIPTA amend its policies to allow another state agency (ORS, only two blocks from the Kennedy Plaza ID office) to document a disabled applicant's income. The Advisory Committee sent a letter to RIPTA and DEA supporting such a change is RIPTA procedures for income verification for no-fare bus passes.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

None

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

None

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

None

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

None

10. Paratransit Task Force

Liaison: Bob Cooper

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The taskforce never met.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

Nothing was accomplished during the year; there is not external monitoring of the RIDE system.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

Yes, without an independent monitor of the RIDE, there isn't any mechanism to ensure quality of service nor cost effectiveness of the program

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Establish by law an independent monitoring body

Add a representative of paratransit rider to the RIPTA Board of Directors, by statute

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Goal II. To ensure full participation in state government services, activities and benefits by people with disabilities

Authority: RIGL 42-51-6 Governor's Commission on Disabilities – Duties. – (3) Coordinating compliance with federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities by state agencies"

42-51-9 Definitions - (4) "Coordinating compliance" means the authority to:

- (i) Issue guidelines, directives, or instructions that are necessary to effectuate compliance with federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities;
- (ii) Establish a grievance procedure to promptly and equitably resolve complaints of noncompliance with federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities involving state agencies, including the power to investigate possible discrimination and eliminate unlawful practices by informal methods of conference, conciliation, and persuasion;
- (iii) Initiate complaints against any state agency that willfully fails to comply with federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities to the appropriate state or federal agency; and
- (iv) Develop, make periodic revisions to, and oversee the implementation of a transition plan for the removal of environmental and communication barriers in state-owned facilities.

Objective A. To ensure state employees with disabilities, students with disabilities attending state operated colleges and schools, and residents of state operated institutions are able to fully participate in state programs and services.

1. Awareness, Training, and Technical Assistance

Policy and Oversight by:	Manager:
State Coordinating Committee on Disability Rights	State ADA Coordinator

Measurement

These indicators measures the number of, up-to-date, and useful technical assistance provided to people with disabilities and their friends and family; businesses; employers; public and private agencies; merchants; realtors and property managers that seek our assistance. Technical assistance is provided in a variety of forms: ADA trainings; information provided upon request via phone; email or mail; on site accessibility surveys and advice on overcoming any barriers; building plan reviews; public awareness events; and resolution of complaints through mediation and/or advice on barrier removal.

These measures are related to the commission's stated role of providing technical assistance to people with disabilities, their families, businesses and agencies on issues related to people with disabilities. The data is from commission records.

The commission's objective is to expand awareness of the availability of technical assistance by increasing by 10% over the prior year, assistance provided.

ADA Technical Assistance to State Agencies	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
Objective 10% increase over prior year	110%	110%	110%	110%	110%
Actual/Estimated	-	-	576	634	697
Actual Count	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
# ADA Coordinators Trained	0	0	56		
# Technical Assistance	0	0	90		
# On Site Access TA		0	300		
# State Project Design Plans Reviewed	0	0	120		
# ADA Awareness Events	0	0	10		
# Successful Resolution of Complaints	0	0	0		

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year. (July 2004 to June 2005)

The State Coordinating Committee on Disability Rights held training for state ADA Coordinators in cooperation with the New England ADA Technical Assistance Center. This training was very successful and could possible held again this fall.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

None

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

None

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

None

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

The State Building Commissioner is arranging 3 continuing education credit training of state/local building officials / inspectors on ADA Accessibility Code, this fall. Trainers will include Commission staff and the NE ADA & Accessible IT Center.

Additional ADA Coordinator training for the remaining state ADA Coordinators is planned for this fall and for municipal ADA Coordinators next winter.

2. Assistive Technology for state employees with disabilities, students with disabilities attending state operated colleges and schools, and residents of state operated institutions

Policy and Oversight by:	Manager:
Information and Assistive Technology Committee	State ADA Coordinator

Measurement

The time processing assistive technology reasonable accommodation applications

This performance indicator measures the processing time for handling assistive technology reasonable accommodation applications and scheduling a review by the Information & Assistive Technology Committee's next meeting. The measure is related to the commission's role in coordinating compliance with the ADA and other state/federal disability rights laws. Commission staff keeps records of the assistive technology reasonable accommodation applications.

The commission's objective is to process assistive technology reasonable accommodation applications within 10 business days of receipt, one hundred percent of the time.

Assistive Technology Provided	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
Objective	100.00%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Actual/Estimated # Equipment Requested & Distributed	-	-	5	-	-

3. Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council & Task Force

Authority: RIGL 30-15-6. Emergency Management – Advisory council.

(a) There is hereby created the Rhode Island emergency management advisory council (hereinafter in this chapter called the "council"). The council will consist of thirty-two (32) members as follows:

(1) Seventeen (17) ex officio members as follows:

(xiii) The chairperson of the governor's commission on disabilities;

(b) It shall be the duty of the council to advise the governor and the adjutant general on all matters pertaining to disaster preparedness. The lieutenant governor shall serve as chairperson of the council and the adjutant general shall serve as vice-chairperson. In providing advice to the governor and the adjutant general, the council shall, among other matters reasonably related to their authority, do the following:

- (1) Establish a regular meeting schedule and form subcommittees as may be appropriate;
- (2) Review emergency management plans and other matters as may be acted upon or otherwise provided for in this chapter;
- (3) Establish priorities and goals on emergency management matters on an annual basis;
- (4) Study emergency management plans in conjunction with the adjutant general, and otherwise conduct such other studies as may be deemed appropriate;
- (5) Review the coordination of the state's emergency management programs with appropriate authorized agencies and conduct studies on the programs as may be necessary;
- (6) Review the plans and operations of the various cities and towns in disaster preparedness in conjunction with the director and his or her office as required or necessary; and
- (7) [Deleted by P.L. 2000, ch. 170, § 2];
- (8) Provide an annual report on its activities in conjunction with the adjutant general.

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The Emergency Management Advisory Council - Have only attended 3 meetings and starting to get some cooperation for working with people with disabilities i.e., how to assist should a disaster occur such as Hurricanes, Blizzards as well as Terrorist involvement.

Emergency Management Advisory Committee & Task Force - Just finished a Terrorist attach training at the Airport and many other agencies which we found many deficiencies in the procedures on how to deal with people with disabilities as well as not paying attention to persons who may have had information on the attack on the plain,

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

Also getting some head way in the committee paying attention to announcements made on television without captioning and no way for persons being deaf or hearing impaired.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

None

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

The Task Force is going to set up a Captioning Subcommittee to address the issues at its next meeting.

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

None

Objective B. To investigate and resolve disability discrimination complaints

Authority: RIGL 42-87-5 Civil Rights of People with Disabilities – Enforcement of anti-discrimination provisions. – (b) (1) The governor's commission on disabilities is empowered and directed to investigate and hear all complaints relating to alleged violations of this chapter relating to the physical inaccessibility of buildings and structures.

42-51-6.1. Governor’s Commission on Disabilities. – Hearing boards. – (1) The commission's chairperson shall appoint five (5) commissioners as the hearing board for the purpose of conducting hearings and rendering decisions on matters relating to the provisions of chapter 87 of this title and §§ 37-8-15.1 and 42-46-13 within the jurisdiction of the commission.

(2) Three (3) commissioners shall constitute a quorum of a hearing board.

(3) The hearing board is empowered to:

(i) Receive, investigate, and act upon charges of unlawful practices within its jurisdiction; and

(ii) In connection with any investigation or hearing held on any matter within its jurisdiction to hold hearings, administer oaths, take the testimony of any person under oath, and to require the production for examination of any books and papers relating to any matter under investigation or in question before the hearing board.

Policy and Oversight by:	Manager:
Hearing Board	State ADA Coordinator Assistant ADA Coordinator (Accessibility Complaints Investigation and Resolution)

Measurement

The percentage of disability discrimination investigations that are initiated within 60 business days of receipt of the complaint by the Commission

This indicator measures percentage disability discrimination complaints that the investigation is initiated within 60 business days of being submitted to the Commission. The measure is related to the Commission’s responsibility to provide investigate disability discrimination complaints regarding the physical inaccessibility of buildings and structures.

The commission’s objective is to complete the plan reviews within 60 business days of receipt of the building or design plans, one hundred percent of the time.

Resolution of Complaints Against the State	FY 03		FY 04		FY 05		FY 06		FY 07	
	Objective	100%	Objective	100%	Objective	100%	Objective	100%	Objective	100%
Actual/Estimated		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		100%		100%
Actual Count	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total
# Complaints resolved informally	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0				
# Complaints the Hearing Board issues findings and orders	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0				

Resolution of Complaints Against the State	FY 03		FY 04		FY 05		FY 06		FY 07	
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

All the parties who have filed a complaint with the State Building Commission were notified and asked to sign a formal complaint, if their issues of concern had not been resolved. ## letters were sent out, ## were “returned to sender, addressee unknown/no forwarding address” and ## complaints were signed and returned.

Mary McMahon held workshops for Hearing Board members and staff.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

None of the original complaints transferred from the State Building Commission, met the legal standard for pursuing an investigation and convening a hearing.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project’s original goals?

Yes, unless a signed complaint that identifies the “harm” – the effect of the barriers, is received, the “complaint” does not meet the legal standard of RIGL 42-87.

What options are available to:

- put the project back on track, and**
- avoid such difficulties in the future?**

A new complaint procedure has been established. The staff will treat any “complaint” received in which the individual chooses not to file a signed complaint, will be treated as a “request for technical assistance” the facility owner/manager will be contacted and staff will provide assistance in identifying the barriers and recommend solutions.

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Policy and Oversight by: State Coordinating Committee on Disability Rights: Manager: State ADA

Objective C. To ensure that programs and employment opportunities in facilities leased or owned by the state are accessible and usable by people with disabilities

Authority: RIGL 37-8-15. Public Property and Works – Access for people with disabilities. – The design of all public buildings to be constructed, leased, or rented by the state or any municipality of the state must be in compliance with all the standards promulgated by the Rhode Island State Building Code, chapter 27.3 of title 23, which make buildings and facilities accessible to and usable by people with disabilities.

§ 42-51-6. Governor’s Commission on Disabilities. – Duties. – (3) Coordinating compliance with federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities by state agencies;

§ 42-51-9. Definitions. – (2) "Federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities" means, but is not limited to, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 USC § 12101 et seq.; title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC § 794; R.I. Const., art. I, § 2; the provisions of chapter 87 of title 42 and §§ 23-6-22, 37-8-15, 37-8-15.1 and 42-46-13.

1. Accessibility Renovation Projects

Policy and Oversight by:	Manager:
Accessibility Committee	Assistant ADA Coordinator (Accessibility of State Facilities & Programs)

Measurement

Percentage of State-Owned or Leased Buildings which are Accessible to Persons with Disabilities

This indicator measures the percentage of state-owned or leased property which is accessible to persons with disabilities.

The commission's standard is one hundred percent accessibility to state owned and leased buildings to persons with disabilities. The data is from commission records.

Accessible State Facilities	FY 03		FY 04		FY 05		FY 06		FY 07	
	Objective	Actual/Estimated	Objective	Actual/Estimated	Objective	Actual/Estimated	Objective	Actual/Estimated	Objective	Actual/Estimated
Objective		100%		100%		100%		100%		100%
Actual Count	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total
Accessible Leased Facilities	90	93	50	50	50	50				
Accessible State Owned Facilities	225	375	259	375	271	375				
# of state facilities w/ program access	315	468	309	425	321	425				

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year. (July 2004 to June 2005)

Accessibility Renovation Projects Awards FY 04/05

Project	Status	GCD \$	Other Funding
University of Rhode Island			
Rodman Hall elevator	Completed	\$259,567	
Curb cuts	Completed	\$40,000	(matching Funds)
Door hardware	Completed	\$31,401	
Portable Lifts	Completed	\$15,000	
Rhode Island College			
Main Campus	Completed	\$140,000	
Roberts Hall & Horace Mann Hall (3) platform lifts	Completed	\$90,000	
Department of Environmental Management			
Stillwater Dam (fishing access)	Under construction	\$20,000	
Jerusalem	Awaiting bid award	\$20,000	
Department of Human Services			
Pasteur Restrooms	Bi award	\$207,239	(DHS participation) \$58,800
Department of Education			
School for Deaf	Awaiting bid award		\$20,000

Rhode Island's Public Art Law

The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, in collaboration with the Governor's Commission on Disabilities and VSA arts of Rhode Island held a reception to celebrate the purchase and presentation of works by artists with disabilities to several state agencies, for permanent display in their offices. The reception took place on July 19 at the Atrium Gallery at One Capitol Hill, the state's main administration building in Providence. Artists presented artwork to representatives of 17 state agencies for prominent display in their department headquarters.

Rhode Island allocates 1% of the cost of accessibility renovations to bring state facilities in compliance with 504/ADA to the purchase of artwork by people with disabilities. RI has a 1% for Public Art Law that requires 1% of all public (non-road) construction projects be used to purchase art. Since the Commission controls the funds used to renovate state facilities,

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we entered into an arrangement with the State Council on the Arts to use our 1% to purchase art made by people with disabilities, that is then exhibited in the facilities we have renovated. About \$50,000 has been set aside for this purpose.
 { Article and Photo from Access New England, Fall '04 Issue }

Above: Artist Bijan Shadravan presents his artwork entitled "Reflection" to Bob Cooper from the Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Disabilities.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

Yes, the above accessibility projects have evolved from a larger list of projects that due to lack of time or the raiding of funds. Chairman of the GCD has written a letter to the chairman of the House Finance committee requesting the \$112,000 of accessibility funds obligated in FY 05 be refunded to accessibility projects.

Delays in renovations caused by restricted access to [RI Sail} accessibility renovation accounts during the first quarter of every fiscal year which result in reduction in RICAP Accessibility allocations in the following fiscal year.

The transfer of purchasing administration to the Central Business Office caused lengthy delays in awarding of contracts (i.e. a requisition for a renovation project at RI College submitted in December 2004 was not authorized for payment by the middle of June 2005).

What options are available to:

put the project back on track, and avoid such difficulties in the future?

Streamline RI Sail account allocations to ensure access to the accessibility renovation accounts by the end of July rather than as currently in September (or one year not until November).

To transfer back to the Commission responsibility and personnel to process requisitions, purchase orders, invoices and other financial activities.

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Shift RICAP funding for FY 06 to project design to shorten the turn around time for utilizing free balances available when projects are completed under budget.

2. State Building & Design Plan Reviews

Measurement

Percentage of building and design plans, submitted to the Commission for review to ensure Accessible to Persons with Disabilities, that the review is completed within 65 business days.

This indicator measures percentage of building or design plans that the review is completed within 65 business days of submitted to the Commission.

The commission's objective is to complete the plan reviews within 65 business days of receipt of the building or design plans, one hundred percent of the time.

State Building Plans Reviewed	FY 03		FY 04		FY 05		FY 06		FY 07	
	Objective	100%	Objective	100%	Objective	100%	Objective	100%	Objective	100%
Actual/Estimated		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		100%		100%
Actual Count	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total
# of Building Plans Reviewed	?	?	?	?	12	17				

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

17 plan reviews were conducted

The **G. Frank Hanaway (Architectural Accessibility) Fellow**, Alex Gomes, from New England Institute of Technology began his internship on March 21, 2005. Alex worked under the direction of the Compliance Coordinator specifically organizing a process to receive and review architectural plans. Plan

reviews were completed under the supervision of the compliance coordinator and architects contacted for ADA compliance on plans. Alex assisted in the development of a plan review intake process.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

The lack of a room to meet with architects to review their plans, with a drafting table and other necessary facilities to provide technical advice.

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

A room has been allocated to the plan review staff, equipped to allow plan reviews and consultation visits by architects..

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Staff will continue to review plans as requested

3. John O. Pastore Center Advisory Committee

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The Pastore Center Council meeting held on June 14, 2005 was chaired by Arn Listnoff of DOA. The Chair indicated that the Training School, Youth Development Facility, to be built in the parking lot in vicinity of the GCD office has its design development complete. Parking for the GCD office is under consideration. As the GCD representative, I indicated to the committee that parking for the GCD in its current location across Slate Hill Road is dangerous in view of its proposed upgrades and increased usage. The "A Building" exterior envelope is being reviewed as to the extent of being salvageable. Building # 79, which former site of the State Employee's Credit Union, is also undergoing a feasibility study. The Chairman felt strongly that the facility will be rehabilitated. The Howard Avenue rebuild is considering a "roundabout", rather than a two passenger lane stop light going south on Route 2. The Eastman House will stay in its present location and eventually be rehabilitated.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

None

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

None

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

None

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

None

Objective D. To ensure that open meetings are accessible to people with disabilities

Authority: RIGL 42-46-13 Open Meetings - Accessibility for persons with disabilities. – (a) All public bodies, to comply with the nondiscrimination on the basis of disability requirements of R.I. Const., Art. I, § 2 and applicable federal and state nondiscrimination laws (29 U.S.C. § 794, chapter 87 of this title, and chapter 24 of title 11), shall develop a transition plan setting forth the steps necessary to ensure that all open meetings of said public bodies are accessible to persons with disabilities..

(f) Each municipal government and school district shall, with the assistance of the state building commission, complete a transition plan covering the location of meetings for all public bodies under their jurisdiction. Each chief executive of each city or town and the superintendent of schools will submit their transition plan to the governor's commission on disabilities for review and approval. The governor's

commission on disabilities with assistance from the state building commission shall approve or modify, with the concurrence of the municipal government or school district, the transition plans.

§ 42-51-6. Governor’s Commission on Disabilities. – Duties. – (3) Coordinating compliance with federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities by state agencies;

§ 42-51-9. Definitions. – (2) "Federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities" means, but is not limited to, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 USC § 12101 et seq.; title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC § 794; R.I. Const., art. I, § 2; the provisions of chapter 87 of title 42 and §§ 23-6-22, 37-8-15, 37-8-15.1 and 42-46-13.

Policy and Oversight by:	Manager:
Hearing Board	State ADA Coordinator Assistant ADA Coordinator (Accessibility Complaints Investigation and Resolution)

Measurement

The Percentage of local public bodies meeting sites that are resurveyed annually, to ensure no barriers have been inadvertently been created. The measure is related to the Commission's responsibility to monitor compliance with the Open Meeting: Accessibility for People with Disabilities law.

The Commission's objective is to conduct open meeting accessibility surveys in 25% of the municipalities each year.

Accessible Open Meeting	FY 03		FY 04		FY 05		FY 06		FY 07	
	Objective	100%	Objective	100%	Objective	100%	Objective	100%	Objective	100%
Actual/Estimated		#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!		93.3%		100%		100%
Actual Count	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total
# Municipalities Surveyed	9	39	10	39	5	39				
% of Total Surveyed	23%		26%							
# of Surveyed sites accessible					4	5				
# of sites with public address systems and assistive listening systems					5	5				
# of Open Meeting Notices containing accommodation request information					5	5				
Total	0	0	0	0	14	15	0	0	0	0

Goal III. To expand economic opportunities for people with disabilities

Objective A. To assist rehabilitation agencies, small businesses owned by people with disabilities and businesses employing people with disabilities win state contracts for goods and services

Authority: RIGL 37-2.2. Disability Business Enterprises.

§ 37-2.2-1 Short title and purpose. – This chapter shall be known as the "Disability Business Enterprises Act." The purpose of this chapter is to carry out the state's policy of supporting the fullest possible 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. This includes assisting disadvantaged disability businesses and non-profit rehabilitation facilities throughout the life of contracts in which they participate.

§ 37-2.2-3. Preference for products and services produced by persons with disabilities. – (a) Whenever any products made, manufactured by, or services provided by nonprofit rehabilitation facilities, or in profit making facilities where sixty percent (60%) of the work hours or direct labor is performed by employees who are disabled, meet the requirements of any department, institution, or agency supported, in whole or in part, by the state as to quantity, quality, and price, those products shall have preference over products or services from other providers.

(b) All departments, institutions, and agencies supported, in whole or in part, by the state shall purchase articles made or manufactured and services provided by persons with disabilities. Any political subdivision of the state may purchase those articles and services directly from those agencies.

(c) A list describing the styles, designs, sizes, and varieties of articles made by persons with disabilities and describing all available services and subcontract work which can be provided by those persons shall be prepared by the governor's commission on disabilities, disability business enterprise committee in cooperation with the state office of rehabilitation services. The governor's commission on disabilities shall cooperate with various facilities for persons with disabilities by submitting necessary information concerning the products and services to the state purchasing agent.

§ 37-2.2-3.1. Policy and applicability. – It is the policy of the state of Rhode Island that small disadvantaged disability businesses shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of procurements and projects as outlined in this chapter. This chapter shall apply to any and all state purchasing, including, but not limited to, the procurement of goods and services, construction projects, or contracts funded in whole or in part by state funds, or funds which, in accordance with a federal grant or otherwise, the state expends or administers or in which the state is a signatory to the construction contract. The director of administration, in consultation with the governor's commission on disabilities, is authorized and directed to establish rules and regulations for awarding contracts to small disadvantaged businesses owned and controlled by persons with disabilities in the procurement of goods, services, construction projects, or contracts funded in whole or in part by state funds, in accordance with § 37-2-9(b)(14).

Policy and Oversight by:	Manager:
Disability Business Enterprise Committee	Disability Business Enterprise / Public Information Coordinator

Measurement

This performance indicator measures the percentage growth in the number of certified disability business enterprises/rehabilitation facilities. The measure is related to the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities’ responsibility to certify disability business enterprises/rehabilitation facilities. The Commission’s staff keeps records of the applications and certifications for the disability business enterprise law.

The commission’s objective is for a 10 % increase in the number of certified disability business enterprises/rehabilitation facilities, in each of the next several years.

Disability Business Enterprises	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
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Disability Business Enterprises	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
Objective	110%	110%	110%	110%	110%
Actual/Estimated	\$5,000	\$505,000	\$ 505,000	\$ 555,500	\$ 611,050
Actual Count	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Certified Disability Business Enterprises	5	7	7		
Certified Rehabilitation Facilities	8	10	11		
Total # of Certified Disability Business Enterprises and Rehabilitation Facilities	13	17	18	0	0
# of Contracts Awarded to Disability Business Enterprises and Rehabilitation Facilities	1	2	2		
Total Contract Awarded Contracts to DBE/RFs	\$ 5,000	\$ 505,000	\$ 505,000	\$555,500	\$611,050
Average Contract Awarded	\$ 5,000	\$ 252,500	\$ 252,500	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

Recertified 18 Disability Business Enterprises

Responded to requests on the Disability Business Enterprise program from 8 others

Created the Disability Business Enterprise Guide which provides information the procedures used by the Division of Purchasing.

Created a website for the program at <http://dbe.gcd.ri.gov>

Delivered certificates to the Disability Business Enterprises

Amended Disability Business Enterprise legislation to allow the creation of purchasing regulations for Disability Business Enterprises and lower the percentage of work produced by disabled employees from 75% to 60%.

Three vacancies on the Disability Business Enterprise Committee were filled..

Hired staff support person.

Began meeting with Disability Business Enterprises to assess their knowledge of RI Vendor Information Program and their ability to pursue State contracts.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

Not having a staff support person in place for over 1 year has greatly impacted the Disability Business Enterprise program. Without support the program basically tread water for over a year. The success of this program is heavily dependent upon having someone to work the program on a regular basis (20 – 25 hours per week) in order to get the program to point of being successful in getting State contracts for the Disability Business Enterprises.

Until the legislation was amended last year, there was no competitive advantage to being a Disability Business Enterprise. However, with the legal right to create regulations in place to support Disability Business Enterprises and changes in the Division of Purchasing leadership, we have great hope that Disability Business Enterprises will be getting a share of State business.

Grant fulfillment activities have been in suspension without a staff person to plan and carry out such activities.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project’s original goals?

Yes, the Disability Business Enterprise program is in desperate need of a sustained staff support effort in order to make the program successful for the Disability Business Enterprises.

The HRIC grant, which has allowed the program to grow, will be over on December 31, 2005. Future funding hasn’t been identified to continue the program at the current service level.

What options are available to:

put the project back on track, and

Seek general revenue funds to maintain the program at least at the current service level, Converting the current contract employee position (the sole staff support for the entire program) into part of an FTE, to ensure continuity.

Assisting the Department of Administration issue regulations required by RIGL§ 37-2.2-3.1. Policy and applicability to assist small disadvantaged disability businesses have the maximum opportunity to be

awarding contracts goods, services, construction projects, or contracts funded in whole or in part by state funds.

avoid such difficulties in the future?

Maintain the current staff support person for more than a year so that the program can benefit from the continuity of one person’s work on the program. If in a year we are rehiring a new support person, the momentum we are building will be lost.

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Meet with each Disability Business Enterprise to assess their business environment and capabilities, review the findings, and revisit the Disability Business Enterprises with information and training tailored to their needs.

Implement regulations to allow guidelines for the Division of Purchasing to choose Disability Business Enterprises when awarding State contracts.

Sponsor a Disability Business Enterprise Expo to bring together the Disability Business Enterprises and the State’s buyers.

Conduct training on how to effectively present at a business expo.

Develop and Practices and Procedures manual for the Disability Business Enterprise program.

Adjust the budget, staff time and complete as many of the grant’s “deliverables” within the current grant extension July 1, 2005 to Dec. 31, 2005.

Objective B. To promote work as a life choice for people with disabilities

1. Promoting Work Grant

Authority: RIGL 42-51-7. Governor’s Commission on Disabilities – Gifts, grants, and donations.

– The commission is authorized to receive any gifts, grants, or donations made for any of the purposes of its program, and to disburse and administer them in accordance with the terms of its program.

The Commission is the recipient of a Grant from the Rhode Island Human Resource Investment Council to promote work as a lifestyle choice for individuals with disabilities.

Policy and Oversight by:	Manager:
Employment/Economic Opportunities Committee	Assistant ADA Coordinator (Employment)

Measurement

This performance indicator measures the percentage growth in the number of events and activities promoting employment as a lifestyle option for people with disabilities. The measure is related to the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities’ responsibility to implement the Human Resource Investment Council’s Promoting Work Grant. The Commission’s staff keeps records of the events and activities.

The commission’s objective is for a 10 % increase in the number of events and activities in each of the next several years.

Promoting Employment	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
Objective	110%	110%	110%	110%	110%
Actual/Estimated	16	20	10	11	12
Actual Count	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Promotion - ABLE TOO	4	8	2		
Promotional Events	6	6	4		
Exhibits	6	6	4		
Total	16	20	10	-	-

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

Grant Objective: To promote work as a life choice for people with disabilities by encouraging people with disabilities to enter the workforce and seek employment.

Goals:

1. *Goal on target*- Public Awareness Campaign – 4 of 5 events
2. *Goal behind target and in process*- Produce and air an “employment TV show” – Produced 3 of 6 shows RFP in process from DOA
3. *Goal behind target*-Quarterly Promoting Work Event @ netWORKri – 0 of 4 events
4. *Goal Achieved*- Assist in the development of a “work-related information” component and referral system.
5. Developed work plan for this grant

Given all the objectives for this grant were not reached we are requesting an extension until 12/31/05.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

Difficulties included a new staff person who encountered a steep learning curve and there was not a hand-off between the people who had the HRIC responsibilities and this new person. In addition, there was some difficulty in obtaining a clear history of projects and funding of projects. And finally, the new staff person was performing tasks outside of the “employment” realm. This quarter a work plan was drafted and will guide scope of work until 12/05.

Objective:

2. Able Too- While GCD position was vacant-Able Too producer was not receiving any oversight from GCD. He was unaware of program content requirements. Additional DOA advised the GCD that the Able too producer needed to be hired through RFP process. Able Too has not been in production for 2 months.
3. No attention was given to coordinating events at netWORKri locations during the past year.

a. Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project’s original goals?

A few things impact achieving the grant objectives;

- the start date of the Able Too producer will impact the production schedule.
- Our ability to partner with organizations to coordinate events at netWORKri will also impact success. Additionally, we need clear understanding of budget resources available for these events.

b. What options are available to put the project back on track, and avoid such difficulties in the future?

- The Executive Secretary has requested a Grant extension.
- An RFP for Able Too producer has been posted.
- An Able Too EEOC subcommittee will work with staff on developing television show topics.
- The EEO Committee is now in place to oversee grant activities.

3. Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

A work plan is developed and priorities are identified:

Objective:

1. Public Awareness event- Disability Mentoring Day-goal 30 students
2. Able Too- produce 12 employment related shows
 - i. Hire a producer/director for ABLE TOO...,
 - ii. plan in detail the 12 ABLE TOO... shows
3. netWORKri events- planning events for September, November and December. November will be a Job Fair.
4. Work with the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities and the Office of Rehabilitation Services on the 2005 Employer Honor Roll
5. Adjust the budget, staff time and complete as many of the grant’s “deliverables” within the current grant extension July 1, 2005 to Dec. 31, 2005.

2. US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy & National Association of Governors' Committees on People with Disabilities

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The Commission designated one of the Commissioners and a staff member to regularly conducted teleconference calls amongst the states and the US Department of Labor's Office on Disability Employment Policy, to share experiences that could be duplicated (or avoided) in RI. Staff attended the May National Association of Governor's Committees on People with Disabilities annual training conference.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

There were occasional difficulties in connecting to teleconference call network. In addition the failure of the national association to update its emailing list resulted in RI missing the opportunity to participate in several activities.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

The National Association has updated its distribution lists, so last year's problems shouldn't reoccur.

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

NA

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Christine and/or Vicki continue to participate in conference calls as available. Tap NAGC resources when needed. Bring relevant initiatives to RIGCD attention.

3. RI Business Leadership Network

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

RIGCD offered RIBLN \$3000 in funds to support training. RIBLN also received \$15,000 in funds to support the establishment of RIBLN.

RI Business Leadership Network - The development of a RIBLN Chapter is developing at a steady pace. I am pleased with the progress the RIBLN has made to date and encourage the continue support of the RIGCD. The members of the Formation Committee, made up of ten companies, meet monthly and have established short term and long term work plan. On June 29, 2005 they are sponsoring a seminar -Hiring and Retaining Good Employees- Job Accommodation Workplace Solutions- with the RIGCD and the RI State Council of the Society of Human Resource Management - Also in development are RIBLN promotional materials, a Business Survey, affiliation with the U.S. BLN, representation at the national USBLN conference in November and development of an event calendar for Fall 05 and 2006. The RIBLN appreciated RIGCD's support for training.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

Group has had some growing pains, determining leadership protocols, creating infrastructure, choosing priorities and scope. Attendance at the USBLN conference is hoped to clarify questions and connect members with resources. RI GCD Funds will support 2 RI BLN members to attend the US national in November 05.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

Members have demonstrated some frustration but seem committed to making the RI BLN a meaningful organization.

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

Write RIBLN a letter congratulating them on their effort to date and reinforcing the RI GCD support of a RI BLN. Outline how RIGCD could be a resource to RIBLN. Consider inviting a RIBLN representative to a Commission meeting to report on progress.

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Additionally, RIGCD should support/participate in RIBLN workshops as appropriate. And when created- RIGCD should link to resources developed by RIBLN to educate employers about employing people with disabilities resources.

4. Youth Leadership Forum, Mentoring Day, & Rhodes to Independence Steering Committee, Department of Education's Comprehensive System of Personnel Development Advisory Committee

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

- The Youth Leadership Forum; another successful leadership training of 10 high school juniors/seniors with disabilities occurred in August at Camp Canonicus.

Mentoring Day; the 1st RI participation in this national program included 12 employers 25 students with disabilities from across RI, between October '04 and the Spring of '05.

- Rhodes to Independence:
 - o continued to publicize the new Medicaid Buy In option, that will start enrolling potential workers with severe disabilities on January 1, 2006;
 - o developed a successful youth in transition training model for parents and agencies;
 - o thru RIC & URI a bilingual special education teacher career path to reading and other literacy training has started in Central Falls, Providence and many other school districts including regular education teacher updates.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

Youth Leadership Forum & Rhodes to Independence – legislative and funding problems persist

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

All paths not straight but progress towards goals

What options are available to:

put the project back on track, and avoid such difficulties in the future?

Greater funding and legislative understanding of program goals and needs

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

Youth Leadership Forum – August 2005 Annual Event

Mentoring – October Mentoring extended through more than 1 date.

Rhodes to Independence –Full web site, implementing Medicaid Buy-In, Housing Expansion

Comprehensive System of Personnel Development Advisory Committee – more promotion & more cascading results

5. Civil Rights Roundtable

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

None

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

None

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

None

What options are available to:

put the project back on track, and avoid such difficulties in the future?

None

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

None

Objective C. To expose college students with disabilities, and other students in fields of study related to disability to government occupations

Authority: RIGL 42-51-11. Governor’s Commission on Disabilities. – Mary Brennan fellowship fund. – (a) There is established the Mary Brennan fellowship fund ("the fellowship fund"), which shall be utilized to create a fellowship program for college students with disabilities.

(b) These fellowships shall provide a semester-long, part-time placement with the commission in RI, working on disability policy and research. Each fellow will be assigned to a specific placement, providing assistance to the commission in disability policy. Mentor experiences will introduce the fellows to disability policy issues and actions at the local, state and federal levels. The fellowships will offer students an opportunity to:

- (1) Gain perspective on the role and responsibility of the commission;
- (2) Knowledge of national/state disability programs;
- (3) Policy issues and research;
- (4) Meet with decision makers, experts and critics in disability and related policy fields; and
- (5) Develop networks with local, regional, and national based experts, and researchers who can assist in career development and future endeavors.

(c) The commission will provide each fellow with a stipend of at least one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) and reimbursement for authorized travel.

Policy and Oversight by:	Manager:
Executive Committee	Disability Business Enterprise / Public Information Coordinator

Measurement

The number of fellowship applications received for each fellowship in the four fellowships
 This indicator measures number of applications for each of the four fellows submitted to the Commission. The measure is related to the Commission’s responsibility to award Mary Brennan Fellowships to college students, each semester. The Commission's staff retains the applications for fellows.
 The commission’s objective is to double the number of fellowship applications in each of the next several years.

Fellowships	FY 03		FY 04		FY 05		FY 06		FY 07	
Objective		100%		100%		100%		200%		200%
Actual/Estimated		100%		100%		75%		100%		50%
Actual Count	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total
Summer Applicants	3	3	2	2	0	1				
Fall Applicants	0	0	0	0	1	1				
Spring Applicants	1	1	2	2	2	2				
Total # applicants	4	4	4	4	3	4	0	0	0	0

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The Commission awarded three fellowships;

- Summer '04, the Mary Brennan Public Awareness Fellows, Debra Saul, of Middletown, attending the University of RI, assisted in organizing the 2004 series of Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families;
- Spring '05, the Edward J. Schroeder Legislative Fellow, John Kash, of Newport, attending Salve Regina University, edited the Commission’s *Legislative Letter*, a weekly newsletter identifying bills that impact people with disabilities, tracking those bills progress and changes during the General Assembly session; and

- Spring' 05, the G. Frank Hanaway Architectural Access Fellow, Alexander Gomes of Pawtucket, attending New England Institute of Technology, organized procedures to receive and review architectural plans; conducted plan reviews under the supervision of the State ADA Compliance Coordinator.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

- The staff position responsible for recruiting the fellows and supervising the Mary Brennan Fellow was vacant from July 04 to May 2005. During that time, very little outreach and recruitment was undertaken, resulting in one of the 4 fellowships remaining unfilled, since no students applied.
- Another consistent problem is the long delays in the state paying half the \$2,500 stipend once the fellow has completed half the semester. During the past year it took so long that both the first and second payments were consolidated and paid after the fellowship had been completed.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

The outreach and recruitment of applicants should improve, now the staff position has been filled. The late payment of the stipend, which most students use to pay part of their tuition, since one of the requirements of the fellowship is the student must receive credit for her/his participation in the program.

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

For future fellows, the Commission will work with the Central Business Office to establish a faster track for payment of the stipend.

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.

To promote the fellowships, the Public Information Coordinator will contact the career services offices of all the colleges and universities and build relationships with the counselors.

Goal IV. Commission's Finances, Personnel & Management

Objective A. To ensure the Commission's goals and objectives are accomplished and

Objective B. To ensure smooth operation and coordination of the Commission's activities, committees, volunteers, and staff

Policy and Oversight by:	Manager:
Executive Committee	Executive Secretary

Measurement

Percentage of the Commission's operational plan's objectives accomplished in the program year (Oct. - Sept.)

This performance indicator measures the successful completion of objectives. The measure is related to the commission's operation plan.

Describe activities that took place during the past fiscal year.

The Commission hired 2 new staff members and for a short time had an Office Manager who was starting to improve internal management and inventory control. Due to miscommunications just prior to the enactment of the FY 2005 Budget, regarding FTE cap, the Office Manager had to be transferred to the Department of Administration's Central Business Office in November. The CBO took over responsibility for processing payroll and purchasing for the Commission, in December.

Describe any difficulties or problems encountered during the past fiscal year.

Considerable more staff time is now devoted to inquiring about the status of Commission's construction requisitions, transfers of funding to other state agencies for reimbursement of renovation expenses, delayed filing of grant fiscal reports and other billing.

Will these difficulties impact on the attainment of the project's original goals?

Yes, renovation projects have been delayed, grants could be lost due to late filing of reports, funds owed to the Commission from other state agencies were not billed prior to the closing of federal grant years, etc.

What options are available to:

**put the project back on track, and
avoid such difficulties in the future?**

To transfer back to the Commission responsibility and personnel to process requisitions, purchase orders, invoices and other financial activities.

Describe planned activities for this and the next fiscal years.