



**Governor's Commission on Disabilities  
Legislation Committee  
Human Services Working Group Minutes  
October 11, 2012 2:00 pm**

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Meeting graphic

**Attendees:** Casey Gartland, Dawn Wardyga, Rory Carmody  
**Staff:** Gabrielle Mele-Algus, Mary Brennan Public Policy Fellow

**Action Items:**



Public forum graphic

**1. Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families**

**Purpose/Goal:** To review the testimony from the public forums, identify common concerns and develop recommendations

On Pages	Concerns	Recommendations
30, 38	Biased sharing of history and poor coordination between departments, and navigating the system	Governor's Commission on Disabilities (GCD) should create a mechanism that advocates for individuals and has someone that helps navigate the system.
54	Assistance does not consider cost of special food diets for allergies	Department of Human Services (DHS) should adjust the SNAP program to consider special diets (gluten free, peanut free, Ketogenic) when providing food assistance. Those with dietary needs are encouraged to report these for potential increase of their monthly benefit.
81	Chemical and/or Electromagnetic Sensitivities are inadequately considered	Toxic Information Project (TIP) should be referred for this information.

**Meeting Notes:**

- a. Funding needs to support community based activity
- b. Not just the funding anymore, but the ratios
  - ii. Can be in a group for x amount of hours per day
- c. Incomplete services
- d. Brian Adae gave answer to issue with Down Syndrome
- e. Refer to BHDDH and QI

**From:** Open Meetings Admin

<openMeetings@sos.ri.gov>

**To:** <bcooper@gcd.ri.gov>, <openMeetings@sos.ri.gov>

**Date:** 12/10/2012 10:47 AM

**Subject:** SOS Open Meetings : Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2012

This is your electronic confirmation for the electronic filing of meeting minutes for the Disabilities - Legislation Committee, Governor's Commission on. The meeting minutes filed are in for the meeting held on: October 11, 2012 14:00:00.

This notice was electronically filed on the Secretary of State Open Meetings Website on: December 10, 2012 10:47:41 am.

Please retain this message as your official proof of electronic filing.

Sincerely,

The Open Meetings Team at  
Office of Secretary of State A. Ralph Mollis  
State House Room 38  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 222-2357  
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TTY: 711  
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65, 69	Programming for Developmentally Disabled discontinued at age of 18	Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals (BHDDH) should consider amending services based on disability, that not all individuals with developmental disabilities are seeking independence and a job.
27	Liability for an individual with developmental disabilities	BHDDH should educate parents/families as to their liability if their relative with DD were to break a law.
Meeting Notes: a. Say that for more information, talk to Donna		
28	Awareness of Family Advocacy Network	Community Provider Network-RI should be contacted regarding the Family Advocacy Network.
Meeting Notes: a. Looking for support and assistance from GCD for mediation process b. May be part of mechanism for unbiased advocacy c. does this actually fall on the shoulders of GCD or is it something bigger? d. GCD runs mediation only for state employees (?) i. If state employee, should be covered by union e. Process that was used and accessed, wasn't sufficient to meet needs ii. Was it a problem with mechanism or was it unrealistic expectations?		
100	Mediation services from the Governor's Commission on Disabilities	GCD should improve awareness of its mediation services for employment, housing and human services for both government and private retail businesses.
34, 66, 69	Training and Quality of Group Home Staff	Group home staff should have a minimum requirement of competencies. BHDDH has established minimum requirements for group home staff.
50	Halfway Houses located in Rhode Island	DHS should follow up with forum participant who raised this issue regarding her concerns.
Meeting Notes: a. Similar to the 2 women in Woonsocket b. If accessing CEDAR, must be medically eligible c. Consistency iii. transition ages in the programs iv. programs all have different ages 16, 18, 21 b. Many end up transitioning from children's system to BHDDH c. Department of Health should be part of the conversation about transition		
19, 21, 65, 67	Transition and navigation services are not adequate	DHS/BHDDH should attempt to have a conversation about individuals with DD moving from children to adult services.

27, 28	Ability to obtain a Voter ID	Secretary of state should be able to answer questions regarding obtainment of voter IDS for individuals with developmental disabilities.
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Meeting Notes:

1. Forums
  - a. Possibly doing topic specific forums instead of broad based forums
    - i. From year to year, issues change
  - b. Outreach
    - i. More specific information in announcements
    - ii. Say what has happened in the past
  - c. Time of year(?)
    - i. Before kids get out of school or right after settled in
    - ii. Late September/October or April/May
  - d. Online submission of testimonials
2. Abuse and Neglect
  - a. Feels that current information sharing is biased
  - b. Care coordination as well
  - c. Saying there isn't a voice out there advocating for people
    - i. Isn't a true advocacy arm
    - ii. May not be clear to general public whether GCD is this arm of not
  - d. Identifies unmet need of appropriate advocacy out in the community
  - e. Recommendation – even though not job of the commission to provide advocacy, commission can suggest advocacy occurs or act as mechanism towards advocacy
  - f. Advocacy and access to treatment
    - i. Someone to help walk through the processes
  - g. Systems Problem
  - h. Navigators
3. Deaf and Hard Hearing
  - a. Closed captioning on
4. Family Court
  - a. 86 – Gloria Johnson
    - i. RI Family Courts keeping disabled
    - ii. Day 1 Consult – Peg Langhammer
5. ORS – 34
  - a. Ignores the directives of the Rehab Act
    - i. Refer to Joe Murphy?



voting check off graphic

**MOTION:** To propose the concerns and recommendations above CS/DW/RC passed unanimously



alarm clock graphic

**2. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm