

Please Note: This is not an approved copy of the minutes for the 3/15/23 meeting of the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

March 15, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Attending: Betsy Beach, Caroline Obrecht, Kimberly Marthers, Rainer Randall, Bunmi Osho, Tim Riker, David Mallowney

Staff Attending: Charlotte Spinkston, Pamela Zellner

Public Attending: Diane Horridge, Robert Horridge

Communication Accommodations: Interpreter: Joan Wattman, Kendra Timko-Hochkeppel
CART service: Tammi Burnham

Location: Cafeteria, RI School for the Deaf

Kimberly Marthers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm. The roll call was conducted. The quorum was met with 7 commissioners in attendance. Kimberly Marthers read RICDHH's Mission Statement, Vision, and Guiding Principles.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Diane Horridge of RI Deaf Senior Citizens advocated for holding a community forum where anyone could bring issues forward and to the attention of RICDHH.

Review of 2/15/23, 2/25/23, 3/1/23, 3/6/23, 3/8/23 Meeting Minutes: Betsy Beach made a motion to approve the 2/15/23, 2/25/23, 3/1/23, 3/6/23, 3/8/23 meeting minutes with three names added to the attendance on 3/8/23. Caroline Obrecht seconded the motion. The motion passed, seven in favor, (7-0-0).

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

- Charlotte "Dee" Spinkston, Interim Executive Director, reported that information will be disseminated to the public concerning the current situation for accessing the interpreter referral services/CART services. Shante Golding, the new office support contractor, has been helping with filling requests.
- The budget hearing for this week was cancelled because of a lack of interpreters. It is rescheduled for next Tuesday March 21st at 5 pm at the Statehouse.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- The Tech Access/Relay Service Committee met on March 2nd and will meet again next month.

Chairperson Marthers called a break at 6:31 pm. She called the meeting back to order at 6:41 pm.

CLOSED SESSION: Tim Riker made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46 (a) (1) of the RI General Laws for the purpose of discussing job performance, character, physical or mental health of RICDHH staff. Rainer Randall seconded the motion. The motion passed, seven in favor (7-0-0).

Caroline Obrecht made a motion to go back into open session. Bunmi Osho seconded the motion. The motion passed, seven in favor (7-0-0).

Chairperson Marthers adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.