

Please Note: This is not an approved copy of the minutes for the 4/19/23 meeting of the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

April 19, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Attending: *Kimberly Marthers, Betsy Beach, Bunmi Osho, Tim Riker, David Mallowney*

Commissioners Not Attending: *Caroline Obrecht, Rainer Randell*

Staff Attending: *Charlotte Spinkston, Bethany Lenk*

Public Attending: *None*

Communication Accommodations: *Interpreters: Joan Wattman, Amy Corey, Arkady Belozovsky
CART service: Tammi Burnham*

Location: *Cafeteria, RI School for the Deaf*

Kimberly Marthers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:25 pm. The roll call was conducted. The quorum was met with 5 commissioners in attendance. Kimberly Marthers read RICDHH's Mission Statement, Vision, and Guiding Principles.

Review of the 3/15/23 Meeting Minutes: Tim Riker made a motion to approve the 3/15/23 meeting minutes as written. Betsy Beach seconded the motion. The motion passed, five in favor, (5-0-0).

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

- Charlotte "Dee" Spinkston, Interim Executive Director, reported that the budget hearing was held and was a very positive meeting. Herself, Pam Zellner, and Michael Baer were in attendance.
- Holly St Pierre has returned from leave, and the migration process has begun for the new interpreter referral system. There will be training on the new system in small groups, starting with interpreters.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- There were no committee reports.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

- Kimberly Marthers reported that she will be on medical leave from May 2023 until August 2023. She will resume as chair in September 2023.

CLOSED SESSION: Bunmi Osho 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. David Mallowney seconded the motion. The motion passed, five in favor (5-0-0).

Betsy Beach made a motion to go back into open session. Tim Riker seconded the motion. The motion passed, five in favor (5-0-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Tim Riker reported that Christine West moderated a panel discussion on Deaf, Deafblind, Hard of Hearing, and Late Deafened issues at the recent RI Public Health Association meeting.

Chairperson Marthers adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm.