



**State of Rhode Island
Public Forums to Identify the
Concerns of People with Disabilities
and their Families**

July 25-27, 2023



State of Rhode Island

Public Forums to Identify the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families

During the week of the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Governor's Commission on Disabilities and many other state and non-profit agencies conduct a weeklong series of open forums to hear concerns of people with disabilities and their families.

The forums are open for all to come and speak; representatives of the sponsoring agencies will be there to listen. Policy makers and planners want to hear your concerns about current services, unmet needs, and suggestions for improving services and expanding opportunities.

Tuesday, July 25th, 2023, from 4:30 – 6:30 PM
Online Via Zoom

Link: <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/84337491662>

Wednesday, July 26th, 2023, from 1:00-3:00 PM
at the Pawtucket Senior Center
420 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI

Thursday, July 27th, 2023, from 4 – 6 PM
at the Cranston Public Library
140 Sockasosset Road, Cranston, RI

Remarks can be made in person during the forums, faxed to 462-0106, e-mailed to GCD.Disabilities@gcd.ri.gov, or mailed by August 8th to Governor's Commission on Disabilities, John O. Pastore Center – 2 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920.

Captioning and assistive listening devices will be at all sites. The RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will provide sign language interpreters for each forum and CART reporting for the Online and Cranston forums. To request information or accommodation, call 462-0100 or email GCD.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov. Spanish language interpreting is available at the Pawtucket forum.

When attending the forum, please use unscented personal care products in consideration of those with chemical sensitivity.

The RI Governor's Commission on Disabilities would like to thank the following organizations who provided sponsorship to make these forums happen.



Mental Health Association of RI

Executive Director Laurie-Marie Pisciotta

Director of Community Engagement and Operations Terry Charles

345 Blackstone Boulevard, Sawyer Building, Room 310, Providence, RI 02906

(401) 726-2285

E-mail: info@mhari.org

Website: mhari.org

The mission of the Mental Health Association of Rhode Island is to promote and nourish mental health through advocacy, education, and policy development.



Ocean State Center for Independent Living

Executive Director Mireille Sayaf

1944 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889

(401) 738-1013 13 fax (401) 738-1083 tty (401) 244-7792

E-mail: info@oscil.org

Website: oscil.org

The Ocean State Center for Independent Living is a non-residential, consumer-driven, community-based, cross-disability, non-profit organization. OSCIL was established in 1988 to provide a range of independent living services to enhance, through self-direction, the quality of life for persons with disability and to promote integration into the community. OSCIL is governed by an active Board of Directors comprised largely of persons having disabilities, who play a major role in setting policy and programming



RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Michelle Cline, Executive Director

One Capitol Hill - Ground Level, Providence, RI 02908-5886
(401) 256-5511 fax (401) 222-5736 tty (401) 222-1205

E-mail: info@cdhh.ri.gov

Website: cdhh.ri.gov

The Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RI CDHH) is an advocating, coordinating, and service providing entity committed to promoting an environment in which the deaf and hard of hearing in Rhode Island are afforded equal opportunity in all aspects of their lives. The RI CDHH develops policy; initiates and lobbies for favorable legislation; fosters cooperation's and awareness among state agencies and community organizations; and educates and advises consumers, state agencies, and employers about Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) rights to equal access. The RI CDHH also provides direct services in its operation of a Sign Language Interpreter Referral Service, a lending library of books and videotapes, and as a clearinghouse of information and referral on all topics related to hearing loss.



**Paul V. Sherlock
Center on
Disabilities**

*"Promoting Membership in
School, Work and Community"*

Paul V. Sherlock Center

Amy Grattan, Ph.D, Executive Director

Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI 02908

(401) 456-8072 TTY via RI Relay: 711 or (800) 745-5555

Spanish via RI Relay: 711 or (866) 355-9214

E-mail: info@cdhh.ri.gov

Website: cdhh.ri.gov

The Sherlock Center, founded at Rhode Island College in 1993, is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). UCEDDs are evidence driven and designed to advance policies, practices and research that improve the health, education, social and economic well-being of people with disabilities, their families, and their communities. The Sherlock Center is also a LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities) Program. The mission of the Sherlock Center is to promote membership for all in school, work, and the community. The Sherlock Center partners with state and national agencies, schools, institutes of higher education and community providers to offer: interdisciplinary pre-service and community education technical assistance, services, research and information.

About the Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Disabilities



The Commission coordinates compliance by state agencies with federal and state disability rights laws; inspects polling places to ensure all polling places are accessible; reviews state building and renovation projects to ensure accessibility, investigates disability discrimination complaints involving physical barriers at public or private facilities, and orders corrective action; provides technical assistance to businesses, employers, merchants, non-profit agencies, local and state government agencies on how to comply with federal and state disability rights laws, including mediating consumer and employee disability discrimination complaints; and reviews complaints regarding the Open Meeting Accessibility for persons with disabilities transition plans.

Rosemary Carmody, Chairperson

Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary

John O. Pastore Center - 2 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920

(401) 462-0100 fax (401) 462-0106 tty via 711

E-mail: GCD.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov

Website: gcd.ri.gov

To ensure that all people with disabilities are afforded the opportunities to exercise all the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of this state and each person with a disability is able to reach their maximum potential in independence, human development, productivity, and self-sufficiency.