



RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
Executive Department  
**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

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**Tuesday, July 12, 2016**

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**OPEN FORUMS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**Rhode Island Statewide Independent Living Council and National Federation of the Blind of RI** will be co-hosting an open forum for all people with Disabilities and their families on **Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015, from 2:45 – 4:45 PM, at East Providence Public Library's Program Room, 41 Grove Ave, East Providence, RI**

The **Rhode Island Statewide Independent Living Council (RISILC)** is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Independent Living for people with disabilities throughout the state. The Council's membership is comprised of volunteers appointed by the Governor of Rhode Island, and the majority of its members are people with disabilities.

The **National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of RI** is a membership based consumer advocacy organization. The NFB offers such services as access to newspapers and magazines through Newline, scholarship to college blind students, Braille education programs for blind children and mentoring. The NFB improves blind people's lives through advocacy, education about the capacity of blind individuals, research, technology and programs that promote a positive view of blindness, independence and self-confidence.

These forums are an opportunity for ALL people with disabilities and their families to speak out and voice their concerns. There will be a panel of representatives present from several state agencies and community-based organizations to listen to the participants. These forums are being held throughout the state during the week of July 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, as part of the 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Additional public forums on the **Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families** will be held on:

**Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016, from 4 – 6 PM,**

**at the Rogers Free Library's Meeting Room, 525 Hope Street, Bristol, RI.**

Hosted by RI Statewide Independent Living Council and National Federation of the Blind

**Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016, from 4 – 6 PM,**

**at the Warwick Public Library's Community Room, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI.**

Hosted by the Ocean State Center for Independent Living

**Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 4 – 6 PM,**

**at the South Kingstown's Potter Hall, 2605 Kingstown Road, Kingstown, RI.**

Hosted by National Multiple Sclerosis Society Greater New England Chapter

**Wednesday July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, from 4 – 6 PM,**

**at the Cumberland Public Library's Meeting Room, 1464 Diamond Hill Road, Cumberland, RI.**

Hosted by Rhode Island Department of Health

**Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016, from 4 – 6 PM,**

**at the Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library's Meeting Room, 100 Tinkham Lane, Harrisville, RI**

Hosted by TBA

**Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016, from 4 – 6 PM,**

**at the Middletown Public Library's Meeting Room, 700 West Main Road, Middletown, RI.**

Hosted by Opportunities Unlimited For People With Differing Abilities

**Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016, from 3:30 – 5:30 PM,**

**at the North Providence Union Free Library's Meeting Room, 1810 Mineral Springs Avenue, North Providence, RI.**

Hosted by Perspectives Corporation

Sign language interpreters and real-time captioning will be used at the site and a transcript will be compiled of the testimony. Assistive listening systems will be available upon request at the hearing. **Requests for other language interpreting should be made to 462-2130 at least 3 business days in advance.**

Comments may be made in person during the forums. They can also be faxed to 462-0106 or e-mailed to [disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:disabilities@gcd.ri.gov), or mailed by August 8<sup>th</sup> to Governor's Commission on Disabilities, John O' Pastore Center-41 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920-3049. For more information or to request an accommodation call, 462-0100 or 462-0101(tty).