

## **CODHHE MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

6:30 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf  
Newark, Delaware

**PRESENT:** Richard Pelletier, Chair, DSD; Loretta Sarro, Co-Chair, DODHH; Peg Stewart, Treasurer, DSD; Julia Sullivan, HLADE; Carol Stevens, Interpreter/Deaf Ministry; Loretta Sarro, DODHH; Josh Weinstein; D.A.D.; Terry Whitham, DSP and Kyle Hodges, Staff.

### **INTERPRETERS**

Lois Steele  
Tracy Wolford

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Rich Pelletier called the meeting to order at 6:42 PM.

### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Money for Kids for Summer Camp (2011)  
Petition for Captel

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the January 20, 2010 minutes as written.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Peg distributed the Treasurer's Report for January and February. As of January 29, the ending balance was \$9,735.25. As of February 26, the ending balance was \$9,735.79. Peg stated that since the Tax ID Number does not match the name of the Council, the Council has lost its 501C3 status. Peg distributed a list of all the 501C organizations for everyone to review. Peg explained that the Council needs to define: 1) what we are; 2) what the title of the Council will be (e.g. do we want to have 501C3 Status, 501C4 status or be organized and operating as a charitable organization with no official status with the IRS). Peg added that once this is determined, she will request a new Tax ID number and/or Employer ID number (either TIN or EIN). She explained that the filing is to keep our status with the IRS. Peg noted that going through the 501C3 status will take a long time.

Peg questioned the status of the Council as a State Council as it is established by Executive Order, and asked what that means. Kyle will research this issue to see if something needs to be done differently or remain the same. Peg also made reference to Tax Document 557 (on the IRS website) and had reviewed this document and cannot find a category that truly fits this Council. Peg also said Wilmington Trust needs an identification number to attach to this account. Josh commented that he thinks the 501C4 status would not be the best idea and suggested possibly going back to the 501C3 status, where donations could be taken, but the Council probably would not receive enough donations to have to file taxes. Terry stated that a 501C3 status allows for lobbyist expenses, but 501C4 does not; both have non-profit status. Terry added that some groups may contribute to a 501C4 status, but not the 501C3 status. Terry said that if the Council was generating income through donations on a regular basis, it would probably be a good idea to follow through with a classification, but based on what Council currently has in monies, he questioned if it was worth going this all of this. Peg added that the IRS representative suggested establishing as a 501C4 status because they will be organized and operating as a charitable organization.

Peg will clarify the name of the Council (using CODHHE) with the bank and IRS, and establish a new identification number with the IRS. Terry commented that changing the status is time consuming and could cost approximately \$3,000. Kyle will review past Executive Orders first and, if needed, will then request a meeting with Joe (Chief of Administration under DSHS), Terry, Peg and an accounting person. This was agreed to by Council members. Deciding what will be done with the funds will be discussed at a later date.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Money for Kids for Summer Camp**

Josh suggested possibly using some of the funds in 2011 to fund attendance at summer camp for deaf and hard of hearing kids and added that people could donate money. The applications could include a reason why the kids want to go to camp. A determination about which child should be awarded the money could then be decided. A screening process would have to be developed. The camp would be paid directly, money would not go to the student. Loretta commented that the Council would have to announce the scholarship, figure out the cost, and get information about the camp(s), how much money will be contributed, etc. Josh suggested getting general information about summer camp first. Peg suggested doing an announcement about a scholarship in the Fall through DSD, to other organizations, and special education directors in the school districts. Carol suggested that the cost could be between \$200-400 per week, but the Council could agree to pay a certain amount. Rich commented that the Council needs to find a way to keep the money growing so that it does not get depleted too quickly. Carol suggested getting general information about area camps so parents have options.

Terry commented that giving this opportunity to disadvantaged kids to attend camp is an ideal opportunity and also suggested adding something like writing an essay, for

example, on fire prevention, to be eligible. Carol commented the information could be derived on the application form regarding how many are in the family, family income and that would give some idea about need. Terry suggested that the Council draw up criteria, application form, etc. so that everything is in place. Carol offered to get a copy of the application used by the camp she is involved with (Pecometh). Loretta suggested collecting a list of camps and have a discussion in the summer and make plans to address this more seriously in the Fall. Josh suggested having more discussion on this at the May meeting. Terry also suggested having a work group or committee work on this to get the process started and then work on how to maintain the scholarship money to keep it going. Josh agreed to get more information. Carol agreed to get more information, but could not be part of a work group. Peg will also do some checking. Josh requested that Council members also email him the names of camps.

### **Election of Officers**

Kyle stated that, in checking previous minutes, the election of officers should have happened last June. He said that in June, 2007 the following were elected: Rich-Chair, Peg-Treasurer, and Christy Hennessy-Vice-Chair (although she removed herself and Loretta was elected as Vice-Chair). He said that originally there was an indefinite term, but the by-laws were changed in January, 2008 so that officers could be elected for two consecutive two-year terms. Kyle suggested that nominations be made tonight or via email. Kyle spelled out specifics regarding terms and said that if someone fills a partial term that would not count as a full term, adding that Peg and Rich started in 2005. Terry suggested that, if the elected officers agreed to stay on until July, then proceed with newly elected officers effective July 1. Rich, Peg and Loretta all agreed to stay as officers until June 30. Kyle will send out an email to Council members regarding nominations of officers. This was agreed to by everyone. Kyle commented that the Council may want to revisit the by-laws regarding the two consecutive term limit. Terry suggested not putting a term limit for the Treasurer. Kyle will draft this language and bring to the next meeting for vote. Kyle added that if the Council does not have a quorum at the next meeting, he would send an email.

### **Deaf Bill of Rights**

Kyle stated that what started as a Resolution (Deaf Bill of Rights) has now become a draft House Bill sponsored by Representative Quinton Johnson based on suggestions from various groups. Kyle said that he, Josh, Brian Hartman, and Julie Johnson attended a meeting in February with Representative Johnson. Josh gave an overview of the changes that were discussed as the meeting. At this meeting, Brian stated that there were too many “whereas’s” and the need to have specific terms. He went over the parts discussed: deaf-blind kids (referenced to in Line 58); language deficits (referenced in Line 52); Subsection (b) (Line 22) discusses the different language modalities; Subsection (d) references language and language flow. At this meeting, Julie Johnson stated that the process could begin in March, and would be getting involvement from some other Legislators.

Josh commented that this bill does not have a fiscal note. Josh reported that Julie said that they were working with Della Thomas and hope to have parents and students who are mainstreamed come and speak to the Legislators. Carol suggested keeping the language regarding deaf-blind more general because the modality of communication is so different and also suggested adding “deaf-blind children” where it says “deaf and hard-of-hearing children”. Kyle commented that had been discussed and a decision had been made that they are covered and to leave it as is. Kyle also mentioned that he hoped that funding would not be attached to this, but DOE could possibly respond that funds are needed. Kyle will contact Julie to check the status of the bill. Terry suggested communicating this proposed legislation to Liz Olsen (Deputy Secretary/DSHS) and get Secretary Schiliro’s support if the Council supports this bill. Peg commented that, while this bill addresses concerns of parents and children and that they are not receiving services in their educational setting, DOE will say something about money. Kyle commented that part of the argument was that children should be receiving these services anyway and this bill simply reinforces that mandate.

Peg asked if there had been discussion on how this would impact children placed in a inclusive setting or if a language modality is being used that the child does not agree with, but the parents want. Josh referenced Line 29, which references the IEP and the team approach seems to very effective. Julia added that this should be used as a guiding point in getting the best education for the child. Josh commented that if the bill passes and the school district is looking at how to address the child’s needs, it would be determined on a case-by-case basis. Peg also asked what the consequences are if the law is not followed. It was noted that the parents will have due process; this gives them something to fall back on. Terry added that Title 14 would spell out penalties and this should be reviewed. Peg asked about the overlap and the connection with IDEA and that since IDEA is in place, nothing more is needed. Peg said that the IEP Team makes the decision about the child from the parents’ perspective.

A motion was made that the Council endorse this legislation and Terry offered, as an amendment, that the Council send a letter to Secretary Schiliro and ask for support from Department of Safety & Homeland Security, both administratively and legislatively. The motion was seconded and approved, with Peg abstaining at this time because she thinks some services cannot be provided and school districts will be penalized for services they cannot provide. Loretta commented that parents have contacted her about resources not being available in the immediate home area (particularly downstate) and added that it would be good to look at it more broadly and see what other solutions are available. Carol commented that this sets forth the opportunity for things to expand for the future. Josh added that the spirit of the bill is to let people make informed decisions.

### **Petition for Captel**

Julia distributed a petition for Captel (closed captioned telephone). Julia stated that the purpose of this petition was to send this to the FCC since they are in the process of deciding whether or not to mandate Captel. Julia added that this will be placed on the HLADE website to collect signatures and send to the FCC so they are aware how much

people desire this service. Julia also stated that Kyle had given her a contact name at the News Journal and hopefully will get an article published regarding Captel in Delaware. Kyle reported that he could send out to everyone when it is finalized. Loretta will also disseminate.

## **ANNOUCEMENTS**

Kyle stated that SCPD received a presentation from Choices (at the request of Nick Fina, a SCPD Council member). Dr. Golinkoff and Dr. Papas spoke about educational options for kids who are deaf and hard of hearing. Kyle added that they also spoke about intervention services. The SCPD voted to write the Department of Education asking for their perspective in various contexts. Kyle has offered DSD to present. Kyle will copy this Council and keep everyone posted. Loretta asked for clarification about the organization Choices. Kyle will email their presentation electronically and comments will be withheld until the next meeting. Kyle stated that the SCPD is simply asking DOE about their perspective on educating children who are deaf.

Carol made an announcement about two camps that she is involved with—one is called Pecometh for middle and high school kids who are deaf (cost is \$199), and also one in eastern PA for developmentally disabled deaf adults and stated there is money available to pay for this.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 6:30 PM at DSD.

Respectively submitted,

Kyle Hodges  
CODHHE Administrator  
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