

CODHHE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 17, 2010
6:30 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf
Newark, Delaware

PRESENT: Loretta Sarro, Chair, DODHH; Richard Pelletier, DSD; Peg Stewart, Treasurer, DSD; Julia Sullivan, HLADE; Terry Whitham, DSP; and Kyle Hodges, Staff.

INTERPRETERS

Theresa Muschiatti & Pamela D'Occhio

CALL TO ORDER

Loretta called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

1. SCPD Letter regarding ASL as World Language
2. I-95 Rest Stop & Phone
3. GACEC

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 17, MAY 19, AND JUNE 16, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Kyle referred to the three groups of minutes that were brought to the September meeting, but there was not a quorum to provide approval. A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 17, May 19 and June 16 minutes; they were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Peg referred to handout regarding Wilmington Trust Bank statements, with an ending balance of \$9,739.89 effective 9/30/10. Peg stated that this account should not be a business account and we do not have a Tax ID number. Kyle commented that it had been decided that it was not worth it to go through the whole process of changing the current status. Peg commented that she needs to contact the IRS regarding filing a tax return and we can be assigned a Tax ID, for example, as a community organization. Peg will follow-up on this. Peg stated that the ending balance for 10/29/10 was \$9,740.49 (handout). Motion was made, second and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report.

BUSINESS

Governor's Signing of HB 283 "Deaf & Hard of Hearing Child's Bill of Rights"

Kyle referred to a document regarding this bill provided in the meeting packet. He commented that this bill was signed by the Governor in September. Kyle asked if anyone had questions or comments, adding that there had been a meeting on the implementation of this bill. Loretta asked if enforcement is part of the implementation. Kyle commented that there is nothing specific about this, but thinks it will be similar to IDEA and IEPs. Loretta asked if schools have been informed and are following this. Kyle commented that Martha Toomey should be following up on this. Someone commented that it would be good to know how information was being shared. Kyle commented the Special Ed Directors meet monthly, but he will ask about this and the follow-up meeting, including checking with Julie Johnson.

Test of the Volunteer Registry for Emergency Preparedness – Update

Kyle referred to several handouts in the meeting packet. Loretta spoke about her involvement in the meetings, having participated in revising the language, volunteering to be part of the test, giving feedback, along with Kyle and Terry being involved. Loretta added that many disability groups were involved, including visually impaired and suggested changes were incorporated into the new computerized Volunteer Registry.

Terry stated that the document (handout) is based on feedback from the group testing and is the fourth revision, including a step by step process. Terry stated that they tried to capture all the basic information that the emergency responders will need and tie that into the total emergency notification system. Terry commented that this project has taken two years of diligent work on the part of Loretta, Kyle and everyone involved. Terry stated that the Department of Technology & Information (DTI) has concern about the security of the information, but the vendor who provided the product felt that it met the security standards. Terry added that DTI requires a triple-firewall protection, which would cost an additional \$20,000.

Terry stated that he met today with the President of the host company and he agreed to provide the standard according to DTI's requirement. Terry stated that DSHS (Department of Safety & Homeland Security) Secretary Schiliro will ask the 911 Board to take ownership of this and fund the cost. Terry commented that he is optimistic that this will happen. Terry added that this will also give emergency planners the capability to search the database for specific information, for example, if there is an emergency situation in one area, they can search to find someone with special needs who resides in that area. Kyle added that the DDC (Developmental Disability Council) was part of this initiative. Terry commented that Secretary Schiliro is very enthusiastic about this project and the Governor is also supportive.

Terry commented that once all the hurdles are cleared, there will be a Public Relations event. Terry added that this system will be internet based so people can use from their home computer. He also commented that during these two years, achievement was made in getting all specific Departments involved to agree to use the database, so there will be

a central suppository for data sharing. Terry stated that all agencies involved will have a direct link on their homepage. Kyle commented that this system went through a lot of testing by various disability groups and many changes were made. Peg asked if there was buy-in from the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association. Terry responded that a presentation was made to DEMSOC (Delaware Emergency Medical Services Oversight Council) which oversees EMS. Terry stated that once this is implemented, there will be an educational campaign and every volunteer fire department should provide a link. Terry added that it will be very helpful to have emergency contact information. Loretta added that information can also be updated as needed. Terry commented that there is an audit process built into the system, so people will get an email to update any information. Terry added that this will be good for people in group homes since five people can be included in the system information in one process. Comment was made that nursing homes have their own process.

Department of Education Interpreter Regs

Kyle referred to a handout regarding the latest version (done in August) from the working group that was provided to the Department of Education (DOE). Kyle also referred to a draft Education Impact Analysis from the DOE (handout). Kyle explained that this document is basically boiler plate language that goes to the Register of Regulations. Kyle commented that the DOE draft does not contain much of what has been worked on for a year, with DOE stating that changes in Code cannot be made. He stated that a meeting will be held in early December to follow-up on this and he hopes to reach a compromise. Peg referred to page 2 of the DOE version, specifically 3.2, and commented that this statement is not accurate because in order to be recognized as a certified RID member, one must also pass a written test. Also, she referenced 3.1, saying that the term Generalist was taken from the RID website and it seems that what they are saying is that a Specialist through RID would not be qualified, but a Generalist would qualify, adding that the Specialist certifications through RID are legal and would certainly be qualified. Peg referred to a document she had printed from the RID website, which is a letter from Janet Bailey to the US Government Accountability Office. Peg explained that this letter has a wealth of information on what RID sees as qualifications for educational interpreters. Kyle asked if this is consistent to what we are asking. Peg reviewed the credentials given and other important information. Kyle commented that our version submitted and the DOE version are quite different and a small working group from the Council will be meeting with them to discuss in detail. Kyle added that it will not be published in the Register of Regulations until we have a discussion.

Funding for Summer Camp

Kyle commented that Josh had done some preliminary research in September, but since Josh could not attend, this will be tabled for the next meeting.

Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act [H.R. 1646/S. 1019]

Kyle referred to a letter (handout) that the SCPD wrote in August regarding this federal legislation, encouraging Representative Castle, Senators Kaufman and Carper to endorse and become a co-sponsor of this legislation. Kyle added that this legislation has been

referred to a Committee since then and nothing more has been done. He added that it may be introduced again in 2011. Terry suggested resending the letters to Senator Coons and Representative Carney. Kyle suggested waiting until next session. A decision was made to wait until then. Loretta expressed concern about a reference in the legislation saying regarding people 55 and over and asked what happens to those below age 55. Kyle suggested that they may be looking at statistics and trying to get something passed and build from there, so the majority having hearing loss occurs after a certain age. Comment was made that insurance will cover up to age 24.

Kyle asked Julia if the HLADE has done anything on this. Julia announced that HLADE – Wilmington Chapter has folded in Delaware. Julia explained that there were 3 Chapters in Delaware, Kent & Sussex County and Wilmington, with Wilmington overseeing the other two, and Linda Heller serving as State Coordinator. Julia stated that HLAA (Hearing Loss Association of America) never considered HLADE a State organization. The Board took a vote to fold and start a new Wilmington Chapter (affiliated with the HLAA) in the near future. Julia commented that there are people who want this and a lot of stories are being passed around.

ASL as World Language

Loretta referenced a letter sent by SCPD to Susan Haberstroh (DOE) in October regarding DOE proposing World Language Credit Regulation. Kyle explained that the Policy & Law chooses which regulations will be responded to regarding persons with disabilities, Brian Hartman then does an initial analysis, and then the Committee meets to discuss and choose the course of action. Peg commented that she felt some of the statements in the letter (Fourth) were not accurate as her experience has been that deaf students are not required to take an achievement test for “speaking.” Peg has concern that deaf students will not take this course if this is stated and it shuts down a choice for students. Kyle will check the §5.2 reference in the letter and takes responsibility for this. Kyle will see that this Council receives a copy of letters for review prior to being sent.

I-95 Rest Stop & Phone

Loretta brought up a concern regarding the new I-95 Rest Stop and the lack of a TTY phone, when the old building had a TTY phone. This accessibility issue needs to be looked at. Loretta will follow-up on this with the DelDOT representative and will email Kyle.

GACEC

A Committee under the GACEC (Governor’s Advisory for Exceptional Citizens) will serve as an advisory group to the Statewide Programs. Kyle added that this Committee will have a subgroup that will look at programs that offer only auditory oral communication monolingual. Kyle commented that a group called Choices has been pressing for that to be included as an option for parents and children in the school system. Kyle stated that while there are differences between the two groups, they will get together to discuss and address these issues. He said that since GACEC handles educational issues statewide, agreement was made for this to be under them. Membership for this

group is being determined, Loretta and he will participate, along with the Delaware Association for the Deaf will be represented, parents, special ed directors, Choices, and other State agencies. Kyle added that there will be a planning meeting in December, along with a facilitator who will help develop this. Kyle asked for suggestions for membership. Comment was made that HLAA has Barbara Martin as head of the Kent/Sussex Chapter and suggested her as a possible contact.

Other Business

Loretta spoke about a recent visit to DMV and commented that they are still using the term “hearing impaired”. Loretta will be writing a personal letter about this. Kyle asked what language should be used specifically and where does it say “hearing impaired”. Loretta showed the orange sticker on her license. Loretta stated that it should say “deaf” if you are deaf and “hard of hearing” or “hearing loss” if you are hard of hearing. Peg stated that it is not required to have the sticker on the license, as it is not a restriction or endorsement. Loretta explained that she had received a call from someone complaining that she wanted a sticker and was told there was none, so someone handwrote on the sticker. Loretta suggested having an option of whether or not to have the sticker and what to put on the sticker. Kyle will follow-up with DMV Director via email. Terry also offered to make contact with a representative at DMV if needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The LIFE Conference is January 19, 2011 and registration is now open. There is a website to access for information and register.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 19 at 6:30 PM, DSD, B-6 Conference Room.

Respectively submitted,

Jo Singles
Administrative Specialist

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