

## **CODHHE MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 19, 2011  
6:30 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf  
Newark, Delaware

**PRESENT:** Loretta Sarro, Chair, DODHH; Peg Stewart, Treasurer, DSD; Joshua Weinstein, D.A.D.; Terry Whitham, DSP; and Kyle Hodges, Staff.

### **INTERPRETERS**

Pamela D'Occhio

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Loretta called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

The following items were added to the agenda:

- February 7<sup>th</sup> Behavioral Health Fair
- Linda Heller's Comments at LIFE Conference (New ADA Amendment)–Provide Training

### **APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 17 as submitted.

### **TREASURER'S REPORTS**

Peg distributed the Treasurer's Reports for November 30, 2010 with an ending balance of \$9,741.07 and December 31, 2010, with an ending balance of \$9,741.67. Peg commented that she will be contacting the Federal IRS regarding the status (as discussed at previous meetings), adding that Wilmington Trust will eventually want a Tax ID number from CODHHE. Kyle added that several options had been discussed previously. Peg added that the taxes are being paid on this account. Motion was made, second and approved to accept the Treasurer's Reports.

### **BUSINESS**

#### **DOE Educational Interpreter Regulations**

Kyle explained that this has been worked on for quite some time, adding that a final draft had been submitted to Department of Education; DOE came back with a very different version. Kyle stated that a meeting was held on January 5. Kyle said those attending were: Peg, Julie Johnson, Deb Trapani, Rich Pelletier, Brian Hartman/DLP and from

DOE: Martha Toomey, Catherine Hickey. Kyle commented that this meeting resulted in compromises being made to meeting attendees' satisfaction. Kyle added that he expects a final draft from DOE fairly soon, so a final comment can be made before it goes to the Register of Regulations as a proposed regulation (which will then allow public comment). Kyle commented that we wanted this bill to be in conformity with the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Children's Bill of Rights, which was agreed to at the Jan. 5 meeting. Kyle added that the requirements of interpreters, grandfather clauses, etc. were also agreed to at this meeting.

Peg stated that we had hoped to change the title from "Interpreter Tutor" to "Educational Interpreter," but this cannot be done until changes are made in the legislation. Peg added this can be changed later as the schools and Statewide Programs support this change. Peg added that her only concern was about including a statement about afterschool activities where a parent could sign a waiver to accept a non-certified interpreter and DOE was not flexible on this. Peg explained that there are 20 certified interpreters in Delaware, approximately 8 of them are working at DSD, so there is not a pool of interpreters available for afterschool activities. Peg sees DOE being penalized for this, while at the same time, they are flexible about who will provide interpreting services in the academic setting. Kyle added that he agreed with Peg's comments and suggested commenting on this for the record when the proposed regulations come out. Peg commented that it would also be important to get the number of actual certified interpreters in Delaware. A question was raised if certified interpreter is defined in the regulations. Peg commented it is defined as a RID certified interpreter or that they be assessed through the Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment (EIPA), which means that they must meet a certain RID criteria, but are not RID-certified. Peg noted that there is no RID Chapter in Delaware, so people have to go out of state for training. Kyle commented that the term Interpreter/Tutor needs to be changed eventually because they are two completely different terms.

### **GACEC Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens Advisory Committee on Education of Individuals with Hearing Loss**

Loretta was unable to attend the meeting last week for the Advisory Committee. Kyle attended this meeting and referred everyone to page 2 of the powerpoint (Committee Charter & Processes), saying the purpose is to give advice on a Strategic Plan for Students Who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind. He added that this Advisory Committee is under the GACEC. Kyle added that this Council focuses on Special Educational issues and will meet on a monthly basis throughout this year. Kyle then referred to another handout and spoke about the Listening and Spoken Language Sub-Committee, saying their intent is to develop a program on Listening and Spoken Language (monolingual), auditory/oral programs. Kyle added that it has already been decided that there will be a preschool program, but specifics need to be determined; for example, where the program will be housed, what is most appropriate, etc. The first meeting for this group was held this past Friday. Kyle commented that the plan is to move forward. A question was asked if A.I. duPont Hospital was represented; Kyle stated that they had two representatives, Lou Bartoshesky and Thierry Morlet (who serves on both Committees). Kyle added that six participants are needed to make the program work. Loretta asked who led the meeting. Kyle explained that both Committees

are chaired by Julie Johnson (GACEC). Kyle said that he and Loretta will be on the Advisory Committee and he will also be on the Listening and Spoken Language Subcommittee. Kyle added that to let him know if anyone had questions about either of these Committees. Josh asked if the Mission Statement and Purpose had been approved by the group. Kyle referred to the Purpose (page 2) where it says “provide input and recommendations to the GACEC and the Delaware Statewide Programs for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind.” Kyle commented that the word “and” was replaced with “regarding”. Kyle added that this does not preclude Statewide Programs from going ahead, but it puts a process in place. Kyle also referred to the Initial Initiative (page 2). Kyle added that these meetings are open to the public. Kyle commented that, at some point, he will question why the Statewide Programs is under a particular district (Christina) instead of being under the Department of Education.

### **DHSS DPC Policy for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services**

Loretta spoke about a meeting she attended, along with Kyle, Josh, Christy and Steve Dettwyler, Penny Chelucci and Tracey Carpentier from DSAMH. Loretta explained that DSAMH had emailed a document to Kyle that was substantially different than the document the BHC (Behavioral Health Committee) had worked on. Loretta added that the meeting was brief. Loretta added that, although Josh had a lot of good questions, they came away from the meeting with many unanswered questions; for example, how an interpreter is used when a patient is admitted. Loretta added that Kyle made it clear at the meeting that we had already submitted changes. Kyle explained that DSAMH had given a totally different policy, which was an information policy, not an interpreting policy. Kyle asked the Council for approval to move forward with a couple of minor changes decided by the BHC as follows: leave the last sentence in as is under STANDARDS, replace the word “geriatric” throughout the document with “elderly” and “DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING” instead of “HEARING LOSS” PATIENTS; also change A to read as follows: A list of interpreting agencies that provide qualified and certified interpreters, their contact information is provided.....; page 2 change “Communicating with D/HH patients” to “Guidelines for Communicating”; add to 1. “via the methods listed below.”; E. add quotation marks; add words under K: individual’s “need for accommodations (interpreters) before being” transferred to an alternative program. Kyle asked for questions or comments. Kyle will make these final changes to DSAMH, saying that it should only take a few days to receive a response from DSAMH.

Kyle spoke about an email from Carol Stevens regarding this policy. Josh read Carol’s concern about DPC not having an affirmative position in assuring that all therapeutic services have appropriate access for deaf and hard of hearing patients, the same as given to hearing patients. Carol thinks that deaf patients receive watered down services, and the use of deaf talk or TV remote interpreter is impersonal and inappropriate. Kyle referred to the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence under Standards and thought this was affirmative. Kyle added that Josh had done quite a bit of work on this policy. Josh commented that he does not know the treatment aspect here in Delaware and was focusing more on having access to a qualified interpreter. Josh added that maybe there should be a separate policy focusing on ethics on what a deaf and hard of hearing patient can participate in, which means they would have to get some expertise in that area. Kyle asked for a motion to approve this policy as the last amended policy and submit to DSAMH. Motion was made, seconded

and approved to do so. Kyle will also follow-up with DSAMH to see that it gets approved.

### **Funding for Summer Camp for Children with Hearing Loss**

Josh explained that since he missed the last two meetings and due to constraints on his time, he recommended that this project be delayed for implementation until summer of 2012, although the logistics could be worked out this year and information distributed in the fall of 2011. Josh asked for comments on documents he provided at the September, 2010 meeting. This was agreed to by everyone. Kyle commented that if no feedback is received, then it is fair to assume that everyone is happy with what Josh provided. Josh asked if we should move forward or get input from DSD. Kyle will scan the materials and send to everyone before the March meeting, asking for suggestions or questions. This will be discussed at the March meeting. Josh had a copy of the criteria and this was discussed after review. Terry commented that Linda Heller was going to provide information on a camp that she had been involved with. Josh commented that he had contacted a Sister who runs a camp in Philadelphia where income criterion is not used; the family may pay \$100 and the balance of \$500 is paid by the church. Josh questioned the use of income as a criterion. Josh has a list of camps and let the winner choose the camp they want to attend. Peg clarified that we would provide information about five camps to potential applicants, they then would apply for the \$500 scholarship and when the winner was chosen, he or she would choose which camp he or she wanted to attend. Terry commented that one of the camps on the list was a girls-only camp. Josh suggested taking that camp off or adding a boys-only camp. A question was raised if only signers could attend the camps and Josh commented that 95% of those attending camp are signers. Peg commented that potentially hard of hearers may want to go to a different camp and they should not be excluded from the process. Josh spoke about his varied camp experiences. Terry spoke about the original intent which was to give an opportunity to a child whose family could not afford to send him to camp and that one of the requirements was to show on video that they can sign. Kyle suggested considering a pilot, see how it goes and then open up to a larger audience (including hard of hearing children). Terry asked about the length of time for the camp. Josh explained that it depends on the particular camp and the age group, but most are one week programs. Kyle will send the information out to the group again and plan for implementation in 2012, since a lot of details need to be worked out (advertising, etc.). Loretta stated that one of the intentions in offering the scholarship is to peak interest in parents giving their children the opportunity to attend camp.

### **EHDI (Early Hearing Detection and Intervention) Act of 2010 (HR 1246 and S3199)**

Loretta spoke about these two bills. Kyle referred to the handout and added that the bill passed in 2010. A question was raised about funding. Loretta will follow-up with Julie Johnson and commented on the progress in Delaware regarding screenings. Loretta explained that a bill had been passed in Delaware two years ago which supported insurance coverage for hearing aids up through age 24 (up to \$1,000 towards a hearing aid). She also said that DPH (Division of Public Health/Delaware Newborn Screening Hearing Office) established a policy which will provided financial assistance as needed

for hearing aids from birth-age 18. Kyle explained that any State law or bill that passes can be amended.

Kyle spoke about the federal bill and asked if states have federal funding that they can access. Kyle added that it also mentions IDEA. Loretta will do more research on this and report back to the group.

### **COAT (Coalition of Organization for Accessible Technology) – Public Transportation Issue Regarding Deaf & HH consumers**

Kyle referred to a handout provided in the meeting packet. Loretta stated that there is a NAD (National Association for Deaf) representative in this group, among many other organizations. Loretta stated her purpose in putting this on the agenda was to discuss public transportation for deaf and hard of hearing consumers. Loretta will contact Linda Heller further about this (since she is a member of COAT) to get a better understanding of the issue.

### **New ADA Amendment**

Loretta spoke about information that Linda Heller had presented at the LIFE Conference held earlier today. Loretta explained that Linda suggested that she attend a Delaware Coalition on ADA meeting regarding discussions about training on the new ADA amendment and provide training to the deaf community. Loretta commented that she let Linda know that she would discuss this with CODHHE at the next meeting so there is an understanding by CODHHE members before presenting to the deaf community. Loretta suggested that CODHHE members could be trained and then present to the members of DAD (Delaware Association for the Deaf) to discuss differences between the ADA of 1991 and the New ADA Amendment; for example, if a business has not developed a policy based on the 1991 ADA, it has to develop a policy based on the new ADA amendment. Loretta stated the new ADA amendment becomes effective March 15, 2012. Kyle added that some structural changes will also have to be made following the new ADA if not already done. Kyle also said there are new definitions; for example, on service animals, communication, changes to the accessibility guidelines (ramps, grab bars, etc.) Kyle added that he was not sure if training involves all aspects or just some aspects of the new ADA amendment. Josh suggested getting more clarification from Linda. Kyle will get more clarification from Linda regarding her intent, adding that the Delaware Coalition on ADA receives a small grant from DBTAC (Disability Business Technical Assistance Center), which is also called the ADA Information Center. Kyle added that this group's charge is to do training out in the community on ADA issues. Kyle will check with Linda to see if what she is asking is relevant for this group to address.

### **February 7<sup>th</sup> Behavioral Health Fair**

Loretta stated that the Behavioral Health Committee is sponsoring this Fair to be held at DSD. Loretta commented that a flyer and registration form was sent and asked if anyone had questions. Kyle will email this information again.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Terry announced that there will be a meeting on 2/11 regarding Emergency Preparedness where the rollout of the 911 Volunteer Registry will be discussed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 16 at 6:30 PM, DSD, B-6 Conference Room.

Respectively submitted,

Jo Singles  
Administrative Specialist

CODHHE/minjan11.doc