

CODHHE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 16, 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.; Kyle Hodges, Staff.

INTERPRETERS

Eileen Casey
Debbie Detterline

GUESTS

Kyle McEvoy
Eileen Sparling, CDS
Brittany Walls, U/D Student

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:

- Proposed Resident Advisor Regulation
- Council Membership
- Job Description and Qualifications for ASL Teachers
- DSD Staffing
- DSD School Name
- HDWD – Eileen Sparling
- February 7th Behavioral Health Fair

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 19, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Since there was not a quorum, the January 19, 2011 minutes were not approved.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

Peg distributed the Treasurer's Reports for February 28, 2011 an ending balance of \$9,741.81 and the February 28, 2011 Wilmington Trust (soon to be M&T) Statement, adding that this will now be sent quarterly. Kyle gave a brief background of how the CODHHE obtained this money.

BUSINESS

Healthy Delawareans With Disabilities

Eileen distributed a handout regarding a project funded by the Center for Disease Control. She spoke about a five-year grant and will be looking at health and disability issues. Eileen explained that they are looking at barriers to care and the health status of people with disabilities, including accessibility. Eileen added that people with disabilities have higher rates of secondary conditions (for example, hypertension and diabetes). Eileen explained that they are looking at system changes that can be made to improve access and close barriers. Eileen also stated that there was a lack of understanding on the part of medical providers to provide sign language interpreters and effective communication. Eileen explained that she, Loretta and Betsy Tucker gave a presentation last October to medical providers' staff about the ADA and their responsibility, deaf culture and logistics of working with an interpreter. Eileen commented that the workshop was well received and they would like to continue this endeavor, as well as get ideas from this Council on how to resolve these issues. Suggestion was made to contact the Medical Society of Delaware. Eileen added that continuing medical education credits were suggested also as an option to draw people to attend; she is looking for a sponsor to pay the \$500-700 application fee to have this workshop authorized by the Medical Society of Delaware.

Eileen then spoke about her Advisory Council meeting last Friday where the Governor's Council on Health Promotion & Disease Prevention is working on a process which includes gathering information from consumers, agencies and policymakers. Eileen added that they have to have come up with specific recommendations on how to make Delaware a healthier state by June. Eileen stated that the website to provide suggestions is: <http://www.conceptssystemsglobal.com/CHPDP/brainstorm>. Kyle suggested that providing interpreters in medical settings are added as a recommendation to this website, with Peg adding training for providers. Eileen explained that all ideas will be filtered and clustered, then will be rated. Eileen added that ideas can be submitted until March 23, 2011. Offers were made to add to Facebook, Twitter and Tumbler. Loretta added that there had been discussion with Katie Hamilton, Executive Director of American Academy of Pediatrics (Delaware Chapter) and Beth MacDonald, Coordinator of SNAP (Special Needs Alert Program) about establishing something in southern Delaware. Loretta commented that she provided a presentation on this a couple of weeks ago to a group of about 23, adding that it was well received; another presentation will be given. Kyle commented that if anyone knows of funding sources to email him and he will pass that information onto Eileen.

DOE Educational Interpreter Regulations Update

Kyle referred to a handout regarding proposed DOE Educational Interpreter Regulations, commenting that these are now published in the Delaware Register of Regulations for formal comment. Kyle gave a brief background on this issue, adding that while most items had been agreed upon, the two following points were not included in this published Regulation, although agreed upon in a meeting:

- asking that the Regulation be in conformity with with Bill of Rights for Children who are Deaf & Hard of Hearing.
- This regulation shall apply to the requirements for a permit, pursuant to 14 Del. C. §1331(b), for interpreter/Tutor for the Deaf and/Hard of Hearing in public schools. Kyle commented that the reference to this particular section [Section 1331(b)] was to be deleted because it only refers to Sterck School.

Kyle added that this will be included in SCPD’s comments. Kyle will forward this to the CODHHE group (since there is not a quorum tonight) with the suggestions stated above. Peg commented that if this references those in Sterck School, it references those who teach in mainstream school, but does not identify those employed by a district. Peg spoke about changing the title to Interpreter/Tutor to Educational Interpreter, but Kyle explained that DOE said this will need to be changed in the Code before it can be changed in regulations and may be looked at in the future. There was some discussion about RID reclassifying some of these certifications and that the language be left as credential interpreter without the specifics. Kyle suggested leaving as is for now adding that this could be revisited if needed and we will be monitoring how the regulation is being implemented and its impact. We can amend the regulation in the future if needed. There was some discussion about DOE requiring certified interpreters for extra curricular activities and the cost involved and the number of people to choose from since there are only 23 certified interpreters in Delaware, with 7 of those employed by DSD, with 3 who do not freelance, so this eliminates those qualified during these activities and puts those children who want to do activities at a disadvantage. There was some discussion about parents waiving this requirement, which was what was asked for, but not included by DOE. Kyle suggested reiterating this concern in our comments in joint letter by SCPD and CODHHE and suggested using proposed language previously submitted. Agreement was made to include the language regarding extra curricular activities in the comments.

DMV Driver’s License “Hearing Impaired” Sticker Update

Loretta spoke about concern from a deaf person who requested a sticker from DMV and was told she did not need it, adding that the person received a handwritten sticker saying “Hearing Impaired”. Loretta explained that it should say the following: “deaf” for those who are deaf; “hard of hearing” or “hearing loss” if you are hard of hearing. Loretta added that this was discussed 10 years ago and DMV staff should be informed that deaf drivers have an option of having a sticker on their license. Loretta suggested with the current technology, maybe this could be included on the license. Kyle will ask DMV about the technology. Kyle stated that he contacted the DMV Director and she acknowledged that new staff on the frontline need to be better trained and was amenable to the language we wanted to be used on the sticker. He added that the Director commented that the technology is now being automated and this was a good time to review. He also said that she was willing to come to a meeting. Kyle will invite Jennifer to a meeting and ask her what other states are doing and bring up a broader issue or how they are doing this with all types of disabilities. Kyle also suggested being clear on the language we want used before Jennifer attends a meeting, with the knowledge that this is an option.

GACEC Advisory Committee on Education of Individuals with Hearing Loss

Josh attended this meeting as Loretta's replacement and stated that there was a lot of discussion regarding listening and spoken language (LSL), a pilot program. He added that there was discussion about the hiring process and putting in safeguards, with Nick Fina wanting to be part of the hiring committee due to his involvement with LSL. Josh added that Goals 5 and 6 were discussed, which focused on LRE (Least Restricted Environment) due to changes in the IDEA level. He also said there was some discussion regarding Goal 6 about the criteria for placement into mainstream schools. Kyle referred to a handout with Recommendations of the Listening and Spoken Language Subcommittee. Kyle added that the Pilot Program will begin in the fall. He added that Christiana has a very specific protocol that they follow when hiring. Kyle added that since there is a cost involved with the Clarke School being involved, this probably will not happen. Loretta, Kyle McEvoy and Josh spoke about their personal experiences.

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Behavioral Health Network Fair – February 7th

Loretta spoke about the results of the evaluations from this event held in the DSD Cafeteria, adding that this was the first event and that turnout had been low. Kyle commented that average ratings were good and that the BHC (Behavioral Health Committee) is to have an all-day event in 2013, including workshops on different issues.

Petition on Services to Individuals Who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Loretta spoke about the handout regarding a petition from Bob & Kristi about a lack of resources in Delaware for deaf and hard of hearing adults. Comment was made about the petition, with names of people from all over. Kyle will invite Bob and Kristi to a meeting if they are interested.

Peg spoke about the regulations since ASL has been accepted as a World Language and ask specifically what are the requirements for an ASL Teacher, particularly in high school settings and secondary settings where students are being awarded credits for graduation. Peg commented that there should be some consideration for someone to be a certified ASL Teacher, adding that there is a difference if a class is being offered as an elective credit as opposed to a World Language credit. Kyle will send an email to Martha Toomey asking about this and how many schools are teaching this.

Kyle stated that U/D does not offer or accept ASL as a world language, but that DSU may have something. This will be discussed with U/D and if it is not resolved, legislation may be introduced. Kyle added that it does not mean they have to teach it, but accept it as a World Language.

DSD School Name

There has been concern about the renaming of the new complex, having it called just the Delaware School for the Deaf with Margaret S. Sterck's name being removed and the only recognition for her will be that her name will be used for the Library/Auditorium/Cafeteria. Kyle suggested contacting Martha Toomey and asking

how the name was established and concerns from the community. Kyle added that a letter of concern could be sent if needed after we receive background information.

Resident Advisory Regulation

Kyle spoke about this proposed regulation which covers Resident Advisors under the Delaware Autistic Program and Sterck School. He added that an observation made was that the regulation authorizes an issue of a permit to serve as a Resident Advisor in the Statewide Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons with no ASL capability or special communication skills, adding that it may be a major oversight or could become a problem. Kyle asked if CODHHE wanted to share these comments with SCPD. Peg commented that the majority of people who work in the dormitory are deaf. Kyle added that SCPD will be sending comments about this issue. Agreement was made to add CODHHE to the letter.

DSD Staffing

Peg spoke about concern about some 12-month positions being changed to 10-month positions, for example, audiologist and psychologist at DSD. The concern is that there are children here year-round and they would not have access to these resources during that time.

Council Membership

This was tabled until the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 18 at 6:30 PM, DSD, B-6 Conference Room. Loretta would like to add summer camp at the next meeting for discussion.

Respectively submitted,

Jo Singles
Administrative Specialist

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