

CODHHE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 16, 2012
6:30 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf
Newark, Delaware

PRESENT: Loretta Sarro, Chair/DODHH; Josh Weinstein, Vice Chair/D.A.D.; Joe D’Occhio, DEAFinitions; Richard Pelletier, DSD; Peg Stewart, Treasurer, DSD; Julia Sullivan, HLADE; Kyle Hodges, Staff.

INTERPRETERS

Theresa Muschiatti & Pamela D’Occhio

CALL TO ORDER

Loretta called the meeting to order at 6:43 PM. Everyone introduced themselves.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Workshop

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 21, 2012 MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made, second and approved to accept the March 21, 2012 minutes as submitted, with no one opposing.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Peg submitted for approval the Treasurer’s Reports for March 31, 2012, with an ending balance of \$9,750.41 and April 30, 2012, with an ending balance of \$9,750.70. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Reports, with no one opposing. Peg stated that she would be writing a check for \$800 for the camp scholarship.

BUSINESS

Camp Scholarship Update

Kyle gave an update on the camp scholarship being awarded. The parents had already paid for the camp. Kyle showed two copies of checks—the first made to the Youth Leadership Camp NAD (NADYLC) from the mother of the winner of the scholarship in the amount of \$500; the second from the parents to the NADYLC in the amount of \$750. Kyle stated that he also had received written verification that the awardee of the scholarship had been accepted to the camp (including a copy of an application and other forms from the NADYLC). Kyle will write a formal letter of congratulations to the awardee and provide a check for \$800, with Loretta reviewing and signing off.

Suggestion was made to change the wording on the application for the future as follows: “*CODHHE will try to pay the cost of the camp up to \$800*”, which would leave some discretion regarding the amount given. The Council will review the application and reword the language again at the September CODHHE meeting, with a final draft completed in November so the distribution of the application packet can occur earlier. Everyone agreed to this.

CapTel Update – Meeting with Senator Karen Peterson

Loretta spoke about several meetings she attended with Senator Peterson which included Kyle, Nick Fina, Linda Heller and herself. Loretta explained the purpose of the meeting, which was to develop analog telecommunication services (e.g. CapTel). This came about after complaints regarding lack of high speed internet access in Sussex County. Loretta said that additional information was gathered and another meeting was held, including a DATI representative, Jim Cole (DTI) and Pat Maichle (DDC), with Jim providing specific data on Sprint relay. Nick and others had provided comments or suggestions regarding the language on the draft legislation. Kyle added that they were researching to see if a telephone surcharge could cover the cost. The cost for the first year was estimated at \$180,000 and up to \$400,000 plus the second year. This amount includes limiting the number of phones to 10 per month. Kyle commented that the surcharge would have to be agreed to before the legislation passes. Kyle explained that currently Verizon contracts with Sprint for Relay service. Another barrier is that Verizon is saying that if we can pay for Captel services, then Relay services can also be paid for, which are currently free from Verizon.

Loretta explained that research had been done about Caption Call and it is only available through high speed internet service and Captel is available through analog. Kyle added that Delaware is the only state without Captel service, but all the other states also pay for Relay service and Delaware does not. Kyle added that no further meetings have been scheduled at this point. Kyle will contact Senator Peterson or his staff person on how she intends to proceed and will provide an update by email.

DODHH Update

Loretta explained that, after speaking with her supervisor, they agreed to contact the person responsible for adding her office to the list of State agencies on the State website and an email had been sent about a week ago requesting this update. Loretta will follow up on this next week.

Kyle added that there had been discussion about who would administer the Captel program since DTI did not want to take on this responsibility. Kyle explained that when asked at the working group meeting, he had suggested DODHH or the Aging Resource Disability Center (under DSAAPD). Kyle added that he received an email from Ed Tos and HarrietAnn (DVR) that they are willing to take on this responsibility if the legislation passes.

Meeting with Andrea Guest, DVR Director

Kyle spoke about a recent meeting with Andrea Guest. One of the items discussed was how this group and DODHH could collaborate on projects. The above-mentioned conference was discussed. Loretta added that DODHH/DVR has decided to hold another conference; the last one was held in 2009 with a theme about employing those who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Details have not been finalized, but Loretta added that she will keep Kyle informed. Loretta added that they hoped to send an email out in the summer and start planning in the fall. The conference budget is funded through a donation. Joe suggested contacting past participants (DVR workers, deaf consumers, representatives from State/private agencies, parents) for ideas. Loretta commented that she would like to see general topics and those related to current events, along with those about employment. Josh suggested a presentation he had seen about job placement for secondary aged individuals and topics related to transition. Loretta will clarify with Andrea if there can be a broad range of topics. Loretta asked for suggestions, but will follow-up with an email and provide information about the 2009 conference.

Listening and Spoken Language Program

Loretta spoke about a working group that started in January 2011 with GACEC (Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens) and Statewide Programs. Josh commented that he has participated in these meeting, but said that there had not been a meeting in 2012. Kyle commented that this group will not continue to meet because they fulfilled their need and made recommendations. He added that, although not everyone in the group agreed to the program implemented last fall, the majority did. Loretta spoke about a list of goals presented by Della and Debbie during the last meeting and asked if they had been finalized. Kyle commented that Statewide Programs was looking at a vast scope of goals to be implemented. Loretta explained that there is a full Council and a Subcommittee of Listening and Spoken Languages and Kyle represents SCPD on that Committee.

A decision was made that Statewide Programs would implement a Listening and Spoken Language Program. A Spoken Language program began last fall for several months. The two people (a speech therapist and an itinerant teacher) hired to teach that course left after a few months, although one has recently been replaced. Rich clarified that there is still a class. Kyle stated that Choices was advocating for a more Listening and Spoken Language Program in a place separate from DSD and that it be handled through a referral system. Kyle stated that he attended meetings with DOE. A final meeting was held with Lt. Gov. Denn, Secretary Lowery (DOE), Mary Ann Mieczkowski (Special Ed Director/DOE), Della Thomas, Deb Trapani and Wendy Strauss (GACEC).

A decision was made that another program would be implemented. Kyle referred to an email (handout) from Mary Ann Mieczkowski (DOE) which addresses the offering of an additional program targeting the education of children with hearing impairments under the age of 6 where all instruction and communication will occur through spoken language, beginning in September 2012 at the Early Childhood Education Center (where the old DSD was located). Kyle said the first meeting on the strategic planning team was held Thursday, May 10; he was unable to attend, although he received comments from several who attended who said they were happy with the progress. Kyle commented that there is a lot of communication among interested people, Clarke School and Statewide Programs. This new program provides another option.

CODHHE Meeting Timeframe

Kyle explained that he had polled Council members earlier. The three options considered were:

- Continue with current date and time

- Wednesdays – 4 pm
- 3rd Tuesday – 4 pm after BHC (Behavioral Health Committee) and move BHC location to DSD.

After some discussion, a decision was made to hold the Council meetings on the 3rd Tuesday (bi-monthly), beginning with the September 18, 2012 meeting. The time will be changed to **4:00 pm – 6:00 pm** and held at Delaware School for the Deaf, Newark. This change will also allow staff from DSD to participate in BHC meetings. Suggestion was made to move the Behavior Health Committee in September to the same Tuesdays as CODHHE and change the time to **1:30 pm – 3:00 pm**, with the location also being changed to Delaware School for the Deaf (rather than IRI, Inc., Wilmington).

A decision was made to cancel the June 20, 2012 meeting since several cannot attend. Kyle commented that if any critical issues arise over the summer a meeting can be scheduled if needed.

Workshop

Loretta explained that she had suggested during the BHC meeting yesterday to hold several workshops; one geared for adults or parents who are deaf and hard of hearing and another for interpreters interested in learning the signs used in covering these topics and have a better understanding (CEUs could be offered). The topics of bullying and domestic violence are frequently brought up in the news and other mediums (for example, Facebook). These workshops would emphasize terminology related to these topics and include defining terminology and what types of bullying exist in social networks. Loretta asked the group for input.

Josh spoke about a professional development workshop for teachers and staff at Gallaudet on how to set up a school anti-bullying program and develop policies to address bullying. He suggested that his former teacher be contacted to see if she is willing to attend our workshops since she is very knowledgeable about this subject. Josh suggested several workshop topics including Co-op Program and Internships. Loretta commented that Christy had suggested contacting DEAFinitions so they could cosponsor and/or present the workshop. Kyle added that DVR is going to hold a conference and these workshop topics could possibly be incorporated into the DVR Conference. Rich commented that a workshop is a great idea, there needs to be a hotline to provide support for deaf and hard of hearing folks and the Conference would be a perfect venue to offer this.

State Contract for Interpreter Services

Peg asked who would be the contact for the State Contract for Interpretation Services. Kyle commented that no one was contacted from DODHH or SCPD for any technical assistance or input; the contract is effective 2/1/12-1/31/13. The companies awarded the contract are located out of state (South Dakota, California and New Jersey). A new RFP will be issued in July. Peg questioned if this contract provides on-site interpreting or video-interpreting. Kyle commented that prices listed are higher than what we currently pay. Kyle will contact Andrea Guest to see if she is interested in participating in a meeting. Comment was made that the companies that received the contract offer 1/10 of an hour billing (less than 2 hour minimum), no mileage

billing, and a liberal cancellation policy. Also, these agencies made offers in which they could not deliver and are contacting local agencies as 3rd parties to deliver. Several examples were given of an industry standard, which they are not following (for example, requiring one interpreter for a four-hour meeting). The goal is effective communication and equal access. Comment was made that the contracted agencies have limited or no knowledge of the consumers in Delaware. It was noted that this State contract and is costing the State more money.

Kyle will contact Courtney McCarty (OMB Contract Procurement Officer) to offer technical assistance and arrange a meeting with her to discuss future RFPs. Kyle wants to suggest that they include more local groups who have local experience and knowledge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM. A decision was made to cancel the June 20th meeting. **The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at 4:00 pm at the Delaware School for the Deaf (Room 332).**

Respectively submitted,

Jo Singles
Administrative Specialist

CODHHE/minmay12.doc