

CODHHE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 20, 2012
4:00 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf
Newark, Delaware

PRESENT: Loretta Sarro, Chair/DODHH; Joe D’Occhio, DEAFinitions; Carol Stevens, Deaf Ministries; Julia Sullivan, HLADE; Peg Stewart, Treasurer; Josh Weinstein; Terry Whitham, DSHS-911 Administrator; Kyle Hodges, Staff.

INTERPRETERS

Pamela D’Occhio and Caroline Greene

CALL TO ORDER

Loretta called the meeting to order at 4:11 pm. Everyone introduced themselves.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2012 MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the September 18, 2012 minutes as submitted, with no one opposing.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Peg distributed two Treasurer’s Reports for approval for following months, including ending balances: September 30 2012 - \$8,952.12; October, 31, 2012 - \$8,952.40. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Reports, with no one opposing.

BUSINESS

2013 CODHHE Summer Camp Scholarship

Kyle referred to the Summer Camp Scholarship package with track changes (handout), which included a Cover Letter, Eligibility Requirements, Camp Application, Suggested Listings for Camps (reformatted). He reviewed several changes and asked for approval; all changes were approved. Agreement was made to delete the reference to the Delaware Technical & Community College Summer Camp Program. Kyle will add NAD Youth Leadership to the selection of camps on the Application.

Kyle commented that the Summer Camp Scholarship package will be sent out next week to the following: DSD (Della Thomas, Tina Fredrickson, Mark Campano, Marianne Belsky, Eva Hartmann, Rich Pelletier, Jeannie Evans), GACEC (Wendy will forward to Special Education Directors), Hands & Voices, Wilmington Club for the Deaf, Inc. (Joe Drexler). Kyle will also put information/link on the SCPD and CODHHE websites. Josh commented that the Delaware

Association of the Deaf has been dissolved. Julie suggested the information to Guidance Departments at various high schools; Peg suggested that the cover letter could be sent. Kyle will send a final draft to Josh and Loretta for review next week before distribution. Loretta will add an agenda item to the January, 2013 meeting to discuss the March deadline for the application submission and having an additional meeting to review applications received and future fundraising ideas.

Carol mentioned that there is an opportunity for a deaf and/or hard of hearing high school student to go with a group of other students to Zimbabwe in December 2013-January 2014. The application process is currently being handled and asked for the word to be passed on as appropriate.

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Conference

Kyle stated that he had sent an email out in October to this Council and the Behavioral Health Committee regarding participation in a separate Planning Committee to work on this. HarrietAnn Litwin, Peg, Della, Christy, Josh and Loretta indicated interest. Kyle will follow-up with these people and proceed with planning. Loretta commented that HarrietAnn wanted a focus on other topics, along with on mental health issues. Kyle commented that the planning will now be under CODHHE rather than the Behavioral Health Committee so other topics will be included. Kyle will send out an email with possible January meeting dates to meet about planning the conference.

Senate Bill 248 Update – Telecommunication Services

Kyle referred to several handouts (emails and draft letter) regarding this topic, noting in particular a letter being sent to service providers. Loretta provided an update on a meeting held yesterday. Loretta commented that those in attendance were: Senator Karen Peterson, representatives from the Department of Justice, the Public Service Commission, Verizon, DVR (Ed Tos/HarrietAnn), Sprint, the Finance Committee. Senator Peterson provided clarification on the legislation regarding the surcharge. Loretta referred to a letter she distributed (dated November 16, 2012, including an explanation on how the figures were being calculated). Agreement was made to have a 2 cent surcharge, not 4 cents. Jim Cole tried to reach the representative from the Department of Finance not in attendance to ask them not to send the letter referenced above, but found out the letter had already been sent. A request was made to send out another letter recanting the first and saying that the surcharge will be 2 cents. Loretta indicated that there is currently a contract between Verizon and Sprint, which does not involve Captel services; this creates an obstacle. There is Relay coverage until the end of February. The contract will be taken over by a new provider, with Captel being included in the contract. Loretta stated that follow-up will be discussed at a December meeting. Terry asked who would be administering this fund. Loretta commented that Jim Cole (DTI) will be overseeing the administrative function. Kyle added that Loretta's Office will be processing the applications. Loretta explained that HarrietAnn, Ed and she are developing a process and that Angie Officer (Sprint) offered her assistance. Loretta will be sending out information to the deaf community and applications will be reviewed and accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, with 10 people being added per month. This service is for analog Capel. The next DETRS meeting has been rescheduled for 12/17 (10 am, Wilmington); Terry also plans to attend.

State Interpreter Contract

Kyle stated that he commented on the draft contract. He contacted GSS/OMB (Courtney McCarty) to get a status and found out there is a final draft, which can be found on the GSS website. The bid opening is December 4, 2012 and Kyle will forward the email he received from Courtney. Kyle explained that the State has a new process in place that in order to get interpreter services, the provider used must to be listed on the State Contract. There was discussion on how this process is not working. Kyle will contact Dean Stotler (Director/GSS) to ask who was on the review panel had an expertise in deaf services and make recommendations. Loretta commented that some states have a Board of Interpreters that oversees interpreters and Delaware does not.

Proposed Requirements for Teachers of D/HH

Kyle referred to an email from Della Thomas (handout) regarding 1574 regulation. Kyle explained that the Professional Board of Regulations is proposing standards and new requirements for teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing. He referred to a pre-publicized draft of the regulations. Kyle asked for comment. There was discussion and concern raised about the 18-month required time frame, although the new proposed regulation allows for those who were previously certified to remain certified. Kyle asked for additional comments and will respond when the regulations are formally published.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 4:00 pm at the Delaware School for the Deaf (Room 332).

Respectively submitted,

Jo Singles
Administrative Specialist

CODHHE/minnov12.doc