

CODHHE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 18, 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; Terry Whitham, DSHS-911 Administrator; Kyle Hodges, Staff.

INTERPRETERS

Alicia Van Cleve & Pamela D’Occhio

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 MAY 21, 2012 MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the May 16, 2012 minutes as submitted, with no one opposing.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Peg sent four Treasurer’s Reports to Kyle for approval for following months, including ending balances: May 2012 - \$9,751.01; June 2012 - \$8,951.29; July 2012 - \$8,951.57; August 2012 - \$8,951.85. Kyle commented that the June, 2012 Report shows that a check was written for the Camp Scholarship in June for \$800 and subsequently cashed. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Reports, with no one opposing.

BUSINESS

DODHH on State Agencies Listing Update

Loretta stated that the DODHH (Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) is now listed under the State Agencies Alphabetical Listing. Loretta provided background information on DODHH.

DE Senate Bill No. 248 – Analog CapTel

Loretta stated that this bill was signed by the Governor on August 3, 2012. Kyle referred to summaries of bills on the agenda (handouts) for discussion. Kyle spoke about discussion at a recent meeting and questions arose regarding the current contract for Relay Services, which is

with Verizon (who subcontracts with Sprint); this contract is effective until 2014. With the passage of S.B. 248, the State will now have to pay for Relay. There are some issues about the process of transitioning from one contract to another since this bill becoming effective in January 2013. Terry asked about the funding mechanism and who would oversee this function. Kyle stated there will be monthly meetings on the implementation of this legislation and has asked that a representative from Department of Finance attend the next implementation meeting. Terry suggested that the existing Relay Advisory Committee could provide oversight. Kyle added that DTI is responsible for getting the system up and running. Kyle clarified that the consumer will be responsible for purchasing the equipment (average price is \$100). Loretta added that DVR is currently developing the process of how the will work, with an announcement once finalized. Julie asked how older persons would be contacted. Kyle stated that Ed Tos and Harrietann are also working on the rollout of the program. Kyle explained that the plan is to add 10 people to the service at a time; this number was reached due to funding and unknown demand. Carol suggested that Captel television ads could possibly be used for promotional purposes.

DE House Bill No. 384 – Universal Hearing Screening, Tracking & Intervention Newborn

Loretta provided background information about the Newborn Screening Program under the Division of Public Health. Loretta stated that there was an advisory committee that represented the Delaware Hearing Assessment & Intervention Program. Loretta stated that she attended a strategic planning meeting regarding the transition to the new structure, Early Hearing and Detection Intervention Advisory Board, appointed by the Governor, with representation from many specific positions with specific roles, for example, teachers of children with hearing loss, IDEA-Part C, Department of Education and Early Childhood Working Group, Statewide Programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. At this meeting, there was discussion about the importance of having people who were knowledgeable about detecting hearing loss in infants, having a database that is accurate and it will be maintained by DPH. Loretta stated that formal nominations have not been made for this Advisory Board; the goal is to make this Board more official and structured. Loretta commented that this program improves the old program.

DE House Bill 319 – Employment First Act – Persons with Disabilities

Kyle stated that he attended the bill signing event for this legislation. Kyle explained that this bill creates better competitive employment opportunities for people with disabilities and makes employment a first choice instead of a sheltered workshop with very low wages. State agencies will coordinate efforts, share information and track the progress of implementation. The Employment Oversight Commission will be administered by the SCPD. Appointments to this Commission are currently being made, including the representatives from the Legislature, DVR, DOL, Education, DHSS, DDDS, etc. The first meeting is being scheduled. Joe asked if the focus is for State agencies and/or employers outside the State government. Kyle explained that it is for both, but more will be determined at the initial meeting. Joe commented that he found researching difficult in finding information to hire people with disabilities at his company.

Camp Scholarship Application

Kyle referred to a letter sent to the person awarded the scholarship and application (handouts). There was some discussion about rewording language on the application about how much we will contribute toward the camp scholarship, for example, “up to \$800”. Also recommendation

was made to reword “CODHHE will pay the cost directly to the camp, where applicable” since families should not be denied this opportunity since they already paid the cost of the camp. Kyle also recommended that the camp scholarships packets go out after the next meeting in November. Loretta commented that since we are sending information earlier than last year and most camps have a March deadline, we should be okay with that. Comment was made that it is important to get information on the following websites soon: Schools, CODHHE, SCPD, Hands & Voices; DEAFinitions, Hearing Loss Association of America-Delaware Chapter; also information could be sent to DSD for inclusion in their newsletter. Carol suggested including kids being mainstreamed. Kyle state that a notice was sent to Special Education Directors and Wendy Strauss (GACEC). Camps had also been previously notified. Kyle asked if we want to keep the same camp list as last year, although the person receiving the scholarship has an option to choose a different camp for consideration. Kyle will check with Josh to see if the camps listed are still applicable. Loretta will verify the registration deadlines for the camps and let Kyle know. Agreement was made for Kyle to update the packet and send it out. Recommendation was made that the deadline date be determined by what Loretta finds out so that applications can be reviewed and a selection made at the March meeting. Kyle will contact everyone if he has further questions. Loretta will check on the status of the Jr. NAD at DSD.

Conference/Fair

Loretta stated that DVR has agreed to collaborate on this event. The Conference will not be limited to mental health issues. A planning committee will work on this. Loretta referred to handouts from the 2009 Conference. There are discussions taking place about having a half-day or full day; topics will be broadened to include employment. Kyle added that the Behavioral Health Committee wanted to expand the previously held Behavioral Health Fair. Topics discussed at the BHC meeting earlier were: bullying, domestic violence, emergency preparedness, addiction, internet safety, legal issues and rights, medical issues and rights. Lois will send some additional ideas to Kyle electronically. Loretta is working with DVR on employment topics, for example, what are rehab communication rules, Captel legislation, Employment First legislation and SSDI issues.

Kyle suggested forming a planning group to work on this. The goal is to have a conference in 2013, but we need to get things started before choosing a date. Kyle commented that it could take a year to plan. Loretta mentioned several conferences that are held yearly, for example, the LIFE Conference (January), DSAMH Summer Institute (July) and Hearing Infants (March). The fall may be a good time to hold the conference. If DSD is used as a location, the school week would be a problem. The Dover Sheraton is a possibility. Julie asked about having the Fair on the weekend. Loretta suggested sending an email soon to see who is interested in being on the planning committee. Terry recommended getting a date and location set. Loretta stated we need to decide ½ day or full day. Kyle recommended that Loretta, Josh, Christy, Harrietann, Della or Mark Campano will be part of the planning committee; other who are interested can also be included. Kyle will send an email to CODHHE members to see if anyone else is interested in being part of the planning committee as soon as possible and schedule a meeting. Kyle asked if anyone had topics to be discussed to send him an email. Loretta commented that she received a list of topics from DEAFinitions and asked Joe for clarification on some of these. Joe explained that they were compiled from interpreters.

State Interpreter Contract

The draft contract (handout) will be sent out for bid and effective for February, 2013. Kyle reviewed the contract for wording regarding routine, expedited and emergency requests and rates for interpreter services. Kyle recommended that Safety & Homeland Security question OMB Contractor Services to see if the State Interpreter Contract covers police/emergency activities (24/7). Kyle will send Terry contact information for the OMB Contract representative so he can ask follow-up questions. Joe commented that agencies that provide 24/7 services should be considered before contract is awarded.

Kyle stated that there was a meeting with OMB-Contracting representatives and recommendations were made by him, DVR and others regarding rates, mileage, set prices, etc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at 4:00 pm at the Delaware School for the Deaf (Room 332). Kyle will check on the status of the door being locked and the sign-in process.

Respectively submitted,

Jo Singles
Administrative Specialist

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