

CODHHE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013
4:00 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf
Newark, Delaware

PRESENT: Loretta Sarro, Chair/DODHH; Peg Stewart, Treasurer; Josh Weinstein; Joe D’Occhio, DEAFinitions; Kyle Hodges, Staff.

GUEST: Yvonne Weinstein

INTERPRETERS

Pamela D’Occhio and Rachel Matthews

CALL TO ORDER

Loretta called the meeting to order at 4:19 pm. Everyone introduced themselves.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Delaware KODA Program – Yvonne Weinstein

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2012 MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the November 20, 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: November 30, 2012 - \$8,952.66; December 31, 2012 - \$8,952.94. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Reports, with no one opposing.

BUSINESS

2013 CODHHE Summer Camp Scholarship

Kyle reported that the letter and camp scholarship packet was sent on December 4 to several staff at DSD (including Della Thomas, Rich Pelletier, Mark Campano, Jeanne Evans, Marianne Belsky, Tina Fredrickson) and Julie Johnson (Hands & Voices). He also sent the package to Wendy Strauss (GACEC) to forward to Special Education Directors, Joe Drexler and DEAFinitions. Thus far, Kyle has been unable to obtain a list of high school counselors, but will keep working on this. Peg offered to send a list of high school counselors to Kyle. He will send the camp scholarship information to Eva Hartmann and Regional District staff/Transition staff. Kyle stated that no applications have been received to date. He stated that Della was to put information on the DSD’s website. Peg checked the webpage during the meeting and discovered the scholarship information under Resources—CODHHE. Kyle will ask that it be

placed in a more prominent space. Peg suggested that it could also be put in the Newsletter that goes home to parents; also Della has an email “flash announcements” that go out. Joe offered to put the information on DEAFinitions Facebook page; he suggested sending to Karen Miller. Review of applications will be added to the March agenda or there will be a special meeting the following week if needed.

SB 248 - CapTel & DETRS Advisory Committee

Loretta provided an update on this. Several meetings have been held recently, but more needs to be done before this is finalized before implementation takes place. Loretta stated that a revised letter had been sent notifying people that the surcharge would be 2 cents, not 4 cents as previously stated. Josh asked if it would be appropriate for this Council to contact those responsible for implementation to push this along. Kyle explained that the implementation has gotten a late start and recommended not doing anything at this point. Loretta referred to the Draft Policies and Procedures, including an Application for Captioned Telephone (CapTel) Services, developed by the Delaware Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH) (handout). Josh asked about timelines. Kyle commented that it had been discussed at one of the meetings that the DODHH would be taking applications by March 1, although technicalities still need to be worked out. Loretta will get clarification from Ed Tos as to what agency will be responsible for the funding and send Kyle an email. Loretta suggested that Kyle contact Ed Black (DOJ).

OMB’s State Interpreter Contract

Kyle explained how the process works, including the scoring process. He said the State has awarded this contract to three vendors and referred to a handout with this information. There was discussion about these agencies subcontracting with local interpreters. Kyle commented that he and Ed Tos had offered alternatives to the process to Courtney McCarty, but it went nowhere. Peg recommended that if deaf people are not satisfied with interpreter services, they should note what agency the interpreter works with for solid evidence that the process is not working. Josh commented that Delaware could do something similar to several other states (for example, Pennsylvania and Missouri) have passed laws that block outside companies from providing interpreting services and have to be registered with the DODHH and RID or NAD-certified and listed on the State website, but legislation would have to be done first. Josh will contact Representative Quinton Johnson to see if Pennsylvania’s model could be replicated in Delaware and if check on his interest in sponsoring such legislation.

DE DOE’s Proposed Requirement for Teacher of Deaf/HH

Kyle referred to a letter sent by SCPD (handout) re: DOE Proposed Teacher of Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Certification Regulation. Peg commented about the short window of 18 months being offered to educators to complete the required 21 credits. Peg commented that this regulation was shared with different groups and they seemed satisfied with the results. Peg also spoke about teachers in schools teaching ASL who have no background in ASL.

DHSS DSS Proposed Interpreter & Translation Services Regulation

Loretta referred to a letter sent by SCPD (handout) re: DSS Proposed Interpreter & Translation Services Regulation. Kyle reviewed the comments submitted. He spoke specifically about §1010 (page 2) and commented that it is too narrow to meet ADA standards. Suggestion was made in the SCPD letter sent to contact SCPD or CODHHE for technical assistance.

D.A.D. (Delaware Association of the Deaf)

Yvonne spoke about the reactivation of D.A.D. (Delaware Association of the Deaf), saying four people in Sussex County are interested in making this group active. There will be an interim President. Loretta stated that a D.A.D. representative should be attending the Advisory Board meetings related to Relay Services (stated in the legislation). Loretta will contact Jay tomorrow since she is responsible for making sure all representation is filled and listed.

Delaware KODA Program

Yvonne is trying to set up a group in Delaware to be called DEKODA (Delaware Kids of Deaf Adults). Yvonne is working with Pam (DEAFinitions). Yvonne spoke about this program, and requested feedback and guidance. She distributed several documents related to KODA, a Fact Sheet and Mission Statement. This group is intended to provide support and information for hearing children of deaf parents. Yvonne is looking for ways to obtain funding, for example, through a grant or set up a nonprofit status (5013C) organization. Her intent is to collaborate with other groups/organizations, for example, DSAMH. She spoke about the lack of social outlets for deaf parents of hearing children. Peg asked if there was a national organization; Yvonne stated that there was not, but other states have set up their own groups (California). She added that the UK has a very active national group. Peg suggested contacting Julie Johnson (Delaware Hands & Voices) as a resource.

Suggestion was made to have the age increased to 21 rather than 18, to include children going to college. Workshops and networking with other college students would be beneficial. There are many emotional and mental issues for these children that need to be addressed. Peg spoke about her experience in education, where there is a tendency for deaf parents of hearing children to be disregarded from the communication process and the child takes on that responsibility.

Yvonne stated that they are leaning toward the 5013C and have several officers in mind. She hopes to receive some funding. Yvonne explained that she would also like to set up a day care for KODAs to give parents an option. Peg suggested that Julie would be a great resource for this. Kyle asked about interest shown from deaf parents. Yvonne commented that she frequently hears from deaf parents and gave several examples of issues. Kyle suggested informally setting up meetings with interested parents and chose officers. Yvonne commented that she has 25 interested parents in New Castle County only, but would like to expand to Kent & Sussex Counties. Peg suggested start meetings now so she can find out which parents who are serious about this and want to stay involved in the work that needs to be done. Joe suggested that funding is not necessary to start and suggested meeting with parents in a library setting.

Yvonne stated that she wanted to have a workshop for parents with a qualified and knowledgeable person and get funding for that. She would also like to get funding from mental health organizations. Peg recommended having the structure of the organization first before offering a workshop. Peg recommended the Longwood Foundation as a possible source of funding, adding that currently it would be difficult to get funding from State agencies. Kyle commented that CODHHE has some money available for worthy causes. Peg stated that there is a meeting next week to develop a conference and this workshop could be one of the ideas. Peg added that general information could be distributed at the conference. Her next steps are to have goals more defined and follow up with Julie. Peg recommended working on the structure of the group before applying for 5013C status. Yvonne thanked everyone for their input. Kyle commented that Yvonne keep CODHHE informed of her progress and CODHHE would be happy to support this cause. Loretta offered to send out information to the deaf community and this could be added as an agenda item for a future meeting. Peg recommended reaching out to the people in Maryland to see how they started. Yvonne commented that she did reach out to them, but their mission was very different. Yvonne asked if other disability groups have similar groups, for example, blind parents of a sighted child. She also asked if any of these groups offer parent training classes. It was noted that Hands & Voices have classes; also Family Voices (Ann Phillips) has classes for parents of children with disabilities. Kyle added that Ann helps parents navigate through the medical systems. He commented that there are all kinds of parenting classes and accommodations should be made in regard to the disability of the parent. Peg recommended contacting the Parent Information Center of Delaware (for parents whose children have disabilities) as a resource.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 4:00 pm at the Delaware School for the Deaf (Room 332).

Respectively submitted,

Jo Singles
Administrative Specialist

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