

CODHHE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 16, 2010
6:30 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf
Newark, Delaware

PRESENT: Richard Pelletier, Chair, DSD; Loretta Sarro, Co-Chair, DODHH; Josh Weinstein, DAD; Peg Stewart, Treasurer, DSD; and Kyle Hodges, Staff.

INTERPRETERS

Lois Steele
Tracy

CALL TO ORDER

Rich Pelletier called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Kyle added the following:

- ♦ Interpreter Regulations
- ♦ SCPD – Response from Secretary Lowery (DOE)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Since there was not a quorum, Kyle will send the March and May minutes out to CODHHE for approval electronically so this can be done before the September meeting. Everyone that attended today was okay with the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Peg reported that the balance as of May 28, 2010 is \$9,737.55 (handout). Peg stated that the best option to take is to become incorporated (through the Department of State) so we can get a business account. Peg said we would be required to file taxes, but would not have to pay taxes. Kyle will contact Peg over the summer regarding this.

BUSINESS

Interpreter Regulations

Kyle stated that the Interpreter Regulations are in final draft form and he will be asking Brian Hartman to review, although Kyle already provided it to DOE at their request.

By-Laws

Kyle stated that the change to the by-laws regarding no term limits for the Treasurer is now formal since enough votes were received to approve this change.

Election of Officers

Kyle stated that an election ballot was sent via email prior to this meeting. Kyle will gather a couple of more that were not received and send out the results. The terms for the newly elected Officers will go into effect July 1. Josh commented that he really was surprised to be nominated before accepting. Kyle responded that he had sent an email to everyone to let him know if they did not wish to be nominated. Josh will let everyone know his decision.

Funding for Summer Camps

Josh stated that he did some research and will bring additional information for the September meeting so it can be discussed more in depth. Josh commented that overnight camp for a week is between \$375-400. Day camp could also be an option depending where the children will attend camp. Josh mentioned the following camps: Camp Kirby (near New Hope, PA) and the cost is \$425; Camp Isola Bella (in Connecticut) and the cost is \$450; Camp Lion (in Maryland) and the cost is \$375. Christy asked for an update about this project since she had missed several meetings. Josh explained that this money has been in the fund for some time and there had been discussion about sponsoring some kids for summer camp by giving scholarship money. Josh added that a subcommittee would be set up to screen (based on financial need) and choose who would get this money. Christy commented that some camps have scholarship money available. Josh suggested that we could partner with several camps.

Kyle asked how this information would this be advertised. Josh stated that once criteria have been decided, information could be sent to DSD and school districts that have deaf and hard of hearing students. Josh added information could also be put on the DAD (Deaf Association of Delaware) website. Rich added that information could be disbursed through the Statewide Services, Deaf-Blind, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Programs. Loretta added that information could be disbursed through her Office as well. There are between 259-279 children in Delaware who are deaf or hard of hearing, with 120 students at DSD. Kyle stated that this would be a good way to advertise CODHHE and hopefully increase membership. Kyle suggested sponsoring one or two children and see how that went. Josh added that it would be interesting to see how many applications are received in the Spring. Christy commented that many of these children would not be eligible due to age, either too young and the 18-21 year old age group would not be included. Rich suggested starting with the write-up, requirements, priorities and cost in draft, send to Kyle who will send to everyone. In September, CODHHE could then refine that draft. There was discussion about choosing one camp or several. Also suggestion was made to let the families decide where to send their kids from a selected group of camps. Josh stated that, in the camps listed above, the age range is from 7-8 years old to 16-18 year olds.

A decision was made that an ad hoc committee meet in September and complete the process of developing the application for the families to fill out, along with sharing information about the four camps. Josh will put an outline together over the summer, which will include the criteria for the applicant (whether it is based on financial need and how that would be determined), ideas and names of camps. Josh agreed to send this to Kyle by August 15. Kyle will send this out to CODHHE members before the September meeting.

National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH)

Loretta stated that she received a letter on March 1 from the State Offices of Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Washington (Eric Raff), Rhode Island (Steve Florio) and Kansas (Rebecca Rosenthal). These three people had been working on a committee to establish a national organization and contacted her about working as their corporate agent for the applications to incorporate with the Division of Corporations. Loretta received approval from DVR to assist with this. There will be a biennial meeting on July 6 in Philadelphia prior to the NAD (National Association of the Deaf) Convention (four days). Rich asked for confirmation that this meeting would be to discuss different perspectives from different states, including concerns, etc. Loretta responded that a lot of information has been gathered by email, including how different states operate their State Offices of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, what services are provided, etc. Kyle added that this is for information sharing. Christy will be attending one day of the NAD Convention and Kim Bucha will be attending as a DAD representative. Kyle stated that Steve Florio has invited him and another Council member to attend the NASADHH meeting on July 6. Kyle said that he will try to attend. Rich will let Kyle know if he will also attend the meeting. Kyle will forward the meeting information to Rich. Loretta is waiting for approval to attend.

Emergency Preparedness Video

Kyle explained that the handout is for information sharing. There is a group working on a Volunteer Registry for people with non-typical needs to sign up online in case of emergency (similar to 911). This will make it easier to keep information current. Also, there is a new preparedness video from the Oregon School for the Deaf and the American Red Cross. The link to view this video is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4q3wdFmaZA>. Loretta added that the online Volunteer Registry is still being worked on. Loretta also said that issues raised were that each state will have to provide specific information for their own state as the signing is not appropriate for everyone, captions need to be provided, etc. This group is looking for a volunteer to write a script, making sure that all points are made, and they will need someone to do the signing. Loretta asked for input from the group. Josh stated that a link could be put on the DAD website. Rich suggested also adding the DEMA link. Christy commented that students will need to be involved. Kyle asked for clarification that a video will be made specifically for Delaware similar to the Oregon video. Loretta confirmed that the Emergency Preparedness group is definitely considering this. Kyle suggested that Rich talk to Della to involve the school and Josh take it to DAD. Kyle added that Bob George from the Citizen Corp has done a video on

emergency preparedness in general and would probably be open to doing a video for deaf and hard of hearing citizens. Kyle commented that CODHHE could suggest interpreters. Loretta suggested that once it has been decided what information should be included on the video, to bring in someone from Emergency Preparedness to find out what types of material are available. Christy asked if there is specific information for each county. Josh suggested having videos for specific types of emergencies. Christy suggested showing the kids putting together the emergency kits. Josh suggested making emergency kits up and selling them as a fundraiser to raise money for the camp scholarships.

Secretary Lowery's Letter

Kyle referred to Secretary Lowery response to SCPD and also the letter sent by SCPD to Secretary Lowery (handouts). Kyle spoke about needs based funding and that DOE has tried to get this into a bill. He said that they received stiff opposition from the Legislators (Della, Tina and Delaware Autistic Program attended). Rich added that the bill was turned down. Rich also said that they currently look at unit counts (with DSD students being identified as intense, while those identified as complex receive more funding). Josh commented that Choices seems to give a one-sided view and to suggest that DSD provides a sign only approach is incorrect.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Loretta stated that BHDC will be sponsoring a Mental Health Fair on February 7 (Professional Day) at DSD. The Mental Health Fair is for a ½ day and presents an opportunity for networking.

Kyle stated that he had emailed everyone the final draft of the DPC Interpreter Policy and had not received any comments. Kyle added that Kevin Huckshorn and Steve Dettwyler were comfortable with the final draft that he submitted. This policy should be finalized soon. Kyle thanked the BHDC and, in particular, Josh for his work on this.

Kyle wished everyone a good summer.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15 at 6:30 PM at DSD. **Please Note Room Change: B-6 Conference Room.**

Respectively submitted,

Kyle Hodges
CODHHE Administrator
CODHHE/minJun10.doc