

**Behavior Health on Deafness Sub-Committee Meeting**  
**March 16, 2010**  
**Independent Resources, Inc.**  
**Wilmington, DE**  
**1:00 pm**

**Present:** Christy Hennessey (Chair); Lois Steele (Vice-Chair); Loretta Sarro, DODHH; Joshua Weinstein, MCC; Christine Zenorini, Connections; Kyle Hodges, Staff

**Interpreter:** Pamela D'Occhio

**Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

Deletion: Domestic Violence Agency (instead The Sexual Assault Network will be added to the May meeting).

Additions: Choices (Kyle/Loretta), Update on Connections (Christine), Follow up Letter

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the January 19, 2010 meeting as amended (page 3, paragraph 3 add last name: Kevin Ann Huckshorn).

**Chair Report**

Christy stated that she had contacted Della Thomas (from DSD) about the Mental Health Fair. Christy added that Della was thrilled, wants to participate, and that Spring of 2011 would be a great time (wants to fit it into a good time for the school's and students schedules). There was discussion regarding the best time to have the Fair. Although this Committee initially thought it was a good idea to have it during Spring Break, this may not be the best time since students and teachers would most likely not be able to participate. Christy will check the school's schedule and get a few dates as options.

**Business:**

Choices

Loretta spoke about the SCPD meeting on March 15, 2010. Dr. Roberta Golinkoff and Dr. Mia Papas had been invited by Nick Fina (a SCPD member) to present a PowerPoint presentation on Choices and gave their different perspectives, with Mia giving her personal story with having a deaf and hard of hearing child. Kyle explained that Nick is also involved in this grassroots organization and Nick had presented a draft letter to be used by SCPD and directed to the Secretary of Education Lillian Lowery. Kyle explained that the intent of the letter is not to take a position, but rather asking DOE what their perspective was on community based options and getting proper information (including collecting statistics) for kids who are deaf and hard of hearing in the

educational system. Kyle will copy the CODHHE when the letter is finalized. Kyle added that the SCPD promotes options for persons with disabilities, whether it is in the educational system, or getting services in the home vs. an institution. Loretta added that Dr. Papas had spoken about a school in Pennsylvania (the Clarke School) that they had visited and gave an overview of the options available, hoping that Delaware would adopt their model. Loretta said that Nick had visited a place in New Jersey, where they had a similar range of options and modes (implants, children who are more oral). Loretta stated that when she attended DSD, signing was not the only mode (she had speech therapy through high school). Loretta disagreed with the perspective given that signing was the only mode at DSD and she thought that IEPs also include different modes. Joshua agreed with Loretta's perspective. Joshua said that the Clarke School has schools in five (5) states. Joshua stated that he felt a Clarke Center would not be needed in Delaware, as they offer options in public schools and felt that this was a weak argument to set up a center. Kyle commented that it was more about offering as many options as possible and added that the PowerPoint presented at the SCPD meeting was not consistent with the one distributed at the meeting. Once Kyle receives an updated version of the presentation, he will forward to CODHHE members. Kyle added that they are also doing a presentation at the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens meeting (they advise the DOE regarding issues relating to children with disabilities). Kyle also invited them to attend a CODHHE meeting.

### DPC Policy

Kyle stated that, included in the meeting packet was the original policy, a suggested revised policy (that this group had agreed to), and one with Joshua's comments. Joshua commented that he cleaned up some of the verbiage, including expanding on definitions for Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Videophone, TDD (listing Videophone first). Christy suggested changing TDD to TTY, since most deaf people use the acronym TTY. Joshua used the word "mainstream" in the language of the policy. Joshua commented that the Section II. TREATMENT OF GERIATRIC AND HARD OF HEARING PATIENTS. Section did not need revising, including Signs and Symptoms of Possible Hearing Loss. Other changes were as follows:

### **Communicating with D/HH patients.**

D. Change as follows:

Upon intake or admission of a D/HH patient, staff will make an immediate attempt to contact an interpreter from a list of qualified interpreters/interpreting agencies (attached to this policy as Appendix I). To prevent potential bias, do not use family members as interpreters. Staff will also determine if the D/HH patient's family member/s or support staff needs an interpreter.

It was agreed that Kyle will ask Steve if he has any suggestions if they take out the word "Admitting."

E. Add: The D/HH patient needs to be comfortable with the interpreter; therefore, staff should ask questions consistent with the following to ensure there is an appropriate match between the interpreter and patient: Is the interpreter clear? Would you like to keep this interpreter or do you want us to get a different one through the agency.

H. Add after the word “Notes”: and the minutes of the Treatment Team meetings.

Also, under STANDARDS: Ask why this last line is in the policy and remove if not needed.

Kyle will submit this as a final draft to Steve for his consideration and see how Steve wants to proceed. Kyle has also asked Steve to check with Kevin Ann Huckshorn if there are model policies in other states. Kyle added the final changes should be made in the near future.

### Mental Health Fair

See previous comments under Chair Report. Joshua will get with Della Thomas for a date, send out a “SAVE A DATE” notice, check with vendors and secure exhibit tables.

### Domestic Violence Agency/Sexual Assault Network

Loretta stated that there was a Domestic Violence workshop in Dover about 2-3 years ago by Patricia Maichle of the Delaware Disability Council (DDC). At one of the activities at this workshop, there was a representative from ADWAS (advocacy group for deaf women). Connections still has a crisis program and they have a confidential hotline and a referral system. Loretta stated that Polli Funk (Policy Director from Connections) sent out a communication reminding people of a meeting regarding the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware to be held at Smyrna Rest Stop. Loretta has asked them to come to one of our meetings and do a presentation. Also, Loretta suggested that this Committee attend one of their meetings so we could network with others and share these resources. Polli will contact Christy about attending the Committee’s May meeting and will confirm her attendance. Loretta will remind Polli to contact Christy.

### Connections

Christine stated that there were several deaf clients who are housed by Connections and still do not have access to a video phone. Christine added that she communicated this information to her supervisor (giving communication access) two months ago, followed up last week with a second request and spoke to her supervisor in person, but has not gotten any feedback yet. Christy asked who would be the contact at Connections. Christine suggested contacting Chris first and then go up the chain if needed and copy Kyle when that is done. Joshua commented that he has met frequently with the installers of the video phones and that if it is an initial installation, it is a simple process and suggested having the video phone installer approach the IT person at Connections. Christy commented that Christine needs to get someone to discuss with Connections the

purpose and how the installation takes place, not the installer. Loretta suggested that, based on her experience, it would be good to have all appropriate parties (Sorenson representative, IT person, persons that will be using the technology, person approving the request) together to actually see what this technology is and how it is used. Christy asked Christine to contact her supervisor one more time and then, if unsuccessful, let her know and also copy her and Kyle on the communication with Chris. Kyle asked about high speed internet cost. Christy commented that is a requirement and also there must be a deaf person as resident. Christy added that there may be a firewall protection concern.

#### Dover Behavioral Health Letter

Kyle apologized for not having done this follow-up and will draft this as soon as possible and send to everyone.

#### Reports/Announcements

Christy announced that the DDPH (Delaware Deaf Professional Happy Hour (DDPHH)) will be meeting quarterly this year (handout/flier), with the first being held on Feb. 19 at McGlynn's Pub in Newark, with 25-30 people attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 1:00 pm at IRI in Wilmington.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle Hodges  
CODHHE Administrator  
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