

CODHHE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 16, 2011
6:30 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf
Newark, Delaware

PRESENT: Josh Weinstein, Vice Chair/D.A.D.; Richard Pelletier, DSD; Terry Whitham, DSHS; Joe D’Occhio, DEAFinitions; Kyle Hodges, Staff.

GUEST: Della Thomas

INTERPRETERS

Theresa Muschiatti & Pamela D’Occhio

CALL TO ORDER

Josh called the meeting to order at 6:42 PM. Everyone introduced themselves.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 12, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

The October 12th minutes were approved except for one minor change: Terry asked that his association be changed to DSHS (not DSP).

TREASURER’S REPORT

Since Peg was unable to attend, this was tabled until January.

BUSINESS

DSD’s Statewide FACES Program

Della distributed two handouts (an Annual Report for 2010-11 for the Delaware Statewide Programs for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind Students and a brochure on the FACES Program). The Statewide Program includes these programs: Center-based school (K-12), the Deaf Blind, and Residential (currently 24 students with a capacity for 28+).

The Annual Report provides highlights of the Programs and Goals for 2011-12. Della spoke about the Needs Assessment. Della commented that many children are not reached until twenty months of age in the Birth-5 Program due to breakdown in the referral process in early identification for services (36 served), Deaf-Blind (84 students served), and 93 students attending the Center-Based Program. One of the recommendations was that Delaware needed a shared Plan for educating deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind children. In coordination with GACEC, SCPD and other stakeholders, they met monthly last year, with the result of a working document to address these needs. Della reviewed the Statewide priorities for 2011-12:

- Data collection to document child change and student progress statewide
- Transition for Middle/High School students
- ASL/ELA Framework in the elementary grades
- FACES program.

Della reviewed the Goals for 2011-2012:

- Creation of comprehensive early education program (Family Advocacy and Child Educational Services – FACES) for children and families with children ages birth to 5 who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind.
- Creation of/implementation of statewide database to measure child change statewide for children who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind who attend local education agencies.
- Implementation of a systematic transition program for students grades 6-12 who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind.
- Publication of ASL/ELA Framework for deaf and hard of hearing students grades K-8.

Della noted the Success Plan online link:

<http://www.christina.k12.de.us/DSPDHH/DSD/DSD%20Facts.htm>.

Della provided an overview of the FACES (Family Advocacy & Child Educational Services) Program. Della stated that the new building opened in July, 2011 and emphasized that it is a statewide resource building, with five programs incorporated: FACES (Birth-5), Statewide K-12, EIPA Testing Site (Educational Interpreter Proficiency Assessment Testing), Statewide Programs for Deaf-Blind (Birth-21) and Center-Based Program for DSD. They also have a long distance learning lab and conference capabilities. Della provided the following in her presentation: Purpose of the Statewide Programs, Statewide priorities for 2011-12, FACES (Family Advocacy & Child Educational Services) Program. Della commented that FACES used the best practice guidelines identified by national organizations.

In addition to home visits in all three counties, FACES also provides:

- Statewide Partners in Play (PIP) There are two programs: Squeaks Corner (all three counties) and Tots (NCC)).
- ECE-1- ASL-English Preschool class serving students ranging from 3-4 years old (NCC)
- ECE-2 – ASL-English Preschool class serving students ranging from 4-5 year old (NCC)
- ECE-3 – Spoken English Preschool class serving students ranging from 4-5 year old (NCC).

Della stated the challenge is making sure that both languages are valued, respected and utilized the best they can. Della's vision is to affect the lives of all 350 students. Della explained the role of the family educator. Joe asked if the FACES Program is unique. Della commented that the term FACES is unique to Delaware while the concept for a birth to five program is only being done by a few other states.

Della spoke about another outcome of the Needs Assessment which was the overwhelming need for support that families needed. Della stated that FACES focuses on the family, their

relationship and getting information to parents about options available. There are now six Family Educators statewide (formerly one) who work on advocacy and education, thereby reaching children at an earlier age. Della explained the FACES Team including: Certified teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing, certified early educators, auditory-oral educator, ASL specialist, educational audiologist, school psychologists, speech language therapists. Della explained the Preschool Program including classrooms in ASL-Signacy/English Literacy (Bilingual), English-Oracy/English Literacy and the parallels of both. Della envisions six preschool program opportunities being available. Della hopes to eventually expand Center-based services to Kent and Sussex Counties. Della reviewed the elements of an excellent preschool program. Currently there are 129 students attending DSD (36 in Birth-Five, 93 in K-12), with 74% returning to their local schools after three years of age. Della expects that number to increase. Joe commented on the benefits of Oracy in the Preschool classroom. Joe asked if FACES was a model or a work in progress. Della explained that the first year is a work in progress and will continue to change due to changing demographics and technological advances. Della added that it was important to communicate the goals and vision.

2012 Kids Summer Camp Program

Josh reviewed the final changes to the Application Packet. Kyle added that the liability clause language had been changed based upon suggestions by an attorney that he had asked to review it. Kyle asked about adding a phone number in case people have questions and suggested using his number. Kyle's phone number, the TTY number and email address will be added below the mailing address. Kyle will forward any questions received to CODHHE members so they can be discussed. Suggestion was made that the phone numbers for the camps be lined up. There was discussion about the flexibility of the camps. Josh suggested that the camps may be flexible about the deadlines. Terry suggested checking with the camps on deadlines. Kyle will have Jo check on each camp's registration deadline and Kyle will send an email with results. Camp applications will be due March 2nd. Copies of the applications and videos will have to be reviewed during or prior to the March 21 meeting.

Next steps:

- Advertise – send email to Della, Rich, Loretta, and School Districts where we know where deaf and hard of hearing children are being served. Kyle will ask Della for suggestions on how to reach the children in school districts; he will also check with Wendy Strauss (GACEC) if it would be beneficial to send to the Special Education Directors. Josh will notify the potential camps as soon as the application package is finalized about the scholarship program we are offering.
- Josh will see that copies of the application package are distributed to students.

Kyle thanked Josh for all his work on this endeavor.

CapTel Final Recommendation for DETRS Advisory Committee Meeting Dec. 5th

Kyle spoke about Loretta trying to get a formal position from this Council on CapTel. Kyle commented that Senator Peterson's legislative aide is researching CapTel, including how many people would be affected by it. If legislation is introduced in January, it could be reviewed by the Council. Kyle added that it has been difficult getting consistent numbers on the need and has

given the legislative aide a low number of 32,000 (obtained from a Community Survey from the US Census Bureau) provided by DVR/DODHH. If the legislative aide has questions, she can contact this office.

Terry asked about the status of the HLADE (Hearing Loss Association of Delaware). Kyle commented that he does not know the current status since Julie does not attend meetings. Terry suggested waiting until the December DETRS meeting to determine what is done and then wait until the January CODHHE meeting for further discussion. Council agreed.

Membership

This was tabled until the January meeting.

CODHHE Meeting Timeframe Change

Kyle reviewed the list of people who attend meetings regularly. Options were discussed briefly, including moving to a different day or time to attract more members. Josh suggested changing to an earlier time, possibly 3 or 4 pm. Joe commented that 4 pm would work for him and added that this time may work for Karen Miller. Terry suggested sending out an email asking for suggestions. Rich commented 3:30 pm is a good time for him. Kyle will send an email to the Council about the 4 pm time and ask for other suggested times.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30 pm at the new Delaware School for the Deaf (Room 332).

Respectively submitted,

Jo Singles
Administrative Specialist

CODHHE/minnov11.doc