

## **CODHHE MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 16, 2009  
6:30 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf  
Newark, Delaware

**PRESENT:** Loretta Sarro, DODHH; Peg Stewart, Treasurer;; Julia Sullivan, HLADE; Pam D’Occhio, Advocate; Loretta Sarro, DODHH; Karen Miller, Deaf Ministries; Kim Bucha, D.A.D. Vice-President; Yvonne Weinstein, D.A.D. President; Josh Weinstein; D.A.D. Secretary; and Kyle Hodges, Staff

### **INTERPRETERS**

Lois Steele  
Theresa Muschiatti

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Rich Pelletier called the meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM. .

### **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

DPC Policy was added to the agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the June 17, 2009 minutes.

### **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Peg provided copies of the Treasurer’s Report. The balance as of August 30, 2009, was \$9,731.66. Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer’s Reports for June, July and August as submitted.

### **BUSINESS**

#### **Credentials for Interpreter Tutors for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing**

Kyle provided an update about concerns that the districts are not hiring qualified interpreters under the current requirements of the Interpreter Tutor regulations. Recently, he attended several meetings with Martha Toomey, Rich, Peg, Wendy Strauss (GACEC), Julie Johnson, Deb Trapani and Della Thomas. The first meeting was to let Martha know our perspective. Martha subsequently sent out a letter to the Special Education Directors that when they hire interpreters, they need to follow the regulations. However, the letter was not very detailed or specific. As a follow-up, Rich (CODHHE Chair, Daniese (SCPD Chair), Robert Overmiller (GACEC Chair) and Julie Johnson (Delaware Families for Hands & Voices) sent a memorandum to Special Education Directors addressing the

regulations – Kyle provided the letter. Discussion took place about changing the name of “**Interpreter Tutor**” to “**Educational Interpreter**”, and including that in the definitions. Deb is doing some research on the Permit that is issued, but the main change needed is the requirements to become an interpreter. Peg is to determine other certifications through RID; Della was to determine what an EIPA (Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment) offers. Other issues to be addressed are: background checks, and grandfathered positions for people currently working in the schools if the requirements change. Once this sub-group comes up with a final draft, it will be presented to the full committee. Kyle will also bring it to the Disabilities Law Program as they work a lot with regulations and legislation. Peg stated that the EIPA came out when the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was passed, which is very different from the RID assessment and explained the differences. The work group will meet again on September 24. Question was made about how people were considered for this work group and Kyle stated that getting more people committed in this endeavor would be great. It was recommended that someone from WCD (Wilmington Club for the Deaf) be included.

### **Deaf Child’s Bill of Rights**

Kyle stated that he had forwarded this document (handout from last meeting from Julie Johnson of Hands & Voices) to the group in July and had not received comments from others, but he had sent Julie some minor technical comments. Kyle added that anyone could also email comments to him. The following suggestions were made by Josh: add a definition and summary of what deaf and hard of hearing is; places where the word deafness is written, it would be better to say children with a hearing loss; change last sentence/3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph/page 1) to: It is essential for the well-being and growth of deaf and hard-of-hearing children that educational programs ensure that all children have appropriate, ongoing and fully accessible educational opportunities; and the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph: remove “developed to an appropriate level of proficiency” and just say “respected and utilized.” Also, page 2, #4, it needs to say “RID-certified interpreters instead of deaf and hard of hearing and interpreters”. Kyle commented that this document will be a resolution and resolutions usually try to make the legislators aware of the issues going on; it is not necessarily a law and Julie is trying to raise the level of awareness. Kyle will send this document again and requested comments to him by **September 30<sup>th</sup>** and he will forward all comments to Julie. Kyle added that this resolution would not be introduced until at least January when the Legislation is in session.

### **DETRS Committee Legislation**

Kyle reported that the legislation appeared in the minutes from the last meeting, and in that document he either added language or removed language as discussed. Kyle also commented that it was not introduced in the last session of the Legislature and will be introduced in January. He added that Loretta has been meeting with this group for a long time and these are updates. Loretta gave a clarification to #2 – the TRS providers is currently Sprint, but every 3 years Verizon sends out a bid, so it is not known who is will be. Kyle commented that it should say “1 person **designated** by the TRS utility.” Questions were made about #11 – Kyle explained that Independent Resources, Inc. would be the representative, but they would delegate membership to whoever runs the Deaf and

Hard of Hearing Services program;. Another question was raised about those who are physically disabled that can hear, but have difficulty expressing themselves – would the relay service in Delaware provide assistance for them in making phone calls (if so, add this in here). Kyle commented that #12 covers such representation – it is a good “catch-all.” Suggestion was made that if one representative for people with communication disabilities/disorders is specified in this legislation, then it will assure such representation. Kyle will send this recommendation to the legislative staff and Loretta can talk to the current committee.

### **DPC Policy**

Kyle handed out an updated DPC policy, which was discussed at the BHDC meeting and Josh provided many good recommendations. Kyle will put the recommendations together and finalize it and present at the next CODHEE meeting for you to approve a final draft and then it can be sent forward to DPC.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Delaware Association of the Deaf is hosting a 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Day on October 3, 2009 from 11:00 am – 6:00 pm at Cape Henlopen State Park (handout).

There will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the new School for the Deaf on October 6, 2009.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Kyle Hodges  
CODHHE Administrator  
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