

**Behavioral Health on Deafness Subcommittee Meeting**  
**September 21, 2010**  
**Independent Resources, Inc.**  
**Wilmington, DE**  
**1:00 pm**

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

**Interpreter:** Paul Panusky

**Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

None

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2010 meeting as submitted. Kyle will confirm Karen's email address.

**Chair Report**

Deferred to Business.

**Business:**

**Delaware Psychiatric Center Interpreter Policy**

Steve Dettwyler could not attend today's meeting. Kyle explained that he thought the policy had been approved (handout), but between emails exchanged with Steve, he found out that Kevin Huckshorn had sent the policy to a policy person within NASMHPD and has not heard back. Kyle added that Steve will follow up with Kevin if it takes too long. Christy commented that she hopes it gets resolved before the November meeting. Kyle commented that it should not have an impact on the budget meetings. Kyle will contact Steve and say that the Committee would like to have this policy finalized or know the direction we are going on this before the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Department of Corrections (DOC) Interpreter Policy**

Kyle stated that he has emailed Ron Hosterman at DOC and Jo had emailed Patricia Ditto (who was unavailable) and then Angus MacLennan. Kyle added that they are looking into the matter, but have not given an answer as yet. Christy had contacted Neil Himelein at the Disabilities Law Program (DLP) regarding the situation with the deaf prisoner whom was having difficulty understanding the interpreter. Neil investigated and found out the interpreter was not on RID's (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) list. Christy gave an overview of the issue saying that the interpreter used was not qualified and the person receiving interpreter services was also referred to the DLP. Christy said the interpreter was brought in to interpret during the Mental Health Evaluation. Christy stated that the DLP is doing an investigative communication as the person

has a right to choose an interpreter. Christy stated that she had explained to DOC that the interpreter was not qualified, although DOC thought the interpreter was qualified. Christy added that DLP thought this was a good case. Kyle asked if there are qualified interpreters that would not be under RID. Joshua explained that they may not be certified, but they could be an associate and that the interpreter was not on the list at all. Lois commented that the prisoner did not feel comfortable with the level of access to information to make an informed decision. Kyle commented that because someone is on the RID list does not make them qualified just as someone not on the RID list, does not make them not qualified as an interpreter. Kyle added that this particular issue is in the DLP's hands. Christy stated that she wants to focus on the policy and how interpreters are hired by DOC. Kyle commented that he thinks this was addressed a long time ago, but once he hears back from DOC, he will move forward in meeting with DOC to develop a statewide policy if they do not have one. Kyle will keep checking until he gets an answer from DOC. Joshua suggested using the DPC policy (once it is finalized) and changing it to fit DOC as needed or consider a policy that can be used statewide by all State Departments. Kyle commented that would be something to consider, but situations may be different scenarios in different situations. Christy suggested that something specifically regarding mental health services could be in the statewide policy used by all Departments and look at what other states do, and come up with a proposal for the State in the Spring specifically for the mental health field. Kyle commented that once we hear from DPC and get something from DOC, we can move forward on this. Joshua suggested contacting Alabama to see how they handle policy since they provide training for mental health interpreters. Lois commented that Alabama's policy is that an interpreter must be certified, must have taken 40 hours of mental health training and pass an observation period before being allowed to be a mental health interpreter. Kyle asked Christy to inform him of the outcome of the DLP's investigation.

### Mental Health Fair

Christy stated that the Fair will be coming up February 7, 2011. Joshua that he has contacted William Kachman as a presenter and is waiting for a commitment from him, but hopes to hear by next week. If Mr. Kachman cannot attend, there are several others who may be interested in providing a workshop or lecture. Christy said that a flyer needs to be developed soon to distribute to providers, etc. Joshua suggested the cost for a booth reservation could be \$20 or less and gave examples that the proceeds could be donated to charity or participants could bring 10 cans of food. Joshua asked if money is needed for this event. Kyle asked who is the main organizer for the event and suggested that IRI could be the lead agency. He added that, if they wanted to charge \$20 for an exhibit, the money could go to IRI toward deaf services. Joshua suggested sending the money to NAD (National Association for the Deaf). Loretta will create a SAVE THE DATE communication saying: "The Delaware Behavioral Health Subcommittee is having an event for February 7, 2011. Please save the date. More information will be coming by \_\_\_\_\_ (giving a specific date)." Loretta will send a draft to the Committee by Monday or Tuesday. Loretta will also start the draft for the flyer. Joshua will work on and confirm presenters. Christine will talk to Della on Thursday. If Josh has not confirmed the presenters by early October, Christine will check with Della for her ideas. There was some discussion on a theme. Lois suggested words like "You're in Charge" because her experience has been that deaf people need to feel empowered, instead of being told where to go for such and such. Other words suggested were "enabling" or "empowering" or "Wellness Day". Joshua commented that people need to learn so they can then take charge. Kyle suggested that the presenter may have a theme in mind. He also suggested checking with Della.

Kyle commented that things need to be well defined if the Committee is sponsoring this Fair. At the November meeting a draft flyer should be ready, a list of presenters and specifics finalized during the November meeting. Kyle commented that this would be doable. A suggestion was made that Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts could provide coffee and Danish for free, but it should be someone local and suggested calling or sending a letter and then meeting with a local manager, asking for a donation of coffee/donuts. Christine will make this contact. Kyle suggested if someone is not willing to contribute, CODHHE could pick up the cost. Kyle commented that this could be a collaborative event, possibly with DSD (Delaware School for the Deaf) and IRI.

### Committee Name

Joshua suggested focusing more on the things that deaf and hard of hearing people deal with, for example, Behavioral Health on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Sub-Committee or Deaf and Hard of Hearing Behavioral Health Sub-Committee. Kyle agreed that something needs to change and explained that this Sub-Committee is under the Council for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Equality. Kyle suggested the following name: The Council for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Equality (CODHHE) Behavioral Health Committee. Loretta suggested taking off “ness” in the word “Deafness” and questioned the wording of “Behavioral Health” and suggested removing the word “Sub”. Agreement was made to change the name of the Sub-Committee to: (first line) CODHHE and (second line) Behavioral Health Committee. Agreement was made to use the following wording for the flyer: Deaf & Hard of Hearing Behavioral Health Committee.

### Reports/Announcements

Christy stated that next week is Deaf Awareness Week.

Christy stated that, at the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, there should be open discussion about the goals of this Committee, issues that come up and sharing, similar to a checklist. Kyle will check to see if anything was done previously. Kyle asked for a copy of the final report of the needs assessment and suggested looking at that for information. Christy will send a copy to Kyle, although the results need to be tabulated. Kyle offered to get Jo from his office to tabulate the results prior to the November meeting. The word needs to get out regarding CODHHE and what this Council gets involved in, for example, policy, laws, etc. This Council is open to everyone.

Kyle commented if anything needs to be communicated before the November meeting, send him an email.

The meeting ended at 2:45 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at 1:00 pm at IRI in Wilmington.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle Hodges  
CODHHE Administrator  
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