

CODHHE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008
6:30 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf
Newark, Delaware

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Pelletier, Chair, DSD; Loretta Sarro, DODHH; Peg Stewart, Interpreter/Advocate; Julia Sullivan, HLADE; Terry Whitham, DSP and Linda Bates, Support Staff

MEMBERS ABSENT: Diana Armstead, Advocate; Joe Drexler, WCD and Christy Hennessey, IRI

INTERPRETERS

Lois Steele
Eileen Casey

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Julia added the hearing aid insurance bill.

Linda announced that Kyle wanted to let all know that the by-laws have been officially approved since he did not receive any negative comments when he sent the latest version out after they were reviewed at the January meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the September 19, 2007, November 14, 2007 and January 16, 2008 minutes as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Peg provided January and February, 2008 reports.

The balance of accounts as of January 31, 2008: Money Market Account: \$9,699.70.

The balance of accounts as of February 29, 2008: Money Market Account: \$9,702.78.

Peg has not received the March 31, 2008 statement as of today.

Kyle sent out an e-mail to all asking all CODHHE members if they were in agreement that \$8,000 will be put into a Certificate of Deposit (CD). All agreed--and Peg will transfer the \$8,000 into a CD.

BUSINESS

Meeting with DTI/CapTel

Julia stated that Terry, Linda Heller, Kyle and she met with DTI, Verizon and Sprint about two weeks ago. The purpose of the meeting was to see if DTI wanted to extend the Sprint contract which is expiring December 2008. DTI told Verizon that they do not have to go through the RFP process —so they are going to continue using Sprint. Julia asked if you can add or subtract from the contract (CapTel). Seventy-eight percent have internet access to CapTel; and 22% or 6,000 people do not have access to CapTel. The 22% that are not covered do not have access to the internet or do not how to use it. The Sprint representative noted that they had done some studies and without purchasing the equipment on the average it would cost \$70,000 a year to add CapTel. Julia said that we need to get Jim Cole to get more information. Julia added that there may be two options: (1) phone companies can contribute to a pool (\$70,000 for residential use) and/or (2) introduce legislation which with the current budget probably would not pass.

Terry added that because of the new technology, Sprint is reporting that there is a drop in the voice carry-over process. The hope was to use that funding for CapTel. Verizon puts money in the pot to what they think video relay is going to cost them throughout the year which is how it is funded.

Loretta added that Christy and she went to the Relay Advisory Council meeting. DTI was facilitating the meeting. Loretta told Jim Cole that they would love to participate in the meeting when they were talking about the contract with Sprint. Julie, the Verizon representative, told Jim that they need to check with Verizon at the Administrative level. Jim asked if they could extend the Verizon contract for a year or if they could begin the process of bidding for a five year contract—Julie said that she would have to check with the Verizon Administration. This was a short meeting of 45 minutes. Terry added that Jim tried to narrow the discussion to the video relay contract.

Jim's supervisor, Colleen Gause, indicated she would schedule a follow-up meeting in a couple of weeks.

Brochure

Linda reported that there were some errors on the latest brochure proof so Support Services needs to correct the errors before printing. The cost estimate is \$982 for 1,000 brochures. Can we use CODHHE money for this since we do not have enough now (FY '08)—if not, we would have to wait until July 1 to print? All CODHHE members unanimously agreed to use CODHHE money to print the brochure now.

Visor Card

Loretta reported that Kyle, Andrea Guest and she met to discuss the visor card in today's hand-outs. This would be distributed through Loretta's office. Some word and picture changes have been made and the CODHHE emblem was added on the back of the visor card. The font was also made a little larger so it would be easier to read. The State of DE seal was made larger. Every visor card will assigned a 4-digit number.

The application form is similar to Kentucky's—very simple. One section from Maine was used for verification--an audiologist's signature, verification of hearing loss or a diploma from a deaf school.

A letter will be sent out with an explanation of how to get a visor card when the announcement is made of the visor card. The letter was composed from Kentucky, Maine and our additions. This was sent to Andrea—and Loretta is awaiting her review. A press conference will be scheduled.

DODHH has agreed to distribute the flyer. Kyle has e-mailed Andrea to confirm that DVR would pay for the first 1,000 brochures. The total cost for 1,000 numbered cards is \$1,382. Rich asked who would pay after the 1,000 brochures are distributed—would it be the Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DSHS). Terry believed that DSHS would try to find a funding source if needed.

Deaf Capitol Day

A Deaf Capitol Day flyer from Iowa on "Bringing Deaf People and Iowa Leaders Together" was provided in today's hand-outs. Loretta is on their mailing list—and is throwing this out as an idea for CODHHE as an opportunity to network with our legislators. Loretta added that it is very important to meet your legislators so they have exposure to the deaf community and would get educated on the deaf community needs. It would be a great opportunity for the legislators to meet leaders in the deaf community.

Rich added that this would be a great opportunity for CODHHE to start a relationship with our legislators. This would be a good goal and project to work

on for next year. Loretta added that this is the best flyer that she has seen on this concept of legislators and the deaf community.

Reports from Organizations on CODHHE

HLADE

Julia reported that HLADE has been working with Rep. Gerald Brady to introduce a hearing aid insurance bill to be passed in Delaware (a draft bill was provided). Linda would like to have CODHHE's input/ideas on what to add in the bill, etc. Rich asked how many states have insurers that pay for hearing aids. Rich noted that Blue Cross/Blue Shield will pay for hearing aids until the age of 18 years old. Rich added to tell Linda that the bill should cover all ages. Linda suggested having a "sit-in" group of children and adults to talk to legislators about having all insurers funding hearing aids up to \$1,000 every three years, etc.

Peg added that Linda should contact Lori Mores—the Statewide Coordinator for Services for Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children. Also, Linda should contact Cathy Riley, the DE School for the Deaf's Audiologist for information on children with hearing aids.

In conclusion, it was agreed for Linda to contact Kyle so she can get on the CODHHE agenda to discuss the draft hearing aid bill. Julia will ask Linda at the Saturday HLADE meeting to contact Kyle.

DAD

Rich announced that the next general meeting will be on April 26.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting will be held on May 21 at 6:30 pm at the Delaware School of the Deaf, Newark.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Kyle Hodges
CODHHE Administrator

