

CODHHE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 13, 2007
6:30 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf
Newark, Delaware

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Pelletier, Chair, DSD; Diana Armstead, Advocate; Joe Drexler, WCD; Christy Hennessey, IRI; Loretta Sarro, DODHH; Peg Stewart, Interpreter/Advocate; Julia Sullivan, HLADE; Terry Whitham, DSP; and Kyle Hodges, Staff

MEMBERS ABSENT:

INTERPRETERS

Lois Steele
Alyx Richardson

GUEST

Bill Lauser

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On page 2, the first paragraph, last sentence, delete the word “state”.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the May 16, 2007 meeting minutes as amended.

TREASURER’S REPORT and Where to Place CODHHE Funds

Peg provided March, April and May reports.

The balance of accounts as of March 31, 2007: Certificate of Deposit, \$3,090.74; Money Market Account, \$6,357.29, plus \$4.59 interest. Total balance of \$9,452.62.

The balance of accounts as of April 30, 2007: Certificate of Deposit, \$3,090.74; Money Market Account, \$6,361.88, plus \$3.97 interest. Total balance of \$9,456.59.

The balance of accounts as of May 31, 2007: Certificate of Deposit, \$3,090.74; Money Market Account, \$6,365.85, plus \$4.06 interest. Total balance of \$9,460.65.

Peg received rate information from Wilmington Trust, Wachovia Bank and Artisans' Bank. Artisans' Bank has the best rates—5% for 12 months. It was suggested to roll all but a \$1,000 into a longer CD; and keep the \$1,000 liquid. Peg will negotiate with the banks for the highest interest and get the information to Kyle in August. Kyle will e-mail this information to all committee members to make a decision before the September 15, 2007 CD deadline. Motion was made, approved and seconded for Peg to research the options for the money market account before CODHHE's September meeting. Everyone thanked Peg for her work and time.

BUSINESS

Election of Officers (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009)

Kyle sent out an e-mail to all letting them know who is eligible for re-election:

Chair: Rich Pelletier
Vice Chair: Christy Hennessey
Treasurer: Peg Stewart

Additional nominations are for Vice Chair, Terry Whitham; Treasurer, Christy Hennessey. Terry declines the nomination of Vice Chair. Christy declines the Treasurer's office nomination. Since this is uncontested, motion was made, seconded and approved that the election of Officers would be Rich Pelletier as Chair, Christy Hennessey as Vice Chair and Peg Stewart as Treasurer for a two-year term.

It was decided to discuss and make changes in the CODHHE's by-laws at the September meeting.

Interpreter Bill

This was discussed at the May meeting. Since then, Rich spoke with the NAD president and they spoke about interpreter bills in general. There are different

ways that states decided to do it. It can be done by category (e.g. hospitals); state licensing certification and a variety of different things from each State. Rich contacted someone from Alabama who Rich believes just passed an interpreter bill and an ASL bill also. Rich's contact has information on how the bill was written. Rich will contact the person from Alabama to find out more information and to also see if it is on line yet or if there is a hard copy available. Rich felt like Alabama would be more comparable to the interpreter services available in Delaware. Alabama gives the interpreter's a two-year phase in date to be certified before the bill becomes effective. Christy asked if the DE interpreter bill can be made flexible. Peg said that Delrid no longer exists.

Loretta said she that had surveyed all the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing state offices regarding an interpreter bill. Loretta said that the Kentucky office works with RID. They paid RID's travel and site expenses to give their RID national standard tests to interpreters. The interpreters, however, paid for the test. The RID and NIC (National Interpreters Certification) combined to make a standard test for interpreters. The certification is called NIC. All certifications are recognized; but this is a new certification. All who passed the test are now on the Kentucky interpreter register. Delaware does not offer any training or testing. Most interpreters go to Baltimore, Philadelphia or Galludet for training. However, the interpreters want the test to be provided in Delaware. Peg said that the written part on the computer can be taken in Delaware at the Sylvan Learning Center. The information is on the RID website. However, you have to go out of the state to take the performance part of the test. Peg said that there is not a large draw to take the test in Delaware.

In summary, Kyle said that once Rich gets information from Alabama, we could draft something for discussion. CODHHE may want to share the draft with other interested persons and dedicate a couple of meetings to discuss this with everyone. At Rich's suggestion, Loretta will develop an interpreter's fact sheet. When Loretta has finalized the rough draft, it will be shared with all. Other deaf and hard of hearing offices have a fact sheet; so one needs to be developed for Delaware's office. Loretta stated that Betsy Tucker from DVR is the advisor for the Delaware interpreter list. Kyle said that if there are legal concerns for the interpreter list, DVR should contact their representative from the Attorney General's office. Loretta will contact her supervisor and get back to Kyle before the September CODHEE meeting. Kyle and Peg agreed to meet with anyone from Loretta's office for further discussion this summer. It was agreed that in September it will be decided if the committee wants to proceed with the interpreter bill or table it.

Brochure Update

Kyle gave the following update:

Copies of the brochures are in today's hand-outs and proofs were passed around. The content of the brochures is the same; however, the only difference is the paper texture and gloss. Peg and Kyle have been providing feedback to the State Support Services. Kyle noted that the hand signs appear to be reversed for some letters. Peg has given Jennie some on-line resources and word choices. Kyle and Peg have given Support Services some wording suggestions of advocacy, quality, empowerment, communication and education. Kyle and Peg suggested having these words on the front of the brochure instead of the address which is also on the back of the brochure. Kyle asked if the Council had a preference for the type of paper. Kyle will check into the quoted prices. It was suggested to eliminate the "ears" symbol from the brochure and also make the logo larger. Under the Activities section, the first bullet bill should use the word "qualified" instead of "appropriate". Also it was suggested under Activities to add a bullet—Advocating for Technology. Under Responsibilities the last bullet, eliminate "an analysis and". Kyle asked members to look at the brochure for wording, etc. and pass on any suggestions within the next week via e-mail to Kyle. Kyle and Peg will meet again this summer and give any changes to Jennie.

Visor Card Update

Terry gave the following update:

The Administration is in favor of the visor card and Terry is waiting for the Police Chief's Council response.

Kyle said before the visor card goes to print, he wants to take it to Loretta's office to see if they will distribute it.

The Department of Safety and Homeland Security would like to do a press conference when the visor card is finalized—which is good PR—and Loretta's office should also be involved.

CapTel Update

Kyle noted that at the last meeting, Rich provided numbers from the census bureau to get us started. Julia provided Kyle with the cost of about \$4,900 a month for CapTel from the state of Rhode Island. Julia announced that Ultratech IP (access to Intranet) started a trial on April 16. Kyle asked Julia to find out what the cost of \$4,900 actually covers.

Terry said that since there is no CapTel funding, it has not been pursued seriously. Loretta added that Jim Cole indicated the SECC person will be attending the DETRS meeting and maybe we could find out more about the CapTel funding.

REPORTS FROM ORGANIZATIONS ON CODHHE

Julie reported on HLDA. Christy reported on IRI. Rich reported on DAD which is having a Community Day.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Kyle Hodges
CODHHE Administrator

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