

CODHHE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008
6:30 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf
Newark, Delaware

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Pelletier, Chair, DSD; Loretta Sarro, DODHH; Peg Stewart, Advocate; Julia Sullivan, HLADE; Christy Hennessey, IRI; and Kyle Hodges, Staff

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joe Drexler, WCD; and Terry Whitham, DSP

GUEST: Pam D'Occhio, Advocate

INTERPRETERS

Lois Steele
Eileen Casey

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Visor Card
- Interpreter Bill

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kyle noted the following changes: Diana Armstead is no longer a member and the meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm. Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the May 21, 2008 minutes as amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Peg provided the May, 2008 report.

The balance as of April 30, 2008 for the Money Market Account is \$9,709.27. With the interest of \$3.30, the May 30, 2008 Money Market Account balance is \$9,712.57.

Kyle added that as of 1996, CODHHE is no longer incorporated. Since the annual franchise tax of \$20 was not paid for two consecutive years, the incorporation is void. The cost to become incorporated is \$104. Kyle added that he did not know if you need to be incorporated; however, you can put CODHHE's money into an "8000" account with the State which would be rolled over every

year. There is no accrued interest with this account. Peg stated that because CODHHE has less than \$300 income every year, nothing has been filed with the IRS. Peg added that at one time CODHHE had an IRS 501 (C)(3) status and the only reason they needed to have that status is if they intend to take in more funds. The only income CODHHE has is interest and if you put money in a CD, they are still under the \$300 amount. Peg did find CODHHE's EI #52-0064065 in today's incorporation hand-outs. In summary, a motion was made and seconded and approved for Kyle to investigate putting this money into the State 8000 account. Kyle will concur with CODHHE's Treasurer Peg before transferring the CODHHE's funds into this 8000 account.

BUSINESS

HB 355 (Hearing Aid Insurance Bill) Update

Kyle stated that this bill will require insurance companies to cover hearing aids up to \$1,000 per individual hearing aid every three years for persons less than 24 years old. Governor Minner signed the bill today at Legislative Hall. Several people were in attendance at this bill signing—Loretta, Linda Heller, Cliff Rodman, Matt Denn and Kyle, and quite a lot of people from the Hearing Loss Association of DE. In the future, a bill will be drafted for persons older than 24 years old.

ASL

The Council discussed the Recommendations from the Task Force regarding whether ASL should be a foreign language. It was noted that other organizations should get involved with the teacher credentialing process.

DMV Regulations Regarding "Translators" Update

Kyle addressed the letter to DMV provided in today's hand-outs. The DMV responded as follows with a letter which states, in part, the following: "The Division currently provides sign language interpreters for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing now provides the division with a referral list of sign language interpreters. Customers who are deaf or hard of hearing will be provided a sign language interpreter free of charge". Kyle noted that the DE Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing does not provide the division with a referral list of sign language interpreters. Loretta stated that her office gave DMV the information, process and specifics of how to get an interpreter and the RID website. Also, DMV added in their letter—"This regulation does not apply to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, and who are currently provided a sign language interpreter by the Division or use their own sign language interpreter".

In summary, Kyle will e-mail Jack Eanes for follow-up on the last paragraph that reads—"The Division will be updating our current driver license procedures for the deaf and hard of hearing in the next several months. I directed my staff to

work your agencies to ensure our procedures meet any requirements or concerns you may have”.

Brochure

Rich thanked Peg and Kyle for all their hard work on the brochure. Kyle distributed the finalized brochure to the members.

BHD Committee

It was stated that the BHDC had a meeting this morning. At this time, the Committee is working on developing a survey for the deaf community of Delaware to find out the following: fears and experiences; how services are obtained; how they obtain interpreter services; and information about mental health issues.

Kyle also noted that the Committee is working on the membership. For example, DSAMH has reported that it feels that the BHD is redundant with the existing groups. It was decided, to invite a DSAMH representative to the next meeting to get their perspective. Also, a representative is needed from the DE School for the Deaf. Rich recommended Jeanne Evans from DSD to be their representative. Rich suggested either Christy or Kyle send an e-mail to Mindy, Rich and Deb with this request. A representative from DSD, DSAMH and Connections is needed for the BHD Committee.

Kyle stated that after the survey is finalized, the committee would like to target organizations to complete the survey. (e.g. Wilmington Club for the Deaf, etc.). Christy is going to try and identify ten organizations and get 25 people from each organization for a total of 250 surveys. The Committee suggested offering a money incentive to complete the survey. One person's survey from each participating organization could be drawn to receive the money.

Internship with Police Department

Kyle stated that he forwarded an e-mail (in today's hand-out) to CODHHE members. This e-mail concerns a 17 year old deaf student from Maryland having a 10-week internship with one of the MD city police departments. This e-mail was forwarded from Jamie Turner, the Director of the DE Emergency Management Association. Jamie stated that if CODHHE is interested in this endeavor, he will be happy to direct us to the appropriate people. Our Department of Safety and Homeland Security (whom we are housed under) has been very supportive of our endeavors—e.g. visor card. Rich suggested adding this item to the Fall agenda. Also, it was suggested to have deaf people participate in drills.

Visor Card

Kyle stated that WBOC-TV would like to have an interview with a CODHHE member about the visor card. Kyle asked Loretta to contact Andrea Guest to let her know that CODHHE has asked Loretta to be the interviewee on WBOC-TV. Beth Miller from the News Journal may be contacted to issue a press release or story. Also, Loretta will send Kyle the new logo that was created by her office.

Kyle reviewed the letter from Loretta's office announcing the visor card and explaining what information is needed to get a visor card. The form asks the following: specify if you are deaf, hard of hearing, all deaf or severely hard of hearing. For proof, you need one of the following: an audiogram signed by a licensed professional, copy of a diploma from a school for the deaf, or a signature from an audiologist.

Interpreter Bill

Much discussion was had on the interpreter bill. Peg stated that there are a lot of concerns for the screening process for interpreters. Not all interpreters may be qualified for certain interpreting jobs. Peg also stated that interpreters want to know if the client is satisfied with their interpreting services.

In conclusion, it was noted that Delaware does not have resources to effectively screen interpreters. Expanding the DODHH would cost money which is not feasible at this time. Also, more consumer input would be needed to have a bill sponsored by the legislature.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Kyle Hodges
CODHHE Administrator

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