

CODHHE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 12, 2011
6:30 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf
Newark, Delaware

PRESENT: Loretta Sarro, Chair, DODHH; Kyle McEvoy, Consumer; Richard Pelletier, DSD; Josh Weinstein, D.A.D.; Terry Whitham, DSHS; Kyle Hodges, Staff.

GUEST: Joe D’Occhio

INTERPRETERS

Theresa Muschiatti & Pamela D’Occhio

CALL TO ORDER

Loretta called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. Everyone introduced themselves.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

- CPS

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 18, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

The June 22, 2011 minutes were approved as submitted.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Since Peg was unable to attend, this was tabled.

BUSINESS

2012 Kids Summer Camp Program

Kyle explained the handouts, including a revised cover letter, Camp Application, Requirements/Eligibility for Scholarship and list of camps. Kyle added that he had several proposed revisions to these documents. Terry also proposed a layout that was agreed to (with additional changes noted below):

- Cover letter
 - Dear Deaf & Hard of Hearing Community of Delaware.
 - The CODHHE is mandated by Executive Order 80.
 - Kyle moved some information and added information about the origin of the funding and the Council.
 - Loretta will sign-off on letter as Chairperson.

- Requirements page (including section currently on bottom of application)
 - Requirements to be eligible for camp for 2012 CODHHE scholarship application are as follows:
 - ~ The Applicant must be between age 8 and 18.
 - ~ Proof of Delaware Residency is required (evidence of residency must be included in the Application); for example, school documents, utility bills, driver’s license, etc.
 - ~ Each camper must have a parent and a mentor or teacher to compose a one page letter stating why CODHHE should select the child as winner of the camp scholarship.
 - ~ A parent or legal guardian is responsible for transportation costs.
 - ~ Applicants shall send all required.
 - ~ Applicants shall send all required materials at once. Incomplete applications will not be considered. A complete package must consist of:
 - Application
 - One-page essay or video
 - One-page summary from Parent or Legal Guardian
 - One-page summary from mentor or teacher
 - Proof of Residency
 - ~ Use CODHHE’s (SCPD) address as repository.
 - ~ Add Application deadline.

- Application (include camp selection checkmark area and camp listing)
 - Add Signature lines for Applicant and Parent or Legal Guardian.
 - Add Mentor/Teacher.
 - Add email address line for Applicant, Parent, Mentor/Teacher (replacing 2nd Phone number line).
 - The funds will be sent directly to the camp. If the camp costs more than the scholarship, you are responsible for paying the difference. Transportation costs are not included.
 - A mentor or teacher from the school...(this is moved to requirements page)
 - Where camps are listed (last paragraph): We may consider.....
 - Kyle spoke about the waiver and took a statement regarding “Hold Harmless,” which releases CODHHE from any liability. He will have an attorney review it this week. This will be moved to Signature Area.
 - Signatures of Applicant and Parent or Legal Guardian

Josh will make revisions and forward to Kyle. Kyle will send a final version to everyone by email.

Council members will email to interested constituents and it can be forwarded to others who may be interested. Hard copies can also be sent to those who do not have email addresses. Kyle will forward to GACEC. Deadline for applications may be extended to March, depending on when applications are due to camps. Josh will find out each camp’s deadline for receiving applications. The March meeting will be strictly for reviewing the camp applications and making a selection. Josh will contact the camps ahead of time regarding the scholarship so that the late fee could be waived. Josh was thanked for seeing this through to fruition.

CapTel Update from the DETRS Advisory Committee Meeting

Loretta spoke about the last DETRS (Delaware Telecommunications Relay Advisory Committee Meeting held on September 12 that she and Kyle attended. Loretta explained CapTel. Loretta stated that, while some people are comfortable with using the Internet Captel service, many senior citizens with hearing loss are not. Also, some people do not have access to high speed internet, particularly in some rural areas. There is also analog CapTel (800) and a web-based Captel. Delaware does not support analog CapTel. Kyle had asked for legislation regarding this from other states. Kyle explained that some states have contracts instead of legislation. Loretta will contact other states to get information and forward to Kyle. Rich commented that the need for CapTel will eventually decline, as TTY and phone use has declined. Kyle mentioned recent communication from people interested in CapTel.

Kyle went over several options that had been discussed with Jim Cole of DTI such as legislation (may or may not be needed) and setting up the program which would involve costs. Kyle explained that Jim Cole (DTI) took these options to the Cabinet Secretary who presented to State Senator Karen Peterson (who had also made an inquiry). Kyle will follow-up with Senator Peterson (and copy Jim Cole). Kyle added that several other legislators are interested in this issue. Terry added Delaware does not pay for relay services; this is contracted to Sprint by Verizon. A universal service fund is required to pay for analog Captel. Kyle commented that the exact need is unclear. Terry added that analog CapTel requires two phone lines for each residence, and someone will have to pay for that monthly. Currently, there is no source to pay for this service. Josh suggested finding out what other states are doing for the senior population and to make it user friendly for those who can access high speed internet.

Terry added that the federal government provides CapTel devices free for veterans. Terry gave an example of what Arizona does, which has a \$5,000 limit per year to be used for CapTel (through legislation). Kyle suggested starting a small number with perhaps 5 phones and added that we have projected costs through Sprint. Internet CapTel works through the person's computer and provides the necessary software. Terry asked Loretta that if the statistics are declining for relay, could Sprint be persuaded to take some of that money to be used for CapTel on a trial basis. Kyle commented that could be raised at the next Relay meeting. Loretta commented that the statistics show a continual decline in relay as the technology increases. Terry explained that while many are probably texting, the capability is not there for 911 calling, but it is being worked on. Kyle will follow-up with DTI, DHSS and Senator Peterson.

Deaf Child Sign (traffic sign)

Kyle McEvoy spoke about his personal experience and thoughts regarding having a deaf child sign posted in his neighborhood. Loretta explained the why and when of having the signs, which began being posted in the 1980's. Loretta had conducted research with DelDOT and Kyle had been recently contacted. Kyle referred to several handouts: Procedures regarding installation of a deaf warning sign, an email from Della Thomas (DSD), and a letter dated August 3, 1982 from CODE. Kyle explained the procedure followed by DSD, in which a form is sent to DelDOT requesting a sign. Kyle explained that the old procedure does not coincide with current practice.

Della and Kyle attended a meeting with DeIDOT officials to coordinate efforts. DeIDOT questioned the need for the signs and that some states do not allow the signs, stating their ineffectiveness in getting people to slow down. While some families still want the signs (7 requests were received by DSD in the past year), there is a problem when a child ages out which creates a problem for DeIDOT not being notified when sign is no longer needed.

Kyle then spoke about a draft procedure that he and Della developed (handout). DeIDOT is currently having this revised procedure reviewed by their AG. Requests will now come to the Council, showing documented hearing loss. This Council will forward requests to DeIDOT for consideration and family will notify the Council if sign is no longer needed (e.g., family moving, child turns 18, etc.). CODHHE will contact the family every three years (at a minimum) to determine if the sign is still needed.

Kyle asked the Council for their input on the following: if the signs are needed and the revised draft on procedures. Question was raised about families going through CODHHE, rather than directly through DeIDOT. Kyle explained that DeIDOT does not have the expertise to determine eligibility and DSD requested that it be housed in this Council. There was some discussion about the effectiveness of the signs. There was some discussion if this should be DeIDOT's responsibility and/or should DSD initiate the request from families. Terry commented that DeIDOT does not have the manpower to follow-up. Comment was made about research from other states that do not allow the signs because they determined they were not needed. Kyle will bring DeIDOT's comments about the draft procedures to the November meeting for discussion so a decision can be made. He will also get whatever information on other states to Council members to review.

Membership

This was tabled until the November meeting.

CODHHE Meeting Timeframe Change

This was tabled until the November meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16 at 6:30 pm at the new Delaware School for the Deaf (Room 332).

Respectively submitted,

Jo Singles
Administrative Specialist