



**Maryland Advisory Council of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2012 11:00 a.m.  
Hosted by: MD Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, MD, 21076**

**Present:** (Carl Bailey, Ann Black, Marian Bland, Amy Bopp, Dakota Burgess, Laurie Corcoran, Stacey Farone, Dr. Kathleen Heck, Nancy Jenkins, Gary Monroe, Sara Muempfer, Jack Rouse, Nwokoma Sampson, Lisa Jordan, Lisa Kornberg, Sam Lenox)

### **Introductions**

Attendees introduced themselves

### **Laurie Corcoran:**

The first part of this meeting is closed to the ODHH Staff to provide an opportunity for the Council to openly discuss the possibilities and options of establishing new goals and tasks for the council that would be set apart from the mission(s) of ODHH.

**TOPIC** – Long set goals have been established by ODHH with the Advisory Council (AC). We can continue to do that – but, can we consider new goals or establishing separate projects that don't always overlap with ODHH?

**Discussion** – Could a the project of working to establish a Statewide texting system (follow up for emergencies) be a consideration as ODHH doesn't really have the staff to work on this? Could this be Advisory Council centered? -- This might be more geared to a subcommittee.

We should think on a broader scale – look at the bigger picture. No authority is established wherein the Advisory Council is to tell ODHH what to do. The AC is more, or can be more separated. Can we add functions to our Council that are contained separately from ODHH IN goals and mission? Do we want to consider this? There is expertise in the room in working on issues that affect citizens who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. This knowledge and expertise could lend itself to the establishment of these separate goals and a separate mission above and beyond our mission to advise ODHH – NOT in place of it.

Query: Is there an official mandate for the AC? Is that mandate limited to advising ODHH? Further, how does the AC function and follow through with that? -- The mandate is to take the expertise in the room and make suggestions directly to ODHH with regard to what needs to happen in the state. However, under Lisa Kornberg's expertise in guiding ODHH – can we use our resources to expand what the AC is doing? This discussion segued into the topic of subcommittees. The parameters of the subcommittees, the effectiveness of the subcommittees, and whether to dissolve them was brought to issue.

### **Vote**

Proposed by the Council Vice Chair, Gary Monroe: Dissolve the Advisory Council Subcommittees or keep them with the goal of better defining them?

**Vote Results:** Keep the established subcommittees with more clearly defined parameters, missions and goals.

### **Conclusion to the Closed Session of the Meeting:**

Does the AC want to be defined only in the advisory function directly for ODHH? Or, are there the options / opportunities to have a separate mission directly involved in the advocacy for the community? Consensus of the Council seemed influenced by the vote to better established parameters of the subcommittees and not to focus on other changes at this time. The AC will continue its primary function of advising ODHH in its mission.

#### **Discussion:**

There was a proposal for the AC to develop a website hub for the purpose of collecting feedback directly from the community. With regard to the Citizen Members – is it appropriate for them to get the feedback from the community? How do we do that? Resolution was reached to avoid the establishment of a website due to the lack of manpower to maintain it.

#### **Nominations for the New Council Chair and Vice Chair Positions**

Chair: Shane Feldman (absent and will therefore require an acceptance or decline at a future date)

Vice Chair: Carl Bailey – Declined.

Vice Chair: Stacey Farone – Accepted

Nominations were voted on and accepted by all council members present.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **Behavioral Health**

Several members of the subcommittee attended the integration kick-off meeting March 14. DHMH – looking at ways to better integrate behavioral Health in the community. The Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Mental Hygiene Administrations are looking at improvements. The meeting was very well attended and very well organized. There is a deadline of Sept. 30, 2012 (internally) to receive the feedback for condensation which will then be turned into a report given to the Governor and General Assembly. This report is to be delivered by Dec. 31, 2012. They are clear about NOT looking to be wedded to any particular model. There will be a series of meetings across the state (every 4 – 6 weeks). Feedback via email on a website or by telephone, letters, or at the meetings which are open to the public. Next meeting is May 1, 2012 from 1:30pm – 3:30pm. Looking at an Annapolis (central). Want the feedback from citizens and those who will be receiving services. All three administrations are looking at ways to develop regional teams - even before the official integration happen. Regional teams would help provide services to Deaf and/or hard of hearing consumers. We are working to develop relationships with other agencies like DORS / Dept. of Aging. We have a volunteer from our subcommittee working in this capacity. Value options approved establishing a “drop box” so we can track the services offered to deaf and hard of hearing... this is being developed by IT.

##### **Education Committee**

The National Summit for Deaf Education was held in March this year. Part of the focus is to look at the national agenda and modify it to better suit the needs of deaf and hard of hearing children. There will be a follow up meeting via internet. There is exciting progress taking shape. No specific dates for upcoming family events - but looking at Sundays in May or June for the next event. Currently looking at the national plan as an example to get a state plan. Then looked at tracking numbers... both projects have been taken up by MSDE... so at this point

events are being planned to try to regionally get mentoring and socialization for mainstreamed and MSD students.

### **Communication**

No report given due to absences.

### **Department Reports**

***Dept. of Housing and Community Development:*** There will be a physical move for the department but, it has been delayed by a year or more.

***Dept. of Labor Licensing and Regulation:*** Last month Lisa Kornberg came to train staff. There have been many leadership changes in workforce. Career center staff needs the training... so ODHH is helping with that. Lisa has done that over the past years but it had been awhile. We are meeting with the operations manager to discuss why doing this is so important. A decision was made to focus on veterans. We have a priority of services established for vets. There are almost 20 workers dedicated to this task. The ultimate goal is to train all career center staff throughout the whole state.

***Maryland State Department of Education:*** To reiterate - there was the National Summit. During that meeting we looked at early detection and the possibility of improvements. Three teachers from MSD came to give a presentation on reading to the deaf / hard of hearing students. This past Saturday, the Maryland Quality Assurance Screening Program for educational interpreters hosted their spring 2012 workshop. It was basically a full-day training that focused on theory and practice sessions for educational interpreters who work in the public school systems. The Maryland State Steering Committee for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students hosted their annual conference on Friday, March 16, at McDaniel College. It was focused on universal design for learning and how the UDL systems are supposed to be incorporated to educational curriculums. The keynote speaker was Michelle Shearer, the 2011 national teacher of the year. She is also is a former teacher at the School for the Deaf

***Department of Human Resources:*** Nothing to Report.

***Maryland Department of Aging:*** Flyers distributed for a conference sponsored by the Dept. of Aging – May 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup> at the National Harbor at Gaylord Hotel. May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> are dates for professionals – the 3<sup>rd</sup> is also a job fair. The 5<sup>th</sup> of May is free and open with various sessions / entertainment. Our office is becoming interested in doing things to serve the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing. ODHH is presenting at this conference. Dept. of Aging is providing CART / Interpreters and Loop for the conference.

***Maryland Commission on Civil Rights:*** There have been many phone calls from the deaf and hard of hearing community. In January there were two cases for restaurant issues for closed captioning. To be clear – the law is: if there is a public television the captions do not have to be 'on' at all times. However, if it is specifically requested, then it must be activated at the time of the request. Another concern is for the provision of interpreters. Dr.'s offices, Attorneys, Dentists – all have concern of the high cost for providing interpreters. This is a specific problem for private businesses. If a person files a complaint... we must determine if the reasonable accommodation can be written English – but it isn't the primary language. Also there is the

issue of these service providers wanting to use minors and/or family members as interpreters. Are there specific laws to be referenced? ODHH will provide this information and/or a meeting at MCCR to help with clarification for these issues as they come up.

### ***Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) Director's Report:***

An update on Julie.... Each Council member is required to send the Financial Disclosure Statement by Apr. 30<sup>th</sup> 2012. Two years ago ODHH established a statewide contract for communications (CART / Interpreters). At this time, the State (Dept. of Budget and Management) is looking at un-shelving this because of the high costs in having individual State agencies hiring interpreters. To offer a wrap-up on the Legislative Session: Three bills passed that are important for the Council to know:

- 1) Historically courts provided interpreters for defendants only... no others persons involved in a case qualified. Now, MD has extended that right to all individuals involved in a case/trial.
- 2) There will now be surcharges on cell phone bills (less than 8 cents) to help pay for Relay.
- 3) Two community members wrote a bill for the establishment of a Deaf Cultural Digital Library.

### **Announcements:**

Hearing and Speech Agency (HASA): Thursday, May 10 - Movie event. All are welcome and encouraged.

Deaf Camps, Inc. is sponsoring a 5K on April 28 at 8am. Centennial Park in Columbia. Also Deaf Camps, Inc. is looking for new leaders.

When sending email requests with events or community information to be included in the ODHH weekly announcements, please AVOID using PDF flyer attachments. A simple text format in the email is much easier.

ODHH will host a Town Hall Meeting May 11 at DeafNet's Deaf Awareness Day Event at the Valley Mall in Hagerstown.

The next MACDHH Meeting: JUNE 6<sup>th</sup> Columbia Campus of MSD is a possible host and will be confirmed via Stacey Farone.

### **Meeting Concluded.**