



**Maryland Advisory Council of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT) for June 27, 2012 11:00 a.m.
Hosted by: National Association of the Deaf (NAD)
8630 Fenton Street, Suite 820, Silver Spring, MD**



Present: (Ann Black, Dakota Burgess, Laurie Corcoran, Cheri Dowling, Shane Feldman, Nancy Jenkins, Lisa Jordan, Bob Pelletier on behalf of Sara Muempfer, Jack Rouse, Nwokoma Sampson, Robin Underwood, Lisa Kornberg, Julie Schafer)

Introductions

- Attendees introduced themselves.

Director's Report:

TOPIC – Outreach and Training

Very busy in the office working to keep up with the incoming requests for training in awareness and sensitivity. Sites such as police and sheriff's departments, community supervision, medical service providers etc. We have almost 2 trainings per week already scheduled for the entire summer. The response has been really positive.

TOPIC – Hospital Kits Project

We are working / trying to develop a hospital kit for people who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind. When those individuals are admitted to the hospital they would have this kit ready with a whiteboard to communicate with, a place to safely keep hearing aids or cochlear implants, information on communication tips, stickers for identifying the patient's need to be placed on the chart etc. Ideally we want to establish a training requirement before providing these kits to the hospitals. Once they've completed training provided by the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH), they are given the kits with which to apply their new understanding.

TOPIC – Conference Season

The Executive staff is traveling to various conferences this summer. The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) conference took place last week. It was a good opportunity to meet and talk with some people from around the country. We brought back some great information on cutting edge research on issues of sound and hearing loss. It was very exciting. Then – next week we are going (with Shane and crew) to the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) conference in Kentucky. We're really looking forward to that – this is one of the best times for us to meet with other state directors of offices of the Deaf and hard of hearing from around the US. We can learn what they are doing – MD continues to be a national leader in providing access, communication access for those with hearing loss.

TOPIC – Outreach with the Department of Aging

We've been asked to set up training(s) with all of the long-term ombudsmen who are responsible for individual patient care. The Korean community has convinced the Maryland Dept. of Aging (DOA) to set up a specific nursing home for those who speak the Korean language. We've suggested a similar service might be a good idea for those who use ASL. Those discussions have only just begun. DOA had a huge tri-area conference for Virginia, Washington DC, and Maryland. We asked that they do outreach specifically to the Deaf community, to the ASL community. They provided interpreters all day, both days and for all the workshops and the exhibit hall. In exchange for our support in the event, they are now talking about sponsorship of the Deaf Seniors of America Conference here in Baltimore, in 20123. We are building these links with DOA because we want to recognize that large part of the population of people with hearing loss who are now "older".

Announcement:

Item: Deaf Addiction Services at Maryland (DASAM) just received a grant to run a prevention education treatment and testing program. It will be starting in two or three weeks. We'll be going all over the state and doing testing, pre- and post-test counseling. If anyone needs that type of service, even if just education, please contact DASAM.

Behavioral Health Subcommittee Discussion

The State of Maryland is making a transition in the provision of behavioral mental health services. Before, there have been silos for addiction, mental health, and developmental disabilities kept separately. Right now mental health and addiction services are integrated but, developmental disabilities are separate. They are just beginning to have representation. The goal is to include the coordination of service between primary care, mental health and addiction without losing existing services. Since they are considering the service of deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people an issue of cultural competency as opposed to a requirement under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), we would like to put it to the council to draft a letter and encourage people to go to these planning meetings.

Discussion:

For the Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MACDHH) Meetings – can council members call in remotely and have that count for attendance? Can we create a quorum that way if needed? Yes. It does count as attendance, but with a group this large – having many people call in with interpreters and Computer Assisted Realtime Translation (CART) – it could be difficult to keep track of who is speaking. Attendance is only four times per year and a focus should be made to attend in person if at all possible.

What of the possibility of moving the meeting day to Tuesday instead of Wednesday? Some agencies are busier on Wednesdays, but we'll have to ask.

What about changing the time as well? Having the meetings from 11am to 2pm cuts the entire day in half. Could the time be moved earlier or later? This might help attendance and logistics as well.

Concern was mentioned about trying to move the meeting place around. Having a semi-central location is good for attendance as well. Maryland Dept. of Transportation (MDOT) headquarters has been a good "base".

We don't have to do any voting because we already voted for the new Chair and Vice-Chair. Shane Feldman and Stacey Farone respectively.

Review of Minutes

- Meeting Minutes for December, 2011 reviewed. Minutes passed as written.
- Meeting Minutes for April, 2012 reviewed. Minutes passed as written.

Subcommittee Break-away

- It was determined that attendance was not sufficient for Break-away meetings – brief subcommittee reports can be given to the whole group.

Education Subcommittee Report

There's been no recent meeting to report on. With the MD State Department of Education (MSDE) there were meetings in Frederick, Howard and Charles Counties as well as in Easton. There was an outside facilitator that came in as part of the whole State Education plan for deaf and hard of hearing children here in MD. It was a nice representation there – there were parents, educators, hearing, and deaf, from public schools and from Maryland School for the Deaf. McDaniel College was also there. In general there were 15 to 25 people at each session. Overall, parents seem to be happy with infants and toddlers. They're not happy that they are not getting all of the information. People don't know what is happening from one place to another. Many parent groups are apparently happening that no one knows about. The theme remained constant from meeting to meeting. It is unknown when the report is going to be out as far as any actual outcomes are concerned. Our own subcommittee hasn't met since the event we hosted last October. Scheduling is difficult, but we will try.

Discussion:

There is a need to determine the subcommittee memberships. There seems to be some question as to who sits on which subcommittee. ODHH can help facilitate getting the email distribution lists updated and forwarded to the new Chair of the Advisory Council and to the Chair of each subcommittee.

Communication Subcommittee Report

There has not been a meeting for quite some time. Not a lot of information to report. Earlier this year, the Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) hosted a symposium and it was a good event. There were

workshops and training for the community. During that event there was an award offered to Robin Underwood who sits on the Communication Access Subcommittee. MDOT recognized Robin for her outstanding work for access for the deaf and hard of hearing citizens here in Maryland. That working included making sure the Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) Airport was properly accessible. The subcommittee is also still working to ensure that every intersection owned by the State Highway Administration has a second countdown for how long pedestrians have to cross streets. ODHH has helped with trainings. Hopefully all these efforts will continue. Picking a new chair needs to happen. This can be accomplished at the next meeting or via email – but it will have to wait until after July 8!

Council Chair's Report:

Laurie Corcoran: There is nothing to report other than my thanks for the experience. It has been a pleasure and a learning experience. I am pleased to hand the position to Shane and continue my participation as a council member.

Shane Feldman: I am honored and grateful for the nomination and thank Laurie for all her hard work.

Discussion:

- MetroAccess (MA) was supposed to begin training for the MA Drivers. The deafblind community is getting the run-around. Ann Black has enlisted the help of Robin Underwood, but this involves two different centers. Robin contacted the ADA coordinator in an effort to help. Currently, drivers are often rude or not trained in accommodating those passengers with disabilities and specifically with deafblind individuals. There is still hope to follow up and get these trainings off the ground.
- ODHH has been contacted three separate times regarding starting a loop Maryland campaign. One contact is a synagogue church. One is a not-for-profit organization and the other was a hospital. There is the need for some guidance in looking for the funding sources and other ways to begin to think about looping Maryland. This might be an ideal project for the council. It was mentioned about this looping campaign being related to the state-wide texting program. But, they are separate. On the topic of texting systems – Anne Arundel County now has a very, very new texting system. It addresses some of the concerns about emergency management. Maryland has a contract with University of Maryland's emergency preparation. They are focusing on a functional Accessibility Shelter trainings program. They want to make sure communication and mobility issues in the shelters are addressed. They will do webinars and training in September and are looking for representatives from the deaf and hard of hearing communities to shop up. This is a good topic for the Communications subcommittee.

Announcement:

- We've always wanted a Parent-to-Parent program for families with deaf and hard of hearing children in MD. We finally have one! Funding was received through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). This will be done through Parents' Place of Maryland, which is our State parent training center. We currently have nine parents (one is deaf) who have been trained who are able to talk to other parents with newly identified children. We will turn no one away.
- Shane Feldman has always been involved in the community and earlier this year was honored with the Kelby Brick Community Leadership Award. We have an actual proclamation from the Governor that we want to give to him.
- Support Service Providers and Clearinghouse for the Blind have started a new project. There are service deafblind people 55 and older. There are many others who need services who are younger than that. We need to help expand these services. There is a general need to extend and expand the SSP Programs in MD.
- Unfortunately, there was another ODHH accident. This involved the intern, Darrin Smith. During the previously mentioned MDAD symposium, Darrin was struck by a car while walking downtown and suffered several breaks in his leg. He is recovering and eager to return to ODHH.

Meeting Adjourned.