

MACDHH – Council Meeting Minutes 03-05-13



Present:

Carl Bailey, Ann Black, Cleveland Horton, Stacey Farone, Cheri Dowling, Sara Muempfer, Lisa Jordan, Keneithia Taylor, Lisa Kornberg, Jack Rouse, Nancy Jenkins, Charm Smith (representing Shane Feldman), Lisa Kornberg, Julie Schafer, Sam Lenox, Amy Bopp

Welcome and Introductions

Roundtable introductions and special welcome to new council member Keneithia Taylor from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from December 2012 Council Meeting reviewed and approved without amendments.

Council Orientation & Refresher *Lisa Kornberg. (Refer to PPT handout and copies of Bylaws for details)*

Topics reviewed:

- The Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's (ODHH's) actual mission and vision as compared with some general public misconceptions -- the perception of ODHH as an advocate for citizens with hearing loss as opposed to ODHH representing the Governor's goals to the constituency with hearing loss.
- ODHH's placement within the Executive Branch of the Maryland State Government.
- Inter-agency cooperation. Issues which impact the community at large effect all departments / agencies in the State Government. Prior to the existence of ODHH, there were services offered through these departments directly. It is not the function of ODHH to replace those services. ODHH is to coordinate what services already exist and share information to avoid the duplication of services -- to ensure that services are accessible and as efficient as possible. Through this Advisory Council, ODHH extends its reach through each agency/department.
- Bylaws Review: 'Deafblind' issues are most certainly included in our mission though not in the Office's name. The Advisory Council's purpose is to advise ODHH and to advocate for public policies and practices that promote full inclusion of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. This means the Council is separate from ODHH. The Council can and should advocate above and beyond the Office. The first role is to advise. The second is review the activities across the State and how they influence the community – and then act accordingly. Third role of the Council is to coordinate the support of programs - avoiding duplication through collaboration. This council is the medium through which communication and/or collaboration can happen most effectively. The council is also to be active and visible to the community and constituency by attending events to promote what the council is doing (as well as your own agency / department). Meetings must occur 4 times per calendar year. Subcommittee meetings can happen more often and ODHH helps to staff those meetings as part of our function.
- Membership: Eighteen (18) members total. Nine (9) members from State Agencies/Departments and nine (9) members from the community (of which five (5) have hearing loss). One (1) member is deafblind, one (1) is the parent of a child with hearing loss, one (1) is an expert in services for hearing loss, and one (1) represents a private agency which provides services to the deaf, hard of hearing, and/or deafblind consumer.
- Officers: With Shane Feldman resigning, we need a community member (not a State Rep) to replace him as Chairperson.

Subcommittee Break-away Meetings & Reports

Education Subcommittee Report: *Cheri Dowling.* We have new membership! Cleveland Horton from the Council, 2 more parents, Susan Russell, Hank Passi from DORS, and Erin Buck. I will talk to Charm Smith of MDAD for a recommend– also, Steve Hause might be able to join as a representative from Eastern Shore. Lisa Wright is working with Dr. Kathleen Heck on the development of captioning and accessibility to educational materials. We are meeting with all or a small group to get ideas formulated then will host a conference call to expand our mission. We have a community event set up and will have flyer soon. Erin Buck worked with Frederick Keys for a Deaf Awareness Event on May 1st at the 6pm game. Tickets are \$6-adults \$4-students. We will obtain 100 tickets up front to sell to participants. Activities during the game – there will be the option of booths for sponsorship. We would like to eventually duplicate this event on the Eastern Shore. Leadership program has not been developed yet. June 1st event already set up with MDAD and PCRID

and there could be a possible affiliation with our Education Subcommittee. Summit Update: Deaf Ed. Summit happened at the end of January in Austin, TX. The focus was on transition services. There was excellent information on what is going on in other states. We found some “disconnection” on what needs to be worked on with regard to increased collaboration. We will meet again – probably in March.

Behavioral Health Subcommittee Report. *Carl Bailey, Keniethia Taylor.* March 18th is our next tentative meeting date. No changes to report since the prior Council meeting.

Communication Access Subcommittee Report: *Lisa Jordan.* We have not had a meeting yet this year. April 30th is our next date via conference call. The One Stop center(s) are working on providing UbiDuos at their locations. We have some vague leads for access to VP in the prisons. During one of our meetings, Ann Black suggested adding DB designation to ODHH – we will talk more later about that. Several members of our subcommittee are not able to be here today so further updates will be available in the future.

Director’s Report. *Lisa Kornberg.*

We acknowledge Julie Schafer’s resignation from ODHH and farewell to the Council. She is moving on to begin work at RID as the new Director of Public Policy and Advocacy. On March 28th ODHH will host a farewell party for Julie. An invitation will go out via email. Lisa Kornberg has not been in the office for 10 weeks due to her auto accident in late December. Thanks to the staff and all participants here on the council for continuing support. The ODHH Annual Legislative Awareness Day (LAD) was a huge success again! We want to again congratulate Ann Black on the Kelby Brick Community Leadership Award. In Lisa’s absence, Julie was able to get our office successfully through our budget hearings. This year the Governor proposed to keep ODHH and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) supported his proposal. We won’t add to our budget – but they are keeping us around! We continue our work with DBM on the RFP for interpreter services. The complicated situation will hopefully continue to improve. The Deaf Cultural Digital Library (DCDL) continues to meet twice a month to discuss recommendations. We hope to present something to legislature by the end of this session – our involvement is in establishing the role of the DCDL and the financing as there could be concern with duplication of services with ODHH. There will be another meeting next week Tuesday to continue that process. We are working to support the upcoming Deaf Seniors of America (DSA) Conference. We have the National Aquarium Deaf Awareness Day this Saturday, March 9. We continue to monitor bills for a secondary or “hidden” impact on those with hearing loss. Example – online courses are not captioned. There is a bill that will push to make them accessible. There is another bill related to the installation of smoke alarms / visual impact. The last is a bond bill to set up a Veditz Community Center in Baltimore City. That hearing is on a Saturday and lasts all day – not a “normal hearing” experience. You can contact Nancy for hearing schedule if need be.

New Business

New Chair Nominations:

Cheri Dowling was nominated and the nomination was seconded. Lisa Jordan was nominated and the nomination was seconded.

ODHH Name Change:

Ann Black would like to add DB to the Office acronym of ODHH to establish ODHHDB. This would make Maryland the first state in the country to have that kind of recognition for the Deafblind community. Formally, we would need a new law to make that happen. Ann Black questioned as to if the advisory council supports this change. Many deafblind constituents feel left out – not just from ODHH, but other services as well. In support of this change, Nancy Jenkins moved that the council provide a letter to establish such a bill. The motion was seconded by Ann Black. Lisa Kornberg sought clarification as to if this change should apply only to the office or to the advisory council’s name as well as it would make sense for both names to be amended at the same time. This is an opportunity for MD to become an example for other states. Motion carried by council vote.

General Info:

Cheri Dowling requested that the advisory council members do what they can to share/distribute information for the Parent Connection activities / events coming up soon.

Hank Passi from the Division of Rehabilitative Services (DORS) contacted Sara Muempfer in the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) regarding the issue of GED and adult education access for Deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind individuals. Sara was able to discuss this situation and the director of the GED program, Pat Tyler, will contact Hank directly to work together to establish better service and access.

The next Advisory Council meeting was set for June 18, 2013 at the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) – Columbia Campus. Motion to move the meeting date to June 4th at the same time and same location – carried by council vote.

Meeting Adjourned