

MACDHH – Minutes 06-18-14



Present:

Council Members: Ann Black, Amy Bopp, Erin Buck-Skees, Stacey Bundy, Dakota Burgess, Cheri Dowling, Lance Fischer, Casey Harris, Cleveland Horton, Nancy Jenkins, Mickey Morales, Charm Smith, Keneithia Taylor, Donni Turner, Robin Underwood

ODHH Staff: Lisa Kornberg, Zainab Alkebsi, Jennifer Mari Gunderson, Estie Kruglak

Guests: Christine Telford, Sue Schaefer

Meeting Minutes

Introductions were made of all attendees because of a few new members who have joined the council. The minutes from the March 2014 Council Meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded by Cleveland Horton. Minutes were approved without amendments.

Old Business

Discussion was brought up about changing the names of some of the subcommittees to better represent what the specific goals of each subcommittee are. Cheri explained that it was recommended that the education subcommittee be changed to Children and Youth with the main goal being to support and foster interaction among deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind youth, social events and youth advocacy. Mickey Morales expressed that she would prefer the names to stay the same. Lisa Kornberg reminded council members that the history of this subcommittee was never set up with the intent to look into education. There are other committees that do that and this council does not have the authority to step into the education realm. Historically, this subcommittee has been integrating the support and development of new generations of deaf and hard of hearing youth by encouraging interaction with each other and putting support systems in place. The title of Education is misleading since that is not what this subcommittee does. Lisa continued to explain that this Council does not need a subcommittee for education, we have a representative already here from that department that we can go to for these ideas. To decide on names, each subcommittee will get together to come up with goals and a mission for that group, discuss a name that represents them, and bring it back to the Council for discussion. Mickey Morales asked if the role of the council members is to discuss issues and then bring them back to the council for further discussion. Lisa clarified that the role is to inform and advise. Members can give information and ideas to the department in the quarterly meeting, not the subcommittee meetings. Charm Smith agreed that this should first be done at the subcommittee level where members can discuss name changes and goals of the committee and then bring it back to the general meeting for discussion. Cheri Dowling discussed the name change from Behavioral Health to Human Services. At the last subcommittee meeting, members discussed children in foster care, medical services, behavioral health and primary care, and not all of that falls under behavioral health. The Communication Access committee does not need to change their name, being that their main goal is full accessibility. Charm Smith asked why communication access doesn't cover deafblind. Cheri explained that a new DeafBlind subcommittee has been established, and that group will discuss barriers to communication and transportation for deafblind consumers. Amy Bopp said that Communication Access should still include deafblind. It was brought up that deafblind often got lost in the communication access discussion so we are shifting some of that energy to the new subcommittee. Nancy Jenkins suggested that it would be useful to have someone on the Communications Access committee also on the DeafBlind Committee to act as a liaison between the two.

Subcommittee Reports

Human Services (previously Behavioral Health) (Keneithia Taylor reporting): The Human Services committee recently met with deputy secretary Dr. Gayle Jordan Randolph to discuss different tier levels for human services that are provided to the deaf and hard of hearing community. What she wants from this committee are numbers and data and we need to get that to her soon. We also discussed the issue of going to doctors and getting turned to another doctor and another and not getting the services they are entitled to. We discussed how to file a complaint by going through DHMH or MCCR. We also discussed capturing youth data, which we do not know a lot about right now especially in foster care. So we need to increase our knowledge about youth in foster care that need services. Dr. Jordan Randolph mentioned setting up a centralized state resource with grant money. The reason for this is that Maryland is locally run and it would be difficult to implement programs in each local region, so having a centralized resource would be better.

Education (Various members reporting): Jennifer Gunderson brought up that the issue of captioning of educational materials. Cheri said that issue was first with the education subcommittee was then turned over to communication access, but it was brought back to education which is why the name change was brought up. We think that issue really belongs with communication access and we'd like them to tackle that. Casey Harris said that has not been brought up yet because we don't have a lot of people or resources right now and we need to figure out who will take on that role, which we will need to discuss in our committee. Charm Smith brought up that Lisa had mentioned ODHH would give a training on the need for captioning. Lisa responded that the policy in the Department of Education was that all school materials be captioned; therefore, we do not need to do anything except to assign that to the Department and let the proper authority handle that and follow up with their own policies. Stacey Bundy said they also discussed youth leadership with an event coming either next January or March to have middle and high school students come with their parents for activities, presenters and workshops. Students will learn how to advocate for themselves, leadership skills and social events. There will also be a seminar for parents.

Communication Access (Casey Harris reporting): The Communication Access subcommittee has a lot of issues on hold right now seeing as how small the committee is. Three issues we are focusing on are 1. How often we meet, 2. Fire alarms and 3. DeafBlind metro access. Amy Bopp has asked the Baltimore City Fire Department for fire alarms to see how they work and function. We would like to set up a task force to learn more about it and see what resources are available in Maryland. Lisa mentioned that somehow in 2013 a law was passed that conflicts with the Fair Housing Act and says that Maryland landlords can charge deaf tenants to install these special alarms, but that is against federal law. Casey said this committee is trying to convince the fire department to distribute these alarms to homeowners. There will also be a presentation in October for deaf individuals to attend where the fire department presents on fire detection and other issues. Robin Underwood mentioned that there needs to also be a training for landlords about this, and that federal law always precedes local or state law. Even though the offending language is on the books, the landlords are still required to provide the alarms. Cleveland Horton said they can provide staff for that event to educate about fair housing rights and to contact him about it. As far as metro accessibility, we've talked with Nicole Mac and are waiting to hear back from her.

Cheri Dowling told all members to look at the list of subcommittees and pick which one they would like to be on. It can be more than one subcommittee. Donnie Turner asked where DLLR is needed. Casey Harris says the access committee works with job employment and interviews and diversity, and Donnie said to sign DLLR up for that.

Departmental Reports

DLLR (Donni Turner): Nothing to report. To sum up what DLLR does, we receive funding for our programs to help workers with disabilities find jobs and attain skills training. If there's questions with resumes we can help with that, help with transitioning from high school to college, from college to a career, and changing jobs.

MDOA (Dakota Burgess): We just wrapped up our prevention awareness campaign. We want people to look at the issue elder abuse and especially financial abuse. So we're working with banks and other financial institutions. We also had an interagency committee on aging meeting and want to include ODHH to do some sensitivity and awareness training. Lisa added that the state is working to set up "villages" for people who are aging and we have asked if they can do the same for those who use ASL and they said during the grant cycle they will work on that. The goal is also to have a day center that's open five days a week for seniors.

MCCR (Cleveland Horton): Nothing to report.

DHR (Will Johnson): Nothing to report.

MSD (Stacey Bundy): Nothing really to report, just finishing out the year. We have 27 graduating, 23 diplomas and four certificates.

MSDE (Dr. Kathleen Heck): Nothing to report (sent in electronically)

MDOT (Robin Underwood): Baltimore Penn Station did put up more signs for accessibility, audio and visual. They put more than 30 passenger information displays up. They have three stations picked as pilot stations within the next four years. Also, the Virginia MVA just changed their exam over to be accessible in ASL which means you do not need interpreters and it cuts down on the cost. I would like Maryland to mirror that.

DHMH (Keneithia Taylor): Nothing to report.

Executive Director's Report (*Lisa Kornberg*)

I would like to congratulate the advisory committee because we almost have a full committee here and when I started it was very non-active. I am also very sad to say goodbye to Stacey Bundy. ODHH has been insanely busy lately. We've had trainings all over the state. We are trying to set up a state wide committee in October with HLAA and the ultimate goal is to get MDAD and HLAA to meet together and try to establish some sort of council or committee to work together and have more power at the state level. Last year, MDAD has a conference at the same time as HLAA so there were a lot of scheduling conflicts at the local level, so we are trying to figure out a way to attend all of these events. We are also voting for a new governor so there will be a lot of turnover in the legislation so we will let you know what is vacant so please get the word out because we will need to send in nominations for people to come in and take over these positions.

New Business

Cheri: We need nominations for a new chair and vice chair since my term is up and Stacey Bundy is leaving. The vice chair needs to be an agency representative and the chair can be a citizen or anyone that is not part of an agency. Mickey Morales was nominated as chair and she accepted the nomination. Cheri nominated Cleveland Horton as co-chair and Keneithia seconded. He accepted the nomination. Voting will take place online. You can add yourself on the ballot if you would like by emailing Zainab.

Nancy: I am very upset that only one of the Governor candidates' ads is captioned. I am not sure why passing this law has failed every year.

It was responded to Nancy that the FCC has open comments available until the 25th on that topic. Currently, the rule is that if the ad is under 5 minutes, it is not mandated to have captions. MDAD is writing an official letter to be sent on Friday to the three campaigners for Governor saying that if they want support from this community things will need to be captioned.

Ann Black asked that when people say deaf and hard of hearing, they include the term deafblind. Mickey Morales responded and said that when she says the term deaf, it is all inclusive meaning she is intending to include everyone with that term.

Lisa: We are reimbursing for mileage to attend this committee for anyone that is not part of an agency. Also, ODHH is having an open house this Friday from 4pm – 7pm.

Mickey: Many youths are now coming from families that do not speak English so we need to figure out how to address the needs of this population.

Amy: Can we change the definition in the binder to include DeafBlind? Lisa and Charm responded saying one would need to change the law to make that happen.

Next Meeting: TBD