

§ 9-2404. Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (December 15, 2016)

Second Quarterly Meeting
December 15, 2016

Present:

Council Members: Stephanie Summers, Erin Buck Skees, Charm L. Smith, Janet Cornick, Jason Corning, Spencer Dove, Lisalee Egbert, Tanya Green, Marny Helfrich, Nancy Jenkins, Greg James, and Ed Schwabeland
ODHH Staff: Kelby Brick, Deborah Nathanson, and Allysa Dittmar

Call to Order: 2:10 PM

Meeting Minutes:

Reviewed minutes from three previous meetings
-Minutes from February 2016 read and approved
-Minutes from June 2016 read and approved
-Minutes from September 2016 read and corrected

MACDHH Chair Summers:

Introduced new motion form for use
Attended MDAD's 60th Celebration gathering
Shared about plans to meet with representatives from a variety of agencies

ODHH Director's report: See attached.

Council Reports:

Chair shared an announcement about upcoming regional academic bowl hosted at the Rockville High School on March 11-12, 2017
Chair shared about upcoming Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) conference in April 2017 taking place at the Maryland School for the Deaf-Columbia Campus
Member shared about an upcoming joint meeting between the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) and the Alliance (a variety of organizations serving disabilities in the State of Maryland)

Old Business: NONE

New Business: NONE

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM

Director Brick's Report

1. **Position Vacancy.** Amy Speer, our program manager, has left the office to pursue employment closer to her family in Arizona. We will miss her. We are working with the Governor and the Appointments office to fill the vacancy.
2. **Language Exposure for Infants.** We have been working with MSDE, DHMH and the EHDI program to strengthen communications to parents and other stakeholders on the importance of immediate exposure to language for Deaf and hard of hearing infants. I'm excited about our work here. Council Members Tanya Green and Marny Helfrich has been involved at various points in the process.
3. **Foster Services.** We're trying to strengthen the foster system's services to Deaf and hard of hearing kids. We will be working with council member and Secretary Greg James. By the way, congratulations to Secretary James for his promotion and I am most appreciative of his continuing commitment to the council.
4. **SSP services.** Per council's recommendations, we've been looking at SSP issues. Ann Black has been trying to set up a community meeting to explore this further. We will participate in this process.
5. **Domestic Violence Services.** Per council's recommendations, we've been looking at funding for domestic violence services for Deaf and hard of hearing victims. There are a number of challenges here including the lack of an organization in state that has knowledge or experience in those areas. Incidentally, I was the luncheon speaker at the Deaf Anti-Violence Coalition (DAVC) National Conference in Silver Spring, MD last October. I talked about the importance of strengthening programs and services against violence. Our Policy Manager Deborah Nathanson provided a well-received workshop on how activists and advocates can utilize state resources and services.
6. **DCDL.** We've been supporting the process of establishing the Deaf Cultural Digital Library (DCDL). By now they have already had the first meetings of their Advisory Council as well as their Friends of DCDL group.
7. **Behavioral Health Advisory Council.** We've been moving forward on the statewide Behavioral Health Advisory Council trying to focus on ensuring cultural and linguistic sensitive services in the state. We've brought in a lot of experts in this process. Council Member Lisalee Egbert attended the last meeting as well.
8. **Language and Education Legislation.** There are some community efforts to develop a legislative bill on addressing language and education issues for Deaf and hard of hearing people. Council Members Charm Smith and Lisa Lee Egbert are involved in those efforts. The office is monitoring this process.
9. **Annual Report.** Our Annual Report should hopefully be released by the end of the week. We're very excited about this release. Please watch for it.

10. **Deaf Ecosystem for the Holidays.** Several Maryland Deaf business owners have set up a holiday shopping portal for people who want to support Deaf business owners. The Deaf Holiday Hop is an excellent example of an active Deaf Ecosystem, and one that we are pleased to support: <http://www.deafholidayhop.com>
11. **Public Outreach by KKI:** The Kennedy Krieger Institute, under the leadership of Dr. Jennifer Reesman, have been posting information online educating the public on Deaf and hard of hearing children—including their latest blog post on the “Myths & Facts about the Needs of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students. We’re pleased to support them in this effort. Check them out.
12. **Hagerstown Meetings.** Governor Hogan had a public cabinet meeting in Hagerstown last October. Immediately after that meeting, we hosted a town hall meeting, which was well received. Deaf and hard of hearing people there talked about their frustrations in dealing with 1) fake and unqualified interpreters and the need to regulate them, as well as 2) the challenges in finding employment in the face of blatant discrimination by employers. We are trying to address those issues. We hope that there will be other public cabinet meeting and town hall meetings in different parts of Maryland in the months to come.
13. **Emergency Interpreting.** I held a workshop on state emergency platform interpreting in Maryland at the Potomac Chapter Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf (PCRID) Conference last November—focusing on how to ensure that interpreters handling emergency broadcasts can do a better job.