

**§ 9-2404. Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (October 1, 2011)**

February 19, 2016  
Third Quarterly Meeting

Present:

Council Members: Ann Black, Dakota Burgess, Janet Cornick, Jason Corning, Lisalee Egbert, Marny Helfrich, Greg James, Nancy Jenkins, Edward Schwabeland, Charm L. Smith, and Stephanie Summers  
ODHH Staff: Kelby Brick, Allysa Dittmar, Deborah Nathanson, and Amy Speer

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from September 28, 2015 (1Q) are approved as read (\*\*December 18, 2015 (2Q) meeting did not take place due to lack of quorum).

MACDHH Chair Corning:

- Urged members to complete the informational survey
- Discussed future meeting locations

ODHH Director Brick:

- Collaboration efforts with MDSC on addressing senior citizens
- Legislative Awareness Day rescheduled to March 7th due to inclement weather
- Council Member Nancy Jenkins will be honored during LAD
- Appointments update: Three council vacancies

Council Reports:

- MSDE taskforce is working on teaching certification requirements draft for D/HH teachers
- Update on hearing aid loan bank was shared
- ASL story reading at Frederick Library on March 6th
- MSD Spring Play: Beauty and the Beast on March 11th
- Bowie Baysox D/HH Night on April 8th
- Frederick Keys D/HH Night on May 11th

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm

To: Maryland Advisory Council on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Fr: Kelby Brick, Director, Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Date: February 2016

## **Legislative Awareness Day**

As you know, the Legislative Awareness Day originally scheduled for February 15 was postponed due to inclement weather. The event has been rescheduled for Monday, March 7. We have a program starting at 2:30 pm including showing a legislative video and providing awards to deserving honorees.

The Senate will host a confirmation hearing for my appointment at 5:00 pm. The House of Delegates will host our staff on the floor at 8:00 pm to pass a resolution recognizing the Legislative Awareness Day.

All of you are encouraged to spread the word and attend.

Deadline to request special accommodations: February 24

Deadline to request parking at Navy/Marine Corps Stadium: February 29

All requests and inquiries should be addressed to Amy Speer at Amy.Speer@Maryland.gov or (443) 453-5871.

## **Role of Advisory Council**

I wanted to reemphasize our appreciation for the recent dialogue on the direction of the Council and how it can best support and advise the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I encourage council members to continue this kind of dialogue. Input from the council is essential in ensuring that Governor Hogan and his administration continues to be responsive to Marylanders.

## **Update on Priorities**

1: Deaf Ecosystem (economic development). We continue to address the unacceptable unemployment and underemployment rate of Deaf and hard of hearing Marylanders through our work with the Department of Rehabilitation Services and through our state procurement procedures. We are also focused on developing new employment strategies including supporting existing and developing Deaf business owners.

2. Fraudulent and unqualified interpreters. We invite you to join us in seeking innovative new solutions. A big part of that challenge is the lack of quality interpreters as well as the use of fake interpreters who is committing fraud. We cannot wait until other stakeholders get their act together. Our citizens are being impacted and we need to act. We don't have a direct solution right now especially in light of the moratorium imposed by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). This interpreting issue affects numerous other things beyond employment to

include medical access (a major issue affecting the more vulnerable population within the Deaf and hard of hearing Marylanders: the senior citizens, deaf-blind, and those with developmental disabilities) among others. We have looked at various approaches including endorsing a licensure bill that was proposed by various stakeholders including the Maryland Association of the Deaf and the Potomac Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf as well as looking at the possibility of requiring all state procurement of interpreting services to be limited to certified interpreters. The RID moratorium has thrown a monkey wrench in this process because it is difficult to justify limiting work to certified interpreters if there is no assurance that there is a pipeline open for qualified interpreters to come through. We are looking at various alternatives for opening a new pipeline that would be independent of RID and would appreciate feedback and ideas from the Council on those alternatives.

3. Delivery of existing state services. We are working with various agencies in addressing the quality and efficiency of state services. This includes the Department of Education, Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene among others. We are paying particular attention right now to the delivery of mental health services as well as equal access for Deaf and hard of hearing inmates. I have been named the vice chair of the Cultural and Linguistic Competence subcommittee of the newly formed Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council.

### **Feedback sought**

Individual council members have asked us what areas of feedback we would want them to provide advice on. Some possible areas include the following. Council members can provide feedback individually or have discussions during council meetings.

1. Should the council meeting tentatively scheduled for Friday August 19<sup>th</sup> be moved to midweek that month or after Labor Day? Given that August is a summer month, it is possible that Friday afternoon meeting will be minimally attended as individuals take vacations or a long weekend.
2. We seek ideas and suggestions from members on how state departments and agencies can utilize their procurement and employment opportunities to increase opportunities for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.
3. We seek feedback on statewide mental health services and accessibility.
4. We seek ideas and suggestions on how to best address the pipeline issue affecting certified interpreters and how we could perhaps develop alternatives.
5. We seek feedback on our social media efforts within the framework of policy making and coordination of state services rather than merely using social media for outreach. We also feedback on how the Deaf and hard of hearing community can exchange and promote information on community events, programs and activities that does not include the Governor's Office.

6. We seek feedback on how council members can assume a bigger role in visibility and participation of the Legislative Awareness Day event.
7. We seek ideas and suggestions on how we can expand our list of Deaf and hard of hearing experts and consultants on a variety of issues
8. We are seeking guidance on what kind of state government models exist in other states that delivers support and services to Deafblind that should be emulated in Maryland.
9. We seek feedback on what should be the initial focus area for delivery of services to our senior citizens in terms of geographical location and type of services.
10. We seek ideas and suggestions on how we can help council members better understand role of Deaf Ecosystem as part of Governor Hogan's agenda on jobs so this priority can be better communicated to the community.