

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

Foruth Quarterly Meeting
June 8, 2017

Present:

Council Members: Erin Buck-Skees, Dakota Burgess, Spencer Dove, Vikki Porter, Tanya Green, Marny Helfrich, Gregory James, Charm Smith and Stephanie Summers
ODHH Staff: Kelby Brick, Deborah Nathanson and Allysa Dittmar

Vikki Porter was introduced as the new council member. Vikki shared she works for GAO in D.C.. She lives in Montgomery County.

On April 29, MDAD held their annual conference for a day. MDAD made it into an information expo where state agencies who represent the council explained what they do and what they are responsible for. Those who attended found it beneficial.

Several council members attended EDHI one day conference in May. Jeff Bravin, Executive Director for American School for the Deaf (ASD) was one of the speakers which explained about the history ASD as it celebrates 200 years, history of ASL and present day status. Director Kelby spoke about the history of EDHI.

Council is almost full with four new positions:

Gordon Outlaw, Director of Office of Fair Practice from Department of Housing and Community Development
Eddy Laird, Citizen
Larry Gray, Citizen
Vikki Porter, Citizen

Director Kelby and I received letter from Shane Pendergrass, chair of the health committee addressing HB-254 regarding to captioning in public places. It has requested ODHH to set up a meeting before December 1st.

Some point from Director Kelby's report,

- Addressing under employment issues
- Addressing interpreting issue with non-qualified and fraudulent interpreters
- Hosted Deaf Business Summitt
- DCDL has advertised two positions. One of the two positions the individual has to be deaf. The other one has to have at least experience in Deaf Culture
- Had various meetings with DORS regarding to deafblind services for SSP, service support provider
- Gave brief presentation at Maryland Digital Summit, conference for IT statewide people. ODHH released their resource guide on the use of CART for meetings.



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To: Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Fr: Kelby Brick, Director, Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Re: June 2017 Report

Please note that this report provides only specific highlights of our work since the last council meeting, and is not in any way comprehensive.

Priorities

We continue to focus on our priorities of addressing the severe under and unemployment rate of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the state as well as addressing the delivery of qualified interpreter services in the state.

Council Members Appointed and Reappointed

Congratulations to new members Vikki Porter, Eddy Laird, Larry Gray as well as Gordon Outlaw from DHCD. Also congratulations to Dakota Burgess and Jason Corning who have been reappointed.

This is perhaps the strongest and most diverse group approved by the legislature in a very long time. We should be very proud of this group. Please welcome them to the council and introduce yourself!

Deaf Business Summit

We hosted the country's first Deaf Business Summit in May. The theme "Deaf Ecosystem: Maryland's Open for Business," and focused on the support and growth of Deaf and hard of hearing owned businesses. It was the first time that a governor has hosted an event exclusively for Deaf and hard of hearing business owners, supporting and encouraging entrepreneurship among the Deaf and hard of hearing business community. The summit was filled to capacity! See <http://odhh.maryland.gov/press-releases/deaf-business-summit-2017/>

DCDL

We have been working closely with the Maryland Division of Library Development and Services as well as the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library (DCDL) Coordinator in the development of their program. The DCDL will be housed in Montgomery County Public Libraries' Germantown Branch, and will be the primary information center on deaf resources for library customers and library staff throughout Maryland. The DCDL is now in the process of hiring a Librarian and Program Specialist to work with the DCDL Coordinator, Susan Cohen.

Mental Health and Opioid/Heroin

Addressing those areas are a top priority for Governor Hogan. We have been working with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in ensuring access to mental health and substance abuse services. We also have updated our online list of providers who are either Deaf or hard of hearing or fluent in American Sign Language (ASL). See <http://odhh.maryland.gov/directory/#mental-health> Our staff is also meeting with various providers across the state to better understand their challenges and how the state can better support them. We are also supporting providers in enabling telehealth services in compliance with new Medicaid rules that we enacted last year. We also participated in the Behavioral Health Administration's Annual Plan Development Stakeholders meeting where I co-facilitated group planning for developing recommendations and strategies for an integrated system of care.

DeafBlind Issues

The Division of Rehabilitation Services has convened a DeafBlind Work Group to determine effective ways for the community and partners to provide specialized and sustainable services that increase economic self-sufficiency and competitive employment outcomes for DeafBlind Marylanders. We are very active in seeking better solutions and services. We will also be involved in other strategic meetings focused on the development of SSPs for DeafBlind individuals.

Maryland Digital Government Summit

I presented at the Maryland Digital Government Summit on best practices regarding technology for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals. At the summit, we announced the release of the office's resource guide on wireless, streamlined real-time captioning technology: <http://odhh.maryland.gov/resource-guide-wireless-streamlined-real-time-captioning/> Our office has adopted the use of this technology at various events, including Governor Larry Hogan's most recent Regional Cabinet Meeting in Carroll County.

New Tablet Program

We announced a new tablet program through Maryland Relay's Maryland Accessible Telecommunications (MAT) program for low-income Marylanders who are unable to use a standard telephone due to a disability. See <http://governor.maryland.gov/2016/09/12/governor-hogan-announces-new-tablet-program-for-low-income-marylanders-with-disabilities/> for the press release.

Maryland Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Conference

We participated in the 2017 Maryland Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Conference. I was one of the presenters. We emphasized the need to include Deaf people in early intervention programs as a critical approach to prevent the public health crisis of language deprivation.

Domestic Violence

We are looking at supporting the establishment of an external organization in the state of Maryland who will provide support and services for victims and survivors domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

State Expenditures on Interpreting Services: We are approaching the completion of our proposal in making state services of ASL interpreting more efficient and cost-effective.

Selected Upcoming Activities:

Interpreter Summit

We anticipate hosting an Interpreter Summit later this summer bringing together stakeholders to address the quality and delivery of interpreters

Legislative Awareness Day: October 9

Mark your calendar! Legislative Awareness Day will be hosted on October 9. As usual, we expect a presentation by the Lt. Governor and the presentation of annual awards recognizing leaders across the state.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

We will be working with state agencies on policies and events that will be tied to the promotion of this month. This will likely include job fairs and hosting an Employment Summit that brings together leading experts to address the under and unemployment of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

Captioning TV

We were asked by the legislature to work with industry officials to address the turning on of captions on televisions in public places.