



Present:

Council Members: Ann Black, Erin Buck-Skees, Dakota Burgess, Jason Corning, Lisalee Egbert, Lance Fischer, Casey Harris, Cleveland Horton, Nancy Jenkins, John Carnaggio (proxy for Mickey Morales), Edward Schwabeland, Charm Smith, Stephanie Summers.

ODHH Staff: Lisa Kornberg, Zainab Alkebsi

Guests: Stephen Kotchen, Richard Jeffries

Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made (L. Fischer) and seconded (S. Summers).

Director's Report (Lisa Kornberg)

This is an interesting meeting because it is the last meeting with any of the current ODHH staff. I will be leaving June 30th, the Administrative Assistant will also be leaving June 30th since her contract expires then, and the Deputy Director will be leaving on July 7th since she accepted a job offer to join the legal team at the National Association of the Deaf. As an update on the search for the next Director, the Governor's Office has screened all the candidates and they have made a recommendation to the Governor. The Governor has made his decision and they will be announcing next week.

In addition to that, the office will be under construction in July due to a reconfiguration so everything will be packed up. This means the new people will come in and might be discombobulated. However, I plan to stay involved in the transition so that the new people do not have the rug pulled out from under them. We will make sure that we have the text for the Annual Report and the Managing for Results numbers (MFRs) ready by the time they come in. We just finished calculating the MFR statistics and we've exceeded our expectations over the last year. We are leaving the office in good shape and in good hands. We have a commitment from the Governor's Office to continue to support the Office. So we are looking forward to a positive result.

Thank you all for all your hard work over the last year. Even though we have had disagreements, that has been a healthy part of our growth. I look forward to watching what happens next.

Election for New Chair and Vice Chair

Nancy (as Chair of the nominations committee) reporting: There is only one nominee that has accepted the nomination for Chair and that is Jason Corning. The others did not accept the nomination. No one has accepted the nomination for Vice Chair. According to the Governor's Office vacancy policy, Cleveland will be in holdover status until someone else is nominated and elected.

At the end of Nancy's report, there was then some disagreement over whether an election for Chair was actually necessary since Jason Corning was the only candidate. Cleveland said that the Council could still vote for him to not be Chair. He felt the election still needed to happen to affirm the Council's choice for Chair. Nancy felt it was pro forma. Charm felt the whole Council should get behind Jason and that a vote might set a negative tone. Cleveland countered that he is assuming Jason will win unanimously anyway but the Council has to go through the proper process to vote and elect Jason as chair. The Council then took a vote by paper ballot (yes/no) with Nancy counting the ballot results.

Actions Taken:

Outcome for Chair: Jason Corning elected (8 in favor, 2 against, 1 abstained).

Outcome for Vice Chair: Tabled until the next meeting.

Membership for New Senior Citizen Committee

Casey asked if anyone is interested in serving on the new Senior Citizen committee with Lance. Dakota, Stephanie, and Ann raised their hands. Lisa noted that the committee needs more agency representatives and that although Keneithia and Andrea were not present, they would likely be interested in serving on the committee. Casey noted that for temporary purposes, Lance is the Chair of the committee until the committee meets and elects a Chair. The committee also needs to discuss their goals to bring back to the Council for a vote.

Break

Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee Report:

Charm and Nancy (as Co-Chairs) reporting: They passed out copies of an administratively cleaned-up version of the bylaws. They started to go through their recommendations but did not seem to be on the same page so they asked to table the discussion until the next meeting. In the meantime, it will be emailed to everyone for review. Cleveland asked for the proposed changes to be highlighted within the document. Jason also asked them to set up a table that states the changes with each page number so that he can keep track of the changes. He asks that everyone take the time to thoroughly read the proposed changes so that they do not waste time on that at the next meeting.

Actions Taken:

Motion made to table to next meeting (C. Harris) and seconded (C. Smith). All in favor.

Subcommittee Reports:

Human Services (Lance Fischer reporting):

1) The Human Services Committee would like to ask the Advisory Council to assign the work on foster care to the Youth and Children Committee and that Andrea Garvey from DHR be included on that committee.

2) Sharon MacDougall agreed to work on the draft of the letter requesting data from state agencies.

3) The committee is working on four goals:

a) Family Service Foundation (FSF) is working on opening a clinic that accepts Medicaid, Medicare and Private Insurance. We have asked them to write up a summary of the process as a "pilot" to see if it can be a model for services to people who are Deaf and use American Sign Language. The needs of the hard of hearing community may be able to be met in more traditional clinics and mental health settings if:

1. Technology is available.

2. Staff are familiar with the impact of hearing loss on communication and the challenges of hearing loss for late deafened individuals.

b) Behavioral health services need to be available across the life spectrum so we are working on broadening the access for other services.

c) The committee wants to work with state representatives from DHMH, DLLR, MDOT, DORS, etc. to ensure that services in addition to behavioral health are included in the plan since employment, housing, etc. impacts the quality of life for Deaf adults. (Transportation, Employment, Peer Support).

d) Eric English, DHMH Behavioral Health Administration, will explore the inclusion of mental health needs for children in the new State plan.

The committee will be working collaboratively with the new Senior Citizen committee to make sure that services are accessible to deaf seniors as they face new issues as they age. The committee recognizes the needs of the senior community are broad, and that there are a number of places where behavioral health interventions need to be available to members of the senior community.

Actions Taken:

The Council decided to put these items on the agenda for the next meeting.

Youth and Children (Richard Jeffries reporting):

Richard reported that he, as Chair, has been waiting on instruction from the Council to let him know what their committee should be taking on next and how they can support the Council.

Cleveland responded that it is not for the Council to give instructions or directives to the committees. The committees are supposed to provide recommendations in terms of priority areas. The committee should be working on identifying priority areas.

Richard pointed out that if, hypothetically, they decided to write a position statement that all children should be at deaf schools, not mainstreamed, that would not be advisory. They would need to know what the scope is from the Council and they do not have clarification on that. For example, do they have the authority to go and set up a youth conference? Some feel yes while others think no so they want to know from the Council how to proceed. As another example, one member feels the committee should be the watchdog of the state and pushing the state education board while he feels that is not in their purview. So that is why they would like clear instruction from the Council. They can prioritize but they need to know the scope first.

Cleveland responded that Richard is correct that the committees do not have authority to make decisions on their own. They can only make recommendations. If there is a particular member within the committee who makes a recommendation or suggestion to the committee, it is up to the committee to vote on that particular recommendation to see if they want to move it forward to the Advisory Council for their vote. There are some ideas that may never make it out of committee if the majority disagreed with that particular suggestion. As for scope, that is stated in the Council's mission and vision. Every committee should ensure every idea, suggestion, or recommendation they bring forth to the Advisory Council is within the Council's mission and vision statement that are stated in the bylaws.

Richard clarified that the reason he felt unsure of the scope was because the name of the committee had changed. So it would be reasonable to think the scope had changed as well. So he still feels they need more guidance from the Council for what the scope is in consideration of the name change that occurred.

Charm stated that even though the Council brings in specialists for the committees that have extensive knowledge of that particular area, they do not give these specialists any guidance in regards to what to do, what not to do, the scope, and the purpose. She suggested that the Council set up guidelines for what the committees should be doing.

Cleveland clarified that he agrees and that it was suggested during the bylaws meeting that there would be a description made of the committees added to the bylaws so that people would understand the scope. However, he has yet to see that added and is hopeful that it will be presented by the bylaws committee when they present their recommendations.

Lisa stated that one option would be to consider whether the committees should stay under the Council or become working groups/task forces under ODHH.

Jason asked that the subcommittees email their three top concerns or issues for inclusion in the agenda. That way, the Council can review them and submit any questions ahead of time so that when they come to the meeting, everyone knows what is being discussed.

Action Taken: [The other subcommittee reports were tabled to the next meeting to focus on their top three concerns and for advance inclusion on the agenda.](#)

New Business

Jason: He asked that everyone send in their information two weeks in advance of the meeting. Cleveland pointed out that two weeks' advance notice might not be enough time for him to review the information and then distribute it to the other members for them to have enough time to read the information and be prepared to discuss that information prior to the meeting. He suggests that the information be sent out to the members two weeks before the meeting so Jason would need to receive the materials with even more time than that.

Erin: The Council has a lot of new members so it is important that they understand how the process works, our roles, functions, and rules. The Council needs to improve its protocols so that they are able to have that knowledge and guidance. She suggests that the Council design something so that they could have the full organization and function clear, such as an orientation meeting. Jason responded that they could perhaps set up a website for members. It is not very productive when people do not know what their role is or what the process is. Nancy said she feels the members should have the basics from the orientation binders that they already have. Lisa stated that sometimes she meets one-on-one with new members to provide that orientation.

Announcements:

Nancy: Anne Arundel County Commission on Disabilities is having a dual celebration on Tuesday, July 28, for the 25th anniversary of the ADA and the 20th anniversary of the Commission itself. It starts at 1:00. Nancy is doing a videotaping of various people for their retrospective of the ADA, what their lives were like before the ADA and after. If any of you live in Anne Arundel County and would like to do that, let Nancy know.

Marny: Most of you are aware that the Maryland State Department of Education operates a hearing aid loan bank for infants and toddlers. They can provide hearing aids on a short-term basis until families can get their own so that children who need amplification do not have to go without. As part of that project, they have a large number of older hearing aids that are no longer in warranty but are functional. They do not want to give them to children and families but are looking to donate them. Because of state regulations, the hearing aids can only go to a Maryland non-profit organization or another government agency. Once the hearing aids go elsewhere, that organization can do with them what they see fit. But they cannot give the hearing aids directly to individuals. They would like to see the hearing aids get to people who can use them.

Casey: We are having a farewell party for Lisa today after our meeting; it will start at 4:00 p.m.

Lisa: Let's thank Casey for her year of service as Chair, particularly during a very challenging year.

Next Meeting: September but no specific date/time was determined before adjournment.

Meeting adjourned 3:09 p.m.