



**Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
June 8, 2010
Maryland Department of Transportation – Hanover, MD**

Attendees: Alexis Allenback (DLLR), Carl Bailey (DHR), Marian Bland (DHMH), Amy Bopp, Laurie Corcoran, Cheri Dowling, Lisa Flynn (MSD), Sue Griebler (MSDE), George Kosovich, Gary Monroe (MCHR), John (Jack) Rouse (DHCD), Robin Underwood (MDOT).

Absent Members: Shane Feldman and Jennifer Whitcomb

Staff: Lisa Kornberg, Laura Quinn, and Julie Schafer

Guests: Zainab Alkebsi and Amy Ruberl

Interpreters: Erin Harrison and Gerard Williams

Remote CART: Steve Clark

MINUTES

- The September and December minutes were approved via an e-mail vote after the last meeting.
- The minutes from the March meeting were unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Both of the ODHH bills passed legislation and will become effective on October 1, 2010.

SB 68/HB1501 – State Government - Human Relations - Closed-Captioning Activation Required

The first is SB 68/HB 1501 for Captions to be turned on in Public places upon request and will become effective October 1, 2010. The Office is working on vlogs: 1) about the Maryland Commission on Human Relations (MCHR), and 2) to explain the complaint process with MCHR. Both will be posted on the ODHH website. The office is also drafting a letter and information to send out to the Chambers of Commerce in advance of the effective date.

SB 79 – ODHH Responsibilities

The second is SB 79, which has added two new members to the Council. One is a member from the Department of Aging and the other is a representative of the Deafblind community.

Other Legislative Action:

- The General Assembly approved the Governor's budget for ODHH.
- HB 59/SB 467 - Task Force to Explore the Incorporation of the Principles of Universal Design for Learning into the Education Systems in Maryland: This bill passed with the amendment to include ODHH or its representative.
- SB 102/HB 1086 - Election Law – Campaign Advertisements – Closed Captioning: This bill did not pass. Both HB 1086 and SB 102 were stalled in the Senate and never received a vote. Delegate Bartlett will likely propose the bill again next year.
- HB 1463 - Rachel's Law - Closed Captioning in Movie Theaters: Movie theater captioning didn't pass, but Delegate Kelly will probably present this bill again next year.

ODHH Strategic Plan:

The Strategic Plan has been reformatted at the request of the Governor's Office. The new structure outlines the short term, mid term, and long term goals for the Office. The reformatted draft is undergoing review, but may be postponed until after the elections.

Advisory Council Membership:

Individuals whose terms are due to expire should notify Laura Quinn if they wish to be reappointed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Subcommittee:

Statewide Plan:

The MSDE Subcommittee to develop a statewide plan for deaf and hard of hearing students is looking at data to see where things are heading. It is a very slow process, but it is moving along. There is good representation on the subcommittee. Each modality, school, and age are represented.

Mentor Program:

A few of the organizations and agencies serving the community are interested in starting a mentor program. The program would be designed for adults who are deaf or hard of hearing to talk to families of mostly newly identified, but also older, children. Families do better when they can meet adults with a hearing loss, showing them that the child can be successful. Sometimes it's hard to see beyond the present and see what the future holds.

What needs to be done?

- Define the Role of the Mentors
- Train the trainer Program for Mentors
- Identify a Coordinating Agency*
- Work with MDAD, HLA, and others to Identify Mentors
- Research Grant Opportunities
- Feasibility Study (documentation from other states is available)
- Develop a Timeline

*The Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS) Program through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene DHMH will be providing information in a packet called "Opening Doors – Technology and Communication Options for Children with Hearing Loss". Information about the Mentoring program may possibly be included in this packet.

ACTION ITEM: Cheri Dowling will send out Opening doors info and state documentation.

Other:

The Director of UNHS Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program, Linda Vaughn, has resigned from the position.

Sue Griebler has been temporarily filling in on this Council and other committees for MSDE since Dr. Paul Farrell in the Hearing Aid Loan Program left over a year ago. However, she is a part-time consultant.

Behavioral Health Subcommittee:

Minimum Level of Service:

The subcommittee has submitted letters to both the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Deputy Secretary Renata Henry, and to Value Options for minimum level of services when treating deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind consumers. The letters were sent in early May, and no response has been received yet.

Training:

Lisa Kornberg provided Sensitivity and Awareness Training to the subcommittee members in May, which included representatives of a few of the Core Services Agencies. The training was very successful and more

requests for training are expected. Several of the Divisions under DHMH are also talking about having ODHH provide training to their staff.

AGENCY REPORTS

Reports from the agencies were provided in written form and are included as Addendum A, B, and C at the end of or attached as a separate document with these minutes.

Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) – Robin Underwood (Addendum B)

BWI Airport

- The airport will not be able to use CSD's UCAN Public Access Video Phone Programs due to contract rules.
- A Federal ADA Compliance Review was completed resulting in several positive changes around the airport, including better compliance in directional signage.
- BWI will be making updates including public announcements being scripted and put on visual paging monitors.

MTA

MTA is currently updating their Subway and MARC systems with LED signs and new speakers.

SHA

SHA is in the process of installing accessible pedestrian signals at 430 intersections with an LED sign how many seconds to safely cross the intersection.

Maryland Commission on Human Relations (MCHR) – Gary Monroe

A deaf family in Bel Air, MD filed a complaint about problems with their neighbors, which is being investigated. It seems that word is getting out to the community about MCHR and there have been more complaints since the meeting in December.

A new Vlog will be added to the ODHH website on how to file a complaint with MCHR.

Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) – Lisa Flynn

There are 31 students graduating from MSD this year. The seniors at MSD scored higher in testing than hearing students in the Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS).

Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) – Alexis Allenback

This was Alexis Allenback's last meeting. She is retiring from DLLR at the end of June. She was presented with a Governor's Citation for her time and commitment to the Council as one of its original members and will be sincerely missed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2nd Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Legislative Awareness Day is being scheduled for February 21, 2011. It will also be the 10 year anniversary of ODHH in 2011.

NEXT MEETING

Date: September 8th, 2010

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Locations: Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) – Frederick Campus

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

The FY 2011 budget contains several relevant areas:

- \$12.2 million for Special loans programs. will provide loans or grants for lead abatement, indoor plumbing improvements, sheltered housing facilities, and modification of group homes for Maryland citizens with special housing needs.
- \$8.5 million for Homeownership Programs - provides low fixed rate loans for low and moderate income individuals.
- \$2.0 million for the Shelter and transitional Housing program. Provides grants to develop emergency shelters and transitional housing.

Legalization:

- SB 83 DHCD Group Home Financing Program- Refinancing. Allows DHCD to refinance an existing loan and finance certain closing costs in the loan. A tool to modify a loan that is in danger of default.

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)

Legislative Updates:

Under 2010 Session, there were over 2700 pieces of legislation considered. DHMH considered 643 bills.

Behavioral Health and Disabilities:

- HB900/SB 465 – Developmental Disabilities Administration – This bill requires the Secretary of DHMH to provide a recipient of Medicaid-waiver services who has been denied services according to his or her plan of habilitation with a notice within 30 days of the denial and opportunity for a Medicaid fair hearing. This notice must include the reason for the denial and appeal instructions. Takes effect October 1, 2010.
- HB1034/SB633 – This bill requires beginning in fiscal year 2012, fees paid by DHMH to a community developmental disabilities service provider and a community mental health services provider for approved services rendered to an eligible individual be aligned with the annual cost adjustment for units of State government in the Governor’s proposed budget. The inflationary cost adjustments used to establish the inflationary cost adjustment for providers may not be less than 0% - 4%. The bill repeals language that makes the adjustment contingent on the limitations of the State budget and requires Community Services Reimbursement Rate Commission (CSRRC) to determine a weighted average cost structure of providers by studying certain categories of costs and assessing the average cost structure of providers. In addition, the bill requires DHMH, in consultation with specified community services stakeholders, to conduct a study for purposes of recommending a plan to develop a rate-setting methodology for providers, and include in its study, among other the things, the future role of CSRRC and other entities involved in the rate-setting process. DHMH must submit a preliminary report by December 1, 2012, and final report with its findings and recommendations by January 1, 2013.

- HB 1226/SB 920 – Developmental Disabilities Administration – Low intensity support services (LISS). This bill specifies that individuals who wish to apply for low-intensity support services provided by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) are not required to submit a DDA service application or complete a Medicaid eligibility application if the services will be provided to a minor. The bill also authorizes DDA to develop a simplified LISS application process and generally codifies existing waiver provisions and eligibility criteria. DDA must establish a cap of no less than \$3,000 per individual per fiscal year to a qualifying individual and must deliver services dependent on the allocation and availability of funds. DHMH will develop a simplified application process for LISS and adopt certain regulations. This legislation takes effect on June 1, 2010.

Budget Updates:

- The department’s positions have been reduced from 11,214 in fiscal year 1990 to 6,571 in fiscal year 2011 (a reduction of 4,643 positions or 41%).
- In FY 2010, \$531million cut in general funds, \$566 million in reversions; provider rate cuts \$45 million.
- State facilities were downsized and two hospital closures - Walter P. Carter Center and Upper Shore Hospital closed. A report on the closure of the Upper Shore Community Mental Health Center must be submitted. Three (3) million of the hospital’s annual budget will go to increase community services such as crisis and residential rehabilitation services. The other \$6 million will go to the State deficit.
- A reduction in the Core Service Agencies budget by \$750,000 instead of \$1.5 million.
- CSAs will not be allowed to rollover funds from their previous year budgets.
- Substance abuse grants reduced by \$2 million.

Updates on Co-occurring System of Care:

- Last year in an effort to bring together key partners from Mental Hygiene, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and Developmental Disabilities, regional forums were held to gain an understanding of the systems’ differences and similarities as well as to discuss efforts to support moving forward to better integrate care. This year a supervisor’s academy began in April, led by participants in all three administrations. A co-occurring curriculum from Southern Maine was adopted with information pertinent to mental illness, substance abuse and developmental disabilities. The goal is to have “no wrong door” in terms of gaining access to statewide services for individuals with co-occurring issues. This academy will be a year long train-the-trainer curriculum for 21 people (7 from each administration). It will meet once a month for 13 months and participants will train their own agencies.
- Additionally, MHA began “Training Institute” in November, 2009 to offer skills in training to providers in the Public Mental Health System. The first skill to be offered is Motivational Interviewing (MI). MI is a person centered goal-directed counseling method for resolving ambivalence and for promoting positive change.

Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD)

Legislation:

At this time, none of the bills in the General Assembly impacted MSD.

Budget:

In regards to our budget, our state appropriation was flat-funded for Fiscal Year 2011. That is, our Fiscal Year 2011 appropriation is identical to Fiscal Year 2010. We are anticipating that the Fiscal Year's 2011 total federal fund amount will be \$150,000 less than Fiscal Year 2010.

Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) Director's Report

Key Accomplishments and Action Items

1. Advisory Council –

- Alexis Allenback resigned due to retirement
- Elections facilitated for Chair and Co-Chair of Advisory Council
 - Laurie Corcoran – Chair
 - Gary Monroe – Co-Chair
- Robin Underwood (MDOT) and Lisa Flynn appointments confirmed
- Current Vacancies:
 - MSDE (Sue Griebler appointed temporarily)
 - DLLR
 - Two Community Representatives
- Reappointments
 - John Rouse 9/30/2010
 - Cheri Dowling 9/30/2010
 - Jennifer Whitcomb 9/30/2010
 - Amy Bopp 9/20/2010

2. Town Hall Meetings

- Cecil County Town Hall meeting on May 6th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Washington County Town Hall meeting with DeafNet on May 14 from 1:30 – 2:30 PM
- St. Mary's County Town Hall Meeting scheduled on June 22nd at 1:00 pm

3. Website/Brochure Updates and Revisions

- Continued Twitter updates
- Continued updates to Facebook page. As of this report, ODHH has 206 fans.
- Completed and posted June Monthly Bulletin and updates to Home Page
- Filmed Office V-logs on Emergency Preparedness, the Advisory Council and MCHR
- Created Veterans page and posted on website
- Legislative V-log captioned and uploaded to the web page

- Drafts for upcoming updates to the web page in progress

4. Legislative Session

- See Attached Legislative Wrap Up

5. Interagency Councils and Boards

- Interagency Council on Aging
- MSDE State Plan Meeting
- State Steering Committee Meeting
- DHMH State Summit on Youth with Co-occurring Disorders
- Universal Newborn Hearing Screening
- MACDHH Behavioral Health Subcommittee

6. Internships

- Completed final evaluations for two interns from Towson University.
- Zainab Alkebsi, a first-year law student at the University of Baltimore school of Law began her internship May 24th. (35 hours/week)

7. Strategic Plan

- Submitted final draft to Yolanda Winkler for review and feedback. Will be releasing the Report June 15, in conjunction with the beginning of the new fiscal year.

8. Constituent Services Program:

- Fielded 618 requests for information and referral year through May 2010
- Distributed 477 Community Announcements through May 2010
- Exhibited 22 times through May 2010
- Provided 49 Trainings through May 2010

9. Short Term/Long Term Projects

- **Sensitivity Training for Hospitals –**
- **Behavioral Health Subcommittee –**
- **State Wide Interpreter Contract –**
- **Team Maryland/Education Subcommittee–**
- **Communication Access Subcommittee**
- **Voter Access –**
- **Press Office Coordination –**
- **Emergency Preparedness**
- **Veteran Outreach –**
- **Police Trainings –**
- **One Stop Trainings –**