



**Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
September 1, 2009
Maryland Department of Transportation – Hanover, MD**

Attendees: Dirk Albrecht (MSD), Alexis Allenback (DLLR), Carl Bailey (DHR), Marian Bland (DHMH), Amy Bopp, Thomas Brett, Laurie Corcoran, Cheri Dowling, Alicia Epstein, Sue Griebler (MSDE), George Kosovich, Gary Monroe (MCHR), Julie Moyer (MDOT), John (Jack) Rouse (DHCD), and Judy Stout.

Guests: Shane Feldman (MDAD Member At-Large), Samuel Jones, and Robin Underwood (MDOT)

Absent Members: Jennifer Whitcomb

Staff: Lisa Kornberg, Laura Quinn, and Julie Schafer

Interpreters: Steve Frank, Heather Mewshaw, and Andrea K. Smith

CART: Tara Stromberg

The meeting convened at 2:10 p.m.

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

Carl Bailey made a motion to suspend Robert's Rules of Order for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Alicia Epstein, and was passed by unanimous vote.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the June 2, 2009 meeting were approved with no changes.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES – Laurie Corcoran

The Advisory Council set up three subcommittees. Each committee met during the Advisory Council for its initial meeting, but future meetings will be planned by each individual subcommittee, separate from the full Advisory Council meeting. The subcommittees are: 1) Behavioral Health, 2) Communication Access, and 3) Education. Members of the Council were asked to choose a subcommittee in which to participate and were given instructions to:

- Establish 3 Goals to Accomplish in One Year
- Develop a Method to Evaluate Those Goals
- Determine Who Else Should be Involved Aside from Council Members
- Decide How to Limit the Number of People Involved
- Plan for Future Meetings – Where to Meet and How Often to Meet
 - Note: Some May Need to Meet Via VRS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Subcommittee:

Chairperson – Cheri Dowling

Goals –

1. Obtain a Favorable Response from MSDE to Identifying Stake Holders and Begin Working on a State Plan
2. Data Collection about deaf and hard of hearing students in Maryland.

Stakeholders met and drafted a letter sent by ODHHS requesting that a group be established to work on a State Plan for education deaf and hard of hearing students in Maryland as proposed at the National Summit in 2008. It is presumed that the response to the letter will be positive, at which time the subcommittee will request that MSDE help identify the members and schedule the first meeting to discuss the State Plan.

Communication Access Subcommittee:

Chairperson – Shane Feldman

Goals –

1. Captions in Public Places
2. Text for Audio on State Websites
3. Visual Announcements for Public Transportation
4. Reducing Barriers for Employment
5. Quality Captioning for Television
6. Access to Interpreters for Events

The next meeting is tentatively set for October 26, 2009 in Prince George’s County.

Behavioral Health Subcommittee:

Chairperson - Carl Bailey

Goals -

1. Communicate to DHMH that the Subcommittee will develop goals in compliance with the State’s Direction
2. Help DHMH Understand the Most Appropriate Way to Communicate and Work with the Deaf Community
3. Show Research Supporting a Specialized Approach for Deaf Consumers

The members of the subcommittee will be joining Ms. Kornberg and Ms. Corcoran on a previously scheduled conference call with Deputy Secretary of DHMH, Renata Henry, on September 10, 2009.

DIRECTOR REPORT – Lisa Kornberg

Advisory Council Members

This was the last meeting for Alicia Epstein, who represented the community and MDAD. She received a Governor’s Citation recognizing her contribution to the Council and to the State. Shane Feldman will submit his application to be appointed to fill the vacancy left by Ms. Epstein.

Other members whose terms are expiring:

Gary Monroe (MCHR)

Thomas Brett (Community Member)

A letter must to be sent to Jeanie Hitchcock in the Appointments Office from the Secretary of MCHR and Mr. Brett requesting their reappointment. Also, a letter has been sent to MSDE requesting that the position left vacant by Dr. Paul Farrell be filled.

ODHHS Accomplishments

- Managing for Results (MFR) Goals for Fiscal Year 2009 Exceeded
- Strategic Plan to be Sent to Governor’s Office for Approval
- Distinguished Honor from MDAD Received by Lisa Kornberg, Director
- Legislation for 2010 in Progress

- Planning in Progress for Legislative Day in Annapolis
- Council Member Presence Needed for Legislative Day and Other Exhibits
- ODHH Now on Twitter
- Inserts with Messages from the Governor and Lt. Governor to be Added to the Brochure
- New ODHH Website Launched
- VLOGs to be Added to the ODHH Website
- ODHH Monthly Bulletin Redesigned
- Governor's Office Encourages Maryland Delegates to Support HR 3101
- Captioning Governor's Videos in Progress

Upcoming Trainings and Presentations

ODHH continues to provide training to DLLR's One-Stop Career Centers, and will begin DGS training this month. In addition, Ms. Kornberg will be presenting at two upcoming Federal conferences.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT – Laurie Corcoran

Ms. Corcoran expressed her pride in the accomplishments of ODHH.

A letter was sent from the Advisory Council to Dr. Grasmick at MSDE requesting that an official appointment be made to replace Dr. Farrell on the Council. The Council is grateful to Ms. Griebler for filling in temporarily, however she is a consultant, and the participation of a full-time State employee is needed.

Advisory Council member participation is needed to help staff the ODHH table at the upcoming Deaf Awareness Day at the National Aquarium (Baltimore).

STATE AGENCY REPORTS

The transition is being made from the State agencies giving an oral report at each meeting to submitting a written report prior to each quarterly meeting. Two of the agencies complied with the request for this meeting, and their reports will be attached to the minutes.

MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF – Dirk Albrecht

On September 23, 2009 MSD will host the opening of their new elementary school building. Superintendent Tucker will be speaking and the Governor has been invited.

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS – Gary Monroe

The MCHR was made aware of bill in San Francisco requiring that bars and public places with televisions have the captioning turned on and would like the Advisory Council's support of a similar bill for Maryland.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES – Carl Bailey

Nothing to report.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

– Jack Rouse

Effective July 1st funding is available again for mortgages for people with disabilities. Modifications can be made once the purchase of the home is complete. Funding for modifications is a separate ongoing program. Assistance for visual smoke alarms would be obtained through the modification program subject to current regulations.

NEW BUSINESS

The next Advisory Council meeting on Dec 1, 2009 will be held at the Deaf Independent Living Association (DILA) in Salisbury, MD as discussed at the last Council meeting. The meeting will be followed by an ODHH Town Hall Meeting from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: December 1, 2009

Time: 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Deaf Independent Living Association (DILA) in Salisbury, MD

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.