



**Maryland Advisory Council of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Deaf Independent Living Association, Inc.
Salisbury, MD
December 1, 2009**

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Marian Bland (DHMH), Amy Bopp, Laurie Corcoran, Cheri Dowling, George Kosovich, Gary Monroe (MCHR), and Jennifer Whitcomb.

Absent Members: Dirk Albrecht (MSD), Alexis Allenback (DLLR), Carl Bailey Jr. (DHR), Thomas Brett, Sue Griebler (MSDE), Julie Moyer (MDOT), Jack Rouse (DHCD), and Judy Stout (Resigned).

Staff: Lisa Kornberg, Laura Quinn, and Julie Anne Schafer

Interpreter: Joy Carney

Remote CART: Jane Collingnon

REVIEW MINUTES:

There were no corrections to the minutes; however, since an attendance of 10 Council members is needed for a quorum, there were not enough members present to vote to approve the minutes.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Full participation is needed by the subcommittee members at their scheduled meetings. ODDH paid for interpreters for two separate committee meetings where only one member attended and interpreters were not needed. If you are unable to attend then the office should be notified in advance and the meeting can possibly be rescheduled. The subcommittee members who attended should be commended for their commitment. Advisory Council Chairperson, Laurie Corcoran, recommended having a ½ hour planning meeting for the subcommittees during the next Council meeting in March 2010.

Education Subcommittee – Cheri Dowling

Cheri Dowling, chair of the Education Subcommittee, and Lisa Kornberg were the only people to show up for the November meeting. There is a lot to discuss and if possible a meeting will be schedule prior to January 12, 2010 Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) meeting to discuss the State plan.

Behavioral Health Subcommittee – Marian Bland

In the absence of Carl Bailey, the chair of the Behavioral Health Subcommittee, Marian Bland gave the report. Issues currently being addressed by the subcommittee are:

- Cultural Competency Training for Providers
- Transitional Housing
- Minimum Requirements for ASL Skills and Cultural Competency
- Additional Membership to include Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), Alcohol & Drug Abuse Administration, etc.
- Coordination of services – established organizations
- Establishment of a Provider Council, not under the Governor’s Office
- Greater incidence of co-occurring conditions (ADAA/DDA/MHA)

Communication Subcommittee – Amy Bopp

In the absence of Shane Feldman, the chair of the Communication Access Subcommittee, Amy Bopp gave the report. This subcommittee also had only one attendee at their November meeting. Issues that this subcommittee is addressing are:

- Web Site Accessibility
- Employment Accommodations
- Quality TV Captions
- Including the Interpreter When Broadcasting News Events on Television When One is Present – Who is responsible?
- Offsetting the Costs of Communication Access
- Qualified Interpreters for Government
- Emergency Preparedness - Connect with Baltimore County Representatives

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Lisa Kornberg

Membership:

Committee appointments serve a 3 year term, after one term they may be reappointed.

- Marian Bland – CV Form Must be Submitted
- Gary Monroe – Form Submitted
- Shane Feldman – Form Submitted
- Maryland School for the Deaf – CV Form must be submitted for either Reappointment of Dirk Albrecht or a New Representative
- Judy Stout – Resigned – Replacement Needed (General Member)

ACTION ITEM: Julie Schafer will send a recruitment article to Jennifer Whitcomb (DILA), and Laura Quinn will send it to MDAD, and as an announcement to the ODHH distribution list.

Strategic Plan:

The Governor’s office has requested a formatting change to the Strategic Plan. It will be reformatted and submitted directly back to the Governor’s Office, since there was no change to the content. A copy of the final version will be sent to the Council members.

Legislative Awareness Day:

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Legislative Awareness Day is scheduled for February 15, 2010, which is President’s Day from 3:00 – 8:30 p.m. The day will consist of training, awards, meetings with legislators and attendance of the General Assembly session that evening.

The following people will be recognized by ODHH and given a certificate of appreciation at this event:

- Senator Stone – He sponsored the bill for Captioning of Political Advertisements last year.
- Sherry Little – She makes arrangement for communication access to make legislative session accessible.
- Senator Mooney – He spoke up during hearing about the texting ban bill that it is discriminatory against the hearing loss community.

Legislative Update:

The following Federal Bills have Maryland Co-Sponsors:

Hearing Aid Tax Credit Bill (HR1646) – (2) Van Hollen & Ruppertsberger

The 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (HR3101) – (1) Van Hollen

Town Hall Meetings:

At the November 12, 2009 ODHH Town Hall Meeting, held at HASA in Baltimore City, transportation was a big concern. In addition to concern about LEDs not working, was concern about the attitude of the transit workers. It was suggested MTA staff would benefit from training to work with individuals with hearing loss.

ODHH Accomplishments & Projects:

Lisa Kornberg:

Lisa Kornberg was recognized as the Hamilton Relay Outstanding Deaf/Hard of Hearing Leader of the Year for 2009. There were a few Advisory Council members there in attendance at the award presentation.

During the past quarter Ms. Kornberg has continued to do numerous trainings throughout the State. In addition, she has presented at two Federal conferences.

Ms. Kornberg has been designated the co-chair of the MSDE committee to develop a State Plan for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children. The first meeting was on November 2, 2009 and there were a variety of stake holders present, including: MSD, public schools, parents, administrators and DORS.

ACTION ITEM: Lisa Kornberg will find out if this meeting is open to public.

ACTION ITEM: Jennifer Whitcomb will send letter of interest to participate in the committee.

Julie Anne Schafer:

Julie Anne Schafer, Esq. has passed her Bar Exam and will be sworn in later in December. Ms. Schafer has taken the lead in legislative process, and will be looking at bills coming up and to see if there is legislation from other agencies that impact the community.

The ODHH Monthly Bulletin that Ms. Schafer has edited for the past two years has gotten the attention of the Governor's office. The Office has been asked to distribute it to all of the legislators, agency secretaries, and other leaders within State government.

Ms. Schafer has also focused on the veteran initiative and is building bridges with the Veterans Administration. Part of this effort has included attending several Veterans Musters throughout Maryland.

Laura Quinn:

Laura Quinn has been conducting a lot of trainings during 2009, including: Department of General Services (DGS) Capitol Police, University of Maryland Police, Emergency Preparedness in Arundel County, and senior centers around Maryland.

Grants:

The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) has received funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). ODHH assisted in the coordinated effort by the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs Association (MSA), and the Maryland State Police (MSP) training coordinators to request a grant for 20,000 copies of a picture point card for police officers to use for visual communication with non-English speaker, which was developed by a student at the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) and the Frederick Police Department. The grant includes funding for a contractual position to provide training to police officers on cultural competency for communicating with individuals with a hearing loss.

Accommodations in Maryland State Government:

The Governor's videos are currently being captioned and the first batch is now available on the ODHH website. A button will be added to the Governor's video page directing users to the videos on our website.

ODHH has been working with the Department of Budget & Management (DBM) to help them develop a scope of work for a visual language interpretation contract for use by State agencies in Maryland. This contract will include: Sign Language, Video Remote Interpreting (VRI), Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), Remote CART, and Captioning. It is anticipated that the Request for Proposal (RFP) will go out early next year.

Multiagency Coordination:

It is one of the goals of the Office to help to develop coordination between agencies (ODHH, DASAM, MSD, the State Steering Committee, MSDE, TAM, DORS, DHMH, UNHS) and to look for ways to better support each other, and eliminate duplication.

ACTION ITEM – Laura Quinn will provide contact info for agencies to Laurie Corcoran and Gary Monroe.

Advisory Council Goals:

The Council should have a written Strategic Plan separate from the Office's Strategic Plan. The goals of the Plan should be manageable. For example, this year's plan can begin with a focus on subcommittees and lay the groundwork for building relationships and connections between State representatives and service providers for deaf in the State.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGEINE – Marian Bland

Renata Henry is setting up meeting with other departments to share information about what is happening throughout Maryland. It was recommended that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) be included at this meeting.

NEWS AROUND THE COMMUNITY:

Deaf Addiction Services at Maryland (DASAM) – Laurie Corcoran

DASAM has just been certified to provide domestic violence training for victims and perpetrators.

Deaf Independent Living Association (DILA)– Jennifer Whitcomb

DILA is seeking board members. There are currently 8 members, but would like to have up to 15 members. They are looking for diversity and individuals committed to serving the Eastern Shore. The board meets four times a year, and has several subcommittees. Persons who are interested can send an e-mail to jwhitcomb@dila.org.

The Hearing and Speech Agency (HASA) – Amy Bopp

This spring is the 50th anniversary of the Gateway School at HASA. They will be planning a special event.

State Directors – Lisa Kornberg

There are 36 states with agencies serving deaf and hard of hearing individuals. The directors gather to meet every two years. The next meeting will be in 2010 in Philadelphia, PA.

ACTION ITEM – Laura Quinn will create a contact list of the Advisory Council membership.

2010 Meeting Schedule

The meeting time for future meetings has been changed to 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. to allow for people coming from greater distances to be able to attend.

The meeting dates for 2010 are:

March 2, 2010

June 1, 2010

September 7, 2010 (MSD - Frederick)

December 7, 2010

Adjourned at 4:28 p.m.