



**Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
September 8, 2010
Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) – Frederick, MD**

Attendees: Marian Bland (DHMH), Amy Bopp, Cheri Dowling, Lisa Flynn (MSD), George Kosovich, Gary Monroe (MCHR), John (Jack) Rouse (DHCD), Shane Feldman, Robin Underwood (MDOT).

Absent Members: Laurie Corcoran, Jennifer Whitcomb, and Sue Griebler

Staff: Lisa Kornberg, Laura Quinn, and Julie Schafer

Guests: Amy Ruberl and Dakota Burgess (MDOA)

Interpreters: Charlene Anderson and Erin Harrison

Remote CART: Sherry Knox

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 8, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Report – Laura Quinn

Two new members have been assigned to the Council: Sara Muempfer, of DLLR, will replace Alexis Allenback who retired at the end of June. Dakota Burgess, present at this meeting, will represent the Department of Aging, a new position established by ODHH S.B. 79 during this year's legislative session and goes into effect on October 1, 2010.

There have been a couple of applicants for the deafblind position that was also added by S.B. 79. A selection should be made prior to the December meeting.

There are still two openings remaining for representative from the community, and ODHH is looking at whether there is a way to fit Amy Ruberl into a slot. She is from the Cued Speech Association, and has been attending as a guest and would be a valuable member of the Council.

If a change in Governor takes place as the result of the elections, this will not affect the Council membership.

ODHH OUTREACH

Town Hall Meetings:

Council members are encouraged to attend and participate in the upcoming town hall meetings. Both are being hosted by local chapters of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA): the Montgomery County and Greater Baltimore chapters.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Subcommittee – Cheri Dowling:

Mentor Program

The Mentoring Program is in the investigation phase. The subcommittee will be contacting other states to find out if they have a similar program, and if they do then find out more about their program.

Areas to work on:

- Mission
- Future Funding
- Recruiting Mentors
- Training for Mentors

Statewide Education Plan

The MSDE Committee to Develop a State Plan on the Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students will meet on September 14, 200. So far the committee has a very rough draft based on Pennsylvania's plan that will need to be modified based on suggestions and comments from the committee members.

Communication Access Subcommittee – Shane Feldman:

LED Signs

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) has been making progress. They are continuing to work on installing LED signs at stations and on trains in the Baltimore Metro Subway, MARC trains, and Light Rail. They'd like to have a "kick off" event when it is complete with members of the community present.

Crossing Signs

Also, MDOT has been updating the State owned crossing signs at traffic lights throughout Maryland. They have already updated 532 and plan to update 410 more by 2016.

BWI Airport

The BWI airport has a Visual Paging System, which shows the automated announcements that are repeated throughout the day. Live announcements about arrivals are not included in that system. However, they are making progress on trying to add a section for "additional information".

Also, they are noticing that there are almost no pay phones anymore for hearing passengers.

They are learning more about relay, TTY, and VRS and how they all work, and are also looking at new technology, including the new iPhone 4

The TTY should not be completely eliminated, because there are some who still use this technology, and it is still the best way for contacting 9-1-1, and if there is a power and/or internet failure.

Legislation

The bill that would require captioning of political campaign ads did not pass the Senate last year, even after it was amended to only be required for campaigns for statewide positions, such as the Governor, Lt. Governor, Comptroller, and Attorney General. This subcommittee is hoping to have the bill reintroduced during the 2011 session and get involved in getting it passed next year.

Behavioral Health Subcommittee – Marian Bland:

Accessibility:

At the last meeting on August 23, 2010, a lot of discussion was about access to interpreters in Hospital Emergency Rooms. When there is an accessibility issue that needs to be resolved, patients should request the hospital's patient advocate, which the majority of hospitals have, to assist in getting the situation resolved as quickly as possible. Patients should also contact the DHMH Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) to file a complaint if their needs are not satisfactorily met. The OHCQ will be giving a presentation at the next full subcommittee meeting on September 27, 2010.

Another thing the committee will do is try to put together information to send to medical facilities and medical personnel about what Behavioral Health programs available in Maryland that are able to provide culturally competent services to deaf and hard of hearing consumers. A model that they will look at is a brochure that the Anne Arundel County Commission on Disabilities developed about disability related laws and providing accommodations for people with disabilities, including hearing loss.

Training:

The subcommittee and ODHH are working together to expand Sensitivity & Awareness training to the Developmental Disability Administration (DDA), the Alcohol Drug & Abuse Administration (ADAA), and the area health departments. As part of this effort, the DHMH Special Needs Population Conference in March 2011, will include a training workshop presented by ODHH.

Tele-Psychiatry:

The regulations to bill tele-psychiatry through the public mental health system have been approved.

Springfield Hospital Center (SHC) – Deaf Unit:

Statistics from the SHC Deaf Unit on patients’ transition to the community show that the average length of stay for patients admitted to the Unit is 200 or more days. Mostly DDA cases are there for the longer time, because they are harder to place into appropriate outpatient programs.

The SHC has re-establish what was previously called the Housing Review Board under the new name of Service Review Board, which better reflects the broader needs of the patients ready to transition into the community. The committee is made up of hospital staff and community providers and will meet at the hospital monthly.

Expansion:

The subcommittee has also been discussing prison outreach. Mark Ehrlichmann of Embracing Lambs is working with the establishing a tutoring program for inmates and has a program for assisting inmates being released from prison with community placement and reintegration.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Maryland Commission on Human Relation (– Gary Monroe:

There have been no discrimination complaints related to public accommodations, nor hate crimes reported this quarter by deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind individuals.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The Five Year Strategic Plan for ODHH, including all formatting changes, has been completed and is available at www.odhh.maryland.gov. However, if there is a change in Governor, the plan could also change.

The Advisory Council needs to work on developing its strategic Plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The ASL film “See What I’m Saying?” will be shown at Goucher College in cooperation with the Hearing and Speech Agency (HASA). The flyer was distributed.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: December 7, 2010

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: TBD (Eastern Shore)

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Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Report

DHMH: DHMH is the lead agency working with Lt. Governor Anthony Brown on Health Care Reform. Secretary, John Colmers is the co-chair of the Maryland Health Care Reform Coordinating Council. The Health Care Reform Coordinating Council (HCRCC) created by executive order the morning after President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) into law. The HCRCC has submitted an interim report to Governor, Martin O’ Malley in July 2010. The HCRCC created six work groups including:

- The creation of an insurance exchange;
- Entry to coverage for the uninsured;
- Outreach and education about health reform implementation;
- Protecting the public health safety net and special populations
- Building the necessary health care workforce; and
- Transforming the health care delivery system

DHMH’s Deputy Secretary, Renata Henry will be chairing the workgroup on special populations.

Mental Hygiene Administration:

Following the discussion at the Behavioral Health Subcommittee meeting on August 23, 2010, MHA’s Office of Special Populations met with Springfield Hospital to reconvene what was previously the Housing Review Board. The Housing Review Board, now named the Service Review Board will have its first meeting on October 4, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. at Springfield Hospital Center in the Hitchman Building. The purpose of this forum is to provide coordinated and cohesive services across the continuum of care. This forum will meet monthly with the goal of facilitating communication across agencies to ensure quality of care of consumers. Community providers as well as representatives from MHA, ADAA, and DDA are invited to be a part of this forum.

Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Report

Update on Departmental Priorities

There have not been any significant changes in MDOT’s ADA priorities. It is still MDOT’s priority through the ADA Program to ensure equal access to programs, activities and services for persons with disabilities.

Specific Programs, Projects and/or Services being Developed or Implemented to Address Constituent Concerns

- MTA is currently under contract to replace the public information system equipment on both the Metro Subway and MARC system. The new systems will be ADA compliant variable message LED signs along with new speakers to provide information to the public. Construction has begun for both projects and equipment installation is currently underway. The Metro will begin having new signs starting this September and MARC stations began receiving new signs by the end of June. The Central Light Rail Line will also be receiving a new PA-LED system. The LRT project bid opening was June 18, 2010 with NTP expected September 27, 2010. Installation of PA/LED equipment likely to begin around June of 2011.

- SHA has committed to having Accessible Pedestrian Signals APS at all State traffic signals with pedestrian indications by 2016. Progress continues in the area of APS. As of August 2010, there are 532 locations where APS are under construction or complete.
- There are approximately 410 intersections in design for APS, including both reconstruction and new traffic signals. Of these, approximately 120 are scheduled for PS&E through June 2011 and approximately 290 are scheduled beyond June 2011 or unscheduled because they are tied to other State or developer projects with uncertain schedules or lack of resources.

Staff Training/Education on Disability Issues, Cultural Competency, etc.

MDOT has a mandatory ADA training that is provided for all employees biannually; MDOT’s ADA Coordinator participates on the State ADA Coordinator’s quarterly meetings and trainings

Number of Deaf / Hard of Hearing Staff Requesting Accommodations

We have not received any new requests.

Number of requests from Deaf / Hard of Hearing Constituents for Services

We received zero requests.

Significant changes in Budget Impacting Programs/Service (including Grants)

The conference that is generally coordinated by Julie and held in October will not be held this year due to budget restraints.

Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) Report

Update on Departmental Priorities:

- This is our self-study year for the Middle States Association and CEASD Accreditation Validation teams will be on campus in the fall of 2011.
- We continue working to ensure that each student graduates with a Maryland High School Diploma or has connections to community agencies to seamlessly move into the workforce.

New Programs, Projects and/or Services being Developed or Implemented to Students’ Needs:

- The Work-to-Learn Program developed through a grant from DORS, and it provides students with the opportunities and support to be gainfully employed in the community. We are entering the 2nd year of the grant, and have already surpassed the number of students we said we would serve. We are looking for additional employment partners to allow more students the opportunity to work.
- We are working with MSDE to expand our Program for Deaf Students with Emotional Disabilities. MSDE is working to find a partner who can provide the residential piece of the program so we can serve Deaf students who do not have daily transportation.
- We would like to develop a post-secondary program for students who are between the ages of 18 and 21, and who would need additional job training and independent living skills.

Number of Students Enrolled:

- 484 – This includes Frederick, Columbia and Family Education.

Staff Concerns:

- Class size
- Highly Qualified credentials for all faculty
- Student performance

Policy Issues – Transition, or job training, etc. N/A

Significant changes in Budget Impacting Programs/Service (including Grants):

- Just trying to do more with less. Our enrollment is up, but our budget is not.

Events of Significance:

- Will be hosting a national American Society of Deaf Children Conference on our Frederick Campus from June 22 – 26, 2011.

Information for Dissemination to Constituents:

Refer to www.msd.edu

ODHH Director’s Report

Advisory Council –

- Follow up with the Department of Aging to identify Council member (Dakota Burgess appointed by Secretary and waiting Senate approval)
- Follow up with the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation to identify Council member (Sarah Muempfer appointed by Secretary and waiting Senate approval)
- Follow up memo sent to representatives of the deafblind community to facilitate applications being sent to the Appointment’s Office – 2 applications received
- Follow up with existing Council members who need to be reappointed including:
 - Jennifer Whitcomb, Private Agency Representative (DILA);
 - Sue Griebler, Maryland State Department of Education (temporary appointment);
 - Cheri Dowling, Parent;
 - Amy Bopp, Deaf or Hard of Hearing Representative; and
 - John Rouse , Department of Housing and Community Development

Town Hall Meetings

- St. Mary’s County, June 22nd
- Scheduled Town Hall meeting with HLA-MC on September 14th
- Scheduled Town Hall meeting with HLA-GB on September 21st

Website/Brochure Updates and Revisions

- Website updated including but not limited to:
 - Resources Page revised and updated
 - Strategic Plan revised per input from Governor’s Office and posted on website

- V-Logs
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Advisory Council
 - Maryland Humans Relations Commission
- Monthly Bulletin converted to Constant Contacts

Budget

- Assistant Director position converted to PIN
- Reviewed and submitted FY2012 Budget
- Updated and submitted 2012 MFRs including updating data definitions and 2010 Program Performance

Legislative Session

- Preparation of Departmental legislation for 2011 Session

Interagency Councils and Boards

- Susan Russell appointed to Universal Design for Learning Task Force
- Lisa Kornberg joined UASI Steering Meeting
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Interagency Coordination

- Began the process of reviewing and captioning videos on the State of Maryland You Tube Channel
- Disseminated information to other State agencies on how to caption on You Tube
- Attended the National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing planning meeting at the National Association of the Deaf Conference in Philadelphia, PA.
- Coordinated with Maryland Department of Disabilities two celebrations of the 20 year anniversary of the ADA
 - Governor O'Malley and the State of Maryland Celebration, July 26th
 - Congressman Hoyer's Recognition Celebration, July 12th

Constituent Services Program:

- June – 58 Contacts
- July – 53 Contacts
- August – 51 Contacts

Short Term/Long Term Projects

- **Sensitivity Training for Hospitals** –
 - Anne Arundel Medical Center- Assistive Technology Training
 - Montgomery General Hospital – Assistive Technology Training
- **Behavioral Health Subcommittee** –
 - Meeting held August 23rd
 - Distributed National Survey on Behavioral Health for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - Distributed notification of Deaf Providers Forum at Springfield Hospital Center
 - Arranged for guest speaker from the Office of Healthcare Quality for September 27th meeting.
- **State Wide Interpreter Contract** –
 - Fourth Draft completed, waiting for DBM Response
- **Team Maryland/Education Subcommittee**–
 - Reviewed, commented and submitted first draft of State Plan as edited by MSDE
 - Followed up with chairperson about action items for the Mentor Program

- **Communication Access Subcommittee**
 - No activity
- **Voter Access –**
 - Coordinated with Secretary of States office to obtain information about early voting for upcoming ODHH town hall meetings
- **Emergency Preparedness**
 - Participation in the Baltimore Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Steering Committee
- **Veteran Outreach –**
 - Developed fact sheet with input from MDVA about Veterans with hearing loss
- **Police Trainings –**
 - Continued to provided S&A Training to officers of the Frederick County Sheriff’s Department and Baltimore County Police Academy
 - Provided support and technical assistance to Larry Harmel, Executive Director of the Maryland Chiefs of Police and Dennis Murphy of the Training Commission to in submitting a GOCCI grant for Picture Point Cards