

MACDHH – Minutes 09-10-14



Present:

Council Members: Ann Black, Amy Bopp, Erin Buck-Skees, Dakota Burgess, Jason Corning, Cheri Dowling, Lance Fischer, Casey Harris, Kathleen Heck, Cleveland Horton, Nancy Jenkins, Charm Smith, Donni Turner, Robin Underwood, Keneithia Taylor, Dawn Schriver-Moore (for Mickey Morales)

ODHH Staff: Lisa Kornberg, Zainab Alkebsi, Jennifer Mari Gunderson, Estie Kruglak

ODHH Interns: Shyla Chatlani, Erica Fields, Zachary Ennis

Guests: Matthew O’Hara (guest speaker), Christine Telford, Christina Healy, Kyle Amber Clark

Opening Remarks

The meeting began with clarification that this was an Advisory Council meeting, not an ODHH meeting. Lisa counted those in the room who had received an appointment letter from the Governor. The group congratulated Casey Harris and Cleveland Horton as the new Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. Lisa suggested that the focus be on the process and procedures of the committee. There was some confusion in relation to the bylaws about attendance and whether this was the third meeting of the calendar year or the first meeting of the fiscal year. The answer is yes to both. From now on, we will be following the fiscal year, not the calendar year. Lance asked about the attendance requirement. Lisa answered that council members are required to attend 50% of the meetings. You can ask the appointment office for a special waiver if you miss more than two meetings.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the June 2014 Council Meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded (A. Black). Minutes were approved without amendments.

Subcommittee Reports

The subcommittees met for a 15 minute meeting before doing reports.

Human Services (Kyle Amber Clark reporting): We have changed our name from Mental Health to Human Services. Keneithia and I recently met with Dr. Gayle Randolph about how to improve services to the deaf community related to mental health. Right now we are trying to collect data for budgetary issues. It seems that right now a lot of services are overlapping and we’d like to set up a one stop shop for all of Maryland. So we need to get those numbers for different state agencies. I will pass out a letter explaining the different kind of data we’re looking for. The four primary things are: 1. How many deaf people are actually assessing services? 2. Who in that agency is responsible for collecting data? 3. Where has the deaf person been referred to? and 4. Where can they go to make complaints? We’d like to set up that one stop shop, a Center of Excellence, to provide different kinds of training. But we need to figure out what kind of training we need. And we’d like to get all of this information before the next quarterly meeting. Lisa said we are trying to get more feedback from a recent bill where accessibility seemed to be missing for outpatient services. We need to have that applied to the bill. Robin Underwood said you need to go back more than year for this information since the state just renewed its contract.

DeafBlind (Estie Kruglak reporting): The DeafBlind subcommittee was just recently set up at the last council meeting, so we’ve only met one time, but it was very productive. The focus from that meeting was to figure out what the goals are for the subcommittee, what the committee should focus on and what we should be bringing back to the council. At the last subcommittee meeting, we assigned a few people with topics to research, and at our next meeting in two weeks, those people will come back to report on what they found.

Children and Youth (Erin Buck-Skees reporting): We started to discuss our leadership conference which will be held on March 14th at McDaniel College. The primary purpose of this conference is for high school students to focus on areas of leadership, self-advocacy, and transitioning from high school to college or career. So our focus now is planning, the workshops, presenters and design of the conference. Our next meeting is September 23rd. Kathy Heck resigned as the committee chair, so we will be discussing a new chair at the next meeting.

Communication Access (Casey Harris reporting): We have two employment workshops set up, one for October 17th and one for the 27th. They are in two different areas, and ODHH and DLLR have been collaborating on that. The second thing we’re working on is fire safety. There are 11 counties where you can get devices and they will install them for you.

We are not clear which counties those are so we need to work on that. October is fire safety month so we'd like to set something up for that. Amy Bopp has been working with Baltimore Silent Aging to set up a fire safety event that is open to everyone.

Guest Speaker: Matthew O'Hara (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf)

Matthew O'Hara holds a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the University of South Carolina and a Master of Science in Education and Human Service Administration from Gallaudet University. He is here today to talk about ethical practices in the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). He runs the Ethical Enforcement Program which shows what it's like when a deaf consumer files a complaint against an interpreter. In the past two years, RID has been trying to do more collaboration by reaching out to the community. There is also a Code of Professional Conduct (CPC) which has its own committee to oversee members of RID. The RID is trying to offer certification so that certain organizations are making sure that interpreters are capable of meeting certain skill requirements. The complaint system was set up about 15 years ago but has changed within the last few years. The grievance process has three steps: first to file a grievance and then the RID will make sure it meets the grievance committee's criteria. Step two is intake to get more information from the person filing the complaint. The third step is the mediation process, which is unique to RID and a critical part in the process. Part of the requirement is that the person who has filed the complaint must be willing to meet in person for mediation. If the mediation does not work, then all of the information goes in front of a panel and judge for a final decision. In this case, the adjunction process, there are three panelists for each case. There are several requirements for filing a grievance; it must be related to an interpreting situation, it must be a violation of the CPC and the interpreter must be a member of the RID. In the past seven years, RID has had 89 complaints. 45 of those have gone to mediation. Of those 45 cases, 39 have been solved. Two mediators attend each meeting, one hearing and one deaf. The mediators do not make any decisions, they are there to advise and mediate. The RID does not have a complaint process for agencies. RID is trying to get out into the community to better learn what people are looking for and to guide about the grievance process. The system is ready, we just need the community's help in how to approach the system to learn how it works. Charm Smith brought up that MDAD and PCRID are collaborating to create a state licensure for Maryland. If the interpreter is not RID certified, there is no watchdog for them, which supports the need for state licensure. Lisa Kornberg also said that if you are deaf and have felt discriminated against, you can file a discrimination complaint. She also mentioned that there are state licensures that are not coordinated through RID, they are through the state. There is a discrepancy on what is accepted, RID certification vs. state certification that needs to be figured out.

Departmental Reports

DLLR (Donnie Turner): We are working with ODHH on the employment workshops.

MDOA (Dakota Burgess): Five years ago we received a grant to develop a resource we call Maryland Access Point or MAP. It is for older individuals with disabilities who need long term services that would help you remain in the community. Lisa asked if they would be willing to do a VLOG on the website so it's accessible to deaf individuals. Lance said he would do the VLOG.

MCCR (Cleveland Horton): Nothing to report.

MSD (Erin Buck-Skees): MSD started the year with record enrollment of 514 students at the Frederick and Columbia campuses. We have 20 applications pending, so that number may increase. We also had a demonstration program for deaf and hard of hearing to serve in the U.S. Air Force. We are also participating in "In the Street" where students from our Orioles news crew will be out interviewing people. We are also having students march on September 26th as part of the celebration of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We're also hosting a showing on September 20th of *No Ordinary Hero*. Our drama department will also be doing a traveling show of *Aladdin*.

MSDE (Dr. Kathleen Heck): Stacey Fitzgerald is now working with Kathy Heck for a hearing aid loan bank to provide services to infants and toddlers. The division of special education early intervention services will be establishing a \$3,500 grant to award for the teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing steering committee.

MDOT (Robin Underwood): I tried to contact the MVA to see if we could adopt with Virginia did, they changed their testing using a contractor to interpret it into many different languages including ASL. It would cost a lot of money on the front end, but ultimately it would save money in the end. Basically the MVA said they can't afford it. One excuse was

that they just renewed their contract, but I find that hard to believe because they would have had to look at their process for discrimination. I don't feel like they looked at another option.

DHMH (Keneithia Taylor): Nothing to report.

DHCD (Sue McLean): Nothing to report.

Executive Director's Report (*Lisa Kornberg*)

I would really like to thank the ODHH staff for all of their hard work. We have six interns this Fall and the intern program is spreading. ODHH is having our budgetary review and we're writing letters to increase the budget for two reasons. This is the first time we've had three deaf staff members, and a deafblind subcommittee, so costs for interpreters have gotten really high and we need more administrative support. I will let you know when the budget hearing is so you can show up and testify to show your support. The Governor needs to hear from the people that live in Maryland, not work for Maryland. DLLR said they may send a letter of support. October 9th is the Maryland Disability Forum that occurs every four years. It's an opportunity for people with disabilities to ask questions to the candidates from both sides. It's happening at the National Federation of the Blind and I encourage you all to come. Also on October 18th there's a town hall meeting at the library in Savage. This year we will be collaborating with HLAA to host it. The focus is on gaps in communication services and advocacy from the late deafened community. They have a local and national chapter, but no state chapter. We've started a team called Team Redwood to walk in the Walk4Hearing on October 25th. So there's a lot happening and word is spreading and a lot are relying on ODHH to fund things and we have a very small budget. We have the smallest finance budget in the state but we are growing and we need your support.

New Business

Casey: We need to discuss the bylaws.

Charm: I think we should wait until the next meeting to discuss this. The subcommittees need to review this and bring it back for the next meeting. We can focus the next meeting on cleaning those bylaws up.

Zainab: We could set up a bylaws committee to review for the next meeting.

Move to set up an ad hoc bylaws committee to discuss the bylaws has been made. Seconded by Nancy Jenkins. We need to have three state agencies and three community representatives.

Lisa: We have not followed parliamentary procedures in the past. If that's something we want to start, the ad hoc committee can discuss that.

Z will send out a message to solicit interest from anyone.

Ann Black: I want to make a motion that DeafBlind be added to the council. Lisa responded and said that's something to bring up to the bylaws committee.

Next Meeting: December 11, 2014, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Meeting adjourned at 4:07 PM