

## MACDHH – Minutes 4-29-15



### **Present:**

Council Members: Ann Black, Jason Corning, Cheri Dowling (proxy for Erin Buck-Skees), Lance Fischer, Casey Harris, Cleveland Horton, Nancy Jenkins, Stephen Kotchen (proxy for Mickey Morales), Charm Smith, Stephanie Summers, and Robin Underwood.

ODHH Staff: Lisa Kornberg, Zainab Alkebsi

Guests: Amy Bopp

### **Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes was made (N. Jenkins) and seconded (S. Summers).

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Communication Access (Nancy Jenkins reporting):** Amy and Nancy had talked about the two of them co-chairing but now that Amy is leaving, Nancy is not sure she can handle being chair by herself. That will be figured out later. The subcommittee wants to keep their name, which is “Communication Access.” They felt that the current name still reflects what they are doing. They reviewed their goals, which are: 1) to facilitate improved communication between state government and the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind community; 2) partner with state agencies and ODHH to address communication access issues; and 3) continue to work with state government agencies on sensitivity awareness. They discussed whether to include deafblind communication access issues or to leave it to the deafblind subcommittee. They decided to leave it to the deafblind subcommittee but to remain in communication with them. Ann Black is on both subcommittees and will be the liaison.

Their action item proposals are: 1) to contact county ADA coordinators and discuss communication access concerns, and 2) to contact state agencies and discuss communication access concerns.

*Actions Taken:* A motion to temporarily implement the process of approving subcommittee recommendations at the conclusion of that subcommittee’s report was made (C. Horton) and seconded (S. Kotchen as proxy for Mickey Morales). A vote was taken, all in favor (ten).

A motion to approve that ODHH reach out to the ADA coordinators was made (N. Jenkins) and seconded (C. Horton). No vote was taken. After some discussion, it was decided to take both action item proposals off the table and give it back to the subcommittee so that the Council Members could have more time to understand the proposals. It will be more specifically outlined within the next meeting agenda.

**Deafblind (Jason Corning and Ann Black reporting):** Their goals are 1) support service provider (SSP) services, 2) statewide transportation services, 3) technology training, and 4) employment training. They clarified that SSPs are volunteers who assist people who are deafblind 15 hours a week by driving them places, doing shopping, reading mail, and helping them be active in the community. Such services are very limited to a few counties, not across the entire state of Maryland. They also clarified that the technology training is only for people who are low-income. So a lot of people who have family support do not have access to that training. They expressed concern about the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDEDP) in the State of Maryland since the free equipment is financially based so one would have to be at a minimum amount of funding. If one is over, s/he would not be able to get the free equipment. The problem is that people are not getting free equipment or if they do get it on their own, they are not receiving proper training on how to use it. The NDEDP is managed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Their action item proposals are: 1) to develop a letter that expanded on transportation challenges for people who are deafblind to be referred to the State Coordinating Committee for Human Services Transportation (SCCHST) and 2) to draft a letter to the NDEDP to inquire if people do purchase equipment on their own, will the federal training program be available for them to learn how to use it?

*Actions Taken:* A motion to draft the letter to SCHHST was made (C. Harris) and seconded (A. Black). A vote was taken: nine in favor, one opposed. Passed.

A motion to table the NDEDP letter so that members could have more time to review the issue was made (C. Smith) and seconded (R. Underwood). A vote was taken: eight in favor, two opposed. Passed.

### **Break**

**Human Services (Lance Fischer reporting):** Lance clarified that it was his first meeting and he was a little lost as the lone senior citizen representative. There were social workers, psychologists, family service providers, et cetera all around the table so he needed more context to understand the subcommittee further. He feels a senior citizen group should be established as a separate subcommittee since their needs are different (see New Business). As to the content of the subcommittee meeting, they talked about cradle-to-grave services and the goals to cover that range as well as cultural linguistic access for a wide range of ages across the lifespan (such as foster care, recovery addiction, access to nursing home or rehab centers, et cetera).

Their action item proposals are: 1) to develop a letter to state agencies to collect statistical data about human services around the state and look at where services are lacking to develop appropriate programs for intervention and 2) to explore the potential of establishing a center for excellence that would monitor the evidence-based practices around the state.

*Actions Taken:* A motion to review the letter to collect statistical data was made (S. Summers) and seconded (J. Corning). A vote was taken: all in favor (ten). Passed.

A motion to table the decision about the center of excellence until the supporting data is received was made (C. Horton) and seconded (R. Underwood). A vote was taken: all in favor (ten). Passed.

**Children and Youth (Cheri Dowling reporting on behalf of Erin Buck-Skees):** Cheri (as proxy) did not have the information from Erin but Lisa said she has the minutes. However, she could not find it. She did have one thing to announce though: Richard Jeffries is now the new chair.

*Actions Taken:* None.

**Bylaws Ad Hoc (Charm Smith reporting):** There are six members: three representing the state (Keneithia Taylor, Donni Turner, and Cleveland Horton) and three representing the community (Ann Black, Nancy Jenkins, and herself). Not everyone was able to fully participate in their meeting so they need to have another one before they can give a full report. However, they did have the opportunity to gather input from the council members, ODHH, and the community at large. They plan to collect more input from the new council members as well. Their goal is to make the bylaws easier to follow, more clear in the language, more representative of the work that the council is doing, and improve the way that the council is able to run its processes. Cleveland clarified that he was a little confused about the bylaws report since he felt that they had met enough times, for hours at end, and that there had been ample opportunity to collect input from others. He understood that not every member of the bylaws committee was present during one particular meeting but he felt that every member had been given notice of that meeting and had the ability to attend that meeting. Nancy felt that was not true since she has physical limitations and so does Ann. She felt weather was an issue. Cleveland countered that he understands that but nevertheless feels this delay is unwarranted.

*Actions Taken:* None.

### Procedural Comments

Jason commented that he has observed a few things that are problematic, such as communication issues, scheduling, logistics, and the lack of opportunity to discuss issues or make proposals as necessary. He thinks the Council really needs to improve these things, perhaps by something as simple as detailed clarifications on the agenda. Overall, the council needs to be more productive within its meeting timeframe.

Charm and Jason also commented that the Chair and Vice Chair should have all the subcommittee reports ready and sent out to all members beforehand so that the council members can prepare before the meeting instead of wasting precious time during the meeting going over the information. Cleveland responded by saying that he agrees wholeheartedly and that will be done for the next meeting.

### Recognitions

Amy Bopp and Cheri Dowling, whose terms have ended, were recognized with a Governor's Citation for their service on the Council.

### Transition Update

Lisa's last day with ODHH will be June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Governor's Appointments Office will be taking applications to fill the Director position and is hoping it will be a quick and smooth process.

## **New Business**

Stephen made a motion that the Council set up a new subcommittee that focuses on employment (seconded by L. Fischer) and he outlined a few examples, such as Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations and the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) issue. Cleveland responded that he feels that is more of a legislative issue in reference to OSHA. A vote was taken but it did not pass.

Lance made a motion that the Council set up a senior citizen subcommittee (seconded by S. Summers) since he feels they are a lost, forgotten population. A vote was taken: seven in favor, three opposed. Passed.

Charm brought up the need to make arrangements and set up a nominations committee for the upcoming Council elections for Chair and Vice Chair. Casey will appoint the nominations committee.

Next Meeting: June but an email with potential dates will be sent out to members for a vote.

Meeting adjourned 4:01 p.m.

## **ADDENDUM:**

### **MACDHH – Departmental Reports**

#### **Maryland Department of Education:**

The Maryland State Department of Education Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services (MSDE DSE/EIS) programmatic Support and Technical Assistance Branch supports families and their children who have been diagnosed as Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Currently, a Marny Helfrich, Low Incidence Specialist and Stacy Fitzgerald, Audiologist oversee the Infant and Toddler Hearing Aid Loan Bank. Staff brings a high level of knowledge and expertise as they support the educational needs of students through attendance at Statewide and national advisory councils and committees. In addition to the educational support, the DSE/EIS also provides family support through the Family Support and Dispute Resolution Branch. Finally, DSE/EIS continues to facilitate a Statewide Steering Committee whose charge it is to work collaboratively with the private sector and provide high quality services to students diagnosed as Deaf and Hard of Hearing and their parents.

#### **Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:**

Nothing to report.

#### **Maryland School for the Deaf:**

##### Recent Events:

##### *Baseball events:*

Both baseball events were a success! Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nights were held at the Bowie Baysox on April 20<sup>th</sup> and at the Frederick Keys on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Both events were impacted by weather, but turn-out was good. Please keep an eye out for these events next year as well! We are hoping to continue to build these events to be well known and expected springtime events for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community.

##### *PARCC:*

Implementation of this new assessment was much anticipated and went smoothly. Test results will not be available until November or December 2015.

##### Upcoming events:

##### *Graduation:*

MSD class of 2015 will graduate on May 30<sup>th</sup>. A total of 40 students will be graduating with this class. All students on track to graduate with a MD State Diploma will be receiving one. The graduation speaker will be Mr. Patrick Robinson.

Mr. Robinson is the executive director of the E.H. Gentry Technical School at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, and currently the President of National Black Deaf Advocates.

*Last Day of School:*

MSD students will complete the 2014 – 2015 school year on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Ten additional days were added on to the calendar for snow closures during the school year.

*Extended School Year:*

ESY will be held from July 6 – July 23, Mondays – Thursdays from 8:30am – 11:30am.

*Summer camps:*

*Summer Youth Orioles Camp* is held on the Frederick Campus. Camp dates are June 22 – July 2<sup>nd</sup>. This camp is for current K – 5<sup>th</sup> graders. This camp is open to all Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in this age group, not exclusively for MSD students. Camp is also open to KODAs and siblings of Deaf students.

*National Deaf Girls Basketball Camp* is held on the Frederick Campus from June 20 – 24<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*For more information about either of these camps, please contact [touria.ouahid-boren@msd.edu](mailto:touria.ouahid-boren@msd.edu) or check out the website <http://www.msd.edu/summercamps/index.html>.

*Camp Invention* is held at the Frederick Campus from July 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. Registration is open for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and CODA children currently in K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Find more information by contacting Kamilla Jakubowyc at [kamilla.jakubowyc@msd.edu](mailto:kamilla.jakubowyc@msd.edu) or checking out the website [www.campinvention.org](http://www.campinvention.org).

*First day of school:*

The first school day for students for the 2015 – 2016 school year is Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Maryland Commission on Civil Rights:**

Nothing to report.

**Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation:**

In 2014, in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) worked closely with the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) to host two employment workshops for job seekers who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind. The first workshop was held at the Salisbury One Stop Job Market on Friday, October 17 and the second workshop was held at the Prince George's County One Stop Career Center in Largo, MD on Monday, October 30.

During the first half of each workshop, a panel of experts discussed basic job seeking skills. During the second half of the workshop, job seekers participated in interactive workstations, meeting one-on-one with professionals who helped participants work on their resumes, conducted mock interviews, and more. The workshops even included a display of different accommodations that apply to the workforce.

NDEAM is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

Feedback from workshop participants was very positive.

Also, in 2014, DLLR worked to improve accessibility of its website to help users with disabilities find information on employment training, business services and adult learning programs via the Maryland Workforce Exchange and Maryland's One Stop Career Centers. DLLR's website also provides information on occupational and professional licensing, unemployment insurance benefits, and labor rules and regulations, along with other services and programs provided by the Department.

In the coming year, DLLR will continue to work with ODHH on issues important to the deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind, especially in the areas of improving constituent services and being more responsive to businesses.

On behalf of DLLR, Donni Turner served as a member of the Advisory Council's Bylaws Committee. Donni edited the bylaws and provided suggestions during the Committee's meeting on April 16. The committee will present the revised draft bylaws to Advisory Council members at the next Council meeting on June 19.

### **Maryland Department on Aging:**

On March 13, of this year, Rona Kramer, Esquire, was appointed as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Aging. Secretary Kramer, was born in Washington, DC, on August 16, 1954 raised in Montgomery County. She attended Kennedy High School; University of Maryland, College Park, B.A. (law enforcement), 1976; University of Baltimore School of Law, J.D., 1979. Secretary Kramer was admitted to Maryland Bar, in 1980 and then became a member, Maryland State Bar Association. Some of her other accomplishments include:

- Member of Senate (Democrat), representing District 14, Montgomery County, January 8, 2003 to January 12, 2011.
- Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, 2003-08;
- Budget and Taxation Committee, 2003-11 (capital budget subcommittee, 2007-11; pensions subcommittee, 2007-11, chair, 2007; public safety, transportation & environment subcommittee, 2008-11);
- Joint Audit Committee, 2003-11; Executive Nominations Committee, 2007-11; Spending Affordability Committee, 2007-11; Special Joint Committee on Pensions, 2007-11 (senate chair, 2007). Senate Co-Chair, Protocol Committee, 2007-11. Chair, Montgomery County Delegation, 2007-08 (vice-chair, 2007).
- Member, Women Legislators of Maryland, 2003-11
- Member, Maryland Veterans Caucus, 2005-11

The Maryland Department on Aging joins the nation in recognizing June 15<sup>th</sup> as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The purpose of this day is to increase understanding of issues surrounding elder abuse. There are millions of older persons who are abused, neglected, and exploited. Once a year on this day, communities around the world plan activities and programs to recognize World Elder Abuse Day (WEAAD). Many advocates of older adults utilize this day to conduct outreach and distribute informational material to their community. In Maryland, our Area Agencies on Aging partners have planned a number of activities that will occur throughout the month of June. Here are a few:

[Baltimore County's World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Forum:](#)

June 15, 2015 - 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM - Perry Hall Library

Learn how to identify, report and prevent elder abuse; meet the professionals working on the front lines; and visit resource tables with valuable information for seniors.

[Howard County - 2015 Elder Abuse Awareness Conference:](#)

The 2nd Annual Elder Abuse Awareness Conference in Howard County will take place on Friday, June 12, 2015 from 8am-4pm at the Sheraton Columbia, 10207 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, MD 21044. Free admission. Limited seating. For more information, please call Ofelia Ross Ott at [410-313-6052](tel:410-313-6052) or [oross@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:oross@howardcountymd.gov).

[Prince George's County's World Elder Abuse Awareness Day:](#)

June 15, 2015 - 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM – Laurel-Beltsville Senior Center.

Learn about Social Security/Medicare Fraud; Reverse Mortgages; In-Home Services; Guardianship; and Legal issues seniors face.

### **Maryland Department of Human Resources:**

Not yet submitted.

**Maryland Department of Transportation:**

Not yet submitted.

**Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development:**

Vacant=no report.