

§ 9-2404. Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (June 4, 2018)

Fourth Quarterly Meeting
June 4, 2018

Present:

Council Members: Chair Stephanie Summers, Vice Chair Erin Buck-Skees, Interim Secretary Vikki Porter, Dakota Burgees, Janet Moye Cornick, Lisalee Egbert, Larry Gray, Tanya Green, Marny Helfrich, Greg James, Mary Lynn Lally, Gordon Outlaw, Karunya Samuel, & Victoria Wilkins

ODHH Staff: Kelby Brick, Katherine Millios, and LaToya Plummer

Absent: Jason Corning and Spencer Dove

Call to Order: 2:14 PM

Meeting Minutes:

Minutes from March 2018 not accepted due to needed corrections.

MACDHH Chair Summers's Report:

None.

ODHH Director's report: See attached.

General Discussion:

Council Member Gray brought up a concern about the House of Representatives overruling a provision allowing community colleges to provide Bachelor's degrees. Four year colleges were actively against this measure. Gray asked if ODHH has been involved with this issue. Director Brick stated that the office has been monitoring that particular legislative bill. He explained that the reason for the proposed bill has to do with the lack of interpreter training programs (ITP) at the higher level since the national certifying body requires that interpreters have a minimum of a bachelor's degree. If aspiring interpreters attending an ITP at a community college receive an associate's degree, it still would not prepare the new interpreters for certification and/or licensure. The community college in question was the Catonsville campus of the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), which offers ITPs. Director Brick shared that one state senator proposed a bill that would forbid any community colleges from offering any bachelor-level degrees, but explained that this was part of a larger issue with lawsuits happening with historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) against the state of Maryland. CCBC suffered collateral damages due to the 12-year ongoing battle with HBCUs. Director Brick cautioned that the issue is still not resolved and that more meetings are needed throughout the summer and fall to address the matter. He also noted that CCBC has a \$1 million endowment for the ITP, which is not transferable to other institutions.

Council Member Samuel noted that some Deaf Marylanders go to Gallaudet University, located in the District of Columbia, to file their taxes, get assistance and/or file extensions as needed. He shared an idea of establishing shop(s) that would better serve people in the state of Maryland regarding their taxes.

Council Member Egbert shared that she wanted ODHH to make certain types of announcements, but understands that ODHH staff is limited with time and resources. She suggested that perhaps someone could accept the job of providing announcements, such as information about where to go to file taxes as Councilmember Samuel proposed. ODHH Staff Member Millios stated that Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) is hosting an open house, which ODHH will be attending and distributing information about ODHH. Council had a discussion about how ODHH can better engage the community by broadcasting announcements and general community events. Director Brick suggested the Council think of establishing parameters/suggestions that ODHH could use as guidelines, since there are many activities that happen with various agencies on a given day. Director Brick noted that libraries are often the center of the community, partly due to community activities and action. In that vein, the Deaf Culture Digital Library would fill in those gaps. ODHH does distribute information related to ODHH's three priorities: jobs, business development, and accessibility.

Interim Secretary Porter shared concerns about the lack of resources and accessibility regarding DUI/DWI education and rehabilitation services for deaf citizens in the State of Maryland, specifically about communication access (such as providing interpreters). She remarked that despite a comprehensive list provided by the

state of DUI/DWI providers certified by the Motors Vehicle Administration, those that were contacted either stated they do not serve deaf clients or flat out refused to provide interpreters. Council Member Moyer Cornick stated she would look into this matter as accommodations are supposed to be provided.

Chair Summers turned the floor over to Council Member Egbert, the nomination committee chair.

Council Member Egbert first stated that there was quorum for the election process. Then she explained the requirements for the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary positions. Council agreed to the “show of hands” process in selecting candidates. Dr. Larry Gray was selected for Chair, Marny Helfrich for Vice Chair, and Vikki Porter for Secretary. Council expressed appreciation and gratitude for outgoing Chair Summers and Vice Chair Buck-Skees for their service.

ODHH Director provided additional reports on a variety of issues being addressed by the Office: NONE

Old Business: NONE

New Business: NONE

Announcements:

Vice Chair Buck-Skees shared that Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) is hosting several events commemorating their 150th anniversary this year. June 22-23 will be a large celebration and a banquet. Information is on the MSD’s website.

Council Member Gray shared that ASL festival was happening June 9th in Frederick—with free admission. He also noted that June was LBGTQI month and to celebrate friends and family. “Love is love.”

Council Member Green shared a brief update on the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program. Learning communities among physician groups are being established. Parent partners will be going into their offices to share their experiences with the EHDI system.

Council Member Wilkins asked that anyone who needs assistance as a result of the flooding that recently occurred in the Catonsville, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Ellicott City areas to be aware there are three centers operating at various hours. She indicated she did not see anyone who uses sign language, but the Red Cross was there. When someone needed an interpreter, they were able to get someone so the same may be applicable to sign language interpreters. Wilkins also recommended that people check the county governments’ website for more information.

Council Member Gray shared concerns about the emergency alerts and media cameras only showing the hearing person speaking, and not the interpreter(s) next to the speaker. Director Brick noted that that a memorandum is in place that was sent to various media outlets emphasizing that interpreters must stay in the frame. However, this memorandum is applicable for the state, not county level. Also, one TV station did not provide captions. Council Member Moyer Cornick stated that by law, transcribers and interpreters should be provided.

Council Member Egbert made several announcements: Maryland was represented well at the national EHDI conference by Council Member Green, as well as people from the state. Also, as vice president of the American Association of Deaf Children, they are having their annual conference the last week of June. Delaware is slated for next year’s conference, and she hopes to see some robust Maryland representation.

Council Member Burgess shared that June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. There will be statewide activities and she invited everyone to check out the Department of Aging’s website. Local governments will have their own events as well.

Meeting adjourned at 3:22 pm