

**APPROVED**

**DODDBHH Advisory Council Minutes  
Friday February 22, 2017 1:00PM – 4:00 PM  
Calvin College  
Prince Conference Center  
1800 East Beltline SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546**

**Council Members Present**

Todd Morrison, Presiding Officer  
Christopher Hunter  
Jeannette Johnson  
Ann Liming  
Katlyn Maviglia  
Todd Morrison

**Interpreters**

Veronica Balcarcel  
Stacey Hachey  
Janie Hernandez  
Mitch Holaly  
Lisa Rowinski  
Bert Schwartz

**Council Members Excused**

Jill Gaus, Chair  
Elizabeth Bystrycki  
Elizabeth Kobylak  
Miriam Horwitz

**CART Provider**

Sue Deer Hall

**DODDBHH Staff**

Annie Urasky, Director  
Karlee Rose Gruetzner, Rights Representative  
Alayna Zerlentes, Secretary

**MDCR Executive Staff**

Dan Levy, Director of Law and Policy, MDCR

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Todd Morrison, Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (DODDBHH) Advisory Council Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 1:03PM and welcomed everyone. Chair Morrison reviewed the Communication Policy. Karlee Rose Gruetzner explained the hands-down rule for the interpreters and reminded everyone about protocol for public comments. Roll call was taken by Director Annie Urasky and there was not a quorum to hold the meeting.

**2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND AGENDA**

No approval of the September 2016 meeting minutes or of the February 2017 Agenda took place.

**3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Urasky reported on BEI testing statistics for Fiscal Year 2016. She also provided updated data for Michigan certified interpreters. Division activities for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2017 includes attending the DHHS Open House in Grand Rapids, working with the State Courts Administrator's Office on a video project related to professional development for court employees, setting up booths in order to engage with conference attendees at the MDE-LIO Fall 2016 conference and at the MIRID Fall 2016 conference. Director Urasky was invited to attend the Oakland Community College ITP Board meeting as well as the Detroit Black Deaf Advocates meeting in Detroit. The Division continues to participate in NASW Taskforce meetings. The taskforce is currently focused on a mental health bill which has not yet been introduced. The Michigan Civil Rights Commission released a report in February 2017 regarding the Flint water crisis.

Director Urasky asked Rights Representative Karlee Rose Gruetzner to report on the recent National Council on Disability (NCD) quarterly meeting hosted in Detroit. The NCD travels across the country to host town hall meetings in order to shape potential future policies which impact Americans with disabilities. Three main topics were education, mental health, and public transportation. Director Urasky added this was important because raising awareness on state level issues could directly impact policies on the national level.

Director Urasky reported the Governor's Office is currently screening applications for new Advisory Council Members. Director Urasky announced Carol Viventini will be replacing Colleen Pero as Deputy Director. Regarding the two new positions, the candidates are currently undergoing screening so no announcements may be made at this time. The Division has a new looping system, which will be used at all future Advisory Council meetings.

**4. COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Chair Gaus**

There is no report from Chair Gaus.

**Council Member Bailey**

Council Member Bailey reported she will be providing feedback to the Michigan Legislative Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing caucus on the education bills, and how they impact students who are deafblind. Council Member Bailey reported she continues to participate in NASW taskforce meetings, which is currently focused on the mental health bill. The Taskforce is also currently assessing future goals and priorities. She also reported on opportunities for deafblind individuals to attend summer camps, in particular, for children as well as for adults aged 18 and up.

**Council Member Bystrycki**

There is no report from Council Member Bystrycki.

**Council Member Horwitz**

There is no report from Council Member Horwitz.

**Council Member Hunter**

Council Member Hunter followed up on his last report by commenting there are no further updates regarding the lawsuit filed by a Deaf couple in Benton Harbor regarding lack of captioning in movie theaters, but he noted he found through a movie app that Celebration Cinemas theaters will provide closed captioning.

**Council Member Johnson**

Council Member Johnson reported Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) has a grant which will expire March 31, 2017. If any individuals with hearing loss are in need of hearing aids or technical equipment, please contact DHHS.

**Council Member Kobylak**

Council Member Liming read Council Member Kobylak's report in her absence. State level activities for HLAA-MI include participating in the NASW Taskforce meetings and the annual spring meeting for HLAA-MI will be April 29, 2017 at the Michigan Historical Library in Lansing. Tina Childress is the morning guest speaker and her presentation is titled "Connect and Discover: Technology for People with Hearing Loss." In the afternoon, there will be a HLAA-MI board meeting and there will be a display area for vendors. The next Walk4Hearing will be May 20, 2017 at Kensington Metro Park. Registration starts at 9AM. The HLAA National Convention will be June 22-25, 2017 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Council Member Liming**

Council Member Liming reported on advocacy efforts on the national level for HLAA-MI. In December 2016, there was a Senate bill for over the counter hearing aids but the bill died. HLAA-MI expects the bill to be reintroduced. Many in the audiology community do not agree but HLAA-MI notes the over the counter hearing aids would be for those with mild to moderate hearing loss, which is the main group most audiologists do not often see. Council Member Liming reported the concept of over the counter hearing aids and personal amplification products (PSAPs) are often mixed up which distorts the difference between the two. One main issue could involve waivers and requirements to see physicians when an individual needs to get hearing aids. The advocacy committee for HLAA-MI is currently developing an educational page for their website about CART.

**Council Member Maviglia**

Council Member Maviglia reported the KT Maviglia Fund for Hearing is looking for individuals aged 26 and under, in need of financial assistance to pay for the cost of hearing aids.

**Council Member Morrison**

There is no report from Council Member Morrison.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Presiding Officer Morrison indicated a three minute timeline will be set for each person providing public comment, and four people requested to speak.

**6. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS**

**President of MDA**

There was no report provided from the President of Michigan Deaf Association (MDA).

**President of SHI-MI=DB**

Arizona Welch, President of Self-Help for Independency in Michigan Equalizing the DeafBlind (SHI-MI=DB) provided a report. President Welch reported SHI-MI=DB had a slow season due to the holidays. Most discussions that were voted on were regarding funds for expenditures. The Board's main focus now will be on arrangements for the 2017 DeafBlind Workshop.

**President of HLAA-MI**

Council Member Liming included the President's report when reading Council Member Kobylak's report.

**President of MIRID**

Andi Chumley, Vice President of Michigan Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (MIRID) provided a report. On February 25, 2017 from 3-6PM, MIRID will host a social event in Livonia. MIRID will provide three mini workshops on March 25, 2017 in Detroit. The topic will focus on religious interpreting. Another workshop will be in Battle Creek. In the morning, Val Boyer will be presenting on religious interpreting, and then during the afternoon workshop, Val Boyer and Andrea Rehkopf will discuss business aspects of interpreting, such as billing and scheduling issues. MIRID continues to host ethics discussions at several locations. The MIRID Spring Workshop will be April 29-30, 2017 at Oakland Community College. Christopher Tester, a CDI is the main presenter and the topic for that presentation has not yet been announced. Registration on the MIRID website will be opening soon. The general business meeting for the MIRID Board will be on April 30, 2017 with elections for new board members. The MIRID Board still has a vacancy for the Deaf Member at Large position. MIRID has three available scholarships available with specific eligibility criteria. The scholarships range from funding for attending interpreter workshops, to scholarships for ITP students, and interpreter testing.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Subcommittee on Feasibility of Mentoring and Training Program**

A future meeting has been scheduled for the subcommittee.

## 7. **NEW BUSINESS**

Director Urasky reported that after reviewing the “What’s in a Name” brochure, the Division wants to focus on updating information for the website. As a result, one long term project will be videos both for individuals who are deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing as well as for providers. Director Urasky requested feedback from the Advisory Council on additional relevant information which should be included for future projects.

Council Member Liming commented Hard of Hearing individuals are asked to cover the cost of CART services. Many young Hard of Hearing individuals do not know how to deal with this type of situation. Council Member Bailey suggested the Division include information on the benefits of looping systems. She also suggested the Division look into the issues with internet and broadband access in the Upper Peninsula which, in turn, causes a lack of communication access for members of the communities who rely extensively on technology to communicate. Council Member Hunter suggested the Division arrange townhall meetings around the state to get ideas to improve communication and get information. Council Member Morrison suggested the Division connect with the American Bar Association on issues with accommodation access, particularly with attorneys who own their own practices.

## 8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Presiding Officer Morrison indicated a three minute timeline will be set for each person providing public comment, and five people requested to speak.

## 9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Presiding Officer Morrison thanked all of the accommodation providers today. The meeting adjourned at 2:31PM.