

APPROVED

**DODDBHH Advisory Council Minutes
Friday June 3, 2016 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Cadillac Place
3054 W. Grand Blvd. Suite L-150
Detroit, MI 48202**

Council Members Present

Jill Gaus, Chair
Karen Bailey
David Barbour
Elizabeth Bystrycki
Miriam Horwitz
Christopher Hunter
Jeannette Johnson
Elizabeth Kobylak
Ann Liming
Katlyn Maviglia

Interpreters

James Cech
Kelly Flores
Janie Hernandez
Mitch Holaly
Kristen LaPlante
Yakata Nichols
Lisa Rowinski
Bert Schwartz
Heather Seachrist
Jackie Thompson

Council Members Excused

Carole Mehling
Kathy Mitchell
Todd Morrison

CART Provider

Sue Deer Hall

DODDBHH Staff

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

MDCR Executive Staff

Dan Levy, Director of Law and Policy, MDCR

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Jill Gaus, Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (DODDBHH) Advisory Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:07PM and welcomed everyone. Chair Gaus 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 a quorum to hold the meeting.

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

MOTION: Chair Gaus requested a motion to approve the March 2016 Meeting Minutes. Council Member Bystrycki motioned to accept the March 2016 Meeting Minutes. Council Member Bailey seconded the motion. Council Member Liming had one correction to make. Council Member Bailey motioned to accept the March 2016 meeting minutes with the noted correction. Council Member Kobylak seconded the motion. Motion passed.

MOTION: Chair Gaus requested a motion to approve the June 2016 Agenda. Council Member Johnson motioned to accept the June 2016 Agenda. Council Member Bystrycki seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Urasky provided a report on Division activities focusing on interpreter statistics, the amended requirements, and the new Endorsement process. Reports on legislative updates included the Offensive Language Bill, the re-establishment of the Statewide Independent Living Council, and the Michigan Legislative Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Caucus rescheduling for a fall meeting. Director Urasky also thanked the Advisory Council for providing extensive feedback on the newly designed communication visor card. The new card is available in both print and downloadable format. The Division will be receiving \$250,000 as a one-time budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2017.

4. **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Chair Gaus

Chair Gaus reported she is one of the trainers for a DeafBlind workshop coming up on June 11, 2016 for certified interpreters who intend to apply for DeafBlind Endorsements. The DeafBlind Workshop will be August 11-14, 2016. Forms will be sent out May 2016 with full details.

Council Member Bailey

Council Member Bailey reported due to a conflict, an interpreter training which was scheduled for August had to be cancelled. However, two new events are replacing that. On August 8, 2016, there will be a family event for children who are Deaf and their parents at Holley Family Village. Many groups are collaborating for this event. Most

children will be from the Jackson area but anyone is welcome. The second event will be a two day DeafBlind youth leadership training for those aged 14 and up on August 9-10, 2016, also at Holley Family Village.

Council Member Barbour

Council Member Barbour reported that that as a proud member of the staff of Dearborn High School, five students graduated this year, and all five of have been accepted to college; four at NTID and one at Gallaudet. The program is gradually being phased out, which is sad news, and five students remain at the high school level, graduating next year.

Council Member Bystrycki

Council Member Bystrycki announced West Michigan Association for the Deaf, which is on the west side of Michigan, will have a camping event at Yankee Springs from September 15-17, 2016. On July 23, 2016, another community event will be in Paw Paw at Alcoa Park. Information on both events is also posted on FaceBook.

Council Member Horwitz

Council Member Horwitz asked if there would be reports made available on the website on interpreter testing statistics. Council Member Horwitz also commented that, as a practice profession, discussion on mentorship needs to be encouraged. There is a gap for many novice interpreters when they graduate and then become certified. Developing a mentorship program to assist all novice and working interpreters in meeting the standards for testing, certification, and endorsements would be beneficial. Council Member Horwitz also hopes part of the \$250,000 would be devoted to website and database improvements.

Council Member Hunter

Council Member Hunter reported in Lansing, a senior citizen who is DeafBlind was placed in a nursing home without an interpreter. The nursing home staff did not understand how to work with that individual. There needs to be an agency that can provide qualified intervention services to help DeafBlind senior citizens around the state of Michigan. Chair Gaus was referred to that senior citizen for assistance.

Council Member Johnson

Council Member Johnson reported unfortunate recent news of a Deaf man's death and is concerned about the increase in occurrences of mental health issues. While there is an upcoming mental health bill, a stop gap measure to address these recurring issues is needed now.

Council Member Kobylak

Council Member Kobylak indicated she would provide her report as the President of HLAA-MI.

Council Member Liming

Council Member Liming added to Council Member Hunter's report that she also has experience working with older people in a nursing home and as an example, many do not have assistive listening devices so they lack communication since they can't hear or see the TV well. Most issues also occur with socialization and safety. Council Member Liming reported on April 28, 2016, Council Member Kobylak and Council Member Liming met with Director Arbulu, Director of Law and Policy Dan Levy, and Director Urasky to

discuss a Hard of Hearing specialist position for the Division. She also reported that when the next Michigan Legislative Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Caucus meeting is scheduled, a presentation on the need for hearing aid insurance coverage for adults will be provided.

Council Member Maviglia

Council Member Maviglia reported Senate Bill 449 was introduced in front of the Senate Insurance Committee. Council Member Liming and Council Member Maviglia testified. The current bill is on the fifth draft. One major change is that now the bill targets individuals aged 26 and under, rather than only those aged 18 and under. Senator Dale Zorn plans to speak the Michigan Legislative Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing caucus when the next meeting is scheduled.

Council Member Mehling

There was no report from Council Member Mehling.

Council Member Mitchell

Chair Gaus read Council Member Mitchell's report in her absence. The mental health bill left the Legislative Service Bureau on May 17, 2016. It will be sent to the House floor soon. Representative Phelps and Representative Callton have been supporting the bill. The bill is moving slowly due to Detroit Public School issues. More updates will be shared with the Council.

Council Member Morrison

There was no report from Council Member Morrison.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Gaus 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. The board has continued discussion and is very focused on preparing for the DeafBlind Workshop which will be from August 11-14, 2016 at Holley Family Village. Also, this year, SHI-MI=DB will have elections for five member-at-large positions on the board for a two-year term. The executive board elections for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be next year.

President of HLAA-MI

Liz Kobylak, President of Hearing Loss Association of Michigan (HLAA-MI) provided a report. HLAA-MI had a successful annual state meeting on April 9, 2016 at the State of Michigan Historical Museum and Library. The speaker, Juliette Sterkens, was very inspiring and empowered attendees on looping projects. For the first time, the forum in that building was looped, so attendees enjoyed that experience. The tenth Southeast

Michigan Walk4Hearing was held on May 21st at Kensington Metro Park with over 400 walkers. The National Convention for HLAA will be June 23-26, 2016 in Washington, D.C. The Board of Trustees elections, held in April 2106, brought for four new Board of Trustees members. HLAA-MI will have their annual Chapter Leadership Workshop on August 27 and 28, 2016, to support local membership, chapter leaders, or any individual interested in being involved in leadership of the organization on any level. In addition, she also shared information about a recent press release on the HLAA national website at www.hearingloss.org regarding the lack of hearing aid insurance coverage for adults, which shares recommendations from a report "Hearing Health Care for Adults, Priorities for Improving Access and Affordability," posted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. The report estimates 67-86% of people who might benefit from hearing aids do not have them, and addresses those areas of hearing health care that currently prevent many of the 48 million Americans with hearing loss from seeking treatment.

President of MIRID

Andi Chumley, Vice President of Michigan Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (MIRID) provided a report. MIRID continues to provide mini workshops for members to earn CEUs for endorsements. Full information for the monthly ethical discussion group sessions may be found on the website. The new MIRID board officers start July 1, 2016 and there is still one vacant position for the Deaf member at large. If interested, please email Andi Chumley at vicepres@MIRID.org.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS Letter on Additional Positions

Chair Gaus added now that the Advisory Council knows about the Division adding \$250,000 to the budget in the next fiscal year, the Advisory Council will not be sending a letter.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Interpreter Endorsements

Council Member Bailey commented she collected feedback from individuals in the interpreting community and has a list of suggestions of how to resolve some issues. More clarity on the new process would be helpful and would encourage a better understanding of the new requirements. Additional clarification is needed on how approval for out of state trainings. A full list of what should be on each Endorsement application as a sample application would be a good idea, along with a full list of what is approved.

Council Member Johnson commented there is confusion about the differences between the processes for both the renewal application and the endorsement application. Council Member Johnson also added that Grand Valley State University, on the west side of Michigan, is unfortunately closing their four year ITP program at the end of this year. Council Member Johnson supports raising the standards but is concerned that resources and support systems is needed to help improve their abilities.

Council Member Hunter added that in educational settings, he has heard many in Kalamazoo state concerns there are not enough educational interpreters with an EIPA

score of 4.0 and many often retake the test without much improvement.

Council Member Horwitz added that she recognized the Division is working hard to streamline and communicate during this new process and that she had a successful application process. However, mentorship is one of the missing pieces that needs to be addressed. It seems the interpreting profession in Michigan is experiencing growing pains but if the community, ITP programs, and the Division remain focused on addressing the missing piece, then we can achieve success and build more trust in the community.

MOTION: Council Member Johnson made a motion to establish a subcommittee to investigate the feasibility of establishing a mentorship program within the Division including MIRID and other key organizations. Council Member Hunter seconded the motion. After discussion and voting, all in favor. Motion passed.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Gaus indicated a three minute timeline will be set for each person providing public comment, and one person requested to speak.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Director Urasky announced she had new visor cards for distribution if anyone was interested.

Council Member Johnson announced that Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services will host their annual summer picnic in Grand Rapids on July 31, 2016. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Chair Gaus announced that on June 11, 2016, she will be providing a workshop for interpreters who intend to apply for the DeafBlind endorsement in Farmington Hills. The DeafBlind Workshop is scheduled for August 11-14, 2016. If interpreters are interested in more information about hosting a deafblind workshop, please contact Chair Gaus.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Gaus thanked all of the accommodation providers today. Chair Gaus requested a motion to adjourn. Council Member Hunter motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:00PM.