

**APPROVED**  
**DODDBHH Advisory Council Minutes**  
**Friday May 4, 2018 1:00PM – 4:00 PM**  
**Lansing Center**  
**333 E Grand Avenue**  
**Lansing, MI 48933**

**Council Members Present**

Jill Gaus, Chair  
Chris Hunter  
Elizabeth Kobylak  
Ann Liming  
Todd Morrison

**Council Members Excused**

Elizabeth Bystrycki  
Katlyn Maviglia  
Dr. Michael McKee

**DODDBHH Staff**

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

**MDCR Executive Staff**

Mary Engelman, Deputy Director, MDCR

**Interpreters**

April Davidson  
Katie Fitzpatrick  
Stacey Hachey  
Stacy Pierce  
Lisa Rowinski  
Bert Schwartz  
Julie Vance

**CART Provider**

Sue Deer Hall

## 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Jill Gaus, Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (the Division) Advisory Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:09PM and welcomed everyone. Roll call was taken by Director Annie Urasky and five Advisory Council Members were present and there was not a quorum to hold the meeting. Chair Gaus reviewed the Communication Policy and explained the hands-down rule for the interpreters and reminded everyone about protocol for public comments.

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

Council Member Kobylak requested one correction to the January 2018 meeting minutes.

## 3. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Urasky reported on the town hall forums to engage with community members and to learn more about current issues in specific areas of the state. Concerns ranged from not receiving individual accommodations, use of video remote interpreting, and lack of understanding on effective communication standards. The Division will be going to northern Michigan to host two town halls, in Escanaba on June 21 and in Traverse City on June 23. To increase awareness of effective communication, the Division will continue to provide trainings/workshops for providers and for community members. The goal is to advocate for successful interactive processes related to individual needs for accommodations and to enhance understanding of effective communication standards.

The Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Census and Needs Assessment project steering team meets regularly to provide recommendations about both the content and distribution of the needs assessment survey. The census portion has been completed and the needs assessment survey recommendations are undergoing a final review process by the project steering team. Once final, next steps include translation of the questions, and preparation for a media campaign before survey launch.

Director Urasky also reported that the Next Generation 911 legislation was signed by Governor Snyder on March 6, 2018. The law will upgrade 911 systems statewide. The Division was invited to participate in a Text to 911 Accessibility Panel at the State 911 Emerging Technology Forum in April 2018 and were also invited to participate in the MIReady Advisory panel to address outreach efforts related to all hazards within the state.

## 4. **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **Chair Gaus**

Chair Gaus reported the 22nd annual DeafBlind Workshop will be August 9-12, 2018 at the Carls Family Village in Brooklyn. The registration forms will be available shortly. Chair Gaus also reported she is working with the Division and MDCR regarding a

DeafBlind individual who has not received accommodations when admitted to a local hospital.

**Council Member Bystrycki**

Council Member Bystrycki submitted no report.

**Council Member Hunter**

Council Member Hunter indicated he had no report.

**Council Member Kobylak**

Council Member Kobylak reported the HLAA-MI annual Chapter Leadership Workshop will be August 4-5, 2018 in Troy; open to all current and prospective chapter leaders as well as anyone on the chapter level interested in pursuing a leadership role.

**Council Member Liming**

Council Member Liming reported on several contacts with individuals who are Hard of Hearing who contacted HLAA-MI for specific types of assistance. Common requests include information about cochlear implants. Other examples include questions about specific situations with benefits, Medicaid/Medicare coverage of hearing aids, referrals to specialists/professionals, court access and CART services, and how to obtain captioned phones.

**Council Member Maviglia**

Council Member Maviglia submitted no report.

**Council Member McKee**

Chair Gaus read a report in Council Member McKee's absence. He reported on the Not Without Us Census and Needs Assessment project steering committee status update.

**Council Member Morrison**

Council Member Morrison reported he attended the first LARA Board of Interpreters meeting on April 26, 2018 in Lansing; they will host quarterly meetings in the Ottawa Building. He looks forward to positive collaboration with them.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Gaus indicated a three-minute timeline will be set for each person providing public comment, and three people requested to speak. Nan Asher, treasurer from the Michigan Coalition on Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, announced there are openings left for campers at Camp Chris for Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth aged 11-17. Registration is available online at [app.campdoc.com/register/chriswilliams/camper](http://app.campdoc.com/register/chriswilliams/camper). For more information, you can email [campchris@michdhh.org](mailto:campchris@michdhh.org). Deb Atwood from Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services thanked the Division for hosting a townhall in Wyoming and reported that the community is excited for the Division to continue visiting the west side of the state. Nancy Piersma spoke about providing training for individuals with lower language skills and issues with access to videophones when on state highways in the west part of the state.

## 6. REPORT FROM LARA

Brian Deban, Licensing Division Director for the Bureau of Professional Licensing (BPL) under LARA introduced members of his staff and thanked the Advisory Council for the opportunity to be at today's meeting. Linda Clewley, Manager, provided a report about BPL activities. During the transition period, her team has met with the Division, with community stakeholders, and processed interpreter applications for renewal, endorsements and continuing education units. The BPL unit sent two email blasts; first in early February 2018 with information about the BPL unit and in April 2018 with additional information on the BEI Performance exam dates along with a sample copy of the new paper certificate for interpreters. For consistency, BPL will use an automated process to issue paper certificates for interpreters much like the licenses which BPL issues to 700,000 individuals in other professions. In April 2018, the first meeting for the Board of Interpreters for the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing was held and these meetings will be quarterly.

## 7. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

### **President of MDA**

Todd Morrison provided a report. Two members from the Michigan Deaf Association, Rowan O'Daughtery and Todd Morrison, will be attending the National Association of the Deaf Conference in July 2018 as delegates for the state of Michigan.

### **President of SHI-MI=DB**

Chair Gaus read a report in Acting President Karen Bailey's absence. On March 10, 2018, SHI-M=DB hosted a board meeting at the Carls Family Village in addition to offering learning and recreational activities for the DeafBlind during that weekend. Board elections will be held during the DeafBlind Workshop in August 2018. SHI M=DB is currently conducting fund raising to help support this summer's DeafBlind workshop. In the past, there was a grant that was used to pay for some of the costs, but that grant is no longer available. SHI-M=DB will host a tactile and coffee social in Ann Arbor in June 2018. The goal is to provide people with an opportunity to practice their tactile, expressive and receptive skills. Anyone is welcome.

### **President of HLAA-MI**

Tony Ferack, newly elected President of the HLAA-MI provided a report. President Ferack thanked those who attended the annual HLAA Exhibition Event in April 2018. On the national level, the annual HLAA National Convention will be from June 21-24, 2018 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. On the local level, the annual Walk4Hearing will be on May 19, 2018 and any individual can join as a team, or as an alliance partnership.

### **President of MIRID**

Chair Gaus read a report in the absence of Michigan RID Chapter President, Andi Chumley. The MIRID Spring Conference will be from May 18- 20 in Mt. Pleasant. Workshop topics include medical interpreting, voicing, business practices, haptics, and accommodating Hard of Hearing consumers. Registration is still open on MIRID.org. Elections for MIRID Vice President, Treasurer, Member at Large, or Publication Manager will be held electronically prior to June 30, 2018. If interested in these positions, please send a nomination email to [nominations@MIRID.org](mailto:nominations@MIRID.org). Representatives from the MIRID

Board and RID were able to meet with the Bureau of Professional Licensing (BPL) under the Department of Licensing and Regulation Affairs (LARA).

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

Chair Gaus contacted former Council Member Horwitz to discuss next steps for the subcommittee and reported back to the Council that former Council Member Horwitz will address this topic with the LARA Interpreter Board.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

## **9. GUEST SPEAKER**

Chair Gaus introduced David Foster, from the Michigan Bureau of Elections. David Foster spoke about the new voter systems. The previous voting systems, used for the last 12 years, including the AutoMARK, was ready for replacement. After testing at both state and federal levels, with staff, and after extensive feedback from Michigan voters with disabilities, a roll out of the new federally approved voting systems was conducted across all 83 counties. The new systems include new voter assist terminals (VATs). The Bureau of Elections is open to trials or demonstrations of the new systems and will attend events to offer a demonstration of the new systems. For further questions on voting in Michigan, visit [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote).

## **10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Director Urasky introduced MDCR Deputy Director Mary Engelman.

The month of May is Better Hearing and Speech Month. Governor Snyder issued a proclamation acknowledging the work of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program under the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Gaus thanked the accommodation providers, Council Members, and members of the public who attended. The meeting adjourned at 3:30PM.