

APPROVED
DODDBHH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Friday October 30, 2015 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Fetzer Center within Western Michigan University
2350 Business Center
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Council Members Present

Jill Gaus, Chair
Elizabeth Bystrycki
Miriam Horwitz
Liz Kobylak
Ann Liming
Carole Mehling

Council Members Excused

David Barbour
Helen Boucher
Jeannette Johnson
KT Maviglia
Kathy Mitchell

Council Members Absent

Patrick Baker
Renea Forest

DODDBHH Staff

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

MDCR Executive Staff

Matt Wesaw, Exec. Director, MDCR
Lori Vinson, Director of Operations, MDCR
Dan Levy, Director of Law and Policy, MDCR

Interpreters

Jeanette Gladstone
Janie Hernandez
Theresa Hill
Mitch Holaly
Lera Lowrie
Erin Parrish
Jamie Rix
Liaa Rowinski
Roberta Schwartz

Haptic/Support Service Providers

Olivia Barkholz
Elizabeth Carter
Nick Chizmadia
Mason Lewis
Shelby Zick

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jill Gaus, Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (DODDBHH) Advisory Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:14 AM with a welcome for everyone, thanking the interpreters and support service providers for their services today. Copies of the Communication Policy were shared for public distribution. Chair Gaus indicated specific instructions regarding communication due to the lack of CART services. Roll call was taken by Director Annie Urasky and there was not a quorum to hold the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MAY 2015 MINUTES

Chair Gaus indicated that because there is not a quorum, no approval of the October 2015 agenda and of the May 2015 minutes may be conducted. No recommended changes to the agenda and minutes were suggested.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Urasky reported on the following:

- **Secretary Updates:** Director Urasky introduced the new Division Secretary, Alayna Zerlentes to the Advisory Council.
- **Legislative Updates:** Director Urasky briefly discussed updates regarding the bipartisan Michigan Legislative Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Caucus. The first draft of a proposed mental health bill has been shared with Caucus members and is currently under review by the Division. Director Urasky will seek feedback from the Advisory Council. Council Member Mitchell is involved with this mental health bill as well.
- **RID Moratorium Announcement:** The deadline for RID risk assessment report is November 1, 2015. The Division has been engaging in an ongoing discussion with MIRID, but there has not been any additional information shared from RID other than a posted FAQ on the RID website. The Division continues to assess the impact of the RID moratorium in Michigan. Careful tracking of the volume of test applications with available test slot times and dates is a priority and currently, there has not been a significant increase in the volume of BEI test applications but the Division anticipates a possible increase in January 2016 of test applications. Plans are also in development for organizing workshops. The Division recognizes RID's actions may increase demand. RID's actions will not have any effect on those who already hold a BEI or EIPA certification.
- **Updates on Projects:** The Division website is undergoing revision with updated forms, policies, and videos with an anticipated release date of November 2015. After much discussion and after meeting with legal/medical authorities such as the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), the Division has decided to seek

community input through a recommendations panel regarding the Endorsement process. This panel will include ITP directors, working interpreters, and consumers. We are seeking recommendations on drafted final policies and procedures. The Division will be posting final policies and procedures on the website after taking the panel's recommendations in consideration. Additionally, development of workshops across the state with ITP programs, MIRID, and community stakeholders is under review. Director Urasky reported the following BEI test statistics for September and October 2015: TEP results for September 2015, 5 candidates passed and 3 candidates failed. There were no BEI Performance exam results. TEP results for October 2015, 6 candidates passed and 1 candidate failed. Out of 4 DVDs rated, 1 candidate passed the BEI III Performance exam and 3 candidates failed. Upcoming rating sessions are scheduled for November 2015.

4. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Chair Gaus

Chair Gaus indicated she had no report.

Council Member Barbour

Chair Gaus read a report from Council Member Barbour in his absence. He indicated he wanted to share that in the Dearborn school, even though the total communication program has closed, current high school students will be able to stay until they graduate. 3 students will graduate in 2016 and 4 students will graduate in 2017. The elementary and middle school students have switched to either Bunche Academy in Detroit or to Michigan School for the Deaf.

Council Member Boucher

Council Member Boucher did not have a report.

Council Member Bystrycki

Council Member Bystrycki indicated she has "I am deaf" cards available for anyone to pick up. These cards were developed by the Great Lakes ADA Center. Council Member Bystrycki is on the Jim Gilmore Advisory Board for the Jim Gilmore Foundation. She also works at Kalamazoo Valley Community College with the ASL program. They are considering options for an Entertainment Night. One possible idea could be to invite National Theater of the Deaf to perform. There will be a "Wellness Workshop" focused on nutrition and health provided by Sandy Graham in Kalamazoo on November 7, 2015 from 9:30AM-4PM. Western Michigan Association for the Deaf will be hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner in Mattawan.

Council Member Horwitz

Council Member Horwitz indicated many questions she had in her report were addressed during Director Urasky's report. She asked if the Endorsement

recommendation panel would review specific policies regarding workshops, CEUs and the English competency test for medical endorsements and that she is concerned about the potential lack of interpreters who could be eligible for medical or legal endorsements. She also had questions on the Division complaint process regarding interpreter agency accountability.

Council Member Johnson

Chair Gaus read a report in Council Member Johnson's absence. Council Member Johnson indicated that in September, she posted a vlog seeking individuals that want to join the State Center for Independent Living Council. She unfortunately received no responses and hopes to try again after the holidays. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services recently received a \$32,000 grant from the Dyer-Ives Foundation to provide cultural awareness and sensitivity training in West Michigan. Council Member Johnson commented her heightened concern regarding lack of communication access due to a shortage of interpreters in the Grand Rapids area. More complaints are arising regarding hospitals not providing interpreters, and postponing crucial appointments until they can get interpreters. Currently, no complaints are being filed because individuals do not feel comfortable with writing down their complaints. She shares that Director Urasky has advised complaints may be videotaped then emailed to the Division, which she hopes will be shared with the community. She also plans on taking action by writing legislators and she hopes other Council Members will do the same.

Council Member Kobylak

Council Member Kobylak requested her report be read under the Ex-Officio Report for HLAA-MI.

Council Member Maviglia

Chair Gaus read a report from Council Member Maviglia in her absence. Council Member Maviglia indicated that on September 9, 2015, Senate Bill 449 was introduced in front of the Senate Insurance Committee. The hearing was a huge success due to the supportive testimony of individuals including: Leslie Parent, Angelique Boerst, Kerri Goff, Council Member Ann Liming, and Council Member Maviglia. The goal of the bill is to implement a new coverage mandate which would require health insurance policies to include coverage which pays for hearing aids for individuals of the age of 21 or younger in the State of Michigan. At this time, revisions for the bill have been submitted to Senator Dale Zorn's Office and are being reviewed. She is also currently exploring fundraising opportunities to benefit The KT Maviglia Fund for Hearing due to the high volume of hearing aid requests.

Council Member Mehling

Council Member Mehling indicated she has been working with Director Urasky on how to educate some deaf individuals in the Upper Peninsula regarding the process of how to file various complaints with the Division and with MDCR. She also organized a coffee

chat to focus on issues in mental health and deaf education on August 17, 2015 with Representative Scott Dianda.

Council Member Mitchell

Council Member Mitchell did not have a report.

Council Member Liming

Council Member Liming indicated in her report that she wanted to share a flyer developed by the HLAA-MI Advocacy Committee which highlighted bills on both the Federal and State levels which impact persons with hearing loss. HLAA-MI is advocating for these bills and she urged Council Members and other consumer organizations to join HLAA-MI in creating awareness of these bills as well. More detailed information may be found on the HLAA-MI web site: www.hearingloss-mi.org. She also shared the impact that the Affordable Care Act will have on the passage of SB 449 and additions that have been suggested to the bill. She indicated that Council Members can find the Citizen's Guide to Michigan Legislature online. She also asked Director Urasky for an update on the Visor Card

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

LUNCH

Chair Gaus announced the Council will pause from noon until 1:00 p.m. for a lunch break.

5. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS REPORT

Michigan Deaf Association (MDA)

Acting President of MDA Todd Morrison reported on MDA activities which included the following: a televised interview on WILX about Text-to-911 systems, collaboration with Dr. McKee from the University of Michigan on several medical grant based research projects, attended ADA Anniversary event at Detroit Eastern Market, provided referral and advocacy services about the IEP process for parents of Dearborn students, participation in the Michigan Legislative Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing caucus which included monitoring the mental Health bill, participated in Oakland Community College Interpreter Training Program CCIE Accreditation Site Visit audit, participated on the Re-Imagining MSD strategic team, provided Cultural Awareness/Sensitivity Training for the Southwest Region Red Cross, and MDA hosted a biennial Conference on October 23-24, 2015 at Michigan School for the Deaf with over 55 participants with 2 guest speakers and a keynote luncheon speaker. The MDA Board Elections resulted in 5 vacancies for the positions of President, First Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Public Relations.

SHI-MI=DB

President of SHI-MI=DB Arizona Welch reported on the purpose of the Self Help for Independency in Michigan Equalizing the DeafBlind (SHI-MI=DB). It is an advocacy group comprising of adult Michigan residents who are DeafBlind. Their mission statement is "Our focus is to improve the lives and well-being of DeafBlind individuals. SHI-MI=DB will play an active role in educating the public about the needs and abilities of the DeafBlind. SHI-MI=DB helps DeafBlind individuals realize their potential and utilize the skills they have to improve their communities."

The current Board includes the following individuals: President Arizona Welsh, Vice-President Karen Bailey, Treasurer Andrea Ansel, Secretary Brenda Cuddeback, Members-at-Large Odessa Carter, Steven Evans, Patricia Grindel, Lamel Stanley, and Michelle Wudarick, and Parliamentarian Jill Gaus. Their focus is on self-advocacy, particularly for legislation that affects the DeafBlind and setting up a state-wide Support Service Provider (SSP) Program. They also support the National DeafBlind Equipment Distribution Program, the DB-Central which is an organization for DeafBlind youth from birth to age 21 in the state of Michigan, located in Mt. Pleasant, run by Beth Kennedy through CMU as well as the annual DeafBlind Workshop held in the summer and directed by Jill Gaus.

HLAA-MI

President of HLAA-MI Liz Kobylak reported that HLAA-MI has written and adopted a definition of "Hard of Hearing" that they would like the Division and other organizations to use in the future. The definition was distributed to Council members and a request was made that it be included in the minutes. HLAA-MI has a relationship with the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) and has developed webinars that are posted on the MDRC website and which include information on telecommunication options, effective communication, and emergency alert devices. HLAA-MI will host a Chapter Leader workshop in Lansing in November. Representatives from the three captioned phone manufacturers will present and display their products at a local community chapter meeting in November as well. The HLAA-MI annual meeting will be in Lansing at the Michigan Historical Museum on April 9, 2016. The annual Walk for Hearing will be on May 21, 2016 at Kensington Metro Park. The HLAA National Convention will be June 23-26, 2016 in Washington D.C.

MIRID

Deaf Member at Large Kat Vogtmann reported that there will be Professional Development workshops on November 14, 2015 in Grand Rapids. Trudy Suggs is going to be one of the presenters. There will be workshops in the morning and one in the evening. A MIRID general meeting will take place in the evening. MIRID is hoping to host mini-workshops all across the state in January/February 2016. MIRID hosts a monthly ethics discussion group in the Detroit area.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items on the agenda for discussion under unfinished business.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Issues in the Upper Peninsula

Council Member Mehling addressed issues in the Upper Peninsula, which includes a lack of qualified interpreters in both the educational system and in the community. She is concerned about the role of providers in understanding the law regarding providing accommodations particularly in hospitals. She will be working with Director Urasky on how to address these issues.

Issues from the Hard of Hearing Community

Council Member Liming shared that she was made aware that people who are Hard of Hearing and work for state government are unable to have a captioned phone in the work place due to difficulties in connecting captioned phones into the state phone system. Council Member Liming also stated that a few people who are Hard of Hearing that want to learn sign language find they are forced to compete with interpreter students due to a lack of availability of community type courses and they find that they have to pay for college credits and take prerequisite courses.

8. CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT

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

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Wesaw thanked everyone and noted how much he appreciated working with community members. He also introduced the future Director of MDCR, Agustin Arbulu. Mr. Arbulu commented he was looking forward to meeting everyone and that he appreciates the opportunity to learn a lot about the issues discussed today.

Chair Gaus indicated that the next DeafBlind workshop will be on August 10-14, 2016. Applications should be distributed January 2016. DeafBlind Central will be providing a Post-Secondary Transition Panel in Mount Pleasant at Central Michigan University on February 20, 2016 from 12:30-3:30PM.

Director Urasky reminded Council Members that four Council Member terms will be expiring January 2016. Council Member applications are posted online on the Governor's Appointments website if any individual desires to apply for Council Member positions. The Council Members will discuss 2016 meeting dates through MeetingWizard.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gaus thanked everyone for attending and asked everyone to join her in thanking those who provided accommodations. She called for a Motion to adjourn. Council Member Liming moved and Council Member Horwitz seconded the Motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:37PM.