

APPROVED

**DODDBHH Advisory Council Minutes
Friday September 16, 2016 10:00AM – 2:00 PM
Saginaw Valley State University
Curtis Hall Conference Center 2nd floor
4700 Bay Road
Saginaw, MI 48604**

Council Members Present

Jill Gaus, Chair
Miriam Horwitz
Christopher Hunter
Jeannette Johnson
Ann Liming
Katlyn Maviglia
Todd Morrison

Interpreters

Veronica Balcarcel
Stacey Hachey
Janie Hernandez
Mitch Holaly
Sandra Maloney
Lisa Rowinski
Bert Schwartz
Ann-Marie Shibley
David Stuckless
Shelley Tocco

Council Members Excused

Karen Bailey
David Barbour
Elizabeth Bystrycki
Elizabeth Kobylak
Carole Mehling
Kathy Mitchell

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**

Jill Gaus, Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (DODDBHH) Advisory Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02AM 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 June 2016 Meeting Minutes. Council Member Morrison motioned to accept the June 2016 Meeting Minutes. Council Member Hunter seconded the motion. Council Member Liming had one correction to make. Council Member Morrison motioned to accept the June 2016 meeting minutes with the noted correction. Council Member Hunter seconded the motion. Motion passed.

MOTION: Chair Gaus requested a motion to approve the September 2016 Agenda. Council Member Morrison motioned to accept the September 2016 Agenda. Council Member Liming seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Urasky provided reported on Division activities for July and August 2016, which includes the visor card, the offensive language bill photo opportunity, the press conference with the Michigan Supreme Court, the NAD Conference, and interpreter testing statistics. Reports on legislative updates included the Michigan Legislative Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Caucus meeting in September 2016. Director Urasky reported on the assessment of the Endorsement application process. The Division is working on reviewing the vacant Rights Representative position and requested Council Members to encourage individuals to apply when the position has been posted.

LUNCH

Chair Gaus announced the Council will pause from 11:30AM to 12:30PM for a lunch break.

4. **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Chair Gaus

Chair Gaus reported the DeafBlind Workshop in August 2016 was the twentieth year. They had a hot air balloon as a surprise for the attendees. Other states have copied Michigan's model and this year, with 26 attendees; half are Hard of Hearing Culture DeafBlind and the other half are Deaf Culture DeafBlind. Chair Gaus commented how great it is to see how well it worked with all of the various attendees, CART services, interpreters, students, and technology. No date for 2017 has been scheduled yet.

Council Member Bailey

Chair Gaus read Council Member Bailey's report in her absence. Council Member Bailey reported there are many opportunities for growth and with the recent changes in Michigan law and policies, focus should be on improving accessibility and quality of life for our communities. Michigan has the opportunity to become a model for other states whose civil rights and services are lagging. Recommendations for priorities are education of entities about accommodations which also includes education of transportation providers on DeafBlind needs. Michigan needs more looped facilities, better mental health services, and the creation of a SSP program for DeafBlind individuals should also be a priority.

Council Member Barbour

There was no report from Council Member Barbour.

Council Member Bystrycki

Council Member Bystrycki announced West Michigan Association of the Deaf (WMAD) will host a camping trip on September 16- September 18, 2016 at the Yankee Springs campground. On October 8, 2016, WMAD will have a cowboy party contest at Matawan Hall. On November 5, 2016, WMAD will host a Thanksgiving dinner at Matawan Hall. Information on these events is also posted on WMAD's Facebook page.

Council Member Horwitz

Council Member Horwitz agreed with the need to streamline better access to information for the community through a newsletter. Council Member Horwitz asked if part of the one-time \$250,000 funding allocation for Fiscal Year 2017 would be for research efforts on deaf education.

Council Member Hunter

Council Member Hunter reported a deaf man in St. Joseph, in collaboration with NAD is suing Celebration Cinemas for providing no captioning. Council Member Hunter recommended that the Division create a listing of Michigan movie theaters which provide assistive equipment on the website. In the past, the Division was responsible for ensuring voting was accessible and encouraging Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing people to register to vote. The Division should also work on helping Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing residents understand the election process in the state of Michigan.

Council Member Johnson

Council Member Johnson reported she has heard of issues with lack of providing interpreters in courts and police stations. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) will have an open house on October 21, 2016. DHHS continues to provide sensitivity training to entities. Council Member Johnson requested the Division consider providing an email newsletter to interpreters and members of the community in order to foster better access to information.

Council Member Kobylak

Chair Gaus read Council Member Kobylak's report in her absence. Council Member Kobylak reported Kim Koglin is the new HLAA-Michigan President. Council Member Kobylak was appointed as Chapter Coordinator. HLAA-MI held its annual Chapter Leadership Workshop for current and future chapter leaders on August 27-28, 2016 in Troy. Council Member Kobylak hopes that the Hard of Hearing specialist position with the Division will be permanently reinstated and that this should be a priority for the Division.

Council Member Liming

Council Member Liming reported on two nationwide reports which will impact our communities on a state level. The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) report, published October 2015, which was sent to President Obama, focuses on the 30 million people who are sixty years and older. The report offers four conclusions and recommendations to improve hearing health care in the United States. Another report from The National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine was published in June 2016 and identifies 12 different recommendations to Congress. Both reports identified hearing loss as a major health concern in the United States with recommendations that states should focus on insurance coverage for hearing aids. Council Member Liming gave examples of several factors which influenced the recommendations offered in the reports. Examples included the recent emergence of Personal Sound Amplification Products, which are misleadingly advertised as devices for people with hearing loss, recommendations for a new category of hearing devices called "hearables/wearables" geared for consumers who have mild to moderate hearing losses, as well as issues with insurance coverage for hearing aids while having to consider cost, quality, and availability in various markets.

Council Member Maviglia

Council Member Maviglia reported Senate Bill 449 will not likely see any action before the election. The Chair of the Insurance Committee is not fond of the mandate so alternative funding efforts may need to be researched. The KT Maviglia Fund for Hearing will be providing an FM system to a young boy in Oak Park. Council Member Maviglia reported that Next Steps System, a technology company that develops and installs digital drive through screens, plans to install the equipment for 55 Subway restaurants in Michigan.

Council Member Mehling

Chair Gaus read Council Member Mehling's report in her absence. No major reports except that hospitals in Northern Michigan continue to only provide VRI interpreters.

Council Member Mitchell

Chair Gaus read Council Member Mitchell's report in her absence. She reported that she hears complaints from the community about follow ups with the Division. She reported on the mental health bill which has gone through a final draft but no bill number has been assigned and further updates will be shared with the Advisory Council.

Council Member Morrison

Council Member Morrison reported he is working with the Center of Michigan, a non-partisan group on funding efforts for town halls to hear from the community on their concerns about barriers and accessibility issues. Access to statistics will allow for effectively addressing community concerns with legislators. Council Member Morrison reported when he has more information, he will share it with the Advisory Council.

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.

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 Board meeting and elections in August 2016 electing new members at large. She reported on activities from the DeafBlind Workshop which included a joint honor ceremony for Cindy Caldwell, who recently retired.

President of HLAA-MI

Council Member Liming read a report in the President of HLAA-MI's absence. Michigan was well represented at the June 2016 HLAA National Convention in Washington, D.C. David Dubay, a member of the Lansing chapter was honored with a prestigious Spirit of HLAA Award at the awards ceremony. At the National Convention, Council Member Kobylak and Council Member Liming presented on how to put together a Chapter Leader Workshop. There is a lot of useful information on the HLAA national website and the HLAA-MI website. Under the Hearing Technology Resource Specialist program, several blogs have been posted. One high rated blog was written by Tony Ferack about a wearable called the Sound Hog. Council Member Liming wrote a general blog about apps and referenced excellent articles which evaluated popular apps. Council Member Kobylak wrote a blog on the Ditto, a wearable watch which is paired with a cellphone which alerts the user to incoming calls, texts or emails.

President of MIRID

Laura Gonzalez, Publications Manager 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. The next meeting for MIRID will be on September 18, 2016. MIRID is excited about more collaborative efforts. Examples include working more with the Division and for the Fall 2016 professional development workshop, Dr. Michael McKee will be presenting and he will be discussing health topics and individuals who are deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing may attend the workshop for free.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Subcommittee on Feasibility of Mentoring and Training Program

Council Member Horwitz is assigned as Chair. If Council Members are interested, they may attend the meeting which starts immediately after today's Council meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Website Information

Council Member Liming recommends the Division add and update information to the website specifically for and about the communities we serve. Council Member Hunter agreed and made a motion.

MOTION: Council Member Hunter moved that the Division updates and posts the "What's in a Name Brochure" on the website. Council Member Liming seconded the motion.

During discussion, Council Member Hunter explained the history behind the brochure and Council Member Morrison mentioned we have other community organizations outside of the Division who can also educate the community. Council Member Morrison moved to close discussion. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

2017 Advisory Council Meeting Dates

Director Urasky informed the Council Members the dates for 2017 will be in February, May, and September. She will email the Council Members scheduling options on dates for the meetings. Director Urasky also reminded the Council Members of term expiration and to encourage individuals who may be interested to apply if there are vacancies in January 2017.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gaus thanked all of the accommodation providers today. Chair Gaus requested a motion to adjourn. Council Member Horwitz made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:02PM.

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