

APPROVED

**DODDBHH Advisory Council Minutes
Friday September 8, 2017 10:00AM – 3:00 PM
Courtyard by Marriott
2400 E. Campus Drive
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858**

Council Members Present

Jill Gaus, Chair
Elizabeth Bystrycki
Miriam Horwitz
Chris Hunter
Elizabeth Kobylak
Ann Liming
Katlyn Maviglia
Dr. Michael McKee
Todd Morrison

Interpreters

Jami Cornell
Katie Fitzpatrick
Mark Hall
Mitch Holaly
Julie Poletti
Lisa Rowinski
Bert Schwartz
Ann-Marie Shibley

Council Members Excused

DODDBHH Staff

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

MDCR Executive Staff

Dan Levy, Director of Law and Policy, MDCR

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 10:06AM and welcomed everyone. Chair Gaus introduced the newly-sworn in Advisory Council Member, Dr. Michael McKee. Roll call was taken by Director Annie Urasky. Nine Advisory Council Members were present and there was a quorum to hold the meeting. Chair Gaus reviewed the revised 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 Liming made a motion to approve the May 2017 meeting minutes. Council Member Morrison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Council Member Maviglia made a motion to approve the September 2017 agenda. Council Hunter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Urasky reported on the potential Executive Order related to interpreter certification. Director Urasky also reported on third quarter interpreter test results, trainings, and events for the Division. Third quarter activities included attending the Language Acquisition Rally in June 2017 and attending the National Hearing Loss Association of America Convention in June 2017. The Division provided cultural sensitivity training for Michigan Rehabilitation Services in June 2017. In July 2017, the Division was asked to participate in the stakeholder group focused on Employment First initiated by a technical assistance grant to Michigan from the Office of Disability Policy (ODEP) to increase competitive, integrated employment for persons with disabilities in Michigan. Director Urasky also discussed current and future projects which includes the Census and Needs Assessment and videos. On September 6, 2017, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) hosted the 10th annual Michigan Response to Hate conference.

4. COUNCIL REPORTS

Chair Gaus

Chair Gaus reported on activities from the DeafBlind Workshop at Holley Family Village on August 10 through 13, 2017. 23 DeafBlind individuals attended along with interpreters, students, and CART services; the surprise this year was a visit to the Michigan International Speedway. Chair Gaus also discussed wanting the Division to be more involved in providing assistance with community resources.

Council Member Bystrycki

Council Member Bystrycki reported that that Sue Cutler, Director of the ASL Program at

Kalamazoo Valley Community College has retired and Jamie Rix is the new Director. She also reported Western Michigan Association for the Deaf will host a camping event from September 15 to September 17, 2017 at Yankee Springs in Western Michigan and the will also host a Thanksgiving dinner on November 4, 2017 from 3PM-9PM.

Council Member Horwitz

Council Member Horwitz reported on her concern about the gap between graduating interpreter training program students and obtaining their initial interpreter certification. She discussed the memo of understanding specifically for certified interpreters in the community and requested clarification on the terms of the MOU.

Council Member Hunter

Council Member Hunter indicated he had no report.

Council Member Kobylak

Council Member Kobylak reported she is entering her second year as chapter coordinator for HLAA-MI. HLAA-MI hosted their annual Chapter Leadership workshop the last weekend of August in Lansing allowing chapter leaders to come together for information sharing and fellowship.

Council Member Liming

Council Member Liming reported on advocacy efforts on the state and national level for HLAA-MI. Council Member Liming spoke about federal legislation related to Medicare coverage of hearing aids and about the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Bill and the Over the Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017. Council Member Liming noted regulations for the over the counter hearing aids could make a difference in distinguishing what personal sound amplification products (PSAPs) are best to use.

Council Member Maviglia

Council Member Maviglia reported the KT Maviglia Fund for Hearing, an organization for people under the age of 26 who need hearing aids, has partnered with the Lions Hearing Center in Michigan who helps people of all ages in the tri-county area. The Lions Club's mission is focused on people with vision loss and hearing loss.

Council Member McKee

Council Member McKee indicated he had no report.

Council Member Morrison

Council Member Morrison reported on a situation in Traverse City involving a deaf man in jail and discussed the response from the Division on that situation.

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

Karen Bailey is the new President of Self-Help for Independency in Michigan Equalizing the DeafBlind (SHI-MI=DB) since former President Welch has moved out of state. The executive board will have elections on August 28, 2018. The next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 2017.

President of HLAA-MI

Council Member Kobylak read the HLAA-Michigan report in the absence of Kim Koglin, President of the Hearing Loss Association of America, Michigan State Association. HLAA-MI had their annual Walk4Hearing in May 2017 with over 420 walkers and nearly \$60,000 was raised. The next annual Walk4Hearing will be on May 19, 2018 at Kensington Metro Park. The annual spring meeting has been scheduled for April 21, 2018 at the Michigan Library and Historical Center in Lansing. The annual HLAA national convention will be from June 21 through 24, 2018 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. HLAA-MI has a scholarship for first time attendees posted on their website with an application deadline of March 1, 2018.

President of MIRID

Chair Gaus read the report from Michigan RID Chapter President, Andi Chumley in her absence. In July, we held a Board retreat and welcomed two new board members: Danielle Ward, Secretary and Angela LaGuardia, Deaf Member at Large. We look forward to their contributions to the Board and the community at large. We were also fortunate to have four board members attend the national RID LEAD Together Conference in Salt Lake City. The RID Board and headquarters worked hard to develop a new conference structure in which presentations were followed by facilitated group discussions. Topics included realignment of organizational priorities, leadership, power, privilege and oppression. At the end of each discussion, groups were required to submit a strategic recommendation associated to the topic to RID. These recommendations will be analyzed and used by the RID Board during strategic planning this November. MIRID plans to use resources RID is making available to bring Power, Privilege, and Oppression training to Michigan. Be on the lookout for an announcement about our Fall PD Day soon! MIRID would also like to ensure the community has access to the most up-to-date information regarding RID's trajectory and testing plans under its subsidiary the Center for the Assessment of Sign Language Interpretation (CASLI). Information can be found on their respective websites (rid.org and casli.org), and includes a recording of a Certification and Testing Forum held in Salt Lake City. At our Spring conference, a motion was passed for MIRID to undertake a statewide survey of interpreters. We are pleased to say that the survey development is nearly complete and we are hoping to do a pilot with our survey instrument in the near future. Once the process is completed and verified, we will begin the data collection process. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the Advisory Council. Please feel free to reach out at any time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Subcommittee on Feasibility of Mentoring and Training Program

Director Urasky discussed with the Advisory Council Members that before any other action is taken regarding discussion of mentoring/training, meetings will need to take place with relevant stakeholders which includes interpreter education program directors and MIRID since there are many overlapping factors.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Hunter asked Director Urasky to explain the concept of an Executive Order and Council Members discussed their feedback on the various impacts that the potential Executive Order could have on the Division and the communities involved.

8. **GUEST SPEAKER**

Chair Gaus introduced Director Beth Kennedy and Family Support Coordinator Jennifer Bigelow-Stambaugh from DB Central to talk about their programs and services. DB Central is housed at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant to provide statewide services for families and professionals who are supporting children and young adults who are DeafBlind. With a grant from the US Department of Education, DB Central is focused on trainings, observations, educational consultations, and family support as well as postsecondary transition initiatives.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Hunter made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Morrison seconded the motion. The motion passed. Chair Gaus thanked all of the accommodation providers today. The meeting adjourned at 2:51PM.