



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
LANSING

MATT WESAW
DIRECTOR

UNAPPROVED

DODHH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday December 5, 2013

Cadillac Place - Room L-150
3044 W. Grand Boulevard, Detroit MI 48202

Council Members Present

Melissa Whalen (Chair)
Nan Asher
Helen Boucher
Odessa Carter
Renea Forrest
Elizabeth Kobylak
Freida Morrison
Brenda Neubeck

Council Members Excused

Jamie Maes-Eischen

Council Members Absent

Patrick Baker

DODHH Staff

Sheryl Emery, Director
Amanda Niven, Rights Representative
Karlee Rose Gruetzner, Interpreter Coord.
Christy Hill, Executive Secretary
Regina McMullen, Volunteer

Invited Guests

Kathleen Mitchell, Oakland Integrated
Health Network

CART

Sue Deer Hall, Screenline, LLC

Interpreters

Andi Chumley
Carmen Johnson
Liz Clarno
Toi Bogan, CAC
Cori Foster, CAC
Mitch Holaly, CAC
Yakata Nichols, Deaf C.A.N.

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VISITORS AT THE DODHH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Matt Wesaw, Director, MDCR
Lori Vinson, MDCR
Dan Levy, MDCR
Claire Zelmanski, MDCR
Kimberly Woolridge, MDCR
Ron Robinson, Dept. of Attorney General
Holly Riethberg, LCC ITP
Brianna Halder, LCC ITP
Chrisa Moran, U of M Hospital
Marcy Colton, Deaf C.A.N.!
Chuck McKittrick, CAC
Chad Duffelder, Baker ITP
Erica Scorpio, LCC ITP
Brittany White, OCC ITP
Amy Hutcherson, Madonna ITP
Rachel Hardy, Madonna ITP
Natie Sanborn, Madonna ITP
Dawn Hammontra, Bromberg & Associates
Leslie Pertz, U of M Hospital
Bethany McLain, Sign Language Serv. of MI
Melissa Fairbrother, OCC ITP
Allison Cassell, OCC ITP

Cody Lovelace, OCC ITP
Laura Thompsen, Baker ITP
Carrie Munhull, Baker ITP
Chanel Martin, OCC ITP
Dawn Flanigan, Sign Language Services of MI
Sandra Maloney, MIRID
April Stotts
Olivia Roberts
Karen Jones
Larry Trayner
Sara Zumer
Nikki Zipfel
G. Hensley
Todd Morrison
Millie Hursin
Kenya Lowe
Janet Jurus
Larry Seyfartj
Brooke Ehrlich
Courtney McPhillips
Melissu Baroks
Michael Morrila

CALL TO ORDER

Mel Whalen, Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH) Advisory Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roll call was taken by Christy Hill and Chair Whalen reminded the group there would be no voting today until a quorum was present at the meeting. Chair Whalen invited the group read the displayed DODHH Communication Policy.

Chair Whalen requested the Council members introduce themselves to the group and gave a warm welcome to Renea Forrest as a new Advisory Council Member. She also indicated Robert Anthony, Helmi Lepisto, and Laura Scott have submitted their resignations.

DODHH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Emery welcomed the group to the meeting and requested the Advisory Council Members introduce themselves. She also introduced Matt Wesaw, the new MDCR Director to the group and Lori Vinson, her new supervisor to the meeting. Other introductions included MDCR staff Dan Levy, Claire Zelmanski, Kim Woolridge and Attorney General Office staff Ron Robinson. She also introduced Karlee Rose Gruetzner, the new Interpreter Coordinator at DODHH, to the group.

Director Emery gave an update regarding the rules and regulations. She indicated the rules were submitted and then withdrawn but are now re-submitted to the Office of Regulatory Affairs as a preliminary draft. She indicated the states of Arizona, Nebraska and Missouri have been in contact with DODHH as they are considering adopting the BEI test as they have become aware that the QA system is no longer valid or reliable. She informed the group that the DODHH received compliments from Betty Colonos, a nationally recognized interpreter trainer and developer of interpreter models, for bringing integrity and a level of standards to the profession of interpreters. Director Emery indicated there have been serious complaints involving VRI and people who are DeafBlind as well as people who have physical difficulties, which the Department of Justice very clearly said is not allowable. She also recently met with the MDCR Director Wesaw, and MDCR Policy Liaison Dan Levy to discuss concerns with utilizing VRI from home. Director Emery indicated Sharon Ellis is the new ADA Coordinator working with the state. She has been working toward making the state more accessible, not only for people who are deaf and hard of hearing, but people with various disabilities and is working with the DODHH office. One of the issues we have talked to her about is making sure that we have adequate signage, especially at the Department of Human Services and the Secretary of State, so deaf and hard of hearing people are aware of their rights to an interpreter in those state agencies as well as making sure that the state workers are understanding the procedure for obtaining interpreters when they are visiting state agencies.

Director Emery indicated that the other activity that we have been involved in this year is addressing the need for mental health issues for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People in Michigan. We received a great deal of support from Senator John Moolenaar and his staff. The outcome of this has been the beginning of a great relationship with the National Association of Social Workers here in Michigan, Kathy Mitchell of the Department of Community Health and June Walatkiewicz. She indicated they made a joint presentation before the Lieutenant Governor regarding mental health needs and the lack of services in the deaf community. She also indicated Marcy Colton of Deaf C.A.N. has been working closely on this issue.

Director Emery indicated that the DODHH co-hosted the first statewide conference for deaf organizations and interpreters last summer, which was very successful, and really great efforts on the part of several organizations including the Michigan Deaf Association; the Michigan Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf; the National Association of Black Interpreters, Detroit Chapter; the

Detroit Black Deaf Advocates, and Self-Help for Independency in Michigan for the DeafBlind. There were approximately 300 people in attendance at the conference which was held on the west side of the state.

Director Emery gave an update on DODHH staff activities. She indicated that Christy has been working with DODHH staff with getting urgent interpreter requests out in the community. After receiving a request for an interpreter, the DODHH sends out an announcement to all of the registered interpreters across the state requesting they contact the appointing authority if they are interested in the assignment. She indicated the DODHH has been able to do this several times this year, and on two occasions were able to secure interpreters for an assignment, including one in the Upper Peninsula. And, another assignment the DODHH was made aware of came from the Department of Community Health when the Lieutenant Governor's office hosted a hearing in the Upper Peninsula specifically related to mental health, were notified that deaf individuals were planning to attend, but they didn't have an interpreter available. Amanda Niven, DODHH staff, was able to fly to the UP and provide interpreting services. Also, Karlee Rose participated in the Deaf Pride Day with one of our school systems in upper northern Michigan. Director Emery also recognized Regina McMullens for her volunteer activities at the DODHH office on a weekly basis, as she is working on a resource book. She thanked her for her dedicated time and service.

Lastly, Director Emery outlined some of the activities for the 2014 fiscal year, which started in October. The DODHH will continue to focus on the issue of mental health and access for people who are deaf and hard of hearing and provide training in deaf self-advocacy. Karlee Rose, in particular, wants to work on signed and captioned media. She indicated that the DODHH email newsletter is not completely accessible for the reading level of the deaf and hard of hearing community, so Karlee Rose will be assisting with getting it in video format.

KATHY MITCHELL, OAKLAND INTEGRATED HEALTH NETWORK

Ms. Mitchell distributed copies of her handout "Gaps in Mental Health Care for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Michigan" which she presented to the group. She and other staff from the Department of Community Mental Health attended the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association Conference held last May in Minnesota and attended many workshops and trainings. After the Conference, they partnered with June Walatkiewicz and the National Association of Social Workers in Michigan and developed an information piece which they presented to the Community Mental Health Board. They also presented to the students at the Legislative Education Advocacy Day in October and received very good feedback. Now, a Mental Health and Wellness Commission with Governor appointees has been meeting regularly to develop strategies for advocacy services and communication access services for the deaf and hard of hearing communities including mental health services. They also met with the Lieutenant Governor and educated him on the importance of training social workers to provide these services for deaf and hard of hearing citizens.

APPROVAL OF MAY 18, 2012 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Whalen indicated that because of the arrival of two Council Members to the meeting, a quorum was now present. She requested the DODHH Advisory Council Members approve the May 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes. Council Member Neubeck moved to approve the Meeting Minutes. Council Member Boucher seconded the motion. Motion Approved.

HFHS / COUNCIL MEMBER – RENEA FORREST

Council Member Forrest distributed copies of "The Henry Ford Health System Experience" which she

presented to the group. She indicated that as the Manager of ADA Compliancy at Henry Ford Health System, she is working to develop objectives and initiatives to improve services for the deaf and hard of hearing patients which has included a Department of Interpreter Services. Providing immediate access to interpreter requests is a primary objective as well as focusing on training, education and cultural change strategies as Henry Ford is very inclusive and embraces diversity.

BUSINESS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Director Emery requested input from the Council Members regarding the Crain's Article. Many of the Council members voiced concern that Director Emery should have been consulted before the release of the article. MDCR staff Dan Levy explained that Crain's consulted with him and he explained the Rule making process and emphasized that an article should not be published as he was misquoted/taken out of context. Mr. Levy requests comments or concerns be directed to him via e-mail.

Council Member Asher indicated that the Hard of Hearing community has requested an inquiry of why there is not a Hard of Hearing Specialist on DODHH staff. Director Emery deferred to MDCR Director Weesaw who indicated he will assist with developing a business plan with the Council Members to bring back the vacant Hard of Hearing position.

Chair Whalen led the group in discussion regarding the DODHH Advisory Council meeting dates for 2014. Director Emery reminded the group it is mandated that the Council meet three times per year. The Council members agreed that locations could be considered for Flint in March; Grand Rapids in June and either Traverse City or the UP in October.

Director Emery indicated that further discussion regarding a Legislative Day has been tabled until a later date due to MDCR Director Wesaw's indication that it is not something we can do right now.

ADVISORY BOARD COMMENTS

Council Member Boucher indicated that the interpreter card process needs to be addressed and changed because the renewal process is set for June 30th of each year but the it is a lengthy time before the interpreters receive their cards. She indicated that the interpreters are requesting the Rules be promulgated soon. She also thanked Ms. Mitchell for her presentation and requested talking points for the legislators. She thanked U of M for their interpreting services.

Council Member Forrest shared a public comment regarding interpreter credentials in schools.

Council Member Asher indicated there is upcoming workshop Family Matters! Scheduled to be held Saturday, March 8, 2014 at Schoolcraft College. She indicated this is a joint effort between MDCH-EHDI, and U/M Sound Support and the Coalition is paying for accommodation access: (CART and Interpreters). Please visit the website to register at <http://www.familymattersdhh.com>

Council Member Kobylak indicated that Hearing Loss of Michigan will be holding a meeting at the State of Michigan State Library on April 12th. Also, the Hearing Loss Association will be holding the annual Walk for Hearing at Kensington Park on May 17th. She can be contacted at ekobylak@comcast.net for more information regarding these two events. Also, she offers people to contact her regarding hearing technology resources.

Council Member Carter requests consideration be given to changing the DODHH to include the deaf-blind community; thus the name changed to DODHHDB.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Whalen announced that anyone wishing to speak publicly must address the group within a three minute timeframe and requested assistance from DODHH staff. There were several people who addressed the group and Director Emery indicated there will be follow-up for their concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Whalen thanked everyone for attending the meeting and called for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Forrest moved, and Council Member Boucher seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.