

**UNAPPROVED**

**DODDBHH Advisory Council Minutes  
Friday March 29, 2019 1:00PM – 4:00 PM  
110 W. Michigan Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933**

**Council Members Present**

Jill Gaus, Chair  
Cindy Caldwell  
Joanne Forbes  
Chris Hunter  
Elizabeth Kobylak  
Debbie Mitre-Smith  
Todd Morrison  
Tom Shields  
Matthew Stephens

**Council Members Excused**

Katlyn Maviglia  
Dr. Michael McKee

**DODDBHH Staff**

Annie Urasky, Director  
Jeannette Johnson, Rights Representative  
Alayna Zerlentes, Secretary

**MDCR Executive Staff**

Dan Levy, Director of Law and Policy

**Interpreters**

Jeannette Gladstone  
Mitch Holaly  
Stacy Nazurek-Chase  
Stacy Pierce  
Lisa Rowinski  
Bert Schwartz  
Jennifer Welling

**CART Provider**

Letty Fox

## 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 1:22PM and welcomed everyone. Roll call was taken by Director Annie Urasky and nine Advisory Council Members were present and there was a quorum to hold the meeting. Chair Gaus swore in the new Council Members, reviewed the Communication Policy and discussed protocol for public comments.

## 2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND AGENDA

Council Member Hunter made a motion to accept the May 2018 meeting minutes as written. Council Member Kobylak seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Council Member Kobylak made a motion to accept the March 2019 meeting agenda as written. Council Member Morrison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## 3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Urasky reported that the *Not Without Us* Needs Assessment. The final report from the study is anticipated to be released in June 2019 and will be shared with MDCR to help guide the development of policies, programs, services, and funding for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing communities; helping to secure access to effective communication and to improve their life experiences. After the final report is issued, the Division will be hosting a series of community conversations to share findings, discuss opportunities to improve the quality of life for Michiganders who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing, and determine how to best address potential gaps in existing programs and services.

Director Urasky also discussed events, presentations and information related to mobility grants and accessibility efforts for emergency management, the city of Lansing City TV for city council meetings and the 2019 Governor's State of the State speech.

## 4. COUNCIL REPORTS

### Chair Gaus

Chair Gaus reported the 23rd annual DeafBlind Workshop will be August 8-11, 2019 at the Carls Family Village in Brooklyn. Interpreters, interpreter training program students, CART providers and deafblind individuals with diverse needs should think about attending. DeafBlind Central is currently conducting a census for deafblind children and young adults in Michigan aged zero to 21. If you know someone who should know about the deafblind census, please contact DB Central at [Beth.Kennedy@cmich.edu](mailto:Beth.Kennedy@cmich.edu). DeafBlind Central received their five-year funding grant and Lisa Rowinski is the new family engagement coordinator. DeafBlind Central is also collaborating with DeafBlind projects in the Midwest to provide a post-secondary transition camp in Michigan for

2020.

**Council Member Caldwell**

Council Member Caldwell indicated she had no report.

**Council Member Forbes**

Council Member Forbes indicated she had no report.

**Council Member Hunter**

Council Member Hunter indicated he had no report.

**Council Member Kobylak**

Council Member Kobylak reported HLAA-MI will have their annual workshop on August 10 in Lansing for training for people who are currently leaders or are interested in ascending to the chapter leadership role. A new chapter opened in the Grand Rapids area which meets on the third Tuesday every month from 10:30-12:30 at the Metro U of M hospital in Wyoming. For more information, please visit [www.hearingloss-mi.org](http://www.hearingloss-mi.org).

**Council Member Maviglia**

Chair Gaus read a report in Council Member Maviglia's absence. The KT Maviglia Fund for Hearing has received multiple requests for the Roger Pen and receivers. The fund is currently working on coming up with funding for deserving candidates.

**Council Member McKee**

Chair Gaus read a report in Council Member McKee's absence. The Deaf Health Fair in October 2018 had nearly 300 attendees which included many deaf and hard of hearing health care providers. There will be video recordings on certain talks. Information on the accessible Deaf health clinic may be found here: <https://www.uofmhealth.org/our-locations/deaf-health>.

**Council Member Mitre-Smith**

Council Member Mitre-Smith reported the Holley Institute in Brooklyn, Michigan will have summer programs including a family week, a CODA week, a DeafBlind week, an ASL week, and a volunteer week. The Holley Institute will launch the Community Health Literacy program for families who have deaf children starting in Fall 2019. The Holley Institute will have a community engagement event at the Flint museum on April 6. Ascension Hospital in Detroit will provide free screenings for adults in May 2019. Michigan Hands and Voices will be providing ASTra training (Advocacy, Support, Training) on April 13. This training will help parents and professionals better understand federal laws related to IEPs and 504 processes.

**Council Member Morrison**

Council Member Morrison reported that the Michigan Association of the Deaf now has new leadership. He also reported on concerns with employment issues. Many deaf and hard of hearing people are looking for STEM related jobs and there are access issues which may prevent them from getting training or their certification testing.

**Council Member Shields**

Council Member Shields indicated he had no report.

**Council Member Stephens**

Council Member Stephens indicated he had no report.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Gaus indicated a three-minute timeline will be set for each person providing public comment, and one person requested to speak. Laura Anderson spoke about her struggles with accessibility requirements in a community college program.

**6. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS**

**President of MDA**

Jillian Gruetzner provided a report. The MDA Board has two vacant positions for regional representation. MDA plans on confirming dates for future townhalls. MDA will have quarterly general meetings. The last one was in February 2019 in Saginaw. The next one will be announced soon for May 2019. There will be a fundraiser bowling event on April 19; there is more information on the MDA Facebook page. MDA has seven committees which has a few open volunteer positions: membership, governance, public policy and advocacy, preservation, finance and conference planning. Membership registration may be paid online at [www.michdeaf.org](http://www.michdeaf.org). Membership costs \$15 a year, \$13 for those aged 65 or older, affiliates costs \$50. There is also a youth rate for those aged 18 and under.

**President of SHI-MI=DB**

Chair Gaus read a report in Karen Bailey's absence. SHI-MI=DB hosted activities which included a Super Bowl party, and college football games. Autumn Stevens is organizing a bowling event and SHIM=DB is helping with funds.

**President of HLAA-MI**

Tony Ferack provided a report. The HLAA MI annual spring meeting is on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at the Michigan Library in Lansing. The annual Walk4Hearing is on Saturday, May 18, 2019, at Kensington Metro Park. Jeffrey Astrein is the new Chair of the HLAA-MI advocacy committee. The annual HLAA national convention will be June 20- 23, 2019 in Rochester, NY. Information regarding events may be found on the website [www.hearingloss-mi.org](http://www.hearingloss-mi.org).

**President of MIRID**

There is no report from MIRID.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

*NG911 and Text to 911*

Council Member Morrison made a motion to request the Division collaborate with the counties that have not yet rolled out the NextGen 911 system with a timeline of 90 days to establish a plan and encourage further dissemination of that programming. Council Member Hunter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

*Mini Retreat and Future Council Meeting Dates*

Director Urasky will send out a doodle poll for scheduling availability for the May-June

Council Retreat in Detroit and for all potential 2019 meeting dates since the next meeting for May 2019 will be rescheduled.

8. **GUEST SPEAKER**

MDCR Statewide Interim ADA Compliance Director Kim Wooldridge spoke about the work of ADA compliance for state agencies and departments and she introduced Kelley Frake, Compliance Analyst, who spoke about the voluntary service animal identification program.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Morrison made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Hunter seconded the motion. The motion passed. Chair Gaus thanked all the accommodation providers and members who attended the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:33PM.

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