

APPROVED
DODDBHH Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday April 11, 2024 1:00-3:00 PM
Horatio S. Earle Learning Center
7575 Crowner Drive
Dimondale, MI 48821

Council Members Present

- Gerid Adams, Chair
- Teddy Dorsette
- Joanne Forbes
- Terri Gordinier
- Liliana Herbstreith
- Chris Hunter
- Teresa Miracle
- Ariel Pscheidl

Council Members Absent

- Louis Bailey
- Sue Caudell
- Matthew Stephens
- Karlee Wascher

DODDBHH Staff

- Annie Urasky, Director
- Alayna Lail, Liaison

MDCR Staff

- Tyra Khan, DRACD Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Gerid Adams, Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (the Division) Advisory Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04pm, welcomed everyone and read the communication policy. Housekeeping remarks and roll call was taken by Director Annie Urasky and seven council members were present at the start of the meeting. There was a quorum to host the meeting. Council Member Liliana Herbstreith arrived at 1:11pm, there were eight council members present. Chair Adams read the Oath of Office to swear in one new Council Member, Joanne Forbes.

Chair Adams asked Council Member Hunter to share remarks and lead the moment of silence for former DODDBHH employee and Council Member Ann Liming who passed in December 2023.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND AGENDA

- a. **Motion:** Council Member Hunter made a motion to amend the April 2024 agenda to add Council Bylaws Amendment to include Detroit Black Deaf Advocates as an ex officio officer under New Business. Council Member Gordinier seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.
- b. **Motion:** Council Member Pscheidl made a motion to add May 2024 Meeting Date Discussion under New Business. Council member Miracle seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.
- c. **Motion:** Council Member Hunter made a motion to accept the amended April 2024 agenda as amended. Council Member Dorsette seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.
- d. **Motion:** Council Member Forbes made a motion to accept the October 2023 meeting minutes as written. Council Member Miracle seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Urasky reported on recent and upcoming Division activities, which included updates on monthly and quarterly meetings for different state agencies and stakeholder organizations, weekly meetings with Chair Adams, the regional scam sessions in partnership with the Michigan Department of Attorney General, DODDBHH being named as a steering committee member for the MDE-LIO LEAD-K work, National Reading Month events at Bloomfield Hills, Roseville and West Oakview, Know Your Rights training sessions, presenting at Silent Weekend, legislative updates on House Bills

4944, 4963, and 5630 and updates on activities related to the PEHI grant in partnership with Idaho State University and Gallaudet University. Director Urasky also reported on upcoming policy activity including monitoring the federal Older Americans Act reauthorization, upcoming meetings with the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, with LARA-BCHS and presenting at the MIRID Spring Conference on April 27.

4. CHAIR ADAMS REPORT

Chair Adams reported he was honored to be designated as Chair of the Advisory Council and thanked former Chair Jill Gaus for her leadership and noted how hard it will be to fill her shoes. Chair Adams and Director Urasky asked former Chair Gaus to accept a plaque to recognize her commitment to the council and to the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing community. Chair Adams also requested all Council Members to review the purpose of the Council in the bylaws and that as Chair, he plays a supporting role to the Council and the community. Chair Adams requested all Council Members come up with three priorities the Council would like DODDBHH to focus on. Chair Adams also reminded Council Members that under New Business, nominations can be accepted for the Vice Chair and that if anyone is interested in applying to serve on the DODDBHH Advisory Council, to please contact Director Urasky for the link to the application.

5. COUNCIL REPORTS

Chair Adams

Chair Adams provided a report under Chair Adams Report.

Council Member Dorsette

Council Member Dorsette reported on two organizations' activities: Detroit Black Deaf Advocates (DBDA): DBDA held their first meeting since the pandemic in March 2024 and the next meeting is scheduled for Saturday April 13 from 12-4pm. Council Member Dorsette is the new President of DBDA and the DBDA annual fundraiser cookout will be held in Detroit, with the location and time to be announced soon. The website will be updated shortly and more information is posted on their Facebook page. Council Member Dorsette also encouraged interested organizations to consider join the Michigan Coalition, which will hold their next meeting on Friday April 12. Council Member Dorsette is also on the advisory board for the University of Michigan Center of Disability Health and Wellness, led by Dr. Michael McKee and Michelle Meade. A panel discussion will be held on April 30 in the Ypsilanti library on healthcare equity for the deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing community. Council Member Dorsette also hopes to prioritize the council work to include Black and Brown people within our community.

Council Member Forbes

Council Member Forbes introduced herself. She works for Oakland Community College within their Interpreter Training Program as a full-time instructor. She is happy to join the Council and work with all council members.

Council Member Gordinier

Council Member Gordinier reported she went to Madonna University on December 9 for the LEAD-K panel and was also present at the MDE-LIO Zoom presentation on LEAD-K efforts and is excited to see what's next with language deprivation efforts. She was also present at the DODDBHH informational session when Dr. McKee presented on February 23. Council Member Gordinier also brought cookies from a local deaf-owned bakery in Ypsilanti.

Council Member Herbstreith

Council Member Herbstreith reported she is proud to be part of the council. Her son is hard of hearing. She would love opportunities to engage on translation of key information for the Hispanic community since many Hispanic fathers who are not bilingual do not have opportunities to get information about the Advisory Council.

Council Member Hunter

Council Member Hunter indicated he had no report.

Council Member Miracle

Council Member Miracle reported Communication Access Center (CAC) held a health fair on March 20 with 18 different vendors. Dr. Michael McKee and Commit to Fit! were examples of presenters and organizations present. Anyone can sign up for the ASL CRIM 2024 5K event in August as a way to stay healthy, 58 people have signed up so far. CAC is partnering with Genesee Health Pair on a vaccine drive-thru event on September 27. Council Member Miracle also remarked that April 25 is the 10-year anniversary of the Flint water crisis and asks everyone to keep Flint in their thoughts.

Council Member Pscheidl

Council Member Pscheidl indicated she had no report.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Adams indicated a three-minute timeline will be set for each person providing public comment, and four people requested to speak. Nicole Gaines from Holley Institute and spoke about upcoming events which included Family Week, which still has availability for week one from June 30-July 5 and encourages sign up for families that have deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing children. ASL Week is available for immersion opportunities for those who are interested in becoming an interpreter from July 28-August 2. Reach out to Nicole via email at Nicole.colton@ascension.org

Kathy and Rob Truman spoke about two issues in medical settings with video remote interpreting (VRI) and the need for education about effective communication and preferences for live interpreters. They also raised concerns related to verification of Michigan credentials for VRI interpreters and their intention to follow up with the Michigan Department of Attorney General.

Erica Chapin from Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (D&HHS) spoke about the recent senior scam event hosted in Grand Rapids on April 9 and thanked DODDBHH for the opportunity. The feedback was positive. Erica encouraged DODDBHH and the Advisory Council to consider continuing these types of education efforts with other state agencies for the communities. D&HHS is always happy to host these events for the communities.

Warren Coryell spoke about concerns related to the need for increased staff for DODDBHH, the need for more information sharing about events for the communities to be aware of, the need for more civil rights-based workshops on civil rights and advocacy training efforts related to effective communication, his experience with VRI in medical settings and his efforts to pursue a complaint, concerns about the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) enforcement actions and the need for revisions on general policies on interactions with the deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing communities.

7. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

President of MDA

JJ Johnson, the recently-elected board president for MDA provided a report. MDA held elections in February. MDA is in the process of getting everything going after being stagnant for three years. MDA looks forward to working with DODDBHH and other government agencies like LARA-BCHS, MDE to lift up the deaf community. MDA has several of the same concerns as mentioned by others on cultural competency related to MDCR.

President of HLAA-MI

Director Urasky shared that she recently met with the president of HLAA-MI, Jeffrey Astrin about collaborative opportunities. The next Walk4Hearing will be May 18 at Kensington Metro Park.

President of MIRID

MIRID President James Cech sent in a report to Director Urasky. The Michigan chapter of RID is putting all of its energy and attention toward hosting our Spring Conference the last week of April 2024 at Madonna University in Livonia. Our theme, "Rise to the Challenge," is meant to reflect the necessary work all interpreters must engage in to

ensure the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing citizens of Michigan receive quality interpreting services. We are currently seeking presenters; selecting trainings that align with Michigan's endorsements, and giving priority to trainings that cross-specialize, such as medical interpreting for DeafBlind patients. Follow our new website, www.michiganrid.org and our social media pages for updates as they are announced. Additionally, we are pleased to have begun talks to partner with the Division to host a joint event in northern Michigan, potentially as soon as fall 2024. If any board members have specific questions or points you would like Michigan RID to address, please email president@michiganrid.org.

8. LARA-BCHS

Colleen Curtis and Heather Hosey from the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Community Health Systems (LARA-BCHS) provided an overview on LARA-BCHS activities. The next two board meetings are scheduled for May 8 and October 16. At the October meeting, they're hoping to have the four ITP programs present. The LARA-BCHS website has all information related to the board meetings. The Board of Interpreters rules subcommittee have been working on a draft to revise the administrative interpreter rules in a concise way which also addresses challenges related to VRI. Next steps involve an ASL draft of the proposed rules and a copy will be sent to partners including MDE and MDCR-DODDBHH, scheduling a public comment period and hosting townhalls in Fall 2024. Governor Whitmer proposed additional funding for the LARA-BCHS Qualified Interpreter program in fiscal year 2025. LARA-BCHS has met with the Michigan Hospital Association twice about collaborative activities. LARA-BCHS will also present at the MIRID Spring Conference on April 27.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Election of Vice Chair

Chair Adams requested nominations for the Vice Chair of the Advisory Council. Council Member Hunter nominated Council Member Miracle, who accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations offered.

- a. **Motion:** Council Member Gordinier made a motion to have Council Member Miracle be elected as Vice Chair for the Advisory Council. Council Member Forbes seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Chair Adams: yes, Council Member Dorsette: yes, Council Member Forbes: yes, Council Member Gordinier: yes, Council Member Herbstreith: abstained (not in room when vote was taken), Council Member Hunter: yes, Council member Miracle: yes, Council Member Pscheidl: yes. Seven council members voted yes, one council member abstained. The motion passed.

Council Bylaws Amendment

Council Member Dorsette proposed that Detroit Black Deaf Advocates (DBDA) be added to the council bylaws under Article IV, 4.8 as an ex-officio officer to better reflect the

essential principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility within the Advisory Council and to remove Self Help For Independency In Michigan Equalizing the DeafBlind (SHI-M=DB) as an ex officio member.

Director Urasky reviewed the language in the Council bylaws under Article X, 10.1 which states *“Except as otherwise provided by law, these bylaws may be amended by a majority of the voting members of the Council after Council members have been given at least one regular meeting in advance to consider the proposed amendments in writing form.”* Director Urasky will send a written redlined draft of the Council bylaws with the proposed language Council Member Dorsette proposed for Council Members’ consideration at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.

Council Member Dorsette proposed that the Council bylaws be amended under Article IV, 4.8 to read *“Ex-officio membership on the Advisory Council shall be provided to the President of the Michigan Deaf Association (MDA), the Michigan Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (MIRID), the Hearing Loss Association of Michigan- Michigan State Association (HLA-MI), and the Detroit Black Deaf Advocates (DBDA) or their designees.”*

May 2024 Council Meeting Date

Chair Adams requested the Council Members to discuss a new meeting date instead of holding the next scheduled meeting in May 2024 to meet on either of the proposed dates voted on at the last council meeting in October 2023: September 20 or October 4.

- a. Motion: Council Member Dorsette made a motion to meet September 20, 2024. Council Member Miracle seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Council Member Gordinier seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

Chair Adams thanked all the accommodation providers and members who attended the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.