

UNAPPROVED

**DODDBHH Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Friday September 20, 2024 9:30AM-12:30 PM
Horatio S. Earle Learning Center
7575 Crowner Drive
Dimondale, MI 48821**

Council Members Present

- Gerid Adams, Chair
- Theresa Miracle, Vice Chair
- Sue Caudell
- Teddy Dorsette
- Joanne Forbes
- Terri Gordinier
- Liliana Herbstreith
- Chris Hunter
- Ariel Pscheidl
- Karlee Wascher

Council Members Absent

- Louis Bailey
- Matthew Stephens

DODDBHH Staff

- Annie Urasky, Director

MDCR Staff

- Kimberly Woolridge, MDCR Deputy
Director
- Demetrius Hunter, MDCR Deputy
Director of Investigations
- Tiara Yakini, DRACD

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 9:32am, welcomed everyone and read the communication policy. Housekeeping remarks and roll call was taken by Director Annie Urasky and eight council members were present at the start of the meeting; there was a quorum to host the meeting. Council Member Herbstreith arrived at 9:43 am and Council Member Dorsette arrived at 9:49am, with ten council members present; there was still a quorum to host the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND AGENDA

- a. **Motion:** Council Member Hunter made a motion to amend the September 2024 agenda to add a five-minute break on the meeting agenda at approximately 10:55am. Council Member Wascher seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.
- b. **Motion:** Council Member Miracle made a motion to accept the April 2024 meeting minutes as written. Council Member Caudell seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Urasky thanked MDCR Deputy Director Woolridge and DRACD staff Tiara Yakini for being present and reported on recent and upcoming Division activities, which included updates on monthly and quarterly meetings for different state agencies and stakeholder organizations, attending the NASADHH and NAD Conference along with DRACD Director Tyra Khan, informing the Governor's Appointments office of the notices from Council Members Caudell and Hunter not renewing their terms which expire in January 2025 and the one current vacancy, finalizing the process to authorize state emails for Council Members, the House Resolution recognizing September as Deaf Awareness Month and updates on activities related to the PEHI grant in partnership with Idaho State University and Gallaudet University. The Michigan School for the Deaf also has a Head of Schools job posting available. Director Urasky also reported on upcoming activities including attending the D&HHS Deaf Awareness Month event in Grand Rapids on September 26, participating in a roundtable with Senator Stephanie Chang on September 28, and the upcoming LARA-BCHS Board of Interpreters meeting and town hall on October 16. Director Urasky also mentioned transition planning efforts with DRACD Director Tyra Khan monitoring DODDBHH activities effective September 30 with the upcoming transition for Director Urasky. Director Urasky shared a message of appreciation for DODDBHH Advisory Council members, the MDCR team and all community members and stakeholders. All questions related to the DODDBHH Director

job posting should go to Brie Kissane at KissaneB@michigan.gov and the DODDBHH Director job posting is open until 11:59pm on September 29, 2024.

4. CHAIR ADAMS REPORT

Chair Adams thanked everyone for being in attendance, shared a message of appreciation for Director Urasky, stated he was excited about upcoming efforts for council members to obtain state email addresses, and reminded council members to be prepared to discuss priorities topics later in the meeting, and that the stakeholder session is put on hold until the new DODDBHH Director comes onboard.

5. COUNCIL REPORTS

Chair Adams

Chair Adams provided a report under Chair Adams Report.

Council Member Caudell

Council Member Caudell reported she retired in June and will be focused on travel with her husband, which is why she is not renewing her term and thanked Director Urasky for presenting at the Michigan State Professionals Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MSPSDHH) meeting. Council Member Caudell is also involved with the Michigan Coalition for DDBHH and the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children.

Council Member Dorsette

Council Member Dorsette reported on Detroit Black Deaf Advocates (DBDA) activities. DBDA held elections on September 14 and now have a full board. DBDA will have a hybrid roundtable with Senator Stephanie Chang on September 28 and encourages people to attend.

Council Member Forbes

Council Member Forbes works for Oakland Community College within their Interpreter Training Program as a program coordinator. She requested a moment of silence for Kelly Flores, who recently passed. Kelly was a wonderful ally and made a huge impact for the Deaf community and helped create many interpreters. OCC will host a Deaf Awareness Month event September 26 called "SignTastic". She shared a message of appreciation for Director Urasky.

Council Member Gordinier

Council Member Gordinier reported Michigan Hands and Voices will host a trivia night on October 25 in Novi and need items for their silent auction fundraiser. Michigan Disability Rights Coalition via their LEAD-IN team will host a webinar on "Creating Inclusive Employment Practices for People with Disabilities" on September 25 from 12-1:30pm.

Council Member Herbstreith

Council Member Herbstreith indicated no report.

Council Member Hunter

Council Member Hunter reported he appreciated serving on the DODDBHH Advisory Council and his experience and previous work with DODDBHH and MDCR through the years and shared a message of appreciation for Director Urasky.

Council Member Miracle

Council Member Miracle indicated no report.

Council Member Pscheidl

Council Member Pscheidl indicated no report.

Council Member Wascher

Council Member Wascher indicated no report.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Adams indicated a three-minute timeline will be set for each person providing public comment, and one person requested to speak. Debi McNally shared that Michigan Deaf Association (MDA) is up and running again. Over the summer, the MDA Board approved her idea to host a ASL festival in spring 2025.

7. GUEST PRESENTATION: DEMETRIUS HUNTER, MDCR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS

Demetrius Hunter shared a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the MDCR Enforcement process, outlining three areas: intake, investigation phase and the outcomes phase. Council Members asked questions after the presentation.

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 board meeting is October 16 at 10am at LCC-West. ITP program directors will be there to share information. After the board meeting, there will be a townhall from 1:30-3:30pm related to the updates of the qualified interpreter rules, which are currently being translated into ASL. Renewal season ended for RID and EIPA credentials and LARA-BCHS is catching up on testing backlog. LARA-BCHS recently posted a student assistant position and encourages ITP program students to apply. LARA-BCHS will attend the D&HHS Deaf Awareness Month event in Grand Rapids on September 26. LARA-BCHS continues to work with MDCR related to an upcoming survey for interpreters and shared a message of appreciation for Director Urasky.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Council Bylaws Amendment

Chair Adams asked Council Member Dorsette to summarize the April 2024 proposal of his recommendation that the DODDBHH Advisory Council bylaws be amended to add Detroit Black Deaf Advocates (DBDA) Article IV, 4.8 as an ex-officio officer to ensure all perspectives are included. Director Urasky then reviewed the current Council Bylaws which included the following four redlined items for consideration:

1. The header on the top of all 4 pages: remove the words “5-29-2015” and insert the words “as amended 9-20-24”
 2. Page 2, Article IV (4.8): insert the words “Deaf Black Deaf Advocates (DBDA)” and remove the words “Self Help for Independency Equalizing the DeafBlind.” The proposed language reads as follows: “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.”
 3. Page 4, Article X (10.2): remove the sentence: “These bylaws were approved by vote of the Advisory Council to the Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing, Michigan Department of Civil Rights on May 29, 2015.”
 4. Page 4, signature line: remove the words “Jill Gaus” and insert the words “Gerid Adams” and insert the words “Amended on 9-20-24”
- a. **Motion:** Council Member Hunter made a motion to accept the following four proposed changes to the DODDBHH Advisory Council Bylaws. Council Member Dorsette seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Chair Adams: aye; Council Member Caudell: aye; Council Member Dorsette: aye; Council Member Gordinier: aye; Council Member Herbstreith: aye; Council Member Hunter: aye; Council Member Forbes: aye; Council Member Miracle: aye; Council Member Pscheidl: aye; Council Member Wascher: aye. All 10 council members present voted in favor; the motion passed.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Advisory Council Priorities

Chair Adams requested Director Urasky to write down on the white board and verbally confirm for accessibility purposes what was written for proposed priorities. As background, Director Urasky reminded council members they have the ability set up subcommittees focused on identified priorities and that with a new DODDBHH Director coming onboard, DODDBHH priorities could shift. Director Urasky will send the outlined topics to council members and it will be reviewed by the new DODDBHH Director. Council members suggested topics related to employment, career development, education, mental health/healthcare programs/services and training education, DODDBHH focused efforts including staffing, regional townhalls, legislative activities, Spanish translation and outreach, and expanding deafblind programs.

Advisory Council 2025 Meeting Dates

Potential meeting dates for 2025 DODDBHH Advisory Council Meeting dates and backup dates included January 24, January 31, February 21, April 4, April 11, May 2, August 22, September 12 and September 19.

- a. Motion: Council Member Gordinier made a motion that the 2025 Advisory Council meeting dates be on January 31, April 11 and September 12 and that the backup meeting dates if is a meeting cancellation to be February 21, May 2, and September 19. Council Member Miracle seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.
- b. Motion: Council Member Forbes made a motion that DODDBHH will determine different meeting locations for each approved scheduled meeting date for the 2025 Advisory Council meetings based on accessibility site visit reviews. Council Member Dorsette seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

11. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

President of MDA

Lawson McNally provided a report. MDA is now active and looks forward to working with the Advisory Council on expanding the needs of DODDBHH and the priorities outlined by the council.

President of HLAA-MI

There is no report.

President of MIRID

There is no report.

President of DBDA

Teddy Dorsette provided a report. DBDA recently hosted an election and has a vice president, secretary and board liaison. DBDA hopes to build relationships with other organizations and looks forward to future collaborations with the Advisory Council. At the next council meeting, a DBDA board member will provide the ex-officio report.

12. GUEST PRESENTER: ANTHONY LEWIS, MDCR DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

Director Urasky read a report in Director Lewis’s absence. In 2022, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission passed a resolution on voting, stating “Voting is a civil right.” In 2024, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights – the operational arm of the Commission - launched the Voting Rights Initiative, a coordinated effort aimed at educating Michigan citizens about their right to vote and the importance of exercising that right. With the tag line, “Voting is a civil right,” MDCR has used various platforms and communications

strategies to reach Michigan citizens with the voting rights message. Their efforts include earned media coverage, organic social media reach, paid social media advertising, radio advertising, and billboard messages. MDCR has also developed and circulated at least two social media/communications toolkits designed to give our partners an easy-to-use, copy and paste option for reaching their own constituents with the “Voting is a civil right” message. The toolkit includes social media messages, newsletter article templates, graphics and images for use on social media or in newsletters or email. In the period prior to the August primary election, MDCR ran paid social media ads on LinkedIn designed to reach specific audiences with the “Voting is a civil right” message. While MDCR is advocating for all registered voters in Michigan to exercise their right to vote, they are putting additional effort into engaging the disability community in Michigan, as well as individuals who speak a language other than English, as these two populations may face the most serious hurdles to participation in the electoral process.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Adams indicated a three-minute timeline will be set for each person providing public comment, and one person requested to speak. Deb Atwood from Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services in Grand Rapids spoke about the priority topics the council discussed and suggested additional topics for consideration, including retention, employment, recruiting high school students to be interested in the interpreting field, interpreter issues, data and working collectively together on key issues.

14. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion: Council Member Hunter made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Council Member Caudell 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 12:25pm.