

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
QUARTERLY MEETING: January 5, 2024  
Special Meeting

**Welcome:**

Russ welcomed everyone and reviewed the mission of the council.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

The September 15, 2023 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**Old Business:**

The following items were discussed as possible goals for 2024:

1. Review council bylaws and make changes in accordance with the Sunshine Act
2. Recruitment of new members
3. Correct interpreters for press conferences
4. More transparency with community; need to know what community needs and that will drive council.
5. Wait until the survey results and use that information for goals.
6. Specific time after ACDHH meetings for community to connect with ODHH.
  - a. This would be different from public time in which it would be open dialogue for the council and ODHH to talk with the community.
  - b. Having specific time and dates would allow for consistency rather than random town hall meeting.

**New Business:**

1. Survey Letter
  - a. The survey letter draft was discussed, reviewed and approved unanimously. Some changes made included:
    - i. Shortening some of the sentences that seemed to reiterate similar information.
    - ii. Adding consistent capitalization such as D and B in DeafBlind.
    - iii. Adding a blurb about what to do if needing assistance on filling out the survey.
    - iv. Adding that this survey is for people from Pennsylvania.
    - v. Adding a deadline for how long the survey will be available.
  - b. The letter and survey will be sent out to community members by council. The deadline for the survey will be 90 days – April 14.
2. The March meeting will have a presentation on the Sunshine Act. A committee will be developed to revise the bylaws for approval at the June meeting.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next Council Meeting is on March 22, 2024.

Pennsylvania's Advisory Council for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) was established because of Act 1997-37, which required the establishment of the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Advisory Council. The Council is mandated to provide recommendations to public and private agencies, advocate for services and act as a bureau of information.