

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
QUARTERLY MEETING: March 19, 2021
Virtual

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michelle Paonessa, Chair, Russ Goddard, Vice Chair, Kay Tyberg, Alex Van Hook, Lori Leiman, Jeanette Fulton, Trisha Mader, Stacey Gustin, Becky Lorah, Kallie Mendenhall, Amy Letteri, Debi Shostak

ODHH STAFF: Melissa Hawkins, Director, DeeDee Keiser, Ben Moonan, Denise Brown

INTERPRETERS: Cindi Brown, Jessica Bentley - Sassamon

CART: Debbie Cunningham

Moderator: Nichole Wade

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 4, 2020 had a few revisions, mainly the date on the minutes reflected September. A typo at the end of public comment from SILC. With both corrections, minutes were approved.

Presentation on PACE

Julie Dooley came to talk about The Clearing House. It is for anyone 18 years of age and older. They provide all things needed. They contact individuals they complete an application. They submit their income documents to Clearing House who then provides everything needed for that application to be completed. Clearing House completes it for the individual. They also provide the of the postage needed to be sent to the physician, to be sent to them, to be sent to the manufacturer. So, they don't just say here is your medication. Okay, now you can do it yourself from this time forward. They decided that they needed to contact individuals on a regular basis to make sure they were obtaining their medications and that the physicians were doing what they need to do.

Labor and Industry – ODHH Office still working remotely, everyone is available to assist should anyone need help. We are still working through interpreter registration, Dee Keiser did an amazing job working that considering the situations we are in right now, state of the world. We continue to assist with caption and interpreters for press events and other commonwealth services. We continue to be thrilled with the recognized

need across the commonwealth. ODHH is collaborating with PARID to host Interpreter CEU's for State Registered and Provisional Registered Interpreters here in PA. Also scheduled is CDI Prep courses. ODHH is very excited about that.

Russ Goddard spoke about Summer Academy for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. It will be virtual, held July 12-22. 4 hours each day of zoom. As of now, they have 13 kids signed up. Hoping for more. Please help spread information.

SSP Update from Keystone and Deafstone

Lori Fisher provided an update on Keystone services for SSP in the East. Jess Adams was present to talk about Deafstone in the West. SSP Classes were hosted by ODHH and last two classes were full. Both agencies are working to increase outreach while they have the EPO's.

BY Law Discussion

The council led a by laws discussion about edits needing made. Including diversity, and other language changes are needed, and Michelle has asked for input sent via email.

There will be ongoing work to update the bylaws.

Sub Committee work

All Sub Committees were to put together goals and steps for the goals for the next meeting.

Amy brought up the letter of clear masks to Department of Health. Lots of discussion with no clear outcome. Lots of talk about funding from Department of Health and if clear masks are used.

Public Comment

Karen Leslie – Henry wanted to say good by to the council and thank everyone for her time. Her term ended.

Jerry Pena - brought up the Department of Health and Vaccination clinics. Making the public who need accessibility or accommodations, more aware of the clinics.

Nancy Kingsley– spoke about not seeing the interpreter’s lips during the zoom meeting.

Heather Schoenwald – Good work on the SSP program, it is improving, wants to add more deaf blind services to ODHH.

Michelle reminded the council that she sent out the bylaws and member expectations for feedback prior to the meeting. There were very few responses. She asked the council to please look over and provide feedback so that they can move forward.

Next Meeting is June 18, 2021

Alex Motioned to Adjourn.

Russ Second.

Meeting concluded.