

Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Quarterly Meeting, March 28, 2018 PaTTAN,
Harrisburg, PA

Members present: Don Rhoten, chair; Marsha Drenth, Russ Goddard, Devon Grant, Kelly Holland, Nancy Kingsley, Lori Leiman, Karen Leslie-Henry, Dale Long, Trisha Mader, Shatarupa Podder, Kay Tyberg, Sam Trychin

Absent: Jerald Cohen

ODHH staff: Denise Brown, Dee Dee Keiser, Ben Moonan

Guests: Harry Barnum, Liberty Resources; Sharon Behun, CILCP; Melissa Hawkins, DEC; Liz Hill, PSAD

Welcoming of New ACDHH Members

Marsha Drenth and Kay Tyberg, who were recently appointed to the ACDHH, introduced themselves. Marsha is the program manager for the support service provider (SSP) program of DeafBlind Living Well Services at the Center for Independent Living of Central Pennsylvania (CILCP). She has been deaf-blind for ten years. Kay is with several organizations serving deaf and hard of hearing people. The third new appointee, Jerald Cohen, was not present to introduce himself. Lori Leiman received an official appointment, after having filled part of another appointee's term.

Report--David DeNotaris

David presented a plaque to Don for his many years of service because this was his last meeting. He will be joining the state Board of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Planning is underway for the second year of the Summer Academy for deaf and hard of hearing students. There will also be a paid summer intern program for college students with disabilities.

OVR is having a strategic planning meeting with the members of its board, the Rehabilitation Council, and the Client Assistance program.

Melissa Hawkins has been appointed as the ODHH director and has been the executive director of the Disability Empowerment Center (the CIL of Lancaster and Lebanon counties) which has had a Deaf case management program for the past two years.

Review and Approval of the December 6 Minutes

Karen moved to approve the minutes, Russ seconded, and the motion passed.

MPOETC Curriculum Feedback—Denise Brown

In June, Isaac Suydam gave a presentation on the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) curriculum. The pages related to deaf and hard of hearing people (20-30 minutes of the 720 hours of instruction) were provided to the ACDHH for feedback.

Action Points: (1) The ACDHH, HLAA-PA, and PSAD will email any suggested changes or additions to Denise by May 7. (2) Denise will (a) ask ERCHL members to obtain input, (b) compile the information received from all sources, present it to the ACDHH for approval at the June 12 meeting, and then send it to Isaac Suydam, and (d) suggest that information about blindness and visual impairment be added to the curriculum.

Summer Academy Videos—Russ Goddard

Russ worked on four captioned videos that are on YouTube and emailed the following links after the meeting:

https://youtu.be/j_vYtOBHp7M - DHH Summer Academy Parents

<https://youtu.be/pZnytdCogjs> - DHH Summer Academy RAs

https://youtu.be/X_yLebpUg7o - DHH Summer Academy Teachers

<https://youtu.be/3pL4hGk3O40> - DHH Summer Academy Overview

TV News Emergency Announcements—Karen Leslie-Henry

Karen, Ben, Denise, and Shatarupa, along with interpreter Cindi Brown (who interprets the Governor's emergency communications) met several times via Zoom to discuss communication access for emergency broadcasts, in order to develop a best practices document for TV stations. The Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters can indicate how to get this information to the appropriate people.

The resulting draft has three points: (1) broadcast outlets should ensure that the ASL interpreter is fully visible throughout the emergency advisory broadcast; (2) captioning of the entire broadcast should be aired simultaneously; and (3) whenever possible, public access to the broadcast should be available after the initial airing, and information on where and how to access it should be included in the broadcast message. Karen had previously offered to also develop a list of who to contact at the TV stations about communication access complaints. It was suggested that the draft explain that sign language interpreting and captioning serve different hearing loss populations and that captions should be positioned so as not to overlap any written emergency information.

Action Point: The group will incorporate the feedback in a revised draft.

Roles of Disability Integration--Devon Heberlig

Devon is the director of the Division of Emergency Planning and Safety Operations for the Department of Human Services (DHS). A position of disability integration specialist (filled by Christine Heyser) was created 1-1/2 years ago to administer an ongoing Disability Integration Taskforce (DITF). Ben Moonan and Sharon Behun are on it. (Denise suggested that HLAA and PSAD might want to be represented as well.) The purpose is to bring stakeholders together, start communicating with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), and provide resources and guidance to the counties on integrated planning to address ADA needs. A disabilities integration playbook is also being created.

One of the biggest challenges is mass care and sheltering operations, which have been assigned to the Department of Human Services (DHS), although the Red Cross and Salvation Army also provide this, and the Red Cross does surveys of its shelters to ensure accessibility. DHS is working on using assistive technology and language translation apps. Multiple go kits are being developed so they can be provided where needed to ensure the availability of communication access technology. DHS held a Keystone 6 mass care and sheltering exercise last summer that included people with disabilities, and yearly exercises will be held in order to improve accessibility.

In Pennsylvania, local governments are responsible for emergency management; DHS just provides support to the counties, which are responsible for identifying residents with disabilities and keeping the records updated. Karen Leslie-Henry is involved with a group that oversees the southeastern Pennsylvania counties.

Action Point: Denise will obtain a PowerPoint from Devon and email it to the ACDHH.

Public Forum

Sharon Behun, CILCP's Director of Program Development Expansion, said that House Bill 2069 would allocate \$250,000 annually for SSP services for deafblind people. A hearing on the bill was scheduled for April 11, after which deafblind consumers planned to meet with their legislators, and a vote to get the bill out of committee was slated for April 18. Marsha Drenth asked for HLAA, PSAD, and the ACDHH to send letters of support to Sharon by April 3, using talking points that Sharon would email. Marsha noted that a meeting was scheduled with Kevin Hancock, Chief of Staff at the DHS Office of Long-term Living, to discuss integrating SSPs into managed care for deafblind people.

Liz Hill, president of the Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf, said that PSAD was hosting a rally at the state Capitol on April 9 to promote HB 2069 and to ask that ODHH report to directly to the Department of Labor & Industry instead of being under OVR.

Applicants for ACDHH Membership

Applications have been received from Liz Hill, John Hague, and Michelle Paonessa.

Action Point: Dee Dee will send the applications to the ACDHH so votes can be held at the June 12 meeting.

ACDHH Chairperson Election

The bylaws call for elections in June, but since this was Don's last meeting, the ACDHH decided to elect his successor during the current meeting.

Motion: Nancy moved to suspend the bylaws to allow the chairperson to be elected in March instead of June. Russ seconded and the motion passed.

Vote: Lori nominated Karen for chair, Shatarupa seconded, and Karen was elected.

Letter Draft for Department of Aging—Sam Trychin

Sam wrote a draft about hearing loss information that should be provided to facilities that house or serve the older population. Staff members need to be trained in how to communicate with people with hearing loss and facilities need to have the necessary technology.

ACDHH members suggested sending the letter to the Department of Health as well; including sources of information on the recommended steps; and clarifying the end targets for the training.

Action Points: (1) Karen will write to the Department of Aging to request a new ACDHH representative, include Sam's letter with the request, and work with the new representative to obtain funding for his recommendations. (2) Sam will prepare a new draft that includes sources of information on the recommended steps and who should receive the training.

Department Reports

Governor's Designee—Devon Grant

Devon serves two groups, the Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities (state departments and agencies) and the Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities (GACPWD, members of the community). He is also the Governor's Designee to the ACDHH and designee to the Pennsylvania State Task Force on the Right to Education.

Governor Wolf appointed new members to the Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, including PSAD President Liz Hill.

.Employment First was initiated by Gov. Wolf in March 2016 with the goal of increasing competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities. Quarterly progress reports are at www.dhspa.gov/prorities/focus-on. Legislation has also been introduced to make this policy permanent.

Pennsylvania is participating for the fourth year in the federal Employment First state Leadership Mentoring Program. The state will focus on engaging with employer partners, reasonable accommodations under the ADA and assistive technology in the workplace, and cultivating relationships with businesses. There will be a webinar series that anyone can register for, and captioned recordings are available.

Action Points: Devon will find out how (a) accommodations like CART can be requested for a webinar and (b) deafblind people can contact their legislators, since website contact procedures are often inaccessible.

The 2017 Pennsylvania Disability Employment and Empowerment Summit (PADES) was held in King of Prussia in December, with almost 700 attending, including about 400 students. This year's summit will be in the Harrisburg area.

The State Task Force on the Right to Education holds meetings by videoconference at all PaTTAN locations.

Department of Education—Shatarupa Podder

No report.

Department of Health—Kelly Holland

The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Committee and Infant Hearing Screening Advisory Committee were scheduled to meet on April 12. The latter committee will update the best practice guidelines for hospitals, birthing centers, and midwives and for reporting by audiologists.

Phase two of the data system implementation has been very successful, with only two or three hospitals not yet reporting their individual level hearing screening data. Phase three begins this summer, during which audiologists will be trained on how to enter their diagnostic information into the data system.

Kelly attended an early hearing detection and intervention conference that had a session about a captioned film (available on DVD) called *The Listening Project*, about young adults with cochlear implants. This might be good for the Summer Academy, and a shortened version is geared to middle school and high school students. (UPDATE: Kelly emailed additional details, along with the following link: www.thelisteningprojectfilm.org)

Department of Human Services—Trisha Mader

The first Deaf certified peer specialist training (to support Deaf people with mental health issues) took place in December in King of Prussia. Feedback will be collected and the training will be revised if necessary.

Department of Labor & Industry—Russ Goddard

OVR is now helping the new Deaf certified peer specialists to find jobs and has an agreement with the DHS' Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) to use funds, along with a federal matching grant, to provide more training not only to Deaf individuals but also to other disability groups.

The Summer Academy will be held from July 8-27 at Penn State with 24 resident assistants, about a quarter of whom have a hearing loss. There are 23 accepted high school students, with a goal of 25; others will be placed on a waiting list. Most of this year's students are hard of hearing; one or two are deafblind. With input from PaTTAN, the curriculum was modified to strengthen college skills, because the college dropout rate of Deaf and hard of hearing students is about 70%. Many referrals come from OVR rehabilitation counselors for the Deaf and PaTTAN hearing support teachers for the Deaf.

New Business

ACDHH Letter of Support for HB 2069

Motion: Karen moved that when the bullet points in support of House Bill 2069 to provide funding for SSPs for Deafblind people is received from Sharon Behun, the ACDHH will draft comments and provide them to her by April 3 for inclusion with the written letters of support. Dale seconded and the motion carried.