

**Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**  
**Quarterly Meeting, September 21, 2018**  
**PaTTAN, Harrisburg, PA**

**Members present:** Karen Leslie-Henry, chair; Russ Goddard, Devon Grant, Kelly Holland, Lori Leiman, Dale Long, Shatarupa Podder, Kay Tyberg, Sam Trychin [could observe remotely but not comment] Marsha Drenth, Trisha Mader

**Excused:** Jerald Cohen

**ODHH staff:** Denise Brown, Melissa Hawkins, Dee Dee Keiser, Ben Moonan

**Guests:** Harry Barnum, Liberty Resources; Nancy Kingsley, HLAA; Caitlin Ditzler, L&I; Ryan Hyde, OVR, Gabrielle Keeps, Observing Interpreter.

**Interpreters:** Jessica Bentley-Sassamon, Cindi Brown, Kym Funk-Mackilligan, Ashley Shenk

**CART** – Debbie Cunningham

**Review and Approval of June 21, 2018 Minutes**

Minutes were approved.

**Election for Vice President and Secretary**

Duties of Vice Chair and Secretary were explained. Marsha Drenth and Kay Tyberg both ran for Vice Chair. Ballots were drawn, and the votes counted in public by the Council Chair in accordance with the Sunshine Laws.

Kay Tyberg was elected Vice Chair

Secretary remains vacant.

**Report from Ryan Hyde, OVR Executive Director**

The advisory council welcomed newly appointed Acting OVR Executive Director Ryan Hyde (previously held by David DeNotaris). Mr. Hyde shared information about OVR programs. There were five summer academies that were launched across the commonwealth. Also launched were some summer programs that were not actual academies, so they did not involve overnight stays by the students. Pittsburgh held the “My Works” program which had about 200 kids attend. These students had part time jobs with various bureaus in Pittsburgh and with the city. This program is looking to expand next year to accommodate more students. These were all paid experiences. They are looking to replicate that program around the commonwealth in other locations. OVR did receive some federal funding this year. They can ask for additional funding which would happen at the end of the State Fiscal year. July 1<sup>st</sup> was the implementation of the new supported employment policy. This was voted on two years ago by the state OVR Board and approved. OVR has successfully implemented the policy into their vendors and trained all their staff.

### **Increasing Deaf & Hard of Hearing Representation on Accessibility & Disability Forums in PA**

With some discussion from Melissa Hawkins, Director of ODHH, and council Members, a list was created of what Boards and Council deaf or hard of hearing representation served. Melissa is putting together a more formal list. For the Council for the December meeting.

Action Point: Melissa Hawkins will develop a more comprehensive list.

### **Serving the Deaf Population with Mental Health & Long-Term Care Needs**

Discussion was done on where services existed. PAHpartners, Alleghany Deaf mental health Task Force, Lisa Hillberg and DR Kimm Mattias. Health Bridges was also mentioned. Denise Brown, ODHH Representative reminded everyone of the ODHH Resource list which includes all these groups and resources. She also reminded the Council, and public members to use the resource list and ensure that the community knows it is there.

### **Guest Speaker Charles Quinnel, PA Long Term Care Council**

This Council (under the Department of Aging), which meets quarterly and is charged with making recommendations on regulations, licensure, financing and other responsibilities of the departments and agencies that relate to long-term services. Mr. Quinnel gave an overview of what this council does through a power point presentation. Karen Leslie-Henry thanked Mr. Quinnel for the presentation and provided him with a copy of the request to Secretary Osborne for representation from the Aging Department to service on ACDHH.

### **Department Reports**

#### **Governor's Designee—Devon Grant**

The Governors Committee for people held their last meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>. This meeting was a strategic planning session. Prior to this session they had a listening forum held via telephone/conference call. There were some technical issues with this call. It was noted that PATTAN is switching their webinar platforms. The Governor's office is putting together the Employment First Cabinet and Committee. They are starting to figure out what this employment first act is going to look like. The Governor's office is who they put in charge of implementing the act. Devon's report also included recent press releases from that office, all of which are accessible on the Committee's website: [www.dhs.pa.gov/communitypartners/govcommitteeforppplwdisabil](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/communitypartners/govcommitteeforppplwdisabil)

**Department of Education—Shatarupa Podder**

Department of Education has submitted a five-year grant application. The primary focus of this is students that are deaf-blind in the state creating some regional model sites or expertise because it is such a low incidence population not all students have students that are deaf-blind. The number of people with expertise is limited.

**Department of Health—Kelly Holland**

The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) advisory committee will meet again in November. They are also working on an educational document and resource to provide guidance on Educational Interpreters. The situations keep arising where educational interpreters are being told/asked to interpret when visitors come such as the police. They are not the ones that are appropriate for that setting for that communication. But the principal is saying you do it right now. It gets very hard for the interpreter to say no. They can do it in an emergency but not in a regular fashion.

**Department of Labor and Industry (L&I)—Russ Goddard**

The Summer Academy was held July 9-27. Wound up with 28 kids attending and completing. They received 3 college credits for attending. These students are customers of OVR. They will be tracked allowing OVR to collect data over a long period to determine how well they are succeeding. Skills covered included Independent Living Skills, self-advocacy, vocational development as well as social and emotional skills.

**Department of Human Services—Trisha Mader**

Nothing to report.

**ODHH Report—Melissa Hawkins**

There are currently 441 state-registered interpreters and 59 provisionally registered ones. ODHH was very pleased to be a part of the Summer Academy. The students, staff and program itself were exemplary. ACT 57 Stakeholders Group will meet in October and hopefully finalize the recommendations to be passed on for amending the Act. Ms. Hawkins also advised the ODHH Hearing Loss Expo will be held next November 13 - 14, 2019. A save the date and event details will be coming soon.

**Guest Speaker Joanne Manganello, Legislative Director Labor and Industry**

Ms. Manganello gave a brief overview of the board appointment process and legislative process. The appointment process was discussed, and it was noted the by-laws contain our appointment process. It was relayed we have two unfilled Appointees of the House and Senate and Ms. Manganello will be assisting us with those appointments.

## **Old Business**

### **PA Association of Broadcasters Revised Letter Draft---Karen Leslie-Henry**

Karen revised the draft encouraging the provision of ASL interpreting and captioning for emergency announcements, mentioning that this information should be shared directly with the people responsible for implementation at the local level. In sharing the updated version additional needed changes were identified. Karen apologized for the confusion and will make the corrections.

### **New Business – 2019 Meeting Dates**

New dates were chosen for the Council meetings in 2019. March 15, June 7, September 20 and December 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Comments**

Nancy Kingsley spoke to the Council and asked they draft a letter of support to the PA Utility Commission for the inclusion of mobile devices to its TDDP program. PA State HLA has already sent a letter supporting this effort.

Harry Barnum commented about the need for the third representative to be hired in the ODHH office and registered a request for ODHH to be moved out from under OVR. He also questioned how Council members are recruited and requested that advertising be directed to the Deaf Community for advisory council positions.

### **Adjournment**

Karen thanked everyone for their time and commitment and the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 pm.

In the absence of a council secretary these minutes were prepared by Melissa Hawkins, Executive Director ODHH.