

**. Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Quarterly Meeting, September 27, 2017
PaTTAN, Harrisburg, PA**

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

Excused: Trisha Mader, Donna Reinaker

ODHH staff: Denise Brown, Dee Dee Keiser

Guest: Frank Nemschick, PSAD

Minutes for June 28, 2017: Karen moved to approve and the motion passed.

Follow-Up Items

White Paper—Nancy Kingsley, Karen Leslie-Henry

Nancy and Karen added two references to the white paper on the difference between deaf and hard of hearing people.

Action Point: ODHH will submit the white paper to the press office so it can be posted on the ACDHH web page and Denise will inform the ACDHH when it gets posted.

Sam Trychin Video—Russ Goddard, Sam Trychin

Russ has been working with the OVR training department on making the two-hour video available to the ACDHH.

Action Point: Russ will check whether OVR's software has been upgraded yet to caption Sam's video and whether it has been captioned.

Texas ODHH—Dale Long

At the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) convention, Dale spoke to the HLAA's Texas State Office state director [Jason Taylor], who is a hearing loss resource specialist for the state's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. He told Dale that Texas has eight each of deafness resource specialists and hearing loss resource specialists.

Action Point: Dale will find out where the funding comes from for the Texas specialists and what services they provide.

Act 57—Denise Brown

After the two remaining stakeholder meetings this year, a draft will be written concerning the recommended changes in provisional registration, including expanding it from three to five years and

providing mentoring. The draft will utilize the results of a survey that stakeholders will take to their constituents, including whether to keep Exemption 5, which allows a Deaf person to request a non-registered interpreter. Anyone can attend the stakeholder meetings, but only the designated stakeholders can participate. The meetings will resume next year with the survey results.

ODHH wants to be able to set up a revolving account so the interpreter registration fees can accrue in ODHH's account instead of having to be spent every year.

ODHH Staff Update—Denise Brown, Dee Dee Keiser

ODHH has a contract with Commonwealth Media Services for three 30-minute general audience videos about hard of hearing issues and plans to ask to add a fourth by Sam Trychin. The first three will be made on November 16 and 17 by Bill Best and Kay Tyberg. Kay will do two, the first about what a hearing loss is and the second on hearing loss etiquette and communication strategies. The third will be by Bill on assistive technology for hard of hearing people, and Sam's video will be about the psychological effects of hearing loss. There will be an interpreter and the videos will be captioned. They will be ready for release by January 20.

Denise was scheduled to attend a Lifesharing Conference to give a presentation about individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and have mental health issues. (Lifesharing is a new alternative to group homes in which community members take in one or two people with special needs.) She also arranged to present on communication access to group home staff members who work with individuals with intellectual disabilities, in keeping with the [Harry M.] lawsuit settlement. ODHH is working with the Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA) program and the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). Free online training is available for parents and for professionals working with deaf and hard of hearing children.

Municipal Police Training Curriculum Special Needs Coverage—Isaac Suydam, MPOETC

Isaac Suydam is the director of training for the state Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC), which was established in 1974 to standardize the training curriculum for Pennsylvania municipal police officers. He also belongs to the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training. There are about 1100 municipal police departments in Pennsylvania, almost 24,000 certified municipal police officers, and approximately two dozen police academies. Philadelphia has 6000 officers while some departments have just one or two.

When Mr. Suydam took his position [2-1/2 years ago, the basic police curriculum was in the process of being revised for the first time in 15 years. The revision process had included a survey of police officers and supervisors. The Commission just voted to approve the new curriculum, which is 919 hours long (up from 754) and will go into effect in January. The training takes 23 weeks full-time, but some of the academies run part-time and it can take as a year that way. There are 20 volumes with about 80 sections, and Volume 12 is on responding to special needs. Within that, there are 3 sections. One deals with crisis, one with recognizing special needs, and one with mental health issues. The curriculum

includes clear learning objectives and a topical outline of material that needs to be taught, as well as an instructor reference document for each section. Each academy then develops a lesson plan.

The most important things police officers need to learn about recognizing special needs is how to determine whether a person who doesn't respond to a command has a special need or mental health issue or is a criminal who is deliberately disobeying them, and how to respond appropriately, e.g. to wait for an interpreter before interviewing a Deaf person. This section is just 8 hours long, but officers are taught in general to try to de-escalate situations. At the end of the program there's a scenario block, and one of the scenarios each cadet is required to be evaluated on is a special needs scenario.

There is a legislative requirement for police officers to do 12 hours of in-service training each year. The Commission can make a course as mandatory for all or officers can chose among elective courses.

Action Point: The ACDHH will review the deaf and hard of hearing section of the curriculum, make recommendations at the next meeting, and compile and submit them to Isaac Suydam.

ODHH Director Search and OVR Update--David DeNotaris

Labor and Industry Secretary Kathy Manderino took a new job with the Commonwealth on August 1 and Governor Wolf nominated Jerry Oleksiak to replace her. It is believed that he will be confirmed in October. In the meantime, the second round of interviews for the ODHH director position have been put on hold. There were 33 applicants, 17 of whom met the minimum education standards and were interviewed. After a director is hired, filling the field representative vacancy can be considered.

OVR has run many summer initiatives including the summer academies for students who are blind or visually impaired, students with autism, students with learning disabilities, and students who are deaf or hard of hearing. There was a summer program at the Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia for students not on the college track, and a similar one is needed for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. OVR is working with the Office of Administration to start a paid college summer internship in state government for college juniors and seniors with disabilities.

Action Point: Shatarupa will ask the Bureau of Special Education to assist OVR to develop a summer academy for non-college track students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

OVR recently assisted with the launch of the Pennsylvania Planning for the Future Checklist IOS and Android app that enables parents and teachers to learn about services available for individuals with disabilities. The Bureau of Special Education and the 21 and Able [United Way initiative] assisted, and feedback is invited.

Action Point: Karen will ask parents from the parent group at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf to review the app and provide feedback for David DeNotaris.

OVR continues to work on getting appointments to the Pennsylvania State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council as well other state advisory councils. Everyone is invited to the next State Board [of Vocational Rehabilitation] meeting from 9 to noon on

December 7 in Harrisburg. The board meets four times a year, twice in Harrisburg and twice in other locations. Appointments are made by the governor, and travel and hotel expenses are covered. Applicants need to submit a brief letter describing why they are interested in serving and a copy of their resume. Only six of the ten positions are currently filled.

Action Points: (1) ACDHH members will consider recommending one or two employed people to represent deaf and hard of hearing people on the State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation. (2) Dee Dee will send the resumes of previously recommended nominees for ACDHH public member positions to David to send to Deputy Secretary O'Brien, the liaison for the governor's office for appointments.

OVR's Pittsburgh office held a work initiative, and over 200 high school students obtained paid jobs at 30 municipalities. The Hiram G. Andrews Center ran several summer initiatives that focused on assistive technology. In January, HGAC is starting new training programs in welding and pharmacy tech. Pennsylvania has over 19 Project SEARCH locations assisting students with disabilities to learn about jobs in the medical field.

OVR is working with the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services on Experience the Employment Connection (EEC) to increase employment for Pennsylvanians with disabilities. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and all OVR offices are participating and having a career fair or other activities to educate customers, their families, and employers about the potential of people with disabilities. December 6-7 is the Pennsylvania Disability Employment and Empowerment Summit (PADES). Pennsylvania will be the first state to work with Apple to open a warehouse (in the Harrisburg area), with Apple committing to 30 percent of their work force being people with disabilities (over 150 jobs). OVR continues to work with the Statewide Independent Living Council in getting the Pittsburgh CIL reestablished.

Department Reports

Department of Education—Shatarupa Podder

Last week Governor Wolf announced that we have received a new state personnel development grant from the feds for \$7.2 million over five years. We're going to be working with personnel in the school districts—teachers, coaches, administrators and will partner with parent centers in the state like the Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership (PEAL) Center and HUNE [Hispanos Unidos para Niños Excepcionales].to focus on decreasing dropout rates. The name of the grant is Middle School Success: The Path to Graduation. Students usually drop out in the ninth and tenth grades not the 11th and 12th grades, so the premise is if we can have them go through a successful middle school experience the likelihood of dropping out decreases. Implementation will start in the next school year.

A part-time parent consultant has been employed by PaTTAN to assist parents of students who are deaf and hard of hearing. This person is available to answer parent questions, help with outreach to parents, and provide the parent perspective on trainings that PaTTAN develops

Department of Labor and Industry—Russ Goddard

Pennsylvania has 500 school districts, and usually there are only one or two children with hearing loss in different grade levels. The summer academy at Penn State provides an opportunity for deaf and hard of hearing high school students planning to go to college or trade school to get together to learn about vocational planning, effective social interactions, financial management, teamwork, self-advocacy, and communication access technology. The program is offered in partnership with the Bureau of Special Education, PaTTAN, ERCHL, and ODHH. The department is looking to expand this program from two weeks to three weeks and of offering a 3-credit college course during it. Of the 29 resident assistants and supervisors, 26 were hearing, and the department hopes to hire more deaf and hard of hearing role models. Videos of academy activities will be placed on YouTube.

Action Point: Russ will inform the ACDHH when the summer academy videos are uploaded.

Two concepts the summer academy will focus on are sharing incidental learning (what hearing people overhear) with the students and reducing their concentration fatigue.

Department of Health—Kelly Holland

The department receives an early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI) grant from the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration that funds the main hearing screening program. The new funding started on April 1, at which time its purpose was changed to focus much more on engaging families, PCPs, and other providers in the EHDI program.

The first requirement is to create regional small group learning communities to make sure that the 1-3-6 guidelines are followed (all babies screened by one month of age, receive diagnostic evaluation by 3 months of age, and if they're diagnosed with a hearing loss, be enrolled in early intervention by six months of age). Anne Gaspich is in charge of setting up the learning communities, and the first one met about two weeks ago at PaTTAN. The second new action is creating a larger EHDI advisory group, so stakeholders from different areas were brought together and Denise is representing ODHH on that committee. It includes representatives from the Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf (PSAD), audiologists, and all the schools for the Deaf in the state. The first meeting was held in August. The department works closely with the Guide By Your Side program, which matches a family with a child newly diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing with a parent guide who helps walk them through early intervention process.

A second grant was just received from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), related to information technology (IT) systems for the EHDI program. The focus is improving the data system to make sure the 1-3-6 guidelines are being met.