

Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Quarterly Meeting, September 30, 2016
OVR Building, Harrisburg, PA

Members present: Don Rhoten, chair; Devon Grant, Nancy Kingsley, Lori Leiman, Karen Leslie-Henry, Dale Long, Trisha Mader, Shatarupa Podder, Donna Reinaker, Sam Trychin (by phone)

ODHH staff: Sharon Behun, Dee Dee Keiser, Ben Moonan

Guests: Missy Derr, PUC; Matt Krupp, OVR director's executive assistant; Jessica Marks, director, WPSD Central PA Outreach; Kay Tyberg, HLAA-PA & TRS council

Minutes for March 11, 2016: Karen moved to approve the minutes, Dale seconded, and the motion passed.

Action Points (AP) from June 3 Meeting

AP 1: *Sam, Donna, and Shatarupa will determine who should receive hearing loss training and how it can be arranged; prepare documentation showing why it is needed so a proposal for funding can be written; and provide an update at the September meeting*

Action Points: Before November 3, (1) Nancy, Shatarupa, Donna, and Sam will act as a committee to prepare a white paper to explain the differences in characteristics and needs of Deaf and hard of hearing people (2) Nancy will send the committee members the relevant information that she has (3) Sam will send the committee members an outline of the content of a training for those working with hard of hearing people (this can be developed into a captioned video)

Future Actions: (1) Training should be provided where the need is greatest, e.g. continuing care retirement communities and hospitals (2) Grants could be sought from the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council (PADDC) aging agencies, the Department of Health, etc. and Sam could make presentations to volunteer groups for this purpose. (3) Training programs for VR personnel from Arkansas and Minnesota could be revised for other service providers (aging, mental health, etc.); Sam offered to work with someone from the ACDHH to request the programs and edit them as the ACDHH desires (4) A 15-minute video developed by the PA Homecare Association with a grant from the PA Department of Aging needs expansion to more fully cover emotional aspects of hearing loss, assistive listening devices, communication issues, etc.; it should be viewed by the ACDHH (5) A basic hearing loss training captioned video needs to be developed about the differences between Deaf and hard of hearing people, the communication needs of hard of hearing people, common dysfunctional responses to hearing loss (e.g.. denial, bluffing, and withdrawal), etc.

AP 2: *(1) Nancy will write letters for Don to sign, requesting ACDHH representatives from the Departments of Health and L & I and will send Don copies of the letters that were sent to the House and*

Senate requesting appointments. (2) Don will contact the Senate and House recipients to remind them that the ACDHH needs their representatives.

AP 3: *Don will review the ACDHH bylaws with Sharon for discussion at the next meeting and will visit the ODHH office to learn how it works.*

AP 4: *At the next meeting, ODHH staffers Sharon, Denise, and Ben will discuss some of the things they do on a regular basis and some of their accomplishments.*

This will be done at the December meeting.

Action Point: At the next meeting, ODHH staffers Sharon, Denise, and Ben will discuss some of the things they do on a regular basis and some of their accomplishments

AP 5: *Nancy will provide David DeNotaris with the information concerning the plans for OVR to provide appropriate services for nonsigning people with hearing loss.*

Nancy emailed David but never heard back. She noted that the state has no program that specifically assists hard of hearing people, although it has programs to assist Deaf people and deaf-blind people.

Action Point: Don and Nancy will arrange to meet with David DeNotaris at the Hearing Loss Expo on November 3 to discuss implementing the online VR training to enable orally communicating OVR counselors to work with nonsigning people with hearing loss and will bring the white paper explaining the difference between Deaf and hard of hearing characteristics and needs.

AP 6: *Don will put Act 57 on the agenda for the next ACDHH meeting and invite Neil McDevitt to discuss the issue further.*

This will be done at the December meeting.

Action Point: Don will put Act 57 on the agenda for the next ACDHH meeting and invite Neil to discuss the issue further.

Review of the ACDHH's Official Responsibilities, Bylaws, and Member Expectations

There are three documents: the law that created ODHH/ACDHH., the ACDHH bylaws adopted September 10, 2014, and the member expectations.

Action Point: At the December meeting, Nancy will explain the differences between the 2013 and 2014 bylaws and the ACDHH will discuss the law that created ODDH, the 2014 ACDHH bylaws, and the ACDHH member expectations.

Purpose of the ACDHH

The ACDHH mission statement, which is included in the bylaws, is:

“The mission of the Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is to make recommendations and advocate to improve public and private services and obtain equal access for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.”

Action Point: The ACDHH will set up several priorities to carry out during the next year, with concrete recommendations for achieving them. One will be getting OVR to provide hearing loss training to orally communicating counselors to enable them serve nonsigning people with hearing loss and another will be raising awareness about the differences between the characteristics and needs of Deaf and hard of hearing people.

ACDHH Table at the Hearing Loss Expo

Council members signed up to staff this table on November 2 and 3.

ODHH Report--Sharon Behun

For this year’s Hearing Loss Expo, videos in sign language with voice interpreting or spoken with an interpreter, all captioned, are on the website. There will be T-shirts to identify staff and working interpreters. Many children’s activities will be offered, and three interactive workshops will be geared toward service providers: the hard of hearing experience (by Clarke School), a tactile experience on deaf-blindness, and Deaf Town USA. A workshop on hard of hearing needs by Kay Tyberg and Bill Best will be added. [Five educational presentations are also offered.] There will be 80 exhibitors and an invitation-only networking reception with sponsors for the presenters, exhibitors, and volunteers. Hearing screenings will again be done by Bloomsburg University audiology students, and this year there will also be vision screenings and flu shots. Last year 500- 600 people attended, and ODHH hopes to get 1000 this year. ODHH also drafted an email to send to hearing service providers.

ACDHH Membership

There are currently three public member vacancies and no representatives from the Departments of Health and of Labor & Industry or from the Assembly or Senate, and letters have been sent to request the appointments. Jerald Cohen and Kay Tyberg have been recommended to fill public member vacancies and Harvey Corson and Marsha Drenth will be interviewed in December. Four public members are in USQ; one (Lori) served part of another person’s vacant term and was recommended for appointment to her own full term. The other three are Nancy, Don, and Sam. It was suggested that members in USQ be replaced in order of seniority, unless a USQ member volunteers to be replaced. However, this approach would not work for members who are appointed at the same time, which is the case with Don and Sam and may also occur with the next round of appointments. When the law authorizing the ACDHH was passed, the initial public member term lengths were staggered to avoid this.

Action Points: (1) Don will contact Jerald Cohen to find out if he is still interested in serving and able to attend the ACDHH meetings, since he also has a Florida residence. (2) With Sharon’s help, Don will write up a USQ replacement plan, asking for volunteers to be first off and if there are none, going by

seniority (this proposal would then need to be added to the bylaws). (3) Nancy will send Harvey Corson's application to the ACDHH again.

New Business

Policy and Procedure for Posting Minutes on the ACDHH Website

Action Point: The ACDHH will begin developing a policy and procedures manual, starting with posting the meeting minutes on the ACDHH web page.

New CEOs at Schools for the Deaf

There are new CEOs at both the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD) and the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (PSD). WPSD has offices in Harrisburg, Scranton, and Pittsburgh, and PSD is very active in Philadelphia.

Action Point: Don will schedule the new WPSD and PSD CEOs to discuss their outreach programs at the March 2017 ACDHH meeting.

Microphones for ACDHH Meetings

OVR has few working microphones that can be used at ACDHH and other meetings, thus requiring the constant passing around of the available ones. OVR doesn't have a tech person to troubleshoot and is seeking a grant to change the videoconferencing.

Action Point: Sharon will contract with a hotel for ACDHH meetings beginning in March.

Police and Drivers Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Incidents have occurred in which police have misinterpreted actions by Deaf and hard of hearing drivers due to communication issues. On the ODHH website, it may be desirable to include guidelines for Deaf and hard of hearing people on dealing with the police.

Action Point: Don will ask for representatives from the Pennsylvania State Police and the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association to come to the March 2017 ACDHH meeting to discuss the training they receive in dealing with Deaf and hard of hearing people and what improvements can be made.

Public Comments—Kay Tyberg

On September 2 in the Center for independent Living of South Central Pennsylvania, Leslie Kelly and Kay held a program on "Help! My Patient Can't Hear" and invited the local police departments, fire departments, and EMTs. Kay recommended a mock drill process with people with disabilities.

Items for the December 9 Agenda

1. Interviews of Harvey Corson and Marsha Drenth
2. ODHH staff members' reports.
3. Neil McDevitt's presentation on Act 57
4. Review of 2014 ACDHH bylaws
5. Committee report: White paper and video/curriculum outline
6. Russ Goddard's presentation on state guidelines and OVR training
7. ACDHH public member replacements
8. 2017 meeting dates

Department Reports

Department of Education--Shatarupa Podder

States are required to send a State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (the SPP/APR) to the U.S. Department of Education to show how they are complying with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and Pennsylvania met all its goals. Of the seven largest states (New York, Texas, Illinois, Ohio, California, Florida, and Pennsylvania), Pennsylvania was the only one that met the requirements for 9 out of 10 years. The Pennsylvania Departments of Labor and Industry, Human Services, and Education are working on Governor Wolf's Employment First executive order.

Department of Human Services—Trisha Mader

Pennsylvania was one of the states that received a federal planning grant for certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHCs). The department selected ten providers from nine counties. Recovery Innovations International, the contractor chosen for the Deaf Certified Peer Specialist training made the necessary revisions to the curriculum so that it is specific to Deaf individuals. They submitted a budget to the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) for hiring and training a Deaf facilitator and piloting the training, and when the budget is agreed on, the pilot program will begin.

Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities—Devon Grant

The employment plan for people with disabilities has 11 priorities. The last is implement, monitor, and provide accountability. The first of the two recommendations under it is for the Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities and the second for the Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, to ensure that the departments are doing what they agreed to do. The art contest had over 400 entries in five media categories, and the award ceremony was held in the Capitol Rotunda. The Pennsylvania Disability Employment and Empowerment Summit (PADES) was scheduled in Erie on October 17 and 18. There was a \$20 registration fee, and exhibitors were charged for their tables. A job fair was included, with about 40 employers interviewing people.

Shatarupa moved to adjourn, Nancy seconded, and the meeting concluded at 12:10 p.m.