

CODHHE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 19, 2010
6:30 PM – Delaware School for the Deaf
Newark, Delaware

PRESENT: Richard Pelletier, Chair, DSD; Loretta Sarro, Co-Chair, DODHH; Peg Stewart, Treasurer, DSD; Julia Sullivan, HLADE; and Kyle Hodges, Staff.

INTERPRETERS

Lois Steele
Pam D'Occhio

CALL TO ORDER

Rich Pelletier called the meeting to order at 6:53 PM.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Kyle added the following:

- ♦ Dover Police Issue
- ♦ Human Relations Commission Interpretation
- ♦ DPC Interpreting Policy

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was not a quorum; therefore the March minutes will be addressed at the June 16th meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Peg reported that the balance as of March 31, 2010 is \$9,736.38 and as of April 30, 2010 the balance is \$9,736.96. Peg explained that she has not had the opportunity to speak with anyone at the IRS and will pay the \$2 that IRS is withholding.

BUSINESS

Election of Officers

Kyle referred to the nomination form in the meeting packet and said that, according to the By-Laws, people cannot serve more than two consecutive terms, so Rich and Peg would not be eligible for reelection. Kyle stated that, at the last meeting, it had been suggested that the Treasurer would have no term limits. Kyle explained that, in order to do this, the

By-Laws need to be amended. Peg commented that it was a good idea to have different perspectives and having a different person serve as Chair. Kyle referred to another handout that showed draft changes to the By-Laws, Article IV (page 2), which is changing the word “Officers” to “Chairperson” and “Vice-Chairperson” and also “There are no term limits for Treasurer.” Kyle stated these By-Laws changes need to be approved. Kyle asked for approval of these changes and he will then forward to the rest of the Council members for approval (one more vote is needed). Everyone agreed to these changes. Kyle also requested the nomination of offices forms be given to him before the meeting ended. Rich and Julie stated that they do not want to be nominated for any positions. Peg agreed to continue as Treasurer, but would not be interested in serving as Chair. Loretta agreed to serve as Chair or Vice-Chair if nominated. Christy will be removed as a Council member since she has taken leave and is focusing on the Behavioral Health Committee. Suggestion was made to possibly have someone else from IRI serve on this Council. Kyle will check on this and check with Christy on her plans.

Deaf Bill of Rights

Kyle stated that this bill has not yet been introduced, but will let everyone know when that happens. Kyle will draft a letter of support for this since Council had voted to send a letter of support.

Choices & DSD Presentations to SCPD

Kyle spoke about a Powerpoint presentation (handout) provided by Choices at the March 15th SCPD meeting and a letter sent by SCPD to Secretary Lowery (DOE). SCPD has not received a response. Kyle also mentioned that Della, Deb and Tina also presented at the May 17th SCPD meeting.

Loretta gave a summary of DSD’s presentation in which they explained the Statewide Programs for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind Programs. Loretta said they addressed the following subjects: Parents Program; individual students and how they gear their education to the specific needs of the students; IDEA; dorm programs; the Parent Child Program; mainstreaming; utilizing the resources available (some students needed more support than others); and Continuum of Options for ages 0-5. Loretta added that Deb spoke of her own experiences as a deaf person and gave specific examples of how students’ educational needs vary. Nick Fina spoke about how the deaf label does not suit everybody (for example, those with Cochlear implants). Loretta added that she also spoke about her personal experience and attending DSD and Kirk Middle School. Loretta said that Deb also spoke about how some students only sign, others sign and voice for themselves, and some prefer voicing and no signing. Statistics were also given on students who are going on to college.

Kyle was asked if he was involved in Choices and what the State Council’s position is with Choices. Kyle responded that he is not involved with Choices, but Nick Fina is a member of SCPD and is an active member of Choices. Kyle also explained that the letter

(handout) attached to Choices presentation was a suggested draft, not the letter that was actually sent. Kyle will have Jo email the final letter that was sent.

Funding for Summer Camps

This was tabled since Josh could not attend.

ADA Celebration

Kyle reported that there will be an ADA 20th celebration on July 26th at the Pavilion in Rehoboth Beach from 12 noon – 3 pm. The Delaware Coalition on the ADA is planning the event and Kyle and some others are involved in the planning. The Lt. Governor will be doing introductions and Eagle 97 will be doing DJ activities. There will be a disability walk & roll on the Boardwalk. Kyle invited everyone to this event and hoped to have a flier available soon that can be distributed.

DPC Interpreting Policy

Kyle stated that the BHDC has been working on revisions to this policy (handout) for a while and this is the latest version, which has been forwarded to DPC. Kyle will send this document out electronically and would like comments sent to him by June 1. Rich asked about the RI.2.100. Kyle will find out what that means and where it fits. Loretta added that a lot of changes have been made to this document and Josh had contributed a lot to these changes. Kyle said that Steve Dettwyler was to present this to DSAMH Director Kevin Ann Huckshorn. The BHDC met yesterday, but had not received feedback as yet (Steve did not attend). Kyle will be following up on this and added that DPC has been receptive to making these changes.

Dover Police Department Issue

Kyle spoke about an issue that the Disabilities Law Program (DLP) was involved with regarding a person who filed a complaint against the Dover Police Department because they did not effectively communicate with a client. As part of the agreement reached, a Directive Memorandum (handout) was sent to all Officers from Major Bernat, Deputy Chief of Police, saying that an interpreter will be provided on an as-needed basis. Rich commented that the deaf individual has a choice of a preferred mode of communication, not at the officer's discretion as stated in the Memorandum (first sentence). Kyle suggested that it may need to say "when appropriate" because there are situations, for example, regarding a speeding ticket, that an interpreter would not be needed. However, there are situations where someone is arrested and should have an interpreter present. Peg asked if there has been any request for follow up or was any in-service training done to the officer involved in the complaint. Pam commented (stepping out of her role as interpreter) that there were errors in the letter, starting with the name of her company and address. Pam explained that the representation came from Community Legal Aid Society of Delaware (CLASI) and stated that the statement "in the officer's discretion" had been part of the discussion. Pam stated that it had been discussed that the deaf or hard of

hearing person will make a request about the mode of communication they want to use and there had been discussion of using a deaf hearing team, which was met with serious resistance. Pam said there was also discussion about “reasonable attempt” and this can be interpreted in several ways. Kyle asked if “reasonable attempt” would be defined and agreed upon. Pam said the agreement was very loose, saying that preferably the police would have some kind of on-call service and the police were not open to that idea. Question was raised if CLASI was aware of this. Pam felt that CLASI received one perspective from the police and she had received a different perspective. Pam has relayed this to CLASI. Pam felt that things should have been clarified better before a document went out. Pam will follow up with CLASI and be here next time as a participant, not as interpreter. Kyle asked if there is a signed contract at this time and Pam stated no, and that she needs everything correct and spelled out, and agreement need to be reached.

Human Relations Commission Interpretation

Kyle spoke about a letter (handout) written by the SCPD to CLASI/DLP regarding an interpretation issued by the Division of Human Relations which enforces discrimination in places of public accommodations. The Human Relations Commission (HRC) had received a complaint regarding a hospital not providing interpreter services for a deaf person who had been hospitalized for several days and the person also could not read or write. The HRC stated this was not a discrimination issue. Kyle asked for the CODHHE’s endorsement of this letter. This was agreed to by the group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Loretta stated there was a meeting for emergency preparedness on Friday, May 14. There will be a 911 Volunteer Registration form and they are requesting feedback. This form will be online. Loretta stated that she would bring the form to the CODHHE meeting. Loretta is looking for five volunteers to test this form online and is working with Terry Whitham.

Julia announced that HLADE has decided to drop the petition for Captel. In talks with national HLA, HLADE felt that analog will become obsolete.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at 6:30 PM at DSD and food will be provided.

Respectively submitted,

Kyle Hodges
CODHHE Administrator
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