

Council on the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

MINUTES

DECEMBER 14, 10:00AM – 4:00PM
2012

1 WEST WILSON, MADISON

MEETING CALLED BY	Billy Mauldin
PRESENT	Gary Ebben, Mary Jane Griffin, Tracy Haas, Billy Mauldin, Alex Slappey, Steve Smart
ODHH STAFF PRESENT	Linda Huffer, Melani Kaplan
ABSENT	Denise Johnson, Tami Klink, Justin Vollmar
INTERPRETERS	Amber Mullet, Amy Simonsen
CAPTIONIST	Rose Coulthart

Meeting called to order at 10:05am by Billy Mauldin, Chair.

Agenda topics

COUNCIL MEMBERS INTRODUCTION & APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

DISCUSSION		
<p>Tracy Haas – New Council Member introduced herself. Works for large mental health facility in Wisconsin as a Residential Coordinator. Also serves on the UW-Whitewater Social Work Advisory Board. Has a hearing loss as do her husband’s family members.</p>		
<p>Steve Smart and Tracy Haas agreed that it would be a good idea to get some of the students with whom Tracy works involved in Council projects or on the Council to get a broader perspective.</p>		
<p>Steve Smart motioned that the September meeting minutes are approved as is. Mary Jane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

DISCUSSION	
<p>Due to the absence of Denise Johnson, Tami Klink and Justin Vollmar, the election was postponed. Vice-Chair responsibilities include supporting the position of Chairman, running meetings in the absence of the Chair, serving as the part of the Executive Committee for the Council. Melani will ask Justin if he is interested in running for the Vice-Chair position. The election will happen via email before the next meeting in March.</p>	

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Contact Justin to see if he is interested in running for the Vice-Chair position.	Melani Kaplan	2/15/13

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DISCUSSION
<p>Staff Updates – Karen Dishno, former ODHH Administrative Support, has transferred to a different area in the Department of Health Services. Her part-time position will not be replaced.</p> <p>Deaf-Blind Equipment Support – ODHH in partnership with the Public Service Commission and the Center for Deaf-Blind Persons in Milwaukee wrote and received a grant to create a program similar to TEPP to help them receive adaptive equipment. It is up and running. There have been 13 applications for assistance thus far.</p> <p>Community Outreach – ODHH staff have attended quite a few events in the community. They include the HLAA Council meeting in Stevens Point, Deaf Awareness Fest in Oak Creek, Town Hall meeting in the Fox Valley Area, Round Table Conference in Madison for the Wisconsin Association for the Deaf, WisRID Fall Conference, and more.</p> <p>Project Updates – A new brochure has been developed and posted to the website. The Annual Report is in process and should be ready by January.</p> <p>Signs at the Zoo – The Henry Vilas Zoo has agreed to allow ODHH and partners to host a Signs at the Zoo event on their grounds on Saturday, September 14th. Volunteers will teach signs at animal enclosures and throughout the zoo. The Zoo will be supporting the marketing of the event via their Facebook page and contacts in the media. Planning meetings will be starting soon.</p> <p>Wisconsin Association of the Deaf (WAD) – The Director continues to meet with the WAD President, Jenny Buechner, on a regular basis to hear their concerns and issues and to find ways in which to partner with them.</p> <p>Wisconsin Interpreting and Transliterating Assessment (WITA) – The WITA is still in the process of being revamped and should be ready for implementation soon.</p>

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION
<p>ByLaws Revisions – It was clarified that Ex Officio members include anyone who is not an appointed member of the committee, such as designated ODHH staff. Motion was made by Gary Ebben that the Council approve and adopt the changes</p>

put forth by Justin Vollmar and discussed. Motion carried.

Legal Liaison Position – Council members discussed the state of accessibility to the Wisconsin legal system for people who are deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind. Equal communication needs are falling through the cracks due to a variety of causes. The formation of a new position that would serve as an equal communication access liaison for people who are deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind and the legal system. The position would work with the courts and attorneys to make ensure that equal access is provided from the beginning of any interactions with the courts all the way to ensuring that court-ordered actions are accessible as well. Council reviewed idea proposal, the need to have backing from within the legal system and discussed possible next steps, including a budget, finding partners for this plan of action, and pursuing idea with the state legislature. Steve Smart will reach out to possible partners and Melani Kaplan will work with Department resources to put together a rough budget.

Webcasting – Special guest from the Department of Health’s technical department, Ed Rabotski, explained the process of webcasting a meeting and options were discussed for allowing interactivity between the meeting and viewers.

A moment of silence was held for the victims of the Sandy Hook shooting in Newtown, Connecticut.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION

License Plate Proposal – License plates have the option for selecting a specialty plate with funds supporting a specific charity or cause. The Council discussed options for implementing a specialty plate for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind Community. Options for recipients of the proceeds were discussed but nothing specific. Council members will check with their communities on their response to the idea and to the idea of using an “ILY” handshape in the design. Melani Kaplan will check with the Department of Transportation on the process for creating a specialty plate. Mary Jane will check with her contact at HLAA about this idea. The idea will be further discussed at the next meeting.

E911 System and Disaster Preparedness – Tom Benziger, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Specialist for ODHH, is working on Disaster Preparedness. He can advise the Council on anything specific coming up that is of significance for the Council.

Deaf Child Bill of Rights – Proposed by Justin Dean Vollmar as a possible action for the Council. Council proposed that Alex Slaphey and Justin Vollmar email information to the Council for members to review before the next meeting.

Sign Classes – Discussed, but no motions made.

DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION

Council members discussed the need for education and information to people with hearing loss and how that is not fully happening when people go to ENT Specialists, doctors and audiologists.

Council asked Melani Kaplan to contact Katie Voss at Cardinal Capital Management to see what the Council can do to provide support to HUD issues for specialty housing for the Deaf Community.

Next Meetings – 2013 meetings: March 21st, May 9th, September 19th, December 6th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISCUSSION

Council was reminded to share with their communities about the Art Display for ODHH in the DHS Building. The deadline for applications is January 15th, 2013.

ODHH will be hosting an Open House and Grand Opening on March 13th, 2013. Council members are encouraged to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08pm by Billy Mauldin, Chair.