

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
Quarterly Council Meeting**
Thursday, February 11, 2016 - Friday, February 12, 2016

MINUTES

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CART Captioner: Lisa B. Johnston, RMR, CRR, CCP, CBC

Call to Order and Roll Call: 9:00 A.M. EST

Council members present: Gayl Hardeman, Donna Drake, Debbe Hagner, Julie Church, Darlene Laibl-Crowe, Sherilyn Adler, Cindy Simon, John Jackson

Via phone: Glenna Ashton, Cecil Bradley, Roseanne Finigan, Stevie Fenton, Mary Hodges

Staff present: Shay Chapman, John Escoto, Kim Ingram

Presentations:

Bettie Bonni- Hillsborough Community College

Carol Downing- St. Petersburg College

Andrea Smith- University of South Florida

The presenters above gave overviews of their respective Interpreter Programs/Degrees, the job outlook for interpreters and the testing/certification process.

Staff Updates:

Shay Chapman – provided the Council with the Florida Health Impact Report; an update on the question related to deaf and hard of hearing that was added to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) performed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC); and the new online travel system (Go Travel) that Council members will be using in the future.

John Escoto –provided the Council with the application packets for membership from the Governor’s Office; gave an overview of a Blind Consortium Training he attended at the Florida Department of Education; and reminded Council members not to reply all in emails.

Committee Reports:

Web Committee –reported that the Council’s Facebook page is being viewed and updated on a regular basis; will add disclaimer language to the Facebook page; and discussed additional items/updates that they would like added to the FCCDHH website at DOH.

Technology Committee – provided an update on continued work on the PSA being produced by DOH staff.

Education/Medical/Outreach (EMO) Committee – no update provided.

Legislative Committee – provided an update on status of bills that impact deaf and hard of hearing citizens in Florida.

Department of Children and families (DCF) – provided an update on the settlement agreement.

Budget Committee- reported that there is enough funding left in the budget to have a May meeting in person; and will work with DOH staff to get a budget in place for next fiscal year.

Public Comment:

Kim Gaut (president of the Deaf Service Center Association of Florida): Wishes to expand the FTRI equipment distribution to include specialized telecommunications and accessories using cellular, Bluetooth, and Wi-Fi. Makes references to Florida Statutes 427.701-427.708 and 427.702(3)(g) regarding the telecommunications system and new technology developments. States that by law all Florida citizens must have equal access to telecommunications but only 57 Floridians were provided with this equipment last year. Requests department to state the intent of the law placed in 1991 to include newer technologies.

Michael Yelapi (Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Coordinator for the Self-Reliance Center for Independent Living in Hillsborough County): States that many deaf customers complain about Social Security offices not providing live interpreters forcing them to use VRIs to make appointments. Recalls a law suit from a few years ago stating that deaf customers have the right to choose either VRI or live interpreter for their appointments. Deaf customers are not satisfied with being forced to use VRI because of technical issues. Social Security offices are located at East Frontage Road in Gunn Highway.

Jennifer Hess (Disability Achievement Center): States that they got a grant from ESF 8 (Emergency Support Functions) to hold a live action exercise for people with real-life disabilities. Found that during this the deaf and hard-of-hearing were completely ignored, the VRI was down. Because of this they will be providing training called Disability of Sensitivity training for health and medical. Provided for residents of Pasco County but pretty sure it will be open to other counties. Going to be used for health and medical to get CEUs and for people who have never been involved with the deaf and hard-of-hearing to ask questions. Times and places weren't set up yet, but email was given. Email is Jenniferh@disabilityachievementcenter.org and she is very responsive to email. Every person in the health and medical field was invited. The training will focus on disaster preparedness as well as emergency preparedness in a health and medical setting. It will not be just for deaf and hard-of-hearing but there will be a lot of information offered about it.

Jennifer Hess (addressing a different topic): Asked about the doctors and the state officers not following the policy and what the consequences will be for this.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held in Tallahassee on DOH campus May 12-13, 2016.

Action Items:

1. Letter to be sent to CDC regarding question on BRFSS – Gayl Hardeman
2. Diagram of seating preferences – DOH staff
3. Website Analytics report- DOH staff
4. Arrange for DOH leadership to be at the next council meeting- DOH staff
5. Recruit student intern- Allison Schlesinger
6. Provide specific projects for student intern- Council Members
7. Finalized letter of invitation to legislators- Donna Drake
8. Finalized speaking points for legislative visits- Donna Drake
9. Create letter to the State Surgeon General- Gayl Hardeman
10. Provide disease and condition list for possible inclusion on the website- Cindy Simon
11. Create a list of acronyms to be provided in folder at the next meeting- Cindy Simon/DOH staff
12. Recruit additional speakers for next meeting- DOH staff
13. Secure hotel locations for the next two meetings- DOH staff
14. Start draft of next Biennial Report- Gayl Hardeman
15. Provide a final budget for FY 2016 and a purposed budget for FY 2017- Cecil Bradley/DOH staff
16. Get PSA script drafted and approved- Cindy Simon/DOH staff
17. Provide a chart of calls/emails that are received- DOH staff