

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

**MINUTES**

CART Captioning by [www.captioncrew.com](http://www.captioncrew.com)  
CART Captioner: Lisa B. Johnston, RMR, CRR, CCP, CBC

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

*Council members present:* Debbe Hagner, Chris Littlewood, Glenna Ashton, Sherilyn Adler, Cindy Simon, Julie Church

*Via phone & Chat:* Darlene Laibl-Crowe, Cecil Bradley, Rosie Finigan, Gayl Hardeman, Mary Hodges

*Staff present:* Shamarial Roberson, Megan Callahan, Kim Ingram

**Presentations:**

*Amy Francis-* Sorenson VRS, Jacksonville; Director

- Gave an overview of Sorenson VRS. Her presentation included the many perks of working with Sorenson as well as what a call center and an interpreter workspace looks like, the different monitors and technology Sorenson uses, the different locations Sorenson has across the U.S., and provided an overview of what a day in the life of a Sorenson interpreter may look like.

**Staff Updates:**

*Megan Callahan* – Presented a follow up of action items assigned to DOH staff

**Biennial Report Discussion:**

During the meeting, the Council held a discussion for the upcoming 2017 Biennial Report. A timeline was established which is as follows: have a draft of the report ready by the November meeting and a final draft completed by December. Different themes were brainstormed such as accessibility, emergency preparedness and safety, and technology. Along with a theme, accomplishments, as well as what still needs to be accomplished/what harm could be done if these needs are not met, was discussed to be included in the report, like the previous years. It was established that each of the members are to make a list of the topics they would like to see used for the report and submit that to the Committee. Once all ideas are submitted to the Committee, they will then gauge which three topics were recommended the most and work from there. The use of pictures to break up the text was mentioned as well as thinking about

diversity while choosing said pictures for the report. A discussion was brought up again regarding the timeline and having regular Committee meetings. The Committee members are Chris Littlewood, Rosie Finigan, Julie Church, Mary Hodges, and Sherilyn Adler and will be led by Glenna Ashton, Debbe Hagner and the Department of Health staff. Another idea was mentioned about including statistics for different types of hearing loss, groups of people, and ages that are affected by hearing loss while keeping in mind individuals with vision loss or dual-sensory loss. It was decided that the Department of Health staff will set up a One Drive for the Council to store their ideas for the report in a central location.

### **Committee Reports:**

*Web Committee* – Reported that the committee is in the process of providing Megan with website change suggestions; voiced concerns for keyboard accessibility for the FCCDHH website. Although the Department’s website is accessible, the Council’s website is not. A Facebook page update was provided stating that more than 600 people have ‘liked’ the page and it continues to grow. A request has been put in to the Communications Department at the Department of Health in regards to graphics for the website.

*Technology Committee* – Reported that a Committee Meeting will be held once the PSA is finished.

*Education/Medical/Outreach (EMO) Committee* – Reported that the resource guide has been uploaded to the website with a disclaimer and that the resource guide is being collaborated on.

*Legislative Committee* – Reported that letters to invite the surrounding areas legislators had been signed and distributed and two legislators responded. *Glenna Ashton reported on Donna Drake’s behalf*

*Department of Children and families (DCF)* – No update provided.

*Budget Committee* - Reported that the Council has expended \$61,000 so far and there’s an encumbered balance of \$21,000, so the Council has spent \$81,000 within the budget. A Committee Meeting will be held before the next Council Meeting and it will be referencing the different figures the Department of Health staff will provide for the different categories on the budget. A specific encumbered amount that is expected for the 16-17 fiscal year should be provided so the Committee may see the impact that amount will have on the budget.

*Biennial Report Committee* – A Committee was officially formed for the Biennial Report but it will be an ad hoc Committee considering it will be established only when it is a Biennial Report year (every two years). A brainstorming session for the report was held; Council and Committee Members will email Megan their suggestions; a One Drive will be set up for documents dedicated to the report.

### **Public Comment:**

**Dan O’Conner** (Division of Blind Services Rehabilitation Counselor): Wishes to find more resources for persons who are Deafblind and to gain more awareness about Tactile Sign Language. He is aware that such resources are limited so any information he could pass along to others would be great. Dan also works on the Mayor’s Disability Council in Jacksonville and mentioned that every city’s Disability Office, or any other office such as a speech and hearing clinic, would love to get any information on awareness, such as a PSA. He also brought to the Council’s attention of the Deafblind equipment distribution and mentioned a future presentation may be beneficial for updated awareness of the equipment that’s available.

**Maria Dykman** (individual who is Deafblind): Mentioned that more Tactile Interpreters in the medical field are needed as well as training for Tactile Interpreting and training for SSPs. She mentioned that more equipment and awareness is needed on behalf of the population who is Deafblind. People who are Deafblind need to be able to communicate with everyone and awareness in regards to Tactile Sign Language and other communication modes would help tremendously. Maria states that it can be very difficult to find a Tactile Interpreter due to the fact that the interpreter either wasn’t trained for that or doesn’t feel comfortable performing this type of interpreting.

**April Ogden** (Division of Blind Services Supervisor): She works with Dan O’Conner so she said she would speak with him about his experience at the meeting and everything that he learned.

**Dan O’Conner** (speaking about another resource): He explains that Centers for Independent Living (CILs) is a good resource as well considering they are a cross-disabilities so they assist all disabilities. He mentions the Jacksonville Resource Center has a strong deaf resource program and that they have a grant with the city for individuals who are deaf that have experienced domestic violence.

**Lois Maroney** (Licensed Mental Health Counselor who is deaf): Lois has been having some troubles with a webinar and accessibility. She states that the webinar was being held by the Florida Department of Health, specifically the Division of Medical Quality Assurance. Lois tried registering for the webinar several times and reached out to the Council as well. She had hopes that CART or another transcription service could be provided during the webinar so she may follow along and still be able to participate. She registered for this webinar 4 times and only on the fourth time did she notice a warning that CART services would not be provided at this time. She then reached out to an attorney who wrote a letter on her behalf to the Division of Medical Quality Assurance. She mentions that it was after this letter that she was contacted and informed that CART services would be provided.

**Robin Alexandratos** (parent of a child who is deaf): Robin states that she has a deaf, bilaterally implanted son who is failing to meet Florida Standards because the county is failing to provide him with the resources he needs. This is partially due to the fact that his individual needs are being replaced by mandatory state assessments. She believes the county School Board has grown complacent with themselves and, as a result, started viewing her son as a sacrificial

group. She refers to Florida Statute 1008.25 and State Board Rule 6A-1.094221 which states the use of a third grade student portfolio as a means for good cause promotion, but her son has been denied a student portfolio. Instead, her son has an assessment portfolio which she believes is not beneficial, not only for her son, but for any other student who is deaf/hard of hearing. She then quotes Florida Statute 1003.572(b) that states “each district school board shall provide for an appropriate program of special instruction, facilities, and service for exceptional students as prescribed by the State Board of Education as acceptable. Each district must too provide for the special instruction classes and services either within the district school systems or through contractual agreements with approved private schools or community facilities that meet standards established by the commissioner”. In Pinellas County there is a lack of deaf/hard of hearing instructors within the middle and high schools and, instead, a temporary solution has been accommodated.

**Maria Dykman** (speaking about a different topic): Maria says that even though TTY may be an outdated form of technology for communication, she is still able to use it. Although she may not be able to see the interpreter, she can still communicate when the message is typed out. When the message is typed out on the screen she can read it through a braille translator and at that point she can sign back to the interpreter and the interpreter may then type out a message again.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held in Orlando, meeting location TBD

**Action Items:**

1. Have a draft of the Biennial Report completed by the next meeting in November – Biennial Report Committee
2. Have a final draft of the Biennial Report completed by December – Biennial Report Committee
3. Brainstorm and submit ideas to Megan for the Biennial Report – Council
4. See what information DOH can provide to help with the Biennial Report – DOH Staff
5. Start “Blind Copying” the Council for emails – Megan Callahan
6. Speak with the Bureau of Emergency Preparedness about the right channels to route a text-to-911 letter – DOH Staff
7. Write a business case explaining how Sound Field Systems in classrooms are beneficial – Sherilyn Adler
8. Reach out to the Public Health Liaison at DOE about Sound Field Systems in the classroom – Megan Callahan
9. Check on having FCCDHH business cards made – DOH Staff

10. Invite Emergency Preparedness to an upcoming meeting – Megan Callahan
11. Have PSA ready to present to the Council by November meeting – DOH Communications & Technology Committee
12. Provide different figures for the different categories within the budget – DOH Staff
13. Write a summary of resources for parents going through the IEP process – Rosie Finigan
14. Email the “ZZZ Box” link for emails sent to the Department – DOH Staff
15. Send out the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) link and information to file facility complaints – DOH Staff
16. Create a One Drive for the Council – Megan Callahan & David Blodgett
17. Email the Council’s letterhead – DOH Staff
18. Provide Megan with a Council history – Julie Church, Cindy Simon & Sherilyn Adler
19. Add Council History to the FCCDHH website – Megan Callahan
20. Create an Evaluation Form for upcoming meetings – DOH Staff
21. Create a Sign In sheet for upcoming meetings – DOH Staff
22. Write an Accessibility Document – Council & Bryan Russell
23. Speak with Communications about having automatic captioning – DOH Staff
24. Add “Future Meetings” to the FCCDHH website – Megan Callahan