

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL  
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
Quarterly Council Meeting**  
Thursday, November 3, 2016 – Friday, November 4, 2016

**MINUTES**

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CART Captioner: Katie Gott, CRC, CRR, RPR

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

*Council members present:* Debbe Hagner, Chris Littlewood, Glenna Ashton, Donna Drake, Rosie Finigan, John Jackson, Mary Hodges, Darlene Laibl-Crowe

*Via phone & Chat:* Cecil Bradley, Julie Church, Gayl Hardeman, Sherilyn Adler, Cindy Simon

*Staff present:* Shay Chapman, Megan Callahan, Monica Pitts

*Public presence:* Debra Knox, Karen Goldberg, Gina Halliburton

**Staff Updates:**

*Shay Chapman* – Presented changes that have been made at DOH

*Megan Callahan* – Presented a follow up of action items from the previous meeting

**Biennial Report Discussion:**

During the meeting, the Council held a discussion regarding the 2017 Biennial Report. The conversation established how the report would be laid out and the content to go inside. The report will be laid out in a trifold format consisting of six pages. There will be content on every page including an introduction, four topics all in relation to Communication Access, and a conclusion, as well as some pictures. The four topics to be discussed will be brought to light through scenarios for different situations. These situations are regarding a student, an employee, a patient, and a citizen and each will feature a negative and positive scenario. For the student, some negative topics will be no hearing aid/assistive devices, the use of an unqualified interpreter, an unqualified teacher. Some positives for the student will include the student has the proper hearing aids, the use of a qualified interpreter, the teacher is qualified. Examples of negative aspects for the employee are that communication access is provided for training, not getting promoted due to their hearing and/or vision loss, and that companies don't have a budget for interpreters or assistive technology. Some positives would be that there is a budget allocated for these needs, and interpreter or a sound system is always available, and that promotions are attainable.

For the patient, some negatives are there is no specific insurance coverage for hearing aids, the doctor's mask blocks the lips for lip reading, and the technology used is either old or not used

properly. On the positive side, there are hospitals that require qualified interpreters and interpreter training, there is some text to 911 availability, and emergency management making sure to provide the accommodations that patient needs.

Some negative examples for the citizen scenario consist of the police not understanding that the individual is Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind, interpreters are needed but not provided, and there are no CDIs available in the court room. A positive example for the scenario are that some judges understand the needs of the individual who is Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind.

After the negative and positives for each scenario were decided upon, Council Members decided to draft scenarios to send to Megan for review. It was then discussed that following the scenario section in the report, a section for what still remains to be done and the solutions to these problems will be listed. A look at the budget for Florida will be included as well.

### **Committee Reports:**

*Web Committee* – Reported that Rosie Finigan has been in touch with Megan Callahan regarding a page for parents on the website; Keyboard accessibility issues have started being worked on and will continue to be worked on. The Committee will have a meeting soon to discuss and further changes that need to be made to the website.

*Technology Committee* – No updated provided.

*Education/Medical/Outreach (EMO) Committee* – No updated provided.

*Legislative Committee* –The Chair of the Committee reported that she has been traveling frequently and will have a chance soon to research if any laws or changes have been made.

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

*Budget Committee* – Reported that \$6,800 has been spent for travel in this quarter already, meaning almost half of the travel budget has been spent.

*Biennial Report Committee* – Due to the extensive Biennial Report discussion, there was no update provided for this committee.

### **Public Comment:**

*Karen Goldberg (Psychiatrist)* – Asked the Council what is happening in terms of coordinating services for mental health for children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and how is it being done at the State and Council levels and what can she do to help coordinate these services? Considering not much has been done (or can be done) regarding this issue, a report could be written and routed concerning the mental health of children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing and what all would like to be seen done at the State level. Donna Drake suggested she get in touch with the Florida Association of the Deaf (FAD) to reinitiate their attempts to establish a mental health process.

*Gina Halliburton (Interpreter)* – Told a story regarding a hospital opening for interpreters with a requirement of only needing a high school diploma and some ASL experience. The Council discussed different things that she could do including reaching out to the hospital directly, submit an anonymous complaint about the risk management to the hospital, and try to contact a disabilities attorney in her area.

*Jaime Mariona (submitted public comment via email)* – She submitted a public comment discussing four things. The first was the use of a CDI in Florida for emergencies versus what Florida uses now: a hearing/qualified interpreter. Her second concern was the Deaf symbol on the ID card should be recognized by the emergency management team. Glenna Ashton mentions that this bill has been recently passed in Florida where Floridian's who are Deaf may pay a small fee to have this Deaf ID sticker placed on their ID. The third concern she mentioned was with emergency management and that they should figure out how the individual communicates before moving forward (i.e. – ASL, English, etc.). Her fourth concern lies with the Florida Commission on Human Relations. This commission does not take public accommodation complaints against physicians and emergency rooms denying to provide sign language interpreters when a patient who is Deaf requests one.

*Adam Ledo (FRID President)* – wanted to introduce himself as the current president of the Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (FRID). Mentioned to the Council that he was planning on applying to fill the Council vacancy for the FRID representative.

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

**Action Items:**

1. Add a page on the website for different links to file complaints – Megan Callahan
2. Speak with DOH IT regarding adding a place on the website for VLOG submissions – DOH staff
3. Add a VLOG section on the website for complaints and public comments – Megan Callahan
4. Add the ACLU Marlee Matlin video to the website – Megan Callahan
5. Provide Megan with link for a list of qualified interpreters for health care agencies -
6. Add a list of qualified interpreters for health care agencies to the website – Megan Callahan
7. Provide update on any new laws or legislative changes – Donna Drake
8. Email INNOcaption regarding plugging the phone into a bigger screen for easier viewing – Chris Littlewood
9. Post ADWAS (Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services) information on the website – Megan Callahan

10. Biennial Report Committee meet by the end of November/beginning of December – Biennial Report Committee
11. Figure out the types of complaints DOH Human Relations accepts – DOH staff
12. See what information can be provided regarding legislative appointments and what to expect – Shay Chapman
13. Email Council the FCC link for the text to 911 spreadsheet – DOH Staff
14. Contact Early Steps and FEMA to present at the next meeting – DOH Staff
15. Verify the week legislators have off – Shay Chapman
16. Contact Terry Schiesler regarding making appointments with legislators – Glenna Ashton
17. Draft a “Students Resource” page for the website – Gayl Hardeman
18. Add a “Students Resource” page to the website – Megan Callahan
19. Share self-advocacy information for students – Chris Littlewood
20. Write some brief scenarios for the Executive Committee to review – Rosie Finigan
21. Draft a Citizen scenario for the Executive Committee to review – John Jackson
22. Contact Allison Schlesinger regarding scenario – John Jackson
23. Draft scenarios for the Executive Committee to review – Donna Drake
24. Find resources for self-advocating for students – Donna Drake
25. Continue writing introduction/information for the report – Debbe Hagner
26. Visit sheriff Chris Nocco – Debbe Hagner
27. Share notes on pages and links to be placed on the website with Megan – Glenna Ashton
28. Gather materials related to self-advocating and text to 911 – Glenna Ashton
29. Provide any help needed to complete the Biennial Report – Julie Church
30. Create a schedule of appointments made with the legislators – Megan Callahan
31. Gather information regarding self-advocating – Gayl Hardeman
32. Draft a scenario for the Executive Committee to review – Chris Littlewood
33. Send statistics regarding the elder Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing population – Mary Hodges
34. Submit individual action items to Megan by Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> – Council
35. Send the NIH link regarding national statistics – Chris Littlewood