

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
Quarterly Council Meeting
Thursday, August 10, 2017 – Friday, August 11, 2017**

MINUTES

CART Captioning by www.hricart.com
CART Captioner: Kimmy Pruitt, RPR, FPR

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

Council members present: Debbe Hagner, Glenna Ashton, Donna Drake, Chris Littlewood, Mary Hodges, Darlene Laibl-Crowe, Cindy Simon, Karen Goldberg, Genia Halliburton, Julie Church

Via phone & Chat: Cecil Bradley, Debra Knox, Rosie Finigan

Staff present: Michele Franklin, Megan Callahan, Monica Pitts

Presenters: Rosa Rodriguez & Sabila Beganovic- Deaf Literacy Center, Jennifer Boggess & Beth Engleman- Family Center on Deafness

Staff Updates:

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

Committee Reports:

Web Committee – Requested that the Council send any updates for the website that are needed.

Technology Committee – Reported that the PSA has started to be filmed and discussed the dissemination of it- will be uploaded to the Department's YouTube as well as the Council webpage, the different organizations websites/YouTube's and possibly local channels for the late-night slots.

Education/Medical/Outreach (EMO) Committee – Reported that the quarterly letter from May was still being worked on and a discussion regarding it would be held the following day.

Legislative Committee – Provided a report and held a discussion regarding it the following day.

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

Budget Committee – Reported that the Council spent \$98,045.20 of the \$101,000.00 budget provided by the Department. Once the new budget has been received, a Budget Committee meeting will be called.

Biennial Report Committee – Reported that a rough draft of a timeline for the 2019 report has been drafted and a further discussion of who will write the report and what will be included will take place during the November meeting.

Presentations:

Rosa Rodriguez & Sabila Beganovic (Deaf Literacy Center) – Presented on the history of the Deaf Literacy Center as well as different programs and resources that they offer. The center first opened its doors back in 1998 when an influx of people who are deaf moved to Safety Harbor. When these individuals first arrived there was a communication barrier which led to high frustration levels and the center wanting to solve the problem. Since then the center has made big strides in the community with the services and resources they provide. Some of the services they offer are weekly ASL classes, sign story time, life skills workshops, basic adult literacy with deaf children, individual tutoring, deaf culture workshops, referrals for community members looking for deaf resources, and library information services. Sabila teaches ASL classes which range from all ages. They offer baby sign language for children up to five years old and she also teaches ASL classes at three different libraries in the community. The center also tries to do a program that will attract the community members to the library. Recently, they just held a Vietnamese cooking class and in the past they've held Zumba classes and dance classes. They also partner with the Optimist Club every year to help teach communication skills which has proven to be beneficial. Since the center's doors have opened they have been a huge resource for the deaf community in Safety Harbor and will continue to do so.

Jennifer Boggess & Beth Engleman (Family Center on Deafness)– Jennifer presented on the Family Center on Deafness's resources and history and Beth presented how the Family Center on Deafness impacted her children and family. Jennifer helped to open the Family Center on Deafness back in 2003 and since then they have grown from an after-school program in a small portable to joining a second part of the building and having different programs in different locations. Some of the services provided are Parent Network, Kids Klub, camps during the summer, family literacy sessions, as well as a broad spectrum of parent support services such as formal meetings, networking, dinners, and community events. A major program at the center is REACH (Raising Expectations Achievements in Children with Hearing Loss) is a place where children who are deaf or hard of hearing can go and communicate with other children as well as receive academic enrichment, homework help, and also go on field trips. The children in this program go to the center after school three days a week and participate in events when school is out of session to make sure they are staying involved. Another major program that is offered is Teen Scene where teens can come and work on socialization and community service. They're also taught about independent living and can take part in the career program where the center helps with job placements. More services offered are free equipment distribution to those in Hillsborough, Tampa, and Pinellas County, and advocacy.

Public Comment:

Dianna Druding (Executive Director at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center): Dianna had a few inquiries regarding the symbol that can be placed on the driver's license of the driver who is deaf/hard of hearing. Her inquiries were as follows: when will this bill be implemented, how will the drivers who are deaf/hard of hearing know how and where to apply for this, and why is there an additional fee. It was discussed that the sticker to be placed on the license is optional and that the consumer will need to request it. Dianna had a second question regarding the FL driver's license testing. Her question asked about the DVD and book that her client had trouble comprehending considering it was not in sign language. She asked if there would be an interpreter added to the current video or if another video would be made using sign language. A discussion followed where the question was asked whether the DMV is responsible for providing an interpreter for the test seeing as it is a government entity. This question is being looked into further.

Alex DeMolina (Early Steps Family Resource Specialist for Hillsborough): Alex came to the meeting to provide the Council with some updated Early Steps materials and to present on Early Steps.

Rachelle Settambino (USF Professor): Rachelle stated that her primary concern is that interpreters need to be certified within the education system. She mentioned that this needs to be brought to the forefront to demand legislation pass a law that requires interpreters to be adequately certified. The first step would have to be that the state recognizes the national certification and require it which the state of Florida does not do.

Joe Naulty (DeafBlind representative from 2004 – 2008): Joe voiced concerns for the cost of hearing aids. Megan was provided with Joe's email as well as his wife's email and was able to provide some hearing aid financial assistance to them.

Unknown Commenter: This commenter submitted inquiries via CART chat but never submitted their name. This commenter had inquiries regarding the Council members, the status of the interpreters' license and interpreters' education bill, and how a member of the deaf/hard of hearing community become a member of the Council. Megan mentioned that the Council has the statute that states the organizations that should be represented and that if the commenter would email, they could be provided with the statute and further details.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held in Jacksonville on November 1st & 2nd, 2017; location TBD

Exhibit Discussion:

The Council plans on holding an exhibit the night of Nov. 1st and will be held from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. All Council organizations currently being represented on the Council will be invited as well as the local organizations of where the meeting and exhibit are being held. The organizations will provide food and beverage as an in-kind donation to the exhibit. The

organizations will provide their own materials, such as handouts, and any other materials, such as display boards, for the exhibit.

EMO Letter Discussion:

A discussion regarding the May meeting EMO letter and any revisions that needed to be made was held. Some of the revisions/suggestions were: changing the email address to the Council's email address (CommunityHealthPromotion@flhealth.gov), uploading and printing the letter on the Council's letterhead, and addressing to be from both the Council chair and EMO Committee chair. Other specific revisions were made such as adding in the statistic "There are approximately 2.5 – 3 million Deaf, Hard of Hearing in the State of Florida", adding in the Council's mission statement as to address who the Council is and what they do, adding that the Council is interested in collaborating with the health care professional regarding the issues listed in the letter, and other specific changes to the bullet points in the letter. This letter has been uploaded to the Council's website (www.fccdhh.org) under Reports and Publications.

Legislative Visits Discussion:

Visits to local legislators and visits to the Capitol were discussed. It was proposed that each member visit at least two of their local legislators and inform Donna of who was visited so the same legislators will not be visited during the visits to the Capitol in November. The local legislators are to be visited in September and the beginning of October and Capitol visits are scheduled for November. Those scheduled to visit the Capitol are Debra Knox, Donna Drake, Glenna Ashton, and Debbe Hagner. Talking points will be sent out for everyone to follow during visits. The date for the Capitol visits in November is TBD.

Action Items:

1. Reach out to Council organizations regarding Council exhibit - Glenna Ashton
2. Create a list of organizations in the Jacksonville/St. Augustine area for exhibit invites – Gina Halliburton
3. Research if accommodations are made on the local or state level regarding the DMV and driver's license testing - Mary Hodges
4. Create new Council budget for FY 17/18 – DOH Staff
5. Add Early Steps resource on Council website under the Birth-3 tab - Megan Callahan
6. Add HLAA receiving, cleaning, and re-selling hearing aids to the Council website - Megan Callahan
7. Investigation of special needs shelters and the placement of individuals who are deaf/hard of hearing - Chris Littlewood
8. Provide Megan with the completed EMO quarterly letters to place on the Council website - Gina Halliburton
9. Inform Donna of which legislators will be visited in September/October – all Council Members visiting local legislators
10. Send list of legislative talking points - Donna Drake

11. Provide Megan with approvals or revisions of Biennial Report by COB 8/14 - All Council Members
12. Add 2017 Biennial Report to Council website - Megan Callahan
13. Print and mail 30 copies of report to each member - DOH Staff
14. Book meeting space & exhibit space for Nov. meeting - DOH Staff
15. Book hotel for Feb. meeting – DOH Staff