

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
Quarterly Council Meeting
Thursday, May 10, 2018 – Friday, May 11, 2018**

MINUTES

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CART Captioner: Lisa B. Johnston, RMR, CRR, CRC

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

Council members present: Debbe Hagner, Donna Drake, Chris Littlewood, John Jackson, Karen Goldberg, Debra Knox, Eugenia Halliburton, Cindy Simon, Julie Church

Via phone & Chat: Darlene Laibl-Crowe, Cecil Bradley, Shay Chapman, Shayla Kelly

Staff present: Megan Callahan

Presenters: Tina Morris – Florida Coalition for Spoken Language Options; Victoria Gaitanis – Florida Department of Education Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program

Staff Updates:

Megan Callahan – Update of the previous meeting’s action items progress was provided.

Committee Reports:

Web Committee – Reported on Darlene’s website suggestions; suggested placing a link to the State’s Department of Emergency Preparedness website.

Technology Committee – Reported that James and his department would come to South Florida to shoot the remainder of the PSA when they could.

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

Legislative Committee – Reported that the driver’s license bill regarding having an indication of whether or not you are deaf on your driver’s license has passed.

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

Budget Committee – Reported that the Council has enough money to fund the last quarterly meeting of the fiscal year (May meeting) as well as Family Café promotional items.

Biennial Report Committee – No update provided.

Presentations:

Tina Morris (Florida Coalition for Spoken Language Options): Tina presented on the background of the Coalition as well as the services they offer and the funding they receive. Tina is a parent volunteer for the Coalition which is a 100% volunteer organization. The Coalition opened its doors around a decade ago in the hopes of leveling the playing field when it came to listening and spoken language options. The Coalition received \$500,000 in funding for various services such as supporting preschools, home visits, teletherapy visits which is more of a coaching session for the families, and an audiological van where an audiologist was going out to preschools in the rural areas of Florida.

Victoria Gaitanis (State Program Specialist: Visual Impairment (VI), Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing (DHH), and Dual Sensory Impairment (DSI)): Victoria presented an update on K-12 services for students who are hard of hearing and gave the Council some data on numbers and performance on some of the statewide standardized assessments that are given throughout the state for all of the students. Ms. Gaitanis stated that Florida outpaces the nation or the national average for students with disabilities served in regular education placements. The placements of these students are as follows: 63% of students who identified anywhere on their IEP as deaf/hard of hearing served in a regular education classroom setting, 11% were served in a resource room meaning they may spend 50% of their day in a regular education classroom and then they'll go to a resource room for a part of that day, 16% were in a separate class meaning they're in a regular school and they have their own classroom, 3% in a separate school, 6% in a residential school, which is School for the Deaf and Blind for Florida and 1% is searched privately in private schools.

Public Comment:

Tyler James (Ph.D student studying deaf and hard of hearing health disparities at UF) – Tyler had a questions regarding whether or not Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Audiologists were required to sit for CEUs. This question stemmed from the Florida Coalition for Spoken Language Options presentation and how a Council member asked how the Council could be involved with this organization and advocacy. The reasoning behind this question was to ensure that updated and accurate information is being provided. The second comment Mr. James provided was related to the funding of the FCCDHH and what members of the public could do to get involved in trying to get the Council as a line-item once again.

Chair and Vice-Chair Elections:

A Chair and Vice-Chair election was held during this meeting as it was the last meeting in the fiscal year and, stated by the Council's Bylaws, an election is to be held every year during this meeting. The elections were as follows: Chair- Karen Goldberg; Vice-Chair- Gina Halliburton

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held in West Palm Beach, FL on August 9-10, 2018. The location is the Hilton West Palm Beach, Cypress Room, 600 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL, 33401.

Action Items:

1. Add a link to the State's Department of Emergency Preparedness to the Council website – Megan Callahan
2. Add Florida Coalition for Spoken Language Options email to Council website – Megan Callahan
3. Order a pop-up banner for Family Café – Department Staff
4. Order promotional items for Family Café – Department Staff
5. Send website suggestions to Megan – All Council members
6. Arrange a call between the previous Chair/Vice-Chair and the current Chair/Vice-Chair to review their duties – Department Staff & previous and current Chair/Vice-Chair
7. Send monthly updates of text-to-911 spreadsheet – Megan Callahan