

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL  
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
Quarterly Council Meeting  
Thursday, August 9, 2018 – Friday, August 10, 2018**

**MINUTES**

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

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

*Council members present:* Debbe Hagner, Chris Littlewood, Karen Goldberg, Cindy Simon, Mary Hodges, Darlene Laibl-Crowe, Glenna Ashton

*Via phone & Chat:* No Members present

*Staff present:* Megan Callahan, Shay Chapman, Shayla Kelly

*Presenters:* Bryan Russell – DOH Disability & Health Program Manager; June McMahon – Concerns of Senior Citizens

**Staff Updates:**

*Shay Chapman* – Gave an update regarding the travel reimbursement system and how it will be changing to a new system but for now, travel reimbursements for the Council will remain on paper. Also, an update of the legislative budget request was provided stating that there has been a request put in for the Council but the Department will continue to find the Council if that request does not go through.

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

**Committee Reports:**

*Web Committee* – The Council viewed the website during the meeting. Any updates or resources needed to be added should be sent to Megan.

*Technology Committee* – The PSA filming is on standby and will resume when Communications is able to begin traveling once again.

*Education/Medical/Outreach (EMO) Committee* – Gave an update regarding the introductory letter and the Inclusive Health Coalition letter that were sent out.

*Legislative Committee* – Glenna Ashton is the new chair of the Legislative Committee.

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

*Budget Committee* – An update on the 2017-18 FY completed budget was given as well as an update on the 2018-19 FY budget that just started. The budget for travel will remain the same in the 2018-19 budget and the Florida Administrative Register budget allocation will be increased. The budget allotted for the 2018-19 budget is the same as the previous year, \$133,000.

*Biennial Report Committee* – The Council reviewed and discussed the previous Biennial Report during the meeting. That discussion is below.

**Presentations:**

*Bryan Russell (DOH Disability & Health Program Manager):* Mr. Russell gave a brief description of what the Disability Health Program is, what they've done, what they're going to be doing, and presented some data. The Disability and Health Program is working on two specific interventions; that is, increasing physical activity for children with disabilities in exceptional student education, or ESE schools, and improving access to diabetes prevention programs for persons with disabilities.

*June McMahon (Concerns of Florida's Senior Citizens):* Ms. McMahon presented on the concerns of the senior citizens of Florida who are deaf. June and her husband decided to retire to Florida, just like many other senior citizens. She then became a school teacher in Broward County and retired last year. She spoke about her past experiences regarding housing for individuals who are deaf and how it was becoming more difficult for those who were deaf to find housing. Florida is limited in the housing and nursing homes they offer for people who are deaf. Another problem Ms. McMahon mentioned were the amount of Deaf Clubs. Some years ago, Florida had 15 different Deaf Clubs and now we're down to two. In order to resolve the issues, June mentioned we all need to work together and consider all of the needs such as a group home and home healthcare with certified interpreters to address the communication access needs.

**Public Comment:**

*Peggy Brown (President of Florida's Deaf Services Center Association, Center for Hearing and Communication Executive Director):* Ms. Brown has presented to the Council before and gave an update on the services that her organizations provide including having case managers and sign skilled staff that has been helping with post-Irma crisis management. They also offer mental health services to adults with sign skilled mental health counselors on staff. They also offer children services with mental health as well.

*Beth Wagmeister (Director of Deaf Services at Goodwill Gulfstream):* Ms. Wagmeister has also presented to the Council before and gave an update on the services and work her organization has been doing including working with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and their ADA compliance. Beth has also put in a proposal to the city of West Palm Beach for them to

implement Boynton Beach's all-inclusive philosophy and is currently awaiting their response. She is wanting the first responders to start with basic ASL.

*Joel Silberstein (Secretary for the Deaf in Palm Beach County):* Mr. Silberstein spoke on the Deaf Club located in Palm Beach County and how over 90% of their event attendees are senior citizens. They hold different events such as Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day parties where everyone can gather with other members of the Deaf Community. They also offer workshops such as a CPR training workshop where attendees can be certified in CPR. He mentioned their high senior citizen attendance because these senior citizens are retiring from all around the country and moving to Florida and attending this club because many other facilities have shut down.

### **Biennial Report Discussion:**

All Council members reviewed the previous Biennial Report (2017) as well as the online version. The online version of the report was reviewed during the meeting and each section of the report was discussed. It was decided that, due to the timeline of this report, the Council needs to have a finalized draft ready by the November meeting and ready to print by the end of the year. A new picture for the front of the report will be used for this as well as new pictures throughout, including pictures of different technology. If the Council decides to keep the informational headers at the top of each topic for the 2019 report, the header needs to be pertinent to the information below. The topics for the 2019 report will remain the same with more information dedicated to mental health. The 2019 report will remain a trifold with the same layout as the 2017 report. All Council members have received the 2017 report draft sent to the printing company and the Biennial Report Committee will work on the 2019 report based on that 2017 report draft. To view the 2017 Biennial report, you may visit the Council's website at [www.fccdhh.org](http://www.fccdhh.org). The report is in the 'Reports and Publications' section of the website.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held in Sarasota, FL on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. The location is the Hampton Inn & Suites Sarasota/Bradenton Airport, Manatee Room, 975 University Pkwy, Sarasota, FL 34243

### **Action Items:**

1. Have a finalized draft of the 2019 Biennial Report by the November meeting – Biennial Report Committee
2. Check with Department's web team regarding a website version of the 2017 report – Megan Callahan
3. Start sending "thank you for your service" letters to members who will no longer serve on the Council – DOH Staff & current Council Chairperson
4. Follow up with the Governors Office regarding appointment applications – Megan Callahan

5. Send the 2017 Biennial Report Draft document to Council – Megan Callahan
6. Register for It's a Deaf Thing Sponsorship – DOH Staff
7. Update Council members on Council website – Megan Callahan
8. Adjust the Florida Administrative Register balance on 2018-19 budget – DOH Staff
9. Create outline for one-page “cheat sheets” to be placed on website – Cindy Simon
10. Locate PDF version of Council brochure - Megan Callahan
11. Scan and send brochure and PDF copy – Megan Callahan
12. Review and update Member List – Megan Callahan
13. Add TASA and PSC to acronyms list – Megan Callahan
14. Reach out to the State's Text-to-911 Emergency Management Committee Contact – Megan Callahan
15. Compose a letter stating the needs for communication and ADA requirements – EMO Committee
16. Invite the Florida Healthcare Administration to present at Tallahassee meeting – Megan Callahan
17. Reserve 3 rooms for Tuesday night, 2/5 – Megan Callahan
18. Send Megan Council website revisions/recommendations – All Council Members