

**MEETING: The Vermont Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind Advisory Council**

**DATE: 03-21-17 Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm**

**Attendee Committee Members: Deb Charlea Baker, Missy Boothroyd, Jennifer Bostwick, Rebecca Chalmers, Keri Darling, Linda Hazard, (Chair), Danielle Howes, Bill Hudson (Vice-Chair), Leslie Johnson, Mark Limoges, Cindy Moran, Sherry Sousa, Spenser Weppler, AJ Van Tassel, Amy Williamson.**

**Conference Phone: Kelley Rohrer, Judy Vreeland,**

**Additional Attendees: Patricia Thompson (minutes), Cory Brunner (interpreter), Kristal Hier (interpreter), Norma Miller (White Coat Captioning – CART)**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 16th – Waterbury – AHS – WSOC Oak 49 RM A283**

**WEBSITE LINK - <http://healthvermont.gov/family/health-care/hearing-health>**

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION
Welcome and Introduction of Superintendent- Linda Hazard.	Verify Kelley Rohrer and Judy Vreeland on the conference phone.  Welcome and introductions. Superintendent, Susette Bollard, not present.	
Update on EHDI	EHDI Programs have received a 47% decrease in funding across all states and territories in HRSA funding. Currently working under a continuing resolution. Congress will be voting April 28 <sup>th</sup> to pass a budget, continue with the continuing resolution or shut down the government.	

	<p>EHDI Reauthorization has been submitted to Congress.</p> <p>Encourage all to write and call to senators and representatives for Vermont. We will email a link to all.</p>	<p>Email a link to all regarding EHDI reauthorization.  <a href="http://iehdi.org/ehdi_reauthorization/">http://iehdi.org/ehdi_reauthorization/</a>.</p>
<p>Council members who testify at the legislature:</p>	<p>Discussed responsibilities and duties as council members.</p> <p>Participating in round table discussions or giving testimony: separating your personal role from your council role and ensuring that your audience understands who you are representing.</p> <p>Council members have a responsibility to ensure that accurate information is disseminated regarding current services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf Blind children and adults.</p>	<p>Write up guidelines on how to represent ourselves in certain situations.</p> <p>Prepare in advance for next year's Disability Awareness Day.</p>
<p>Membership attendance discussion.</p>	<p>The council requires consistency with members attending on a regular basis. This represents a commitment members made upon appointment.</p>	<p>Linda and Bill will email out a letter regarding attendance.</p>
<p>DBVI Fred Jones will come to share his department structure.</p>	<p>Division of the Blind is part of DAIL The program helps high-school students and adults who are blind and visually impaired get employment. It has 4 divisions; Montpelier, Springfield, Rutland and Burlington.</p>	

Each office has a Blind Services Rehabilitation counselor.

Important Point to remember-

- There is a wide variety of people who are blind and visually impaired.
- And there is a wide variety of ways to accommodate those and their needs.

Big picture –

What can we do to help somebody get back to work?

OR

What can we do to help them get the skills so they can keep doing what they've always done.

3 Ways to help out-

1. The State is the state division with 4 offices and 4 rehabilitation counselors.
2. Non-profit, fee for service, paid by the hour – teach, learn and educate someone how to obtain the skills they require.
3. Vision Services - the state uses their funding to help pay for special vision requirements; magnifiers or special lighting.

Often partner with Voc-Rehab as each offers different services.

Discussed “The Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act” – for younger children.

Other programs of interest –

SSP- Support Service Providers –provide information about the environment to the individual.

iConnect Training – Vocational and Trade School Equipment. Currently facilitated by the Perkins School for the Blind.

Funding-  
Very little funding from AOE for teacher services.  
Fund Raising for Adult programs  
Bill local school districts for their services.

Fred will send the information about Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act” to Linda to share with council members.

<p>Results of the 4 working groups – Two recommendations from each committee for the coming year. Council voted on all recommendations.</p>	<p>Kelly Rohrer reported on Birth – 2 recommended goals for 2017</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Best Practice Guidelines for families, for children birth -3, who are D/HH/DB and implementation of policies to meet guidelines.</li> <li>2. Facilitate family engagement</li> </ol> <p>Motion to accept– Sherry Souse 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion – Amy Williamson All in favor – all Motion passed</p> <p>Sherry Sousa reported on School Age - 2 recommended goals for 2017.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Funding</li> <li>2. Research on goals and coming back to council with recommendation</li> </ol> <p>Motion to accept– Sherry Souse 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion – Keri Darling All in favor – all Motion passed</p>	

Keri Darling reported on Adult- 2 recommended goals for 2017

1. Communication
2. Coordination of services

Motion to accept– Missy Boothroyd  
2<sup>nd</sup> the motion – AJ Van Tassel  
All in favor – all except one  
Motion passed – so note Rebecca Chalmers  
opposed the motion.

Deb Charlea Baker reported on the Elderly- 2 recommended goals for 2017

1. Outreach
2. Accessibility

Motion to accept– Amy Williamson  
2<sup>nd</sup> the motion – Sherry Sousa  
All in favor – all  
Motion passed

<p>How do we fund/accomplish the working group recommendations? AOE, AHS, VDH and DAIL need to meet.</p>	<p>Monica Hutt, Cindy Moran, Linda Hazard and Bill will discuss funding opportunities at a later date.</p>	<p>Cindy Moran, Linda Hazard, Bill Hudson and Monica Hutt will have a conversation about funding.</p>
<p>Quality Improvement presentation using small tests of change.</p>		<p>Trish will send out Quality Improvement Power Point.</p>
<p>Updates and new meeting dates,</p>	<p>Public Input</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of the public come to our meetings</li> <li>• No additional funding for separate forums.</li> <li>• Share the link with as many people in the community as you can.</li> <li>• Add the link/address to all documentation.</li> </ul>	<p>Vermont Health Department Website is live.</p> <p>Web address is –</p> <p><a href="http://healthvermont.gov/family/health-care/hearing-health">http://healthvermont.gov/family/health-care/hearing-health</a></p> <p>Scroll down to The Vermont Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf/Blind Advisory Council.</p> <p>You will see in bold –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vermont Council Calendar of Events</li> <li>• Vermont Council Meeting Minutes</li> <li>• Vermont Council Reports</li> </ul>



		<p><b><u>Future Meetings-</u></b> <b>Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – Waterbury, AHS – WSOC Oak 49 RM A283, 10am – 1pm.</b></p> <p><b><u>Starting Next Fall –</u></b> All meetings will be held at Waterbury, AHS – WSOC Oak 49 RM A283 Time – 10-1</p> <p>Tuesday, September 19, 2017 Thursday, November 2, 2017 (this is a Thursday) Tuesday, January 16, 2018 Tuesday, March 20, 2018 Tuesday, May 22, 2018</p>
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