

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

DATE: 09-19-17 Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Attendee Committee Members: Deb Charlea Baker, Karen Bielawski-Branch (for Danielle Howes), Missy Boothroyd, Jennifer Bostwick, Rebecca Chalmers, Keri Darling, Ralph Gallo, Linda Hazard (Chair), Sharon Henry, Monica Hutt, Leslie Johnson, Susan Kimmerly, Cindy Moran, René Pellerin, Kelley Rohrer, Elena Shapiro, Sherry Sousa, AJ Van Tassel, Spencer Wepler, Amy Williamson.

Conference Phone: Judy Vreeland

Additional Attendees: Patricia Thompson (minutes), Cory Brunner (interpreter), Kristal Hier (interpreter), Virginia Clark (interpreter), Norma Miller (White Coat Captioning – CART), Randeé Pascall-Speights (interpreter), Charlotte (Dee) Spinkston (guest speaker)

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 2, 2017 (this is a Thursday)

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

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION
Welcome – Monica Hutt	Welcome the council and first order of business is to nominate Linda Hazard as Chair and Bill Hudson as Vice Chair in order to have Linda Hazard start the meeting.	
Nomination and Voting – Monica Hutt	Motion - to add Linda Hazard as Chair of Council until September 2018 – Monica Hutt 2 nd the motion – Sharon Henry All in favor – all Motion Passed	

	<p>Motion – to add Bill Hudson as Vice-Chair of Council until September 2018 – Monica Hutt 2nd the motion – Sherry Sousa All in favor – all</p> <p>Motion passed</p>	
<p>Presentation: Charlotte (Dee) Spinkston - Hellen Keller National Center for the DeafBlind Youth and Adults</p>	<p>“Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (HKNC) – the only comprehensive national program that provides information, referral, support and training exclusively to youths and adults who have a combined vision and hearing loss, their families and the professionals who work with them. HKNC’s mission is to enable each person who is deaf-blind to live, work and thrive in the community of his or her choice.”</p> <p>Dee works in Region 1 – the New England Office which is located on the campus of the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA.</p> <p>Helen Keller Act - stress the importance of impact of both hearing and vision on individuals. The impact on independent living and daily skills. Increase the focus on their ability to maintain and secure employment.</p> <p>Traditional Program - starts with an eight week assessment of the individual than goes on to 13 week cycles of training.</p>	

	<p>At the end of the 13 week cycles goals, objectives and assessments are reviewed again.</p> <p>Can Helen Keller bill Medicare directly? The answer is unknown at this time. Dee will find out and get back to the group.</p> <p>HKNC collaborates with “I CAN CONNECT” icanconnect.org – provides people with both significant vision and hearing loss with free equipment and training.</p>	
<p>Update- Community Forum Planning (Monica Hutt for Bill Hudson)</p>	<p>Bill has invited folks to join a subcommittee to help plan a town hall meeting on October 26th-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two town hall meetings in two different parts of the state. 2. How to structure a meeting to get feedback? 3. The council represents three different populations that we want to speak to, create a set of questions for all groups. 4. Organization of town hall 5. Where 6. When 	
<p>Update- EM Luse Center (Linda Hazard for Bill Hudson)</p>	<p>EM Luse Center at UVM is downsizing. Most likely discontinue services within the next year or so due to a financial decision.</p> <p>What do we want to do with the information as a council? Draft a letter.</p>	<p>Action Item – Monica Hutt will get in touch with the Governor’s office and ask them how they want us to handle this. Example - Do we want to send a letter to the governor, the legislature and UVM or send the letter only to the governor and legislature? Sharon Henry to send Monica thoughts and info to include in the letter</p>

<p>Update- Governor's Website and Council (Monica Hutt)</p>	<p>D/HH/DB is officially on the Governor's website, all the names are there.</p> <p>Link –</p> <p>http://governor.vermont.gov/boards_and_commissions/deaf-hard-hearing-and-deafblind-advisory-council</p> <p>Mark Limoges resigned from the D/HH/DB council.</p>	<p>Go to-</p> <p>Governor.vermont.gov boards-commissions Scroll down to – deaf-hard-hearing-and-deafblind-advisory-council</p> <p>Monica, Bill and Linda to meet and discuss the several items regarding the council.</p>
<p>Update- EHDI Reauthorization- Linda Hazard</p>	<p>EHDI reauthorization passed in the Senate. Still has to pass in the House of Representative.</p> <p>Encourage all to contact your legislature and give some support to the EHDI reauthorization.</p>	
<p>Update- Parent Infant Program- numbers served and funding concerns- Susan Kimmerly & Linda Hazard</p>	<p>Last January and February – discussion of difficulties with funding for 25 children and families. Recently identified 36 or 37 children since February which has raised the same issue but much greater. Linda and Susan coordinating and meeting with CIS. Program at risk for not enough professional resources to provide the support that's needed.</p>	

<p>Update- VTEHDI reauthorization- Linda Hazard</p>	<p>VTEHDI in coordination with the CARE Project are having a weekend retreat at the end of the month. A project about families journeys of finding out their children are D/HH/DB.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 Families attending 2 families from Massachusetts 1 family from Rhode Island 7 families from Vermont</p>	
<p>Update- New Hire at 9East- Jen Bostwick</p>	<p>9East Network has a new hire –</p> <p>Kris Lemire - hired as the Vermont Program for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing's Sign Support Coordinator. She previously worked at Austine School for the Deaf, ran the Green MT Lions Camp, taught local ASL classes and worked with families who have deaf/hard of hearing children.</p> <p>3 ASL classes set up around the state- People can register on our website - www.nineeastnetwork.net. When they register please make sure they put down where the class is they are registering for.</p>	<p>Email list of ASL classes out to council.</p> <p>I have attached the flyers for all 3 classes to this email.</p>
<p>Interpreters Report – Review and Discuss Next Steps- Amy Williamson</p>	<p>The subcommittee is interested in hearing everyone’s thoughts on the guidelines for interpreters working in the school system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we actually do with the feedback? • Setting the standard for interpreters is the first step. • The subcommittee with continue working on report 	<p>Copies of report that was provided to all back in January was passed out to refresh memories. An email was sent to all with a draft earlier this year. Will resend. Survey was sent to all.</p>

	<p>Discussion on January reporting brought on discussion of facilitator and a motion.</p> <p>Motion - to have a facilitator come to our 11/2/17 council meeting and make it an extended time frame – Keri Darling 2nd the Motion – AJ Van Tassel All in favor – all Motion passed</p> <p>Amendment to Motion – to have a facilitator come to our 11/2/17, extended time frame council meeting and to have help preparing report for January – Monica Hutt 2nd the Motion – AJ Van Tassel All if favor – all Motion passed</p>	
<p>H. 90 Legislation re Hearing Aids- Review and Discuss- Rebecca Chalmers</p>	<p>Goal – Get the topic supported and then discussed. Rebecca and Keri will work on a draft supporting hearing aids be covered under insurance, it's a form of equity and nondiscrimination.</p>	<p>Rebecca and Keri work on a draft letter.</p>
<p>Review, Edit and Approve Operating Guidelines for the Committee – Monica Hutt</p>	<p>Work on Operating Guideline on-line with the group.</p>	

<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Ralph Gallo – priority is a school for the deaf.</p> <p>Central point of entry for all D/HH/DB – to be discussed during retreat day – Linda Hazard</p> <p>Elena – correct her name on governor’s website.</p> <p>Rebecca – Green Mountain Healthcare website – icon at bottom of page so you can add public comments.</p>	
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn – Susan Kimmerly 2nd the motion – Deb Charlea Baker All in favor – all Motion passed</p>	
		<p><u>Next meeting-</u></p> <p>Waterbury, AHS – WSOC Oak 49 RM A283 Thursday, November 2, 2017 (this is a Thursday) Retreat Day, TIME – 10-4</p>

		<p><u>Future Meetings</u></p> <p>All meetings will be held at WSOC (Waterbury State Office Complex), Room Oak 49 RM A283, Time – 10-1</p> <p>Tuesday, January 16, 2018 Tuesday, March 20, 2018 Tuesday, May 22, 2018</p>
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