



Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind Council meeting (03/21/19)

Meeting Minutes

Call to order

A meeting of Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind Council was held at Waterbury State Office Complex (Cedar Conference Room) on 03/21/2019.

Attendees

Rebecca Chalmers, Deb Charlea Baker, Linda Hazard, Spenser Wepler, Sherry Sousa, Amy Williamson, Keri Darling, Amelia Briggs, Bill Hudson, Julie Stefanski, Justin Kenney (Guest Speaker), William Pendelbury, Danielle Howes, and Susan Kimmerly.

*No Quorum achieved (only 13 out of 24 folks attending - no voting)

Justin Kenney's Presentation on LEAN Methodology

Justin is a performance/budget analyst at the Agency of Finance + Management. He assists others with training around continuous improvement principles. LEAN is a methodology that was developed by Toyota. It employs results-based accountability, common principles, common language, strategic planning efforts. Justin represents himself as a neutral body, providing support to agencies and departments. He's funded internally, so there's no charge for his consultations. "Staff need to be empowered, not have one person that "fixes" everything."

The council members are aware of where the gaps are in the system -S.66 which created the council limits the role council has in setting policy and establishing programs. It is purely an advisory council for the purposes of analyzing the current landscape and making recommendations to the legislature and the administration

Justin agreed to return for continuous improvement. Justin and Spenser will collaborate about how much time is needed for Justin to provide support to the council with the first step possible meeting with members of the vision group

Bill's Summary Presentation on Tactile Communication Facilitator

Bill Hudson gave an overview of the Tactile Communication Facilitator Study that was commissioned by the legislature. The study recommends the creation of an intermediary accessible position for Deaf/Blind individuals called "Tactile communications facilitator". It is estimated that there are 25 adults with the possibility of an additional 25-35 school-age deafblind children around Vermont that would benefit from this addition (according to the DPS study) but because of the lack of demographic data, this number is just a guess. The study recommends \$100, 000 in funding which would be put towards the position, equipment and

additional resources the study is being sent to Health and Welfare Committee/Senate Committee on Finance, and House Human Services.

Could the experts come from the Helen Keller foundation? *Email Monica your thoughts*

Updates on programs

❖ Linda (updates)

- Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Annual meeting held March 3rd to March 6th in Chicago, Illinois.)
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Screening. Maternal Child Health and the Vermont Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (VTEHDI) Program are leading a work group to identify next steps for CMV education and screening. Currently the University of Vermont Medical center is conducting a pilot project where they are screening infants who do not pass their final hearing screening. There is an opportunity for the Medical Center to be involved in a national trial for the valear vaccine. The national organization that oversees all of the conditions under newborn screening has received a request to add CMV screening nationally as a recommended condition (Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP). VTEHDI will be working with the CMV foundation to add the Vermont logo to a poster and pamphlet that will be made available to obstetrics practices in Vermont. The poster and pamphlet are designed to inform the public about CMV and prevention. Danielle requested to have the information available for day care providers as well.
- (Linda will be attending a meeting with the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) on March 22, 2019 in Rockville, Maryland to discuss defining informed choice/decision terms with the agency. HRSA meeting in March 2019.
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- ### ❖ Spenser: Updated that it appeared Disability Awareness Day was well attended with many members of the council participating Keri testified in Senate Government Operations and there is support for the creation of the coordinator position. Finance bills crossover at Midnight 3/22/19 (i.e. Senate appropriations bill). Deb Baket testified the previous week on Hearing Aid Coverage bill which had been introduced and referred to Senate Finance. The affordable care act has been revised and there appears to be confusion around whether if new benefits are added for insurance plans on exchanges whether the state will be required to pay a portion of any premium increase as a result of new benefits. The council wondered if it was possible to get a legal opinion regarding the revised ACA? Will Pendlebury and Bill Hudson said they could ask the lawyers in their agency to see if they have any input. Spenser will connect with Will/Bill about connecting with legal counsel.
- ### Deb: Commented that the noise level testifying at Disability Awareness Day difficult; Captioning should have been available- Vermont Center for Disability Rights (VCDR) puts on the even and will be notified of this so as to address this for future events in the statehouse (Contact: Sarah Lunderville). Spenser and Keri will send a letter to Sarah Lunderville

- ❖ **Open Caption Bill (For Movie Theaters):** There is a bill moving through the legislature that would require Vermont Movie Theaters to offer Open Caption Movie showings. Some Vermont theaters are already voluntarily doing this which gives the bill grounding and likely much more support from the legislature.
- ❖ **Amy:** Updated that the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service Director Position has been filled. The New Director is from Florida and will begin April 15th! The Director will be based out of Montpelier.
- ❖ **Susan:** An RFP is expected to be released from State Agency of Education in the next month regarding school-aged services. Susan will share this with the council. There was also discussion that interested stakeholders (including the council) should be able to see a draft of the RFP to offer comments before it is released

Unfinished business

- ❖ Monica's office will reach out to all council members to make sure they provide updated mailing addresses. The list needs to be returned to administration for the appointment.
- ❖ Spenser is revising the operating guidelines. The number of meetings required for attendance will be revised to 4 meetings out of 6 for the year. Members of the council requested that a full attendance sheet be posted on the Councils website so that it is public and transparent. He is also revising the language around the Chair/Vice Chair term limits (if chair steps down, VC steps up). After revisions, Monica submit to the administration for review. The council will vote on the guidelines at the next meeting (5/16/19).
- ❖ Keri will send her testimony to the council regarding her participation at Disability Awareness Day.
- ❖ Keri Darling updated everyone on the vision group, who hasn't been able to meet in person, hoping to do so after this meeting. There are three possible rough drafts of the vision statement that the group will need to decide on. After the meeting Linda and Bill and Keri met and decided on one and will share with the vision group and get their feedback and then will share with the whole group at the next meeting.

New business

- ❖ **VERY IMPORTANT:** If you plan to testify at the legislature, please let Keri and Spenser know; even if it's not on behalf of the council. (It needs to be very clear/specific who you're testifying on behalf of).

Announcements

- ❖ May 2nd Vermont Higher Education collaboration. More information available at VTHET.org. (<https://www.vthec.org/event/hard-of-hearing-and-deafness-legal-update->

[protection-and-entitlements-from-birth-to-adult-bruce-a-goldstein-esq-2/?instance_id=2063](#))

- ❖ Vermont Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf - Retreat in May (<http://vtrid.org/vtrid-retreat-2019/>)
- ❖ National Conference in Providence RI (VT folks presenting) (<https://rid.org/rid-2019-national-conference-providence-ri/>)
- ❖ Vermont RID Picnic - June 8th (Vermont RID website) - Free Admission
- ❖ Workgroup for Legal-deaf system (from point of entry to re-entry after prison) (<http://vtrid.org/survey-interest-legal-interpreting/>)
- ❖ VTAD October 24th, 2019 - Life/Death workshop (10/5 flyer distribution).

Next Council Date

05/16/19 (Cedar Conference room, Waterbury State Office Complex) - 10am start time.

Secretary

Date of approval