



## Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind Council meeting (09/19/19)

### Meeting Minutes

#### Call to order

A meeting of Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind Council was held at Waterbury State Office Complex (Ash Conference Room) on 09/19/2019.

#### Attendees

Susan Kimmerly, Deb Charlea Baker, Spenser Wepler, Linda Hazard, Amy Williamson, Sherry Sousa, Keri Darling, Laura Siegel, Bill Hudson, Rebecca Chalmers, William Pendleberry, Tracy Harris, Julie Stefanski, Monica Hutt, AJ Van Tassel, Alan Gifford.

#### Best Wishes to Keri Darling

Keri Darling has concluded her time with the Deaf /Hard of Hearing/ Deaf Blind council. She will be relocating to Massachusetts for an exciting new opportunity. Rebecca Lalanne from Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services (DVAS) will be interim director for Keri Darling at DVAS. Bill will be interim Vice Chair for Keri on the Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind council. Spenser indicates that the council is looking for someone that's already a part of the council to step into the role of Vice Chair. Prior to Keri's departure, she's going to edit the operating guidelines/packet. Keri will also be doing a doodle poll to gather information and coordinate dates for 2020 upcoming meeting year.

#### General Updates

- ❖ Judy Vreeland has stepped down from the council.
- ❖ Linda Hazard: EDHI grant updates. Federal grants are \$16,000 less per year (4 year period) than was given in the past. Linda will be contemplating the sustainability of the EDHI program as grants are written. The CDC grant requires at least 5,000 births per year for eligible states (Vermont qualifies). CDC Invitation to work on national EDHI work. HRSA + CDC. Linda also talked about combining CIS and EDHI.
- ❖ 9East Network: Update from Susan Kimmerly around exploring grants small business innovative research and the LENA program (regarding the growth in young children's vocabulary). Discussion around shortage of teachers and sign language instructors in VT (AOE grant will be spread among various services).
- ❖ Bill: will work on the Vlog of the process and work on getting it set up (uploaded).

## Operating Guidelines

- ❖ The council cannot impose term limits as part of S66, but edits to operating guidelines were discussed. Members are asked to attend in person or by phone for at least 4 meetings per year. If that attendance is not met, council members will be asked to relinquish their seat so that it might be fulfilled by someone who could commit that time to the council.
- ❖ Vision statement removed temporarily, so that it might be worked on separately and reincorporated when completed to satisfaction.
- ❖ Mission statement also removed.
- ❖ Vote on operating guidelines - SUPERMAJORITY - the vote passes with a Yes.

## Legislative Updates

- ❖ Monica: Updates on the legislative position. The money has been allocated and the pay grade has been corrected. It's a paygrade 26 - Director position. The title will be "Director of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind citizens." Monica will send Shannon the job description to be sent out to the council. Will state provide interview travel/relocation funds?
- ❖ 2020 Annual report of the council to the legislature. The report is due the second week of the legislative session (January 2020).
- ❖ Hearing Aid Bill: Rebecca's update. Been talking to lawyers and coordinators all over the country. Federal mandate has complicated the bill because it necessitates that states pick up the tab (benefit). More updates in November.
- ❖ Open caption Bill: Deb Baker update on the open caption bill. HLAA chapter. More updates in November.

## Future Agenda Topics

- 1) HRAP: time to briefly discuss how we might be able to participate in health resource allocation plans and other similar state plans.
- 2) Consider all of the places that we want to be able to input and identify who leads efforts and then produce a schedule to invite specific guests in.

## Announcements

- ❖ Workgroup for Legal-deaf system (from point of entry to re-entry after prison) (<http://vtrid.org/survey-interest-legal-interpreting/>)

### \*Next Council Date\*

11/21/19 (Ash Conference room, Waterbury State Office Complex) - 10am - 1pm.

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Secretary

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Date of approval