

MEETING NOTES
Florida Coordinating Council for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
September 21, 2004

Self-Governance and Operation Discussion

- Preferred term is FCCDHH
- Need to refer to each group: deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, deaf-blind
- Majority vote – Chair will say aloud if vote is unanimous or what the number is
- Robert's Rules of Order will be followed
- Members will raise their hand and will wait to contribute to discussions until they are recognized by the Chair
- Meetings will convene at 1:00 on Day 1 with Committee Meetings from 1-3:00 and time for Public Comment from 3:30 – 6:00. Comments can be taken in written form sent in prior to the meeting, or turned in prior to the start of the Public Comment time. Presentation of Public Comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person. A written form of a comment will be required and reviewed by the Chair prior to Public Comment. Chair can call on individuals or can request that a representative speak for a group of persons that have submitted similar comments. On Day 2 the meeting will convene at 8:30. The first agenda item will be discussion of issues raised during Public Comment with the purpose of determining a need for discussion of specific issues at future meetings, assistance to be provided by council members as appropriate to the area of concern, or decision made for the Chair to address a public concern in the form of a letter or other contact. Other agenda items will be discussed following the time set aside for public issues. The Chair may wish to call on members of the audience known to have expertise relevant to a topic of discussion of the Council.
- A request was made to consider purchasing an indicator light (green-yellow-red) for persons presenting Public Comments to assist them in keeping to the 5 minute time limit. It was also suggested that a person be assigned the role of time keeper during Public Comment.

Duties and Roles Discussion

1. Review of state agencies to determine compliance with accessibility standards
 - Have the first Public Comments session focus on the issue of agency accessibility
 - Survey of agencies has already been completed. However it needs to be updated and the agencies that did not respond to the survey need to be approached again.
 - Need to add the Dept of Business Relations, the Dept of Health, and the Dept of Transportation to the list of state agencies that receive inquiries about accessibility
2. Review of Federal and state standards, rules and regulations
 - Use information from ADAWG report as a guide.
 - Recommended looking at (1) FL Administrative Code 649E-9.008(7) regarding accessibility in restaurants and public swimming pools; (2) Chapter 119 regarding Public Records; (3) ANSI Standards for Acoustics in Learning Environments –*KA added this comment at a later date*
- 3 + 4. Review feasibility of and necessity for regulation of interpreters and recommend standards
 - Use information from ADAWG report as a guide.
 - A committee was formed with Lisa from FRID in the lead to gather the initial information required for this 2006 report.
 - Information to be gathered also refers to CART and oral interpreters
5. Information and Referral
 - Shamelessly copy the website of the Massachusetts Commission

- Committee should also include a media connection focus
 - We will need to check on quality of websites and the connectivity of all links
 - A variety of kinds of provider service lists need to be included on the website
 - Information should be organized in a county map format with links and specific service providers listed under each county
 - Misty needs to refer people as appropriate, ask for their email address, send them information on how they can obtain the information independently in the future, and then follow up to make sure the concerns or needs of the person were taken care of
 - Need to include information from:
 - Deaf Service Centers
 - Clearinghouse on Disability Information
 - Council for Independent Living
 - FLASHHH
 - ALDA
 - FAD
 - FRID – List
 - CARTwheel
 - AG Bell
 - Contacts from DOJ, DCF, DOE
 - American Association of Deaf Blind
6. Provide information and assistance to the Legislature
- Need to have a Legislative committee to access the public forums available that provide information on bills, discussions, and current status of lawmaking efforts that may effect persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, or deaf-blind
 - Tom Koch recommended the Council identify 1-2 people to be the ‘voice’ of the Council with the Legislature
7. Promote public and individual advocacy
- Need to identify agencies who can assist in advocating for individuals and issues
 - Need to advocate with legislature and county commissioners on issues (discussion about whether this should be job of Legislative committee or advocacy)
 - Need to develop a form letter that Council members can use to introduce themselves and the Council and to share this with consumers in each member’s local area
 - Need to respond to public comments and submitted issues and concerns; again Misty should follow up to see if the person’s concerns were addressed.

Elections: Chris Wagner, Chair; Joan Haber, Vice Chair

Committees (Chris is ex officio member of all committees)

2005 Report: Joan, Carol, Eloise, Evy, Laurie, Sarah, Joe

2006 Report: Tanya, Lisa, Joan, Stan, Randy

Information, Referral, and Advocacy: Tanya (Committee Chair), Joe, Julie, Eloise, Rick, Stan

Legislative: Evan, Julie, Randy, Sarah, Carol

Bylaws/Policy: Carol, Evy, Evan

Committee Meeting Information:

1. 2005 Report Group

- Need to contact Julie Shaw to ask who was asked to respond to the survey (41 of 642 responded) and what survey form was used
- Need to resend the survey to state agencies that have not responded

- Update the matrix of services available in the state to be sure they are still being provided – add services for deaf-blind. The committee members split up this task geographically.
- Resend the survey to agency heads and not to ADA coordinators
- Carol to bring information related to housing laws regarding DHH.
- Add standards for acoustics in learning environments and transportation to list of accessibility issues
- Chris will work on updating the matrix. Joan will send it to committee members
- Define minimal standards for state agencies – development over the long term is the goal
- In the 2005 the Council needs to make sure to add CART when appropriate and to be clear when realtime captioning is really meant. Need to define CPRINT as another assistive device and provide definitions of the similar devices/functions
- Address the accessibility of the Capitol; urge remote CART availability
- Reemphasis on the necessity of defining services in the legislative report
- Include the Dept of Labor in survey efforts and accessibility report
- Change reference in report from ‘service dogs’ to ‘service animals’

2. Information and Referral Group

- Website needs to be accessible to visually impaired and blind (Joe will review site for accessibility using JAWS software)
- Rick will provide contacts and information on core services available from the Deafness Service Centers
- Work toward developing a website with services and contacts linked under each county
- Need to develop validation criteria to be used when reviewing quality of websites
- Responsibility of the committee members to review the suggested websites for quality
- Misty is to research (1) web hosting (2 specific sources), and (2) things to include in a website based on looking at the websites of Commissions or other state entities
- On homepage need to explain who and what FCCDHH is
- Need to include general definitions of what services are
- Each member needs to develop media contacts

General Comments about the Meeting

- Council wants to develop own logo-artwork and have letterhead with member names and mission statement
- Podium in back for public
- Split interpreters in the center so people can look through from one side of the table to the other side
- All interpreters need to be nationally certified – so does CART
- Joan Haber to bring her laptop so she can take personal notes
- Meet every 2 months until further notice
- Meet from 1-6pm on Day 1 and 8:30 – 5:00 on Day 2
- Try for Thur and Fri meetings but not the 3rd Thursday of the month
- Next meeting is Nov 15-16 at the Homewood Suites in Tallahassee
- Following meeting is on January 13-14 in a Tampa location to be announced

Sunshine Noticing for Meeting

Include:

- Date of meeting
- How to obtain agenda
- How to obtain minutes from meetings
- Request public complete a written comment card, how they can request a card
- At Nov meeting request that public comments center on agency accessibility issues

Outstanding questions

- Setting up a 1-800 for TTY and voice line
- How can the Council accept gifts and grant funds from a state agency perspective?