

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
MARCH 10, 2005
Holiday Inn Plantation, Florida**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARING

FCCDHH Members Attending: Chris Wagner, Laurie Gaylord, Evy Friend, Eloise Williams, Carolyn Franklin, Lisa Schaefermeyer, Sarah Harris, Rick Kottler, Stan Gustetic, Tanya Ward English, Joan Haber, Carol Christopherson, Randy Ellsworth; Julie Church, Evan Goldman. Karen and Misty, staff, were also present.

FCCDHH Members Absent: none

Call to Order 1:08 pm

Welcome by Chris Wagner, Chair and introductions of all FCCDHH members

Committee Summaries:

Legislative Committee: Chris Wagner reported that some Council members have met with their local legislators to educate them about the critical need for funding for the Council. In April it is expected that the Department of Health line item budget will include \$250,000 for Council funding. The service animal bill has been supported fully by Council members in working with legislators.

Information & Referral Committee: Primary focus has been to establish a quality website. Dorothy Hesson has been brought on as a consultant to the I & R committee to define all of the elements to be included on the website. The first step will be to develop an initial website. The I & R committee will work with Ms. Hesson on visioning the future of the fully functional website. Once all parameters of the full website are defined bids will be invited for development.

Work Groups: Groups were established to consider the 2005 FCCDHH report and determine priorities. Twenty-five minutes were spent talking about each recommendation by each group.

Public Hearing convened at 3:55

Introductions of all FCCDHH members

Purpose of Public Hearing presented by Chris Wagner, Chair of FCCDHH

Chris Wagner thanked all public attendees for their comments and described the next actions of the FCCDHH in response to the comments. He encouraged the public to request their friends from the Jacksonville/St. Augustine area to attend the next FCCDHH meeting in May. He described the plan for developing the 2006 report on interpreter and CART services. He acknowledged the need to address emergency services.

Recess until Friday, March 11, 2005 at 8:30 am

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

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Summary of approvals/action items:

- Chris will continue to research contact information for TV stations (assistance from Joan and Misty)
- Chris will share copies of existing letters written in support of legislation with all Council members and staff and will copy all future letters to this group
- Stan offered to look into text availability for Onstar system
- Tanya English offered to check into the Paratransit system issues in Broward County
- Joan requested time to address movie captioning at the next meeting
- Rick will address medical accessibility issues at the next meeting
- Suggestions were made to improve the accuracy and readability of meeting minutes
- Approval of January 13-14, 2005 meeting minutes
- Approval of January 27, 2005 teleconference meeting minutes
- Extended discussions of the budget were tabled until next meeting
- Evy will send the link to the technical assistance paper that the DOE has prepared regarding allowing assistive devices to be provided as part of inclusive transition services for children with disabilities.
- Approval for the Council to prepare letters in support of 9 bills and in opposition to 1 bill.
- Council members to complete a survey that Ms. Hesson will use to define the full content of the FCCDHH website.
- Chris will send the digital image of the FCCDHH logo to Tanya to provide to Ms. Hesson so that it can go on the initial website.
- Karen to explore how to establish a contract for a person to manage the whole website development process.
- Approval of budget expenditure maximum of \$30,000 for website development and to further authorize specific expenditure of these funds by the I&R committee under the direction of Tanya English.
- Stan requested a copy of the Task Force PowerPoint presentation from Ali.
- In preparation for the May meeting, Julie will contact local media via a press release and Stan will contact the school system; other members can take the responsibility to contact their stakeholder groups with announcements.

- Chris will contact the Clerk of Court for Broward County about the recent lack of a courthouse interpreter liaison.
- Evan will look up the information from other states that have established a trust fund for interpreter service reimbursement and present it at the next meeting.
- Misty to contact state Deafness Councils to determine any that have DHH accessibility information in the form of required coursework for physicians and attorneys
- Invite MQA to present at the next FCCDHH meeting to provide clarification on what the complaint resolution process is
- Consider hiring an outreach/marketing person for ongoing training with groups as a function of the Council.
- Chris will write an email to Governor Bush with cc to Skip Campbell chair of the children and families committee in the Senate to inquire about appointing a representative from DCF.
- Approval of a budget of a maximum of \$20,000 to develop a PSA under the direction of Tanya English in combination with the other I & R committee members.
- Approval of a budget of a maximum of \$2,500 be allocated to purchase pens, magnets, and other appropriate marketing items to promote the goals of the FCCDHH under the coordination of Eloise in combination with the input of the I & R committee.
- Approval of a budget of a maximum of \$15,000 for the development of educational materials related to the mission of FCCDHH, ADA accessibility, and relevant topics as directed by Julie, Carol, and Eloise and to print as many copies as that dollar amount would allow.
- Approval of a maximum \$15,000 budget in travel reimbursement to support Chris Wagner or his designees in necessary travel required for the FCCDHH.
- Approval of a maximum of \$10,000 to support travel and expenses for the Task Force on Interpreter and CART credentialing to meet in April to continue their work.
- Chris (or designee) will report back to Council members via email a synopsis of the travel activity supported by the Council.
- Karen will determine if it is possible for the FCCDHH to set up scholarship funds for students who are DHH.
- Stan to assist in identifying a meeting site and hotel for the May meeting.

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FCCDHH Members Attending: Chris Wagner, Julie Church, Evy Friend, Eloise Williams, Carolyn Franklin, Lisa Schaefermeyer, Sarah Harris, Rick Kottler, Stan Gustetic, Tanya Ward English, Joan Haber, Carol Christopherson, Randy Ellsworth; Julie Church, Evan Goldman. Karen and Misty, Staff, also present.

FCCDHH Members Absent: none

Call to Order at 8:40 am

All members introduced themselves.

January 13-14, 2005 minutes were reviewed and action items updated.

- Letters have gone out to legislators updating them of our concerns
- Julie suggested that all motions and actions appear at the top of the minutes in the future.
- Chris will be researching the names of contacts for TV stations
- Joan requested time at the next meeting to address movie captioning issues
- Rick said that he had not pursued information about medical accessibility issues but will be able to report information at the next meeting
- Lisa recommended that an error on page 2 be corrected

Joan moved to accept the January 13-14, 2005 minutes and Lisa seconded approval of the minutes.

Minutes for the special teleconference of January 27th were reviewed.

- Carol suggested that she be moved from noted as attended to being absent.
- Joan suggested that minutes have page numbers.

Randy made a motion to approve the January 27, 2005 teleconference minutes Rick seconded.

Financial Report / Status was reported by Misty.

- Chris recommended that the journal transfers be noted as account payables so that the amounts can be included in the budgets for accurate accounting.
- Julie moved to table the discussion of transfer of funds between agencies until more information can be received.
- Julie inquired if efforts were being made to hire interpreters from the local area where FCCDHH meetings are held. Chris explained the value of maintaining the same pool of interpreters who develop a history of work with the council and the advantage of having known quality of interpreters.

- Karen stated that for the next fiscal year open purchase orders will be pursued for all of the accessibility services.
- Lisa asked that a total for expenses for each meeting be added to the budget.
- Joe reported that he has been invited to attend a special meeting sponsored by DVR. He inquired if there was funding from this Council to support appropriate educational activities. It was suggested that he bring it up during the new business portion of the meeting.

Sarah seconded the motion to table further discussions of the budget.

Legislative Committee Discussion was presented by Evan Goldman, Committee Chair. Refer to committee handout for detail on bill status.

- Evy will send the link to the technical assistance paper that the DOE has prepared regarding allowing assistive devices to be provided as part of inclusive transition services for children with disabilities.
- Evy provided an update on the DOE bill supporting interpreter standards in the schools.

Council members discussed the need for supporting the following bills:

S62 – Creation of independent special districts to provide funding for seniors and adults with disabilities.

S196 – Include right to have an interpreter and assistive devices and the presence of a service animal in the Patient's Rights bill

S232 – include a person with knowledge of hearing loss and deaf issues in local emergency management teams

H153 – service animal bill

S560 – health care coverage for persons with congenital craniofacial anomalies

S1502 – Children's Hearing Help Fund

S1604 – 211 network to provide coordination of emergency operation services (crisis line referrals for non-emergency situations)

S2058 – oppose merging of Hearing Instrument Specialist and Speech/Audiology MQA boards

S2550 – continued use of assistive technology devices/services during transition for all children upon identification disability/technology need

Federal H415 – allow Medicare beneficiaries the option of going directly to a qualified audiologist for hearing/balance diagnostic tests.

- Requests were made that these letters be copied to all Council members

Laurie moved that the Council send letters as discussed in support for the identified issues, seconded by Rick. Unanimous approval.

A presentation was provided by the Information and Referral Committee by Tanya English, Committee Chair. Committee members met with Dorothy Hesson, consultant from Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. Ms. Hesson has prepared a communication brief with impressions on the needs for an initial site and the contents needed for a full website. Goal is to have the comprehensive website by July 1, 2005. Council members have been directed to complete a survey that Ms. Hesson will use to define the full content of the website. The questions on the survey were clarified as needed.

- Chris will arrange to send the digital image of the FCCDHH logo to Tanya to provide to Dorothy so that it can go on the initial website.
- Karen and Misty will explore the means by which a contract could be established to manage the bidding and development of a website. Also to check on the ability to spend encumbered dollars after the June 30th end of the fiscal year. Dual enrollment capability for state employees being the contract manager needs to be ascertained.

Carol motioned that the Council budget a maximum expenditure of \$30,000 for all website expenses seconded by Sarah. All voted in favor except Laurie.

Lisa moved to recind the motion in order to provide more detail to the motion, Sarah seconded.

Carol made the motion to budget a maximum of \$30,000 for development of the website, further authorizing decisions about specific expenditure of these funds to the I&R committee to be directed by Tanya English as the I&R committee chair. Rick seconded the motion. All voted in favor, Tanya English abstained.

Presentation on the Licensure Task Force Discussion by Ali Blaylock Chair, FRID Legislative Action Committee and Lisa Schaefermeyer and Tanya English, Co-Chairs of the task force. Results of a survey of 90 interpreters, representing approximately 25-30% of all certified interpreters (state-level and national) were presented. Task force has anticipated that credentialing would be through the Department of Business and Professional Services. 19-20 other states already have this type of licensure. During the FAD road tours, 90+% of persons surveyed supported licensure. Thus, the interpreter community and the deaf community support this concept. Task Force will recommend request for funds for training of interpreters; licensure costs will be sustained by license holders.

- Stan requested a hard copy of the PowerPoint presentation from Ali.

Public Hearing Review and Discussion. Each member made a statement about their response to the public comment period.

- Julie will contact local media a press release and Stan will contact the school system; other members can take the responsibility to contact their stakeholder groups with announcements of the upcoming May meeting.
- We need to consider ensuring that there is an interpreter who can assist members of the public who are deaf-blind for the next meeting.
- Evy will share the information for future meetings through the DHH contacts in the districts and locally affected districts as feasible.
- Evan recommended that funders from the areas local to the places where council meetings are held (i.e., community support councils) be invited to attend each future meeting.
- Tanya recommended that a notice of each meeting be sent to an email distribution list of all resources on the service matrix.
- Tanya will explore the public concerns about ParaTransit in Broward Cty

- Chris will contact the Clerk of Court for Broward Cty about the recent lack of a courthouse interpreter liaison,
- Information about the meeting should be disseminated to audiologists, hearing instrument specialists, FEHI (educators of hearing impaired), ASL teachers association and the interpreters.
- Stan will explore holding the Council meeting at Flagler College in May so that better lighting would be available.
- Eloise will speak with the Elder Injury Prevention program manager at Elder Affairs about the need to offer strobe fire alarms as they work with local fire departments
- A variety of members commented that we should have a resource table with information from Social Security, Workforce One, or other similar vendor resources.

Karen reported that 43 comments were received by the public. Most frequent areas of concern in order of number of comments (5 comments or more) were: educational services, medical accessibility, cost of hearing aids, insurance reimbursement for hearing aids and interpreters, lack of ADA compliance by state agencies, local agencies, and businesses, vocational rehabilitation issues, and TV and movie captioning.

Discussion: Priorities and Action Plans based on 2005 Report

- Take the model from a couple of other states for a trust fund for reimbursement of accessibility accommodations for persons who are DHH so attorneys and physicians can submit vouchers for reimbursement for these costs. Evan will look up the information from other states and present it at the next meeting.
- Find a way for us to get DHH accessibility information into required coursework for physicians and attorneys (Misty to contact state Deafness Councils to determine if coursework already exists)
- Invite MQA to provide clarification on what the complaint resolution process is (determine if rule promulgation is necessary)
- Consider hiring an outreach/marketing person for ongoing training with groups as a function of the Council.
- Discussed preparing information on DVD/video to illustrate the communication needs of the DHH during emergency situations
- Chris will write an email to Governor Bush with cc to Skip Campbell chair of the children and families committee in the Senate to inquire about appointing a representative from DCF.
- White Hawk Pictures assisted FTRI in developing a PSA. Discussed having a PSA developed that encompasses a variety of communication issues for the DHH.

Joan made a motion to allocate a maximum of \$20,000 to develop a PSA under the direction of Tanya English in combination with the other I & R committee members. Carol seconded the motion. Nine in favor, Randy Ellsworth opposed.

Carol made a motion that \$2500 be allocated to purchase pens, magnets, and other appropriate marketing items to promote the goals of the FCCDHH under the coordination of Eloise in combination with the input of the I & R committee. Evy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

10,000 nice quality trifold brochures with pictures and use of color requiring a budget of \$15,000. Information to be included: mission, history, purpose, broadranging issues, contact information, specific examples of problems brought to us, and laying out responsibilities for agencies and businesses to provide accommodations. Target audience is very broad.

Tanya moved that the Council approve \$15,000 for the development and printing as much as that dollar amount would allow as directed by Julie, Carol, and Eloise. Seconded by Rick. Unanimous approval.

New Business

Rick made a motion to approve \$15,000 in travel reimbursement to support Chris Wagner in necessary travel required for the FCCDHH. Lisa seconded. All voted in approval, with the exception of Chris, who abstained.

- Chris will report back to Council members via email a synopsis of the travel activity supported by the Council. Chris can delegate to another Council member to attend in his place when he is unable to attend.
- Karen will determine if it is possible for the FCCDHH to set up scholarship funds for students who are DHH.

Laurie announced that the state chapter of the Alexander Graham Bell Association on April 15 and 16 and invited Chris to attend the conference and speak as appropriate.

Announcements

- Chris announced that the FTRI will have their public meeting on April 15th in Tallahassee
- On May 4th there will be a DHH rally at the Capitol that is coordinated with the FAD and SHHH. Chris invited all FCCDHH members to participate.
- Next meeting will be held in St. Augustine on May 12 – 13th. Karen will work with Stan to establish a meeting place (Flagler College?) and hotel site (TBD).
- Laurie announced that she will be meeting in Tallahassee next week with her legislators.
- Location of the summer meeting was discussed.

Rick made a motion for the Council to approve \$10,000 to support travel and expenses for the Task Force to meet in April to continue their work. Carol seconded and unanimously approved.

Randy made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Evan seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.