

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
January 13, 2005**

Council Members Present: Chris Wagner, Sarah Harris, Lisa Schaefermeyer, Evy Friend, Joan Haber, Eloise Williams, Laurie Gaylord, Joe Naulty, Randy Ellsworth, Tanya English, Julie Church, Rick Kottler, Stan Gustetic, Carolyn Franklin, Evan Goldman. Dr. Karen Anderson, staff liaison and Misty Burns, assistant to the council were also present.

Council Members Absent: Carol Christopherson

Meeting called to order at 1:10pm.

Carolyn Franklin was introduced as the new member representing the Department of Health. Response had not been received from Luci Hadi, Secretary of the Department of Children and Families, DCF designee.

Information and Referral and Legislative Committee meetings were conducted until 2:30 p.m.

During the Legislative meeting Chris Wagner reported that the funding for the FCCDHH has not appeared in the legislative budget request for the DOH. The Legislative Committee was tasked with discussing this issue and determining a course of action to address this situation. The council also discussed this year's legislative bills that will be brought to session.

Tanya English summarized the discussion of the Information & Referral committee regarding recommended activities towards development of a FCCDHH website. The I & R Committee also recommended to purchase a new laptop for Misty Burns.

PUBLIC HEARING 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Chris Wagner welcomed the public to the FCCDHH meeting. Members introduced themselves and who they represent. Protocol for providing public comment was described. A 3-minute time limit for speaking was imposed.

Public comments were received at this time. Concerns from the public included lack of captioning in movie theaters, lack of captioning on television news, lack of interpreters in medical settings, and communication issues with law enforcement.

Chris Wagner thanked all persons who provided input. Meeting adjourned 6:30 p.m. A summary of public comments is attached.

**Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
January 14, 2005**

Council Members Present: Chris Wagner, Sarah harris, Lisa Schaefermeyer, Evy Friend, Joan Haber, Eloise Willaiams, Laurie Gaylord, Joe Naulty, Randy Ellsworth, Tanya English, Julie Church, Rick Kottler, Stan Gustetic, Evan Goldman, Carolyn Franklin. Dr. Karen Anderson and Misty Burns were also present.

Council Members Absent: Carol Christopherson

Chris Wagner, chair of FCCDHH called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. All members introduced themselves and their affiliations they represented. CART provider, interpreters, and Support Service Providers were introduced.

Joan Haber moved to approve the meeting minutes from November 2004. Seconded by Tanya English. Approval of December 9th teleconference meeting minutes was moved by Sarah Harris and seconded by Randy Ellsworth.

Misty Burns presented the financial report and reviewed expenditures from the last FCCDHH meeting. She explained that some members did not submit receipts or paperwork. Stan requested that the budget recording be changed so that the budget reflected a running subtraction from the \$250,000 total.

Public Hearing Comments were discussed and each member made a comment about information shared during the Public Hearing.

James Forstall presented information about Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.(FTRI) so that Council members would be fully aware of this statewide not-for-profit organization that administers the Specialized Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program for citizens of Florida who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind and Speech Impaired.

Tanya English reported on the Information & Referral committee. Registering the domain names FCCDHH.org and FCCDHH.com will be explored. Stan made a motion for approval a maximum expenditure of \$2000.00 to hire a consultant to assist in the development of the website (determination of website features, evaluations of bids, etc.) Rick seconded the motion.

A motion to approve the logo that was presented in hard copy to the Council was made by Evan and seconded by Lisa.

The Discussion of the 2006 report was presented by Chris Wagner and he described the requirements of legislation in developing this report. Mr. Wagner suggested setting up a task force of various experts within the field of interpreting and CART and consumers. Julie made the motion that the council approve

funding to support Lisa and Tanya and a group of no more than 12 additional people to meet together to set the criteria for the report contents and a timeline for completion of the report. Motion passed unanimously.

The 2005 Legislative actions were discussed by the Legislative committee. Chris Wagner recommended that FCCDHH send letters of support to the following bills:

1. McKay Scholarship (SB 2) talking about private schools receiving state monies. If they receive state monies they should be providing qualified accommodations to students with disabilities. Council agreed to leave it as is.

2. Require DOE to perform concordant studies to determine FCAT alternative accommodations for children with limited English proficiency as related to completion of requirements for high school completion. Chris Wagner suggested writing a letter to the bill sponsor. Mr. Wagner stated that less than 30% of students who are deaf or hard of hearing complete school with a regular diploma.

3. SB 232 – emergency management for counties that authorizes them to establish disaster assistance recovery team. Mr. Wagner suggested writing a letter to Senator Constantine suggesting that a member of the deaf and hard of hearing community participate on each of these teams. Laurie made a motion to write a letter of support, seconded by Randy, unanimously approved.

4. HB 153 and SB 434 regarding service animals sponsored by Representative Carroll. Sarah made a motion to support the bill and send a letter to Rep Carroll, seconded by Tanya, which was unanimously approved

5. SB 196 -sponsored by Senator Siplin regarding patient rights to participate in healthcare decisions, choice of providers, generic or name brand medication. Sarah suggested that choice of accessibility accommodations be added to the bill. Evan suggested that Chris speak to Senator Siplin to coordinate the addition of this with him so that this addition is not seen as a threat. Chris Wagner said there was one hospital in Boynton Beach that added to their patient's bill of rights the right to choose their own communication accommodations. Rick made a motion to write the letter, seconded by Lisa, unanimously approved.

6. Evan described a Federal \$500 tax credit bill that can be utilized every 5 years for persons who are elderly or working families. Evan made a motion for the FCCDHH to write a letter to each member of the Florida legislative delegation (23 members) requesting them to support this bill. It will also make the legislators aware of the council. Randy seconded, unanimously approved.

Evan will develop a matrix that he will update weekly and send to all council members.

Discussion of the 2005 FCCDHH report. Mr. Wagner wants to ensure that the report gets out to all of the legislators, not just the legislative leaders and asked the council members for suggestions on how to distribute. Sarah made the

motion to send the report to all legislators, seconded by Julie, unanimously approved.

Julie asked what the next step is now that the report has been released. Chris Wagner said that this will be a foundation for educational efforts with legislators. Julie asked for clarification about whether the Council would be approaching the legislature for proviso language for this year to support the council or are we going to try to get legislation for the state entity that we asked for in the report. Chris Wagner said that we need to find out which legislators have objectives that this may fit into to see if a bill could be sponsored. We are fortunate that some members like Laurie Gaylord have personal relationships with legislative leadership. Mr. Wagner mentioned several legislators that have a personal connection to hearing-related issues that would be good for the Council to target.

For Items of new business:

1. Tanya English made the motion that a new computer be purchased for Misty, the assistant to FCCDHH. This motion was seconded by Joan. Motion amended not to exceed \$1500. Eleven in favor, 2 abstained.

2. Joan motioned that a letter be sent to all TV stations in Florida stating who we are, who we represent and stating the absolute necessity for televising emergencies in realtime captioning. Rick recommended that a letter go to the stations that have provided good realtime access commending them for this service. Tanya suggested that the letter include post-emergency captioning needs. Joan seconded, unanimously approved for letter to be sent.

3. Joan stated that the Coalition for Movie Captioning in Washington DC be a source for information for council members to learn more about methods to provide captioning of movies. She would like to learn this information and present it to the council for the purpose of possibly proposing that this council become a member of the Coalition. Council approved of Joan exploring this information.

4. Rick stated that the council needs to set up a committee to develop strategies to deal with the lack of education or compliance of the medical community. A plan is needed. Chris Wagner requested that Carolyn be involved in this medical accessibility committee and that she also explore the current complaint process. Rick suggested that a few people work together to develop a strategic plan and then bring the ideas to the larger group. Carolyn, Rick, Sarah, Randy volunteered to be on a medical accessibility committee. Stan was added to represent audiologists. All approved the motion.

5. Evan made a motion to approve that the Legislative committee meet in Tallahassee at a date that is convenient to accomplish meetings with legislators. Julie seconded. Unanimously approved.

6. Evan commented that in the 2005 report there was mention of the need to establish continuing education of the Bar Association. He would like to continue to work on the committee with the Bar to address this and suggested that a member of the Bar Association to address the Council in the future. Tanya added that the mediators and arbitrators association should also be included in educational efforts.

7. Evan introduced the idea of developing a mentoring system to match adults with different auditory characteristics who would be willing to mentor students who are interested in communicating with an adult that shares their auditory characteristics. The council agreed to consider the issue at a future date as our priorities allow.

Lisa clarified that the previous motion supporting the Interpreter Legislation Task Force would include travel and a hotel meeting room. And that she also be removed from the Legislative Committee specifically because of the time demands of the task force. Evan said that he would like to continue to have Lisa on the committee since she is in the field and knowledgeable on these issues.

Lisa suggested that the media be alerted about the public hearing at the next meeting. Chris Wagner and Julie will spearhead this effort.

Eloise suggested that educational efforts be directed at law enforcement, specifically FDLE. She offered to check further and inform the council at a later date. Tanya shared that she had a client that is connected with the Sheriff's association who may be of assistance.

Lisa suggested that a meeting date for the meeting after March be set. In May, Mr. Wagner suggested the St. Augustine to meet on the 12th and 13th.

Julie requested that all letters of support or interest that were written be sent to council members for their possible action with local legislators.

Chris Wagner thanked the members for their dedication and extended his appreciation to the members for their involvement in the council.

Motion was made to adjourn by Chris Wagner, seconded by Randy Ellsworth. Meeting adjourned at 4:45.