

**Oregon Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Program
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2006**

Participants: (X = attended, A = absent; E = Excused) – June 3rd

Members			
E	Eleni Boston	X	Robert Pope
X	Renwick Dayton	X	George Scheler
E	Genie Ott Mendiola	X	D. Wayne Seely
X	Margi Morgan	X	David Viers
E	Alice Pakhtigian		
Staff			
Morgen Brodie, Bentley Fink, Georgia Ortiz and Wendy Russell Kath Wallace & Jill Baker, Debra Cheyne from LNS Captioning			
Public/Guests			
Irmgard Friedburg			
Speakers			
Damara Paris			

Hayden's Grill in Tualatin Oregon

Call to Order 10:12 a.m.

Announcement – Lunch was provided but drinks were the responsibility of members.

Ground rules- There were communication requirements.

- Keep a respectful environment.
- Pay attention.
- Speak one at a time and don't interrupt.

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- Facilitator needs to call upon people who will be speaking. Raise your hand if you want to speak.
- Limit talk time to 2 minutes depending on topic.
- Listen and not criticize.

OTRS Update-

- The new building is on Taylor in downtown Portland and is not deaf friendly. The office space is more for Damara to have the option of using conference rooms, fax and copy machines. Since most of her job requires outreach she works from home, most of the time only in the office one day every week or two. Most of the communication is through email and video relay. She will be sending her new contact information to the community soon.
- OTRS and Sprint sponsored the retreat because they feel it is an important program that impacts deaf Oregonians.
- CapTel is a big focus this next year. The roll out of radio commercials will happen in July. The reason they are using radio commercials is to educate family members of people who are deaf or hard of hearing that the technology is available.
- Damara will give a presentation on relay conferencing at next meeting.
- PUC is replacing 7 individuals including Damara's old position. The position has been closed but whoever they hire won't start until end of June or early July. They are adding 1.5 positions to the TDAP program.
- On June 23rd the CapTel team will meet to plan for the future. There are 3 members but 3 more are needed. They need a contractor from Salem as well as 2 from other areas.
- OAD will be receiving a CapTel phone thanks to Damara.

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Management Update-

- Georgia provided graphs in the packet which showed how many information and referral contacts have been made with the program. It showed that the number had skyrocketed which was due to some of the previous data being lost. It also was unusually high in numbers of in-person contacts because of the DHHART tour that ODHHS was part of. Most contact is via email to which both Georgia and Bentley spend quite a bit of their time responding.
- When the video relay address is advertised the use of it to contact the program will probably go up also. There was some concern on the move to Salem with the video phone and how people will contact Georgia and Bentley.
- Requests for trainings are coming from both agencies and private businesses. Examples were given of what types of requests were being made. Requests for private training are being referred out.
- Georgia will be meeting with Mitch Turbin in regards to the lack of requests to meet the needs of those who are deaf-blind.
- The newsletter will be emailed out to about 800 contacts on the ODHHS listserv June 6th. The email will encourage recipients to print out as many as they like. Hard copies will be available upon request. Georgia will also take copies to trainings. Members were given a handout which listed what will be included in the next newsletter. The next newsletter will be in September.
- The new building on Church street is not ready yet. The move could happen anywhere from possibly August to as late as October. On June 16th Georgia will be moving to HSB. Ben will be moving on Tuesday. They will be sharing a small office space next to the communication coordinator, Jeff Brownson. As more information comes Georgia will let members know.

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- The communication coordinator job has closed. A letter is being mailed out to applicants with specific questions pertaining to the job. Management hopes to have the job filled by the end of the month.
- Of the Employment department trainings 23 of the 42 have been done. They will finish in October. Ben is doing most of the training.
- Georgia and Morgen have been discussing other agency contracts. ODHHS is not being requested to provide many of the services offered on the statement of work. Georgia is trying to improve that.
- Morgen thanked Damara and Sprint for hosting the retreat.
- Morgen gave the members some information about the difference between intergovernmental and interagency agreements. She pointed out that the contracts that ODHHS has with the various agencies is just a laundry list and people are not asking for most of the services. When the interagency agreements are renewed in July of 2007 she would like to have them more customized to the needs of the various agencies.
- Morgen and Georgia are hoping to get all of the agencies ODHHS has contracts with together, for a conference to get input on what services they are interested in ODHHS providing. It will also give information on what assistive technology is available and Deaf/Hard of Hearing awareness.
- George suggested that a questionnaire be sent out to the agencies before the conference asking what they are looking for or any questions they might have.
- DHS used to be Deaf and Hard of Hearing Access Program's biggest customer. Now that ODHHS is part of DHS there has been some confusion on how interpreters for this program are paid. Morgen is still meeting with the budget people to get it all straightened out and will report back what she finds out. She would also like Georgia to meet with the different clusters that make up DHS and find out what their needs are and write up work contract plans for each.

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- Morgen and Georgia have been talking with the training unit about setting up a regular schedule of basic training for DHS employees to introduce them to the Deaf/Hard of Hearing culture.
- The new database will hopefully be up and running by July. The new database should give reports that show the true usage of ODHHS by the various agencies.
- One of the goals is for staff to be able to document consumer needs and strengthen our partners' ability to meet those needs.
- ODHHS will be asked to be involved with ODC when it is reestablished. An initial group of statewide advocacy groups will meet in July to decide on a mission. Possibilities include working on a common legislative agenda.

Mission Statement-

In the packet that was handed out both the mission statement of ODHHS which was written into HB3230, and the mission of the advisory committee that was completed in a meeting between Morgen, Georgia and David were given to members.

George made a motion to accept the present advisory committee mission statement as written. Margi seconds. Passed.

Goal Setting

Short term-

- Increase membership (fill vacancies),
- develop strong foundation with state agencies,
- subcommittee on interpreters to help Department of Education develop standards for interpreters,
- expand participation and increase representation with other groups, possibly through liaisons,
- provide information to legislators about d/hh Morgen will find out how to best do that,
- reinstate failed bill dealing with funding, establish ways to increase funding, (noted as a role for individuals, not for ODHHS)

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- research to bring Bentley's position to full time,
- identify working more efficiently with ODHHS to fill the gaps in service,
- coordinate plan for CEPIN presentation

Long term -

- Identify ways to work more efficiently with Vocational Rehabilitation to fill in the gaps of service,
- increase foundation of services to state agencies,
- get every state agency involved with ODHHS and then expand to city and county governments,
- access checks by board members in their communities,
- assemble team to write grants for money and staffing,
- help staff monitor and evaluate reaching goals and to publicize accomplishments,
- research ways to separate from DHS (pros & cons)

Action Plan-

Short term strategies-

- **Filling vacancies-** There are 3 needed to meet committee requirements. The committee is looking for (3) good, competent people who want the best for all not just for their constituency. The committee felt that there needs to be more professional representation, including an interpreter representative who could also be involved in the interpreter subcommittee. Someone from the Deaf/Blind constituency would also be welcomed. It was suggested that someone contact Mark Azure since he is involved in the Deaf-Blind community. Genie will be presenting information on a job description stating what is expected of committee members and the guidelines at the next meeting. There is a nomination subcommittee that is designed to bring their recommendations to full committee so if members have ideas on

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who to contact or where to post the information to find interested persons they should give it them to the subcommittee. **Fill all positions by September.**

- **Find more funds for Bentley's position.** Some of the ideas that were given included:
 - Go out as private citizens to reenergize SB1005,
 - increase contracts with other agencies to fill gap on job development and expand services,
 - sign on other agencies,
 - outreach with VR, corrections,
 - ideas brought back to committee and staff. **December**

- **Increasing visibility-** One way that ODHHS is getting its name out to the community is with distributing their newsletter every 3 months. The members are already involved in many Deaf/Hard of Hearing groups. They decided that they would have formal liaisons to Oregon Association for the Deaf, Lane Independent Living Alliance and WOU/GUAA RRCD. At the next meeting the decision will be made on who will represent ODHHS as liaison to the various groups. **December**

- **CEPIN training-** Georgia, Margi (OAD), Renwick (GUAA), David (HLAO) will coordinate. Plans will start next week. Tina Kitchin will be contacted to find out if it is a project that SPD is willing to make a commitment to. The group will meet June 8th at 1:00 p.m. at the Izzy's Pizza in Wilsonville. **Must be done by August.**

- **Serving as resource body for the legislators.** Morgen will find out the appropriate way for members to contact legislators and report back at next AC meeting.

Long term strategies-

- **Fill the gaps with VR.** As individuals, members should apply for jobs and let VR know what services they need to improve on. Invite Sheila Hoover to come and strategize about how to better serve d/hh clients. **Sheila will be invited to the next Advisory Committee meeting.**

- **Increase foundational strength.** The committee would like to see more training on deaf culture, what services are available, and

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providing services without barriers. Identify who needs the most training. Contact VR, Employment and Mental Health, ODOT/DMV and Corrections to strengthen relationships for services.

- Develop a survey to send out to the various agencies that ODHHS has IAA's with. **Members will think of questions and bring them to the next AC meeting so that Georgia may use them as the point of discussion when visiting the various agencies.**
- Have individual members go in and do access checks to really see if agencies are as accessible as they say.
- Create subcommittee to get grant research and accomplishments. Georgia, Irmgard, Alice? By next advisory committee other members who want to be involved who were not here?

Committees-

Interpreter- Georgia, Eleni

Access- Bob, Eleni

Nominating- Georgia, David, Genie, George

ALDS- David, Wayne, Alice?

Legislative- Morgen will get information and get back to committee next meeting.

Grant Writing- Georgia, Irmgard, Alice?

CEPIN- Georgia, Ben, Margi, Renwick, Damara, David.

Meeting Schedule- Quarterly- August 3rd, November 2nd, February 1st, May 3rd, and August 2, 2007 All meetings are from 1-4. The meetings will alternate between Salem and Portland beginning with Salem on August 3rd.

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Subcommittees were asked to have a meeting before full committee meeting and have report back.

Wrap up-Set goal and timelines- Georgia announced that she found a sponsor and will be attending the NAD Conference. The day before the conference she will attend a program coordinators meeting. The conference is being held from June 26th-July 3rd. She will have a report for the next meeting.

Adjourn at 3:50 p.m.