

**ILLINOIS ADVISORY BOARD FOR SERVICES FOR
PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF-BLIND**

**April 2, 2015
DRS
2901 Finley Ave
Suite #109
Downers Grove
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at: 10:11 by: Shelle Hamer Second: Jeff Bohman

Members in Attendance: Shelle Hamer, Bob Griffith, Rebecca Patton, Rose Slaght, Eliza Ellett, John Jun, Catherine Klein, Derrick Williams, Jeffrey Bohman

Members Absent: none

Members Attending by Phone: none

Regular Attendees Present: Michelle Clyne, Laura Thompson (HKC), Bryen Yunashko (HKC), Mary Gallagher (ISBE), Elizabeth Klein (SSP), Ingrid Halverson, Cathy Rajan (CART) and interpreters Missy Kinsel, Laura Braucht, Donna Stanton, Karen Janssen

I. Minutes of February 5, 2015 Meeting were accepted by unanimous vote with changes in the correct spelling of Rose Slaght and replacement of Michelle Clyne from "she" under old business (1). Moved by John Jun, second by Jeff Bohman

II. Old Business

1. Bemyvoice web site

Michelle requested ISBE to convert URL platform into Joomla format, this is in the chain of command. The ISBE has agreed to assist. Beth Hasselman is no longer with ISBE, no replacement has been appointed. Bob Griffith wants the web page to be brought up to date. Funding for website is due in June. There are not many funds available. Rose has offered to support the website through IABD..

2. Open Board Position

DHS open position- can Joanne Hiatt fill this position? DCFS open position (parent or person with DeafBlindness), and Governor's office open position

(Catherine Klein will retire from the Board after the next meeting).

3. IABDB Meeting Dates

Dates selected: September 10, 2015, November 12, 2015, March 10, 2016, and May 12, 2016

Moved for vote by-John Jun for 2nd Thursday of each month seconded by-Rose Slaght. Motion passed

4. DeafBlind representation on ISD and ISVI advisory Boards

Prepared by Preston, Serena

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 7:55 AM

The ISVI Advisory Council bylaws recommend certain number of representatives from various categories of agencies and service providers. I certainly think at some point that we could rotate in someone to represent DB. There are so many potential and important services to be represented we do need to have consideration of a variety of needs. I'm very glad to know there is an interest and will share this with our Council Chair because we will likely have some folks ending a term soon.

At ISVI every student who is identified with a dual sensory loss is referred to Project Reach, the DeafBlind outreach housed at Phillip Rock Center. Carla Beck is the Project Reach staff person who works with ISVI staff, students, and families. She ensures she sees every student who may be eligible regardless of the severity of loss. Some students she sees use devices (HA, FM, etc) and others don't use any devices yet. She also attends IEPs in person and/or by phone.

III. New Business

1. New Legislation

Bill proposed which asks insurance agencies to pay for hearing aids-

Bob Griffith reports both bills pay \$2,500. HB 2709, SB0097.

Michelle Clyne shared- Early Intervention change to switch children from 30% to 50% loss to meet criteria for service. Michelle will keep us apprised.

2. Officer Slate

Shelle Hamer- Secretary (moved by John Jun, Second by Eliza Ellett) Bob Griffith- Chairman (moved by John Jun, Second by Eliza Ellett) John Jun- Vice Chair (moved by Rose Slaght, second by Shelle Hamer)

3. CPS Presentation February 5, 2015

CPS presentation was well received and John Jun has made a motion that Bob Griffith send a letter thanking them and inviting them to our future

meetings. Discussions took place regarding school age students with DeafBlindness. Ingrid Halvorson has been in contact with CPS and due to WIOA she hopes to increase programming. 15% of federal monies needs to be spent on transition

IV. Standing Reports

1. **Le COBDA** – report distributed 3/26/15
2. **SSP Taskforce** – Bryen Yunashko, chair, discussion about what to do with program. Decisions will be made next meeting. State is broke, looking for monies to assist-Medicare funds have been used in other states. Need to identify funding sources.
3. **IDHHC** - Laura Thomas is no longer attending meetings
4. **IADB-** Rose Slaght reported this is a family organization that supports families. Had conference last month, 75 parents attended. Meet 3-4 times a year, half are web meetings

V. Agency Reports

1. **HVEIO** - acting director, Sue Brosmith
2. **ISBE** - Close door session going on now, personnel matter
3. **PRC/Project Reach** - distributed 3/30. Budget cut anticipated across the board of 2.25%. Language has gone through ISBE legal, public comment is being taken now regarding allowing out of state students to attend PRC
4. **DHS/DRS** - DHS has no secretary, DRS has no director, both have acting positions but no permanent decisions are being made at this time
5. **DHS/OMH/ODD** – no report
6. **DCFS** - new director- Director Sheldon from Florida. Has some background in privatization. No mention of cuts at this time, other than travel restrictions. Getting a more accurate identification of Deaf, DB, and now added a VI category. Has work to do with Medicaid, state has more than 5000 codes. On line training is almost finished, should roll out in next few weeks.
7. **ICRE Wood** -3 DeafBlind residents currently in program to complete June

18, with 2 more to begin. Staff from Helen Keller came to assist the facility to make it more accessible. Major changes needed: increase color contrast, Wi-Fi is needed in dorms and more powerful throughout. Asked Springfield for assistance.

8. DOA – no report

9. CLH DB Program – no report

10. HKNC Bryen Yunashko has 2 jobs, involved at federal level & grassroots level. Has taken over FCC (120 members in committee) 1st meeting in DC to create accessibility in communications- creating new standards to make more affordable, more open and more accessible. 1st round table discussion to take place for DB in May. New equipment needs to go into legislation. Currently only getting tax revenue from land lines/none from cell phones. He works on all policies dealing with DB. Laura Thomas- on national level-new colors/new brand/. new summer program for vocational for youth. YASP (young adult summer program), has 18 students. Working with DB to assist with job training. Developed modules for DB, soon to be launched. Lots of national advocates and initiatives. Lot of peer learning in place.

VI. 2015-2016 Meeting Dates

The remaining meetings for the year are as follows

September 10, 2015

November 12, 2015

March 10, 2016

May 12, 2016

John Jun motioned to adjourn the meeting. Eliza Ellett seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Recorded by: Shelle Hamer, Secretary