

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

**Thursday, June 7, 2012  
Philip J. Rock Center & School  
818 Du Page Blvd.  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Members in Attendance:** Eliza Ellett, Shelle Hamer, Catherine Klein, John Jun, Marsha Northrup, Rose Slaght, Faith Young

**Members Absent:** Robert Griffith, Faye Manaster, Gail Olson, Maria Roeters

**Members Attending by Phone:** None

**Regular Attendees Present:** Michelle Clyne (PRC), Paul Nijensohn (ISBE), Elizabeth Klein (SSP), Catherine Rajacan (CART), Karen Janssen (Interpreter), Donna Stanton (Interpreter)

**Regular Attendees Attending by Phone:** Todd Williams (ISBE)

**Guests Present:** Peggy Whitlow (PRC)

The meeting began with agency reports as the group waited for quorum. When quorum was established, Jon Jun decided he would run the meeting as elected officers were not present, even though a slated officer was present. Faith Young, secretary, joined the meeting at 11:00 a.m. and the meeting continued with agenda items that were not covered or not covered fully.

**I. Minutes of April 5, 2012 Meeting**

Shelle Hamer moved the minutes of the April 5, 2012 meeting be accepted as presented. Catherine Klein seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

**II. Old Business**

**1. DBAW and BeMyVoice.com**

***DBAW***

The DBAW 2012 video concept changed since the last meeting. Due to the short turn-around time between the Philip Rock Center (PRC) Open House event and DBAW, Wally Pacheco of Engage Creative was worried about whether staff and pro bono consultants could accomplish the necessary work in time for the video release. Thus, Mr. Pacheco and Engage Creative staff came up with the following three video concepts as alternatives for the campaign.

### Concept 1

“Healthy” kids visit the Philip Rock Center to interact with the center’s kids and see what their school is like and how they learn. They then experience what it’s like to be deaf-blind with and experiment using a blindfold and earplugs. Interview kids after the experiment to get their reaction. Healthy kids become spokespeople and advocates for supporting the center.

### Concept 2

Create three case studies of three different deaf-blind students. They would be very quick, bulleted-type facts of everyday life. Then suggest viewers take the 15-Minute Deaf-Blind Challenge. Show viewers how to do it with a blindfold and earplugs and ask them to do what they would normally do for the next 15 minutes, then come back and post their experience.

### Concept 3

Use the classic man-on-the-street-interviewer technique. Interviewer stops people on the street and asks them to name the five senses (taste, touch, smell, hearing, sight). Then he asks, “Which of the five senses would you never want to lose?”

The answer people will give will either be sight or hearing.

The video ends with listed statistics about deaf-blind people, why it’s important to support the center and how to support the Center.

While all these concepts are good starting points for developing a video campaign, the only one which could realistically be accomplished in the time we had available was Concept 3, the man-on-the-street interviewer. We chose to pursue refining this concept and filming this video.

Faith Young reports that filming for the 2012 DBAW video took place in Chicago on May 11, 2012 and at PRC on May 15, 2012. Mr. Pacheco wrote in an email, “We got a lot of great footage and I think you will be able to use some of what we shot for future projects. I’ll be sure and send you [Michelle Clyne] or Faith [Young] the raw footage when we are done editing.”

Per Mr. Pacheco the video will be complete by the middle of next week.

### ***BeMyVoice.com***

Faith Young reports she thinks there was some confusion after the last meeting as to the needs regarding the website after her departure. Todd Williams looked into the ISBE website and received permission for a link to the BeMyVoice.com website to be posted on the ISBE website only to discover that the link already existed.

Post departure, Ms. Young says IABDB will need someone to act as registered agent for the site, host the site, and maintain the site. Currently, Ms. Young acts as registered agent for the site and pays for the domain names and site hosting. Engage Creative presently maintains the site. Unfortunately, Wally Pacheco just notified Ms. Young that due to overwhelming client demands, Engage Creative will not be able to continue to provide IABDB the DBAW and website maintenance support they have provided us for the past five years. Ms. Young responded that certainly understood and of course, thanked Mr. Pacheco for his continued selfless dedication to raising awareness of deaf-blind issues and wished him continued success in his business.

While BeMyVoice.com and the related domain names are paid until June 20, 2013 and the website hosting is paid until March 25, 2014, the fact that Engage Creative will not be maintaining the website (acting as webmaster), presents a problem. Ms. Young suggests IABDB purchase a new domain and hosting package, which would cost approximately \$75 per year, if all three domains, .com, .net and .org are purchased, and migrate the website to the new domain. Mr. Pacheco has agreed to have his staff perform this task for IABDB. Ms. Young has checked and the domain names IABDB.com, IABDB.org, and IABDB.net are all available. IABDB would just need to find someone to act as webmaster for the site.

As a reminder to the Board, the website was originated to allow the Board to disseminate educational and informative information regarding deaf-blind issues and concerns. This intent goes beyond the mandatory posting requirements for other advisory boards and thus IABDB's needs are greater than those of other advisory boards. Unless ISBE is willing to host and maintain the website content as is, Faith Young feels this is the best course of action for the Board.

John Jun asked if anyone has asked the Keeneyville School District, which is the administrative agent for PRC to help with this problem. Paul Nijensohn said since this was created outside the purview of ISBE, they will not support it. Rose Slaght and Eliza Ellett would like to ask Illinois Advocates of the Deaf-Blind (IABD) to take on hosting and maintaining of the site and will get back to us with an answer via email in the next few days. A vote can then take place at the next meeting.

Ms. Young will draft a thank you letter to Mr. Pacheco for his five years of service to the Board and send it to Robert Griffith to send out.

## **2. Board Member Information Packets**

Shelle Hamer and Faith Young will meet over the summer to finish up work on the Board Member Information Packets.

Hard copies of proposed new sections for the Board Member Information Packets, which were previously emailed, were distributed for review prior to a vote on approval. The new sections, Alternate Meeting Attendance, Audio/Video Recording, and Public Participation

are required by the Open Meetings Act and will eventually be posted on the website in addition to inclusion in the Board Member Packets.

Paul Nijensohn questioned where the three-minute time limit for speakers came from. Faith Young replied it was the time limit used on another board on which she sat and said the time limit was open for discussion. Jon Jun said it did not matter because it is the option of the chair to extend conversation beyond the time limit. Everyone agreed it is not necessary to increase the speaking time limit until it becomes a problem. Mr. Nijensohn raised a concern about emailed meeting reminders and recipients responding with Reply All. Ms. Young said it is not a problem because all emails sent by the IABDB secretary are sent BCC.

Shelle Hamer moved to accept the proposed text as written. Rose seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

### **3. Legislation Updates**

#### **A. HB 3925—Child Vision and Hearing Test**

No action taken since it was Re-referred to Rules Committee on March 9, so it is dead.

#### **B. SB 2546—INS CD- Hearing Aid Coverage**

Rule 3-9(a) / Re-referred to Assignments on April 26, 2012. If this is not picked up in the Summer Session, it will also be dead.

#### **C. HB 3474—Public Employee Benefits Tech**

This act amends the Illinois Pension Code to make a technical change in a section concerning definitions. This change allows Philip Rock Center employees to participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF). It passed both Houses on May 15, 2012.

#### **D. SMART Act**

Due to the Save Medicaid Access and Resources Together (SMART) Act, starting July 1st, if you are 21 or older and on Medicaid, you will only get emergency dental care, which is defined as extraction.

#### **E. Katey Beckett Waiver**

Illinois might be taking action this today. The Katey Beckett waiver allows children who are medically fragile-- technology dependent, to be cared for in their home instead of institutionalized. The State is trying to remove this waiver so that it will now force these children into institutions. Rose Slaght said she believes 524 children are on the waiver and will be forced into hospitals or nursing homes at an increased care cost.

#### **F. Prescription Drug Coverage for People on Medicaid**

There's an attempt to eliminate providing coverage for more than four prescriptions per month per person on Medicaid. The exception would be if you're released from

the hospital, for example, and need an additional medication, like an antibiotic. In addition, you have to have preauthorization for all medications. When we think about many children and adults, especially those who have several of health issues, many ongoing needs, many of them are on in excess of four prescriptions a month. Ms. Slaght will send an email detailing this information.

#### **4. Closed Session Minutes Review**

Michelle Clyne noted that the video of the close session must be maintained for 18 months. Ms. Clyne will keep one copy and Rose Slaght will keep a second copy on a flash drive.

The minutes of the closed session were read as follows.

Peggy Whitlow apprised the board of a situation that does not impact the board directly but she did not want the board to be taken by surprise. An RFP was posted in the paper on Monday that would essentially make all full- and part-time noncertified staff contractual employees of an agency that would be awarded the RFP. This is in response to an issue with IMRF. PRC staff have been incorrectly reported to the various school districts that have been the fiscal agent of PRC over the years. The situation came to light due to the downturn of the economy, which has required all reported empowers to pay any unfounded liability to IMRF. The union employees and union are looking for another possible solution, a possible legislative option. Employees would be simultaneously laid off by PRC and rehired by the yet unknown agency. It is unclear how many staff would be taking advantage of this option. Layoff letters have been distributed. The RFP was posted by Keeneyville. PRC has been paying the employee portion but under the various school district numbers. If the school district self-reports, some staff may lose benefits. This does not affect certified people. This would affect about 55 people including paraprofessionals, nurses, and office staff. In order to pay the contractual fee, staff would have to be laid off. PRC has 12 residents, but two students are on hold because we are hesitant to add students during this process. Previous contracts were with the Cook ROE, District 44 then Keeneyville. They have a fiscal contract with ISBE. There are four sets of attorneys involved. Parents have not yet been notified due to the fluctuating nature of the situation. The board decided to create a prepared statement in case they were contacted about this issue. We were reminded that details from the closed session could not be released prior to board approval. It was the board's understanding that they had no authority in this matter.

Jon Jun moved to open the minutes of the closed session meeting to the public. Shelle Hamer seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

#### **5. Officer Elections**

At the April 5, 2012 IABDB meeting, the following slate of officers was presented.

- Chair—Robert Griffith
- Vice-Chair—Gail Olson
- Secretary—Shelle Hamer

Rose Slaght moved to accept the proposed slate of officers for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year. Shelle Hamer seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

## **6. Open Meetings Act Trainings Update**

Several people still have not completed Open Meetings Act (OMA) Training. To date the following people have completed OMA Training and submitted their certificate to the OMA Designee, Gail Olson: Robert Griffith, Shelle Hamer, Gail Olson, Faith Young. Everyone else was reminded to complete the OMA training in an email and again at the meeting.

Catherine Klein, Rose Slaght and Shelle Hamer stated they have also completed the training and previously sent their completion certificates to Robert Griffith.

## **7. Governor's Office Vetting Papers Update**

Robert Griffith was in contact with Joan Thomas at the Governor's Office regarding vetting papers that were supposedly emailed to everyone. It appears that Ms. Thomas had incorrect email addresses for several people, so they did not receive the papers. Michelle Clyne has been working this issue with Mr. Griffith and Ms. Thomas. If you have received your paperwork, please make sure you return it to the Governor's Office as soon as possible. New appointees will be processed along with reappointments, so a delay in turning in vetting papers will delay appointments of new Board members.

Catherine Klein said she received her papers and returned them as instructed both electronically and by mail. Rose Slaght mentioned that it might be a problem getting Faye Manaster's papers as she is overwhelmed with personal issues. She noted that Ms. Manaster offered to step down if her absence is a problem. She added that Ms. Manaster agreed to continue to be a guest when she could and to keep the Board up-to-date on pertinent information.

## **III. New Business**

### **1. Illinois Department on Aging Follow Up**

In Sandra Alexander's presentation from the Department on Aging, she provided IABDB the following list of suggestions made by their Area Agencies on Aging that would help them to better respond to the needs of persons who are deaf/blind.

- Accessibility of materials in Braille or large print; ASL interpreters, videos in ASL
- Awareness of accommodations that agencies can make to increase/improve access to those who are blind/hearing impaired; information on ADA amendments
- Availability of counselors who are blind/deaf in order to reach this population with information
- Skills training for agency staff
- Resources that can be shared when people need more than the Aging network services
- Education on auxiliary aids, services and assistive technology

Faith Young feels that since we reached out to the Department on Aging, we should first, write to thank Sandra Alexander for taking the time to present to us on April 5 and second,

respond in writing to her with some suggestions of how to support the above stated needs. Further, she feels we need to thank guests every time they come to present to us, so a thank you letter also needs to be sent to Dr. Pat Scherer. Discussion ensued about how to best produce the letter and gather the resources. It was decided that as the senior citizen representative to the Board, John Jun would draft a thank you and response to Ms. Alexander's request for assistance, then circulate it among Board members for their input and approval.

## **2. Future Agency Presentation Requests**

Robert Griffith requested Faith Young ask the Board for a list of suggested agencies and organizations he should invite to present to the Board at future meetings. He will try to arrange for a presentation at the October meeting.

Michelle Clyne suggested inviting Early Intervention after Project Reach finishes its Early Identification Self-Assessment and presents the findings to IABDB.

Jon Jun suggested inviting the Illinois Service Resource Center (ISRC) and Sheri Senate so she could explain all of their services

Rose Slaght suggested inviting the following.

- EI Clearinghouse, which is a resource housed in Champaign that provides information to parents about various conditions, etc., to discuss their services. They were based in Springfield for many years, but have relocated to Champaign.
- Illinois Life Span, which falls under The Arc of Illinois umbrella. Illinois Life Span has revamped their database and it's a real useful tool for families, providers, and professionals.
- The Autism Program, whose services include regional centers for autism support services. This suggestion generated quite a bit of discussion and interest.
- Health and Family Services, which would cover things like Medicaid and other programs.

Ms. Slaght suggested sending names of possible agencies for presentations to Robert Griffith. Mr. Griffith will compile a list and present it to the group at the next meeting.

## **3. Miscellaneous**

- Robert Griffith reports in an email dated May 22, 2012 that he has been appointed by the Illinois Department of Public Health as a member of the Hearing Aid Consumer Protection Board. He is relieved he has already completed the Open Meetings Act (OMA) training.

- Faith Young reminds the Board that they usually begin working on the Annual Report at the October meeting. It should be included on the agenda so planning can begin.
- John Miller followed up via email regarding the Aetna Better Health interpreter issue Faye Manaster raised at the last meeting. Mr. Miller referred the issue to Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) legal counsel, who said the issue was one mostly to be addressed under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If we provided her with appropriate contact information, she would contact Aetna Better Health and discuss their obligations under ADA. This information and request for direct contact information was shared with Ms. Manaster and IABDB is awaiting her response so we can further pursue this matter.
- Rose Slaght described the some of the early intervention problems she is encountering in the system right now. Ms. Slaght said she is seeing a lot of therapists pulling out of serving early intervention children who have hearing and vision loss because the State is not paying the bills. She noted that the only service provider that specializes in children with disabilities where she lives, in the Rockford area, is no longer going to accept children for therapies. This is really problematic, especially for younger children. She noted that they are continuing to accept geriatric clients and sports clients. Ms. Slaght said she is very concerned about their not providing services to children with disabilities. Shelle Hamer asked if this is a private agency. Michelle Clyne responded that the provider is Northwestern Illinois Association (NIA). Ms. Clyne said NIA had been hiring DT vision, DT hearing, and DT O&M personnel, but the problem, as Ms. Slaght has stated, is that the State is not paying and when they do pay, the State does not pay at a reasonable rate. Therefore, the NIA Board pulled the services since they cannot get district reimbursement for the services. Ms. Clyne said it was her understanding that NIA is trying to cobble together one carryover position, but they are not sure if they will be able to do that. Ms. Clyne did know that if the people who were hired by NIA would like to become private providers, there are several entities willing to coach them through that process. She noted that because the majority of people in Illinois who are early intervention providers do it privately, they're not connected with an agency. This does, however, leave a large section of the state, which already had difficulty providing services, with even more holes. This is not the only place in the state where there are holes in vision and hearing services either.

Ms. Clyne explained that ISU has a grant to train DT hearing people. These are usually people who are already trained teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing. ISU is training them to be EI credentialed and in addition to provide services for kids who are newly implanted with cochlear implants. One function of that grant was to identify all the holes in the state and then find people within those holes, to train them, and get them working in the areas with holes. This has helped a little with the problem for the hearing loss population, but there has never been a similar program to address vision needs. Although, if you are currently an ISU student in the program to become a teacher of the visually impaired, ISU does offer the course work you need to come out ready to get credential in early intervention VI. This is extra work, though and there is no guarantee that you get hired. It is difficult to start



your first job out of school as an EI only, so there is definitely a big hole in the state for vision services.

Jon Jun asked if there is something IABDB can do to help this situation. Ms. Clyne suggested asking Gail Olson to advise IABDB on this issue as she works for Hearing and Vision Early Intervention Outreach. The problem is that Early Intervention is part of the Department of Human Services (DHS) and IABDB is not an advisory board to DHS, although IABDB could certainly provide DHS feedback it feels would be beneficial to all.

Ms. Slaght said it never hurts for IABDB to write a letter of support and concern about services that are being lost for children at critical developmental times. Ms. Clyne said this is why she thinks Early Identification Self-Assessment is coming at a critical time. She thinks it will give the Board the numbers, the data to support their case.

- Shelle Hamer noted the high number of people not in attendance at the day's meeting and raised the issue of possibly moving the June date to another week in June. She noted that the first week of June is not good for so many. The Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI) holds their Parent-Infant Institute this week. For administrators, like Ms. Hamer, it is the end of school and her presence is needed at school to help wrap up the year. Jon Jun agreed that a date change is a good idea and suggested discussing the matter of a date change for June at a future meeting. Rose Slaght suggested moving the date to the week of Helen Keller's birthday to allow for a bigger celebration. Shelle Hamer agreed this was a good idea. It was pointed out that this is usually the same week as the Deaf-Blind Retreat at ISVI, so more discussion on this topic by the entire group will certainly be needed.
- IABDB officially thanked Faith Rosenshein Young for her nine years of service to the Board.

#### **IV. Standing Reports**

##### **1. Le COBDA**

Le COBDA members met at the Chicago Lighthouse April 14, 2012. During the business meeting, nominations for officers were proposed. Ballots will be mailed to members. Windy City Flower Girls provided a Spring theme by donating flowers for members to identify and enjoy. A catered lunch of numerous selections of Thai food was enjoyed.

On May 12, 2012, approximately 40 Le COBDA members and volunteer met at Uncle Julio's Mexican Restaurant in Chicago. Those attending chose selections from the menu to celebrate the Cinco de Mayo.

##### **2. SSP Taskforce**

No report given.

### 3. IDHHC

The Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission held its quarterly meeting on May 24. Highlights from the meeting include the following.

- A. SSP Taskforce will be initiated in FY2013. The Commission will formally announce a call for members during the Deaf-Blind Retreat to be held at the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired in June.
- B. The Commission continues to work with the Statewide Deaf-Blind Retreat Committee. This year's retreat will be held on June 25 – 29, 2012 in Jacksonville, Illinois. The Commission will process the continuing education hours for sign language interpreters who attend the retreat.
- C. The Commission is pleased to announce that the video on Disaster Preparedness video "Together We Prepare" has been available on the IDHHC and the Illinois Ready website.
- D. The Commission has created an information video accessible in ASL with captioning to educate deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and the general population about the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007. The video has been completed and the Commission is waiting on the final editing by CMS. The video will be posted to the Commission website. The project will also allow Interpreters to receive professional development hours towards their Continuing Education requirements.
- E. The Commission has worked collaboratively with the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) – Communication Access Subcommittee to develop a fully accessible video targeted to the medical profession about the importance of Communication Access for individuals that are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind in medical settings. The video collaboration project will be posted to IDHHC's website.
- F. The Commission is developing the CART Directory based on the Task Force recommendations. Beginning July 1, 2012, IDHHC will begin accepting the completed registration forms. CART providers will complete the registration forms with the proof of their credentials in order to be listed on the Web Directory. In addition to the directory, IDHHC staff will also develop training modules on "Role & Responsibilities" and other educational brochures that will be available on the website.

### 4. HKNC

No report given.

### V. Agency Reports

#### 1. HV/EIO

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

**Technical Assistance:** 204 requests completed July 1, 2011 – May 31, 2012.

**Staff for FY 13:** 1) Working on securing additional Consultant/Trainers in Northern and Southern Illinois to assist with trainings/technical assistance and EI Consultation

(supervision) in vision and hearing. 2) Progress is being made on obtaining approval to post position for Trainer to replace Michele Westmaas (.5 position with HVEIO Outreach and ISD/ISVI Outreach).

**Website and Face Book updates:** Ongoing

**Designated Service Coordinator Q and A Document:** Updates to this document were drafted as a result of most recent Designated Service Coordinator training webinar. Draft document forwarded to DHS Bureau of Early Intervention and we are waiting for approval.

**ISVI Parent Infant Institute: Opening Doors: June 6-9, 2012.** Staff orientations begin June 1. As of 5/31/12, after 3 cancellations this week, 25 families are currently scheduled to attend. 15 of the 25 children attending are aged birth to three and enrolled in Early Intervention.

**Bridges:** A summer mini-camp for DTH's and DTV's is being cosponsored by Hearing and Vision Early Intervention Outreach, DSCC, ISU Early Intervention Graduate Certificate Program and Philip Rock Center Project Reach. The agenda has been set for the June 25-26 event with Kevin O'Connor as Keynote and special guests from the Illinois Early Intervention Training Team. Max registration 100. As of 5/31/12, 70 individuals are registered.

#### **FY 13 Tentative Program Plans:**

- Continue hiring process to replace Michele Westmaas (.5 FTE employee paid .5 by HV/EIO)
- Recruit and train addition HV/EIO consultant trainers, primarily to present Functional Vision and Hearing Screening training in north and southern Illinois, to assist interested individual in becoming DTV's and DTH's, and to provide DTV/DTH Consultation as needed and to assist in planning Parent Vision Conferences.
- ITHI Exhibit, assist with EI track session recruitment and EI credit approval
- ITHI full day preconference for DTH's
- IAER Exhibit, assist with EI track session recruitment and EI credit approval
- IAER full day preconference for DTV's
- 4 Functional Vision and Hearing Screening Trainings (Springfield, Mt. Vernon, Wheeling and Batavia)
- Video tape Functional Vision and Hearing Screening training to use in training possible new HV/EIO consultant/trainers.
- 3 Parent Conferences/Hearing (Mt. Vernon, Rockford, Jacksonville)
- 2 Parent Conferences/Vision (Mt. Vernon and Rockford)
- IAAYC Head to Toe Conference, Chicago
- Illinois Family Leaders Collaboration Conference, Planning Committee, HVEIO in charge of exhibits. Tentatively March 2 or 9, 2013
- Participation in ISD Parent Infant Institute
- Participation in planning ISVI Parent Infant Institute: Opening Doors (Gail as Co-Director of Institute)
- Designated Service Coordination Follow Up training in September
- Designated Service Coordination Webinar training, 2 days, vision and hearing

- College student recruitment talks at MacMurray College and ISU
- Develop college student recruitment packet (for students interested in becoming DTV or DTH)
- Bridges, 2 day summer training event for DTH's and DTV's, planned in collaboration with ISU EI Graduate Certificate Program
- Topic Trainings on Literacy and Language Development/Communication
- Review/revise New Parent Electronic Packet
- Meetings with ISD/ ISVI EI staff approx monthly throughout school year
- Deaf Education Think Tank Event, Fall, Chicago
- Assist ISVI in planning for a new Summer Educators Institute (EI track for DTV's)
- Continue representation on Boards/Councils: ISD and ISVI advisory councils, ISD and ISVI Administrative Councils, Illinois Deaf Blind Advisory, PRC Project Reach, Illinois Supervisors of Programs Serving Students who are D/HH, Illinois Hands and Voices, Governors Work Group on Education of Illinois Students Who are Blind or Deaf, Choices for Parents, STARNet Regions I and III, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Council, Illinois Deaf Education Think Tank Steering Committee/EI Subcommittee
- Continue informational emails/correspondence to DTH's, DTV's, DSC's, Deaf Mentors and HV/EIO data base.
- Continue updates to HV/EIO website and FACEBOOK
- Monitor Hearing and Vision Service Guidelines for updates
- Continue to provide statewide technical assistance as requested
- Possible National EHDI Conference participation: Phoenix, AZ (out of state travel approval necessary)

Submitted by: Gail Olson, Program Coordinator 5/31/12

## **2. ISBE**

Paul Nijensohn confirmed that ISBE will post approved meeting minutes within the two week timeframe required of IABDB by the Open Meetings Act (OMA).

## **3. PRC/Project Reach**

### ***PRC agency report***

#### **Greetings!**

Mothers Day greeting to all mothers, grandmothers, aunts and staff who provide loving care to our students. Have a blessed day!

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost over. The winter was a long and difficult one here at PRC, but just as the spring brings new enthusiasm and hope, we are enthusiastic and hopeful about the future. We are hoping to complete some overdue upgrades/repairs now that the weather has broken.

#### **IEP's on the Horizon**

Spring is IEP time at PRC. The IEP (individualized educational program) meeting presents an opportunity for the educational team to sit down with parents and school district personnel to

review student progress and to plan for the future. Related services needed by the child, how and where those services are delivered, needed accommodations and modifications, and the school placement are also discussed at this time. The team develops or recommends specific measurable goals for the student at this meeting. Parent concerns and priorities are an important part of this process and should always be brought up and addressed satisfactorily. Your feedback is an important part of the IEP process and we welcome your input. Upcoming IEP's are listed below:

R.B. May 15 @ 3:00 P.M.

J.K. May 16 @ 9:00 A.M.

M.H. May 21 @ 1:00 P.M.

J.L. May 21 @ 3:00 P.M.

Z.P. May 23 @ 10:00 P.M.

### **H.B. 3474 allows PRC Employees to remain in IMRF**

HB 3474 is presently on the calendar to be brought to the floor of the House of Representatives. This bill has already been approved by the Senate. If approved by the house, this bill would go to the governor for his signature and then become law. HB 3474 will allow PRC employees to remain in IMRF, the state pension plan for municipal employees. The employees were being withdrawn from that pension plan because PRC is not a part of a school district and liability for PRC employees was erroneously assigned to District 20, PRC's fiscal agent. The passing of HB 3474, sponsored by Senator Don Harmon in the Senate and Representative Sandy Pihos in the house, will remove the liability from District 20 and place it on PRC.

### **Helen Keller National Deaf-Blind Awareness Open House**

Each year, the last week in June is designated as Helen Keller National Deaf-Blind Awareness Week. This week is recognized with various events intended to increase people's awareness of deaf/blindness and the challenges facing those who live with this disability. This year PRC is hosting an open house in recognition of Deaf-blind awareness week. The open house will be held on Tuesday, June 19 from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Philip J. Rock Center and School, 818 DuPage Blvd, Glen Ellyn, IL. 60137. Guests who attend will be able to participate in demonstrations of technology being used by PRC students, simulations of different types of hearing or vision loss, participate in making a sensory garden to be enjoyed by students and attend a program recognizing contributions to the PRC program. Parents and friends are invited and welcome to participate in the activities. PRC students will be on a community outing during this event. If you are interested in helping to plan, please contact Peggy Whitlow or Michelle Clyne.

### **Summer School Announced**

PRC's summer school is scheduled for five weeks this year. Summer school will start Monday, July 2 and run through Friday August 3, 2012. Teachers will be in attendance from 9:00 A.M. through 1:00 P.M. A variety of community, goal based and sensory activities will be planned for the children.

### **The Scoop for the Kitchen - Colleen Kent L.D.**

As you may know, the children were eating a hot lunch on Tuesday and Friday throughout the school year. Now that school will be ending, the PRC kitchen will continue to provide the hot lunches on those same days. When summer school begins in July, this schedule may have to change to accommodate field trips and/or class activities. Also, with the availability of summer fruits and vegetables, our kitchen will be adding these items into our menu for our children. We look forward to creating some yummy recipes!

### **Did You Know**

- Western DuPage Special Recreation has been providing on site recreational programming for PRC students this winter and spring. The theme has varied and currently they are developing activities around spring time planting.
- PRC will be offering training on iPad applications for individuals with hearing/visual impairments. We are also offering a Sign language class in June thru August. Interested parents and family are welcome to attend if there are extra slots. The details will be forthcoming in the near future.
- The secondary class will be taking a tour of Seguin Services an adult service agency located in Cicero on May 14. They will visit a workshop and a CILA (Community Integrated Living Arrangement) home. Secondary parents have been invited to go with or meet the class there.
- Classes at District #20 will end on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Peggy Whitlow  
Chief Administrator

### ***Project Reach Report June 2012***

Project Reach staff completed the Grant Performance Report for continuation Funding, Fiscal Year 2012. A full copy of the ISBE approved report will be sent as a Word document attachment to any board member requesting the document. Please notify Michelle if you would like that emailed copy.

The required NCDB Child Count was submitted. This year 446 children/youth were reported as being eligible for Project Reach services.

Project Reach is participating in a pilot of NCDB 2.0's "Early Identification Self-Assessment". Illinois, along with several other states, will complete a self-assessment of the project's and state's progress in identifying children, birth – two, who are deaf-blind. Once the assessment is completed, an action plan will be developed that addresses any needs identified. In addition, Project Reach will provide feedback to the process to NCDB 2.0 so that the materials and activities for self-assessment can be improved. The action plan will be shared with the board once it becomes available.

The second week of June Project Reach will hold four 3-hour iPad training sessions. The trainings are for staff and community members and have a waiting list. Due to the overwhelming response to the sessions, which will address iPad basics, the iPad for people with autism and significant disabilities, and accessibility features of the iPad for people who are blind or visually impaired, Project Reach expects to offer the sessions again sometime in the future.

**4. DHS/DRS**

No report given.

**5. DHS/OMH/ODD**

No report given.

**6. DCFS**

No report given.

**VI. 2012-2013 Meeting Dates**

The meetings for the upcoming Fiscal Year are as follows.

- Thursday, October 4, 2012
- Thursday, December 6, 2012
- Thursday, February 7, 2013
- Thursday, April 4, 2013
- Thursday, June 6, 2013

The next meeting will take place at the Philip Rock Center in Glen Ellyn.

John Jun motioned to adjourn the meeting. Shelle Hamer seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Recorded by: Faith Rosenshein Young, Acting Secretary