

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

**August 22, 2013  
Philip Rock Center & School  
818 Du Page Blvd.  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138**

**MINUTES**

**Members in Attendance:** Bob Griffith, Shelle Hamer, Gail Olson, John Jun, Eliza Ellett, Catherine Klein, Roseann Slaght

**Members Absent:** Marsha Northrup

**Members Attending by Phone:** None

**Regular Attendees Present:** Michelle Clyne, Elizabeth Klein, Lori Clampitt, Paula Lustig & Donna Stanton (interpreters), CART

**Regular Attendees Attending by Phone:** none

**Guests Present:** Kim Pieczynski,, Home Service Program

Meeting was called to order at 10:07AM (Motioned by Shelle Hamer, second by Gail Olson)

**I. Minutes of May 23, 2013 Meeting** were approved with the following changes: add full names, delete colon in II#3 and change dept. to deputy(motioned by Gail Olson and second by John Jun)

**II. Old Business**

**1. Website Update**

There is a continued need to purchase a new Domain name and move site. Michelle Clyne will try to reach Faith Young to find out if Engaged Creative will move the site for us. Money would need to be encumbered by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Michelle Clyne will use Go Daddy to change name. Suggestions are Illinois Deaf Blind, Deaf Blind Illinois, Be The Voice, Be Our Voice, Be A Voice. Discussion of Deaf Blind within the name would assist families in locating the website.

**2. Board Vacancies**

There are currently 3 vacancies for parents of children with Deaf Blindness (DCFS, DD, and Governors Office). Michelle Clyne knows of 2 parents

currently completing applications. Bob Griffith will send an email to Ann Ford to advertise the vacancies throughout the state. Everyone was asked to recruit.

### **3. Legislative Update**

IL Employment First Act- there is no funds to employ the disabled. A task force was established to create the annual report. Ingrid Halvorsen sits on task force (she will share the full membership) they are working with agencies to blend and braid funding to employ people with the most significant disabilities. Currently when someone comes to DRS with significant disability there will be an opportunity for trial work, which may not be paid. If the client is able to demonstrate ability to work then the counselor will make them eligible with IPE.

### **4. October Date Change**

Following discussion Gail Olson moved to change the October meeting date to October 17, 2013. John Jun second, motion passed. Ingrid Halvorsen will check into a larger facility at DRS in Downer's Grove.

## **III. New Business**

### **1. Annual Report**

Gail Olson suggested we use October to create goals. Additional suggestions: look to add public awareness (websites, IL Advocates), system of id as students exit school system, data collection for low incidence/sensory impaired. In preparation for October Board meeting the following were suggested: Bob Griffith will review the language of past Annual Reports, Shelle Hamer and Gail Olson will review all past notes, Eliza Ellet and Roseann Slaght will review past goals, Michelle Clyne will look to suggest new goals.

### **2. Home Service Program (Kim Pieczynski)-**

Ms. Pieczynski (former rehab counselor for the deaf) gave an overview of home services with an alternative to nursing homes at a lesser cost to the state based on independent living philosophy. Waivers can be provided for many home and community based services. Adult Protective Services Hotline (866-800-1409) was shared.

### **3. Resignation of Maria Roeters**

With regret the Board accepts the resignation, motion moved by Gail Olson and second by Catherine Klein.

### **4. IL DB Advocates**

## **5. Other**

Advocates for DD service staff members to be trained by Helen Keller who will serve as a resource

## **IV. Standing Reports**

### **1. Le COBDA**

2. LeCOBDA On April 13, Le COBDA members, volunteers and guests met at the Chicago Lighthouse. Newly elected officers were announced: Sara Chung as President, Catherine Klein as Vice President, Geraldine Lawhorn as Treasurer, Deborah Hecker as Assistant to the Treasurer, Lori Eshoo as Recording Secretary. Andrey Tikhonov, a blind teacher from Russia was introduced. Andrey is currently in the United States to assess programs for the Blind and Deaf, which he will seek to implement in his hometown in Russia.

The topic of Paratransit transportation was brought up and discussed. Members presented problems and suggestions concerning issues affecting Deaf-Blind riders of this service. A suggestion was made to make these issues aware to Greg Pullman, who oversees the Deaf-Blind program at the Lighthouse, since he is also on member of the board for Paratransit services.

Member Bryen Yunashko announced the launch of the website, [www.chicagodeafblind.org](http://www.chicagodeafblind.org). He encouraged all to consult it for activities and issues concerning Deaf-Blind..

In May, Le COBDA celebrated Cinco de Mayo on May 4 with lunch at Uncle Julio's Mexican Restaurant in Chicago. President Sara Chung welcomed the large gathering of members and volunteers. She introduced the new officers. A short business meeting gave information about details of the July meeting which will be a cruise on Lake Michigan. Members were reminded that Le COBDA will not meet in June

### **2. SSP Taskforce**

### **3. IDHHC**

## **V. Agency Reports**

### **1. HVEIO**

Funding ends June 30, 2014. The two state schools (ISVI & ISD) will most likely continue to provide service for babies who have vision and/or hearing impairments

### **2. ISBE**

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

There is currently a national search to replace Mrs. Peggy Whitlow, she is continuing in the position until December 2013. Michelle Clyne will present information at the December 5, 2013 Board meeting.

**4. DHS/DRS**

**5. DHS/OMH/ODD**

**6. DCFS**

**VI. 2013-2014 Meeting Dates**

- **October 17, 2013**
- **December 5, 2013**
- **February 6, 2014**
- **April 3, 2014**

Gail Olson motioned to adjourn the meeting. John Jun seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

Recorded by: Shelle Hamer, Secretary