

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

Minutes

September 10, 2015

DRS

2901 Finley Ave

Suite #109

Downers Grove

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Board Members in attendance: Shelle Hamer, Bob Griffith, Rebecca Patton, Catherine Klein, Rose Slaght, Jeffrey Bohman, Derrick Phillips, Jon Jun, Eliza Ellett,

Board members absent:

Phone:

Guests: Gail Olson, Joanne Rushing, Laura Thomas, Judy Knisely, Michelle Cline, Amy Richards, Sheila O'Donnel, Ingrid Halvorsen, Diane Costas, Elizabeth Klein, Michelle Clyne, Doris Williams, Jessina Williams, Brendy Hayes, Becky Patton

Interpreters: Catherine Rajcan (CART), Karen Jenssen, Paula Blumberg, Donna Stanton, Sheila Kettering

Motion to open- John Jun, second Shelle Hamer 10:07

Catherine was honored for her dedicated time on the IABDB Board. Catherine spoke her sentiments retiring from the Board. The students of PRC made a gift and card for Catherine
Amending agenda- John motioned, Derrick second to accommodate people needing to leave early

I. Minutes of April 2, 2015 Meeting, corrected February 5, 2015 Minutes, motion by John Jun, Second by Derrick Phillips; minutes approved

II. Old Business

1. Bemyvoice.com website review, 1st reading: motion-Shelle Hamer second by John Jun with all discussed changes
 - Amy will ask for assistance from ISBE
 - Ingrid will explore a volunteer
 - Derrick will work with IngridHOLD these
Write note to ask school district to assist
Change platform to allow Eliza to make changes
Find someone who knows how to work with current platform, IT assistance or partner
ISBE cannot assist as it is not in School Code that IABDB must have website
2. Vacant Board Positions- Joanne Hiatt (DHS position). DCFS position (parent or consumer), Governor's office opening- Bob will ask Bryan, Jason Salerno has also been suggested and Ingrid will contact him

III. New Business

1. El Vista presentation by Gail Olson – PowerPoint emailed to all prior to the Board meeting, Gail Olson spoke of changes and the shortages. Goal 1- increase DVT, Goal 2- improve quality 2 year cohort of 10 students, free to students with small stipend. At the completion they must work 2 years in EI when credentialed. Goal 3 assessment of graduates, Goal 4- disseminate information. Will also participate in IAER Preconference will bring in Amanda Leuck on CVI. And mini conference
2. Deaf-Blind to be used, per code, DeafBlind is preferred by the group for reasons of cultural identity
3. TeleBraille funded by ITAC presentation by Joanne Rushing-state program in IL to provide Braille

phones. CLH has a contract to evaluate and distribute to DeafBlind...(now called DeafBlind communicator)- must have land line. I Can Connect will work with individuals needing Braille display or other technology. Currently 11 individuals in ITAC program

4. Deaf-Blind Awareness Week – item tabled to next meeting
5. Cogswell Macy Act- Michelle Clyne- time sensitive... most significant legislation for DeafBlind youth. This will effect children who are deaf/hard of hearing, children who are visually impaired and children who are DeafBlind...Highlights for students who are DeafBlind: deafblind intervener as a related service, expertise in DeafBlindness, change definition of DeafBlindness to a more functional definition, better identification,
6. New Legislation, none discussed

IV. Standing Reports

1. LeCOBDA- distributed by Catherine Klein 8/12/15
2. SSP Task Force
3. IDHHC- Brandy Hayes, program coordinator, promote system changes, community education, and collaboration to improve communication access for all. New website will be available 1-2 months which will be fully accessible visually. DSAT has 13 trainers throughout IL to provide advocacy training for themselves. SSP task force- meeting in May. They will be writing up report and will share after November. brandy.hayes@illinois.gov
4. IADB- meeting Saturday, worked with CHARGE conference,

V. Agency Reports

1. ISBE- 2 members of upper management have left Friday, PRC is accepting out-of-state students, looking to get intervener approval, similar to interpreter approval. PRC was left out of education bill and monies have been procured for at least 6 months. New forms for IEP includes different modes of communication- forms available on ISBE update
2. PRC/Project Reach-distributed by Michelle Clyne 9/9/15
7. EI- Gail Olson- EI providers have not been paid and may be stopping EI in October. EI Hearing Outreach has moved into ISD, ISVI has recently picked up EI. Each group has only picked up small pieces. Gail is not optimistic. Both schools are continuing the parent conferences and hearing/vision screenings
3. DHS/DRS
4. DHS/OMH/ODD- (Jessina Williams) Diana Knaebe, director of Division of Mental Health, brochures will be distributed electronically with notes. If anyone needs any services, information, call her. Jessina Williams has completed 115 presentations or trainings around the state. Has collaborated with numerous agencies/individuals. Robert Griffith asked if vision loss is identified- Jessina indicated there is a general assessment, which Jessina is working to improve. There are guidelines in place. Jeff Bohman asked- there are many people with USHER Syndrome who go through depression and denial while going through the changes as do family members. Jessina Williams: one important thing is to get feedback from the field, thank you Jeff for that feedback. One initial development is collaborating with the Chicago Lighthouse to form a peer support group. They have recovery support personnel who are well trained and experienced in mental health/substance abuse and looking at ways to bring deafblind individuals into this.
5. DCFS- Becky Patton- trying to obtain numbers of HI, VI, DB, difficult as many other medical issues muddy the numbers.on line training almost complete, training in process for HI
6. ICRE Wood- Derrick Phillips, 1 customer, HKNC working with them for improvements for the DeafBlind
7. DOA
8. CLH Deaf-Blind Program
9. Helen Keller- Judy Knisley-WIOA workforce innovation opportunity act- HKNC has 3 programs for transitioning students-

- 1. Summer assessment program-8 weeks, junior & senior high school students, which includes assessments and reports to share with home school teams. A unique opportunity for students to share with other students like themselves
 - 2. Summer youth vocation program SYVP, 6 week program provides real work opportunities to build independence
 - 3. YASE Young adult summer program, 2 week intensive aimed at college prep led by DeafBlind Laura Thomas- outreach on-line responds to surveys and haptics (guidelines created with Norway) provided training to train the trainer and developing training for interpreters, VR counselor training. DSAT-deaf self-advocacy training (IDHHC) and began to develop and use DeafBlind self-advocacy training which has been expanded. Many initiatives going on...new website coming in a month or 2 which is very easy to use and accessible
10. CPS- students returned this week. DHH program has clustered to Chase
11. Congrats to Ingrid on her award Dr. J. Smithdis from HKNC as a leader in the country!

Motion to adjourn-John Jun, second Eliza Ellett 1:08pm

2015-2016 Meeting dates:

November 12, 2015

March 10, 2016

May 12, 2016

Respectfully submitted by Shelle Hamer, IABDB Board Secretary