

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

**Thursday, December 1, 2011
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Room 5-300
Chicago, IL 60601
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Members in attendance: Catherine Klein, Jody Wolfe, Bob Griffith, Shelle Hamer, Maria Roeters, Gail Olson, John Jun, Marsha Northrup, Faith Young, Maria Roeters

Members absent: Faye Manaster

Members by Phone: Rose Slaght

Regular Attendees Present: Elizabeth Klein, Michelle Clyne, Sarah Sebert

Regular Attendees by Phone: John Miller

Guests Present: Catherine A. Rajcan - Court Reporter, Peggy Whitlow, Paula Lustig & Karen Janssen - interpreters

I. Minutes of the October 6, 2011 meeting – The board approves the minutes. As an update: Bob said that letters were sent to the Mabley & Kreider Centers thanking them for hosting us for their visit. Bob hasn't been able to locate anything about the deaf-blind scholarship that used to exist.

II. Old Business

1. **Open Meetings Act –** Bob said that every member of the board go on line to www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov to complete the certification by no later than February 1, 2012. We also need to appoint a compliance officer to make sure we are complying with the Open Meetings Act. Gail Olson will take on this role. Bob would like Gail to report back to the board by the next meeting about the act especially Section 7. Faith said that this affects our website in that we would have to have a specific agenda posted on our website according to the open meetings act. This would pose a problem for us as Engage Creative is helping post information on our website. Sarah said that we could post the agenda on the ISBE website. Then on our website, we could link the agenda to the ISBE website. We can't vote on anything without posting it for review and would have to be marked as an action item and posted on the website. Faith said that all subcommittee work needs to be compliance to the Open Meetings Act.
2. **Location of future board meetings -** Bob has reserved this room 5-300 for the next meeting. Right now, the needs of those who need an accommodation (Bob and John) is being met. The options would be 1st: 2 locations: PRC and in Springfield and have the phone available and 2nd: everyone at PRC only. They have videophone and Skype at PRC. We would need interpreters/court reporters at both locations which Sarah doesn't

know if ISBE would pay for both. For John Jun, going to PRC would be more convenient. Michelle said that PRC has a state approved hotel for \$89 a night. For Gail, this possible change wouldn't affect her as well. If we decide to meet at PRC, per Peggy Whitlow, they would have adequate space and the kids would not be in the building. Michelle would want to make sure if they could transfer the teleconference phone to the larger room at PRC. Michelle needs to do a test run on the phone system first. ISBE would still pay for the CART service and interpreters. The board has approved to move the next meeting to PRC at 10:00 a.m. unless they contact us to let us know that the phone system will not transfer to a different room.

3. **Ethics Training** - Michelle said that the report on compliance for board members is due by December 31, 2011. If she doesn't have the final 2 people completed, she has to report those people as non-compliant. The current recommended practice for new board members is to have the training done on-line. We have never done it on-line, but wants to know if we can switch to an on-line training. The on-line training should be fully accessible to all. Gail doesn't know if non state employees can access it on line. Sarah found out that there is NOT online training for non state employees. They must do it by hard copy. Michelle will follow up with the final 2 people who need to complete the training.
4. **PUNS document** - Todd and Bob met with Mary Spriggs-Ploessi, Deputy Director of DHS . Under the IL definition, those who are deaf-blind do not meet the criteria for intellectual disabilities. There are approximately 22,000 people on the PUNS list. Two times a year, there is a lottery for those who receive services. Mary said that this is a severe crisis situation. Bob did present to her an idea of an amendment tot he PUNS document in which we would give those people using the document more information on those individuals who are deaf-blind. Bob wants to know if the board recommends having an amendment to the PUNS document to address deaf-blindness. Gail met with Tony Palowski and Shirley Perez from The Arc and from that meeting there was an action plan. On the action plan, the IL Advocates of Deaf-blind were going to target those past agencies who serve those who are deaf-blind. Gail said part of the eligibility process needs to include functional capabilities into the mix. We need to be careful in accepting their definition of developmental disabilities. Gail's concern is that we owe it to Tony and Shirley to follow through with their plan. Gail said that maybe we could take the document back to Tony and Shirley for their advice on how to proceed with the state agency. Rose agrees with Gail's comments. Gail said that we wanted to talk with families who have had positive and negative experiences. Rose will put out an e-mail to families about their experiences with agents and will collect their stories. Michelle will send the e-mail to their families as well.
5. **Mabley Center letter** - Bob said that the facility is on the Governor's list of proposed closures. The goal is to move 600 people to community facilities. Bob said they identified 6 people who are deaf-blind at these facilities. The board has voted to send the draft letter to the Governor.
6. **Agency visitations** - In the past, we have asked different state agencies to come report to us. Bob asked if we want to do this and if so, we could form a small committee to come up with questions to ask the agency. Faith has suggested that we put something together like a slide show or presentation and send that to the different agencies that we want to invite. Michelle sees the importance of sending things to Directors, but we may

need to narrow it down a little bit to maybe the bureaus within each agency. Faith said that we need to be specific to them on what we need to discuss with them. Bob would like each agency to appoint one person who would focus on deaf-blindness. Gail wants more time to think about this topic. The board approves to discuss this at the next meeting.

III. New Business

- 1. DBAW 2012 and bemyvoice.com** - Per Faith, we do not have an idea for DBAW 2012 and we need to come up with a subject/idea for a campaign. Faith has a suggestion to focus on supporting community services (ie: what it takes to live successfully in the community). Last year, the national campaign from Helen Keller was the baby boom population. Rose, Michelle, and Bob offered to work with Faith on this the idea of including community services in the next campaign and possibly use intervenors. Gail suggested to focus on one piece of these services. Michelle wonders if you want to focus on a specific type of service that makes people successful in the community (ie: there now is available an educational intervention program). Michelle said we could borrow information from other states as there is a lot already out there on the web about intervenors (ie: NCDB). The information on the bemyvoice website has been there for about 4-5 years. Faith suggested maybe changing some of the content and presenting the content in a different format. Faith said that she would like to add something more interactive on the front page of the website (ie: the video in the place where the mission currently sits).
- 2. Closed Session** - The board has approved to close the session for 15 minutes.
- 3. Expiring member terms and vacancies** - Contact Bob if we want to continue on the board and Bob will send this list to Kendra Newman. He needs our information by January 15 and he will forward this information to the Governor's office. If there are individuals who do not wish to continue on the board, they will try to recruit. For new board positions, you can go to www.appointments.illinois.gov for the official appointments. The open position will specifically be for a parent representative as Jody as resigned from the board. Faith has offered to finish the Secretary role of the board. Michelle will give suggestions on other parents who have a deaf-blind child and may be able to fill this position.
- 4. Planned Medicaid changes** - cannot discuss at the point as Faye is not present.
- 5. Member responsibilities** - a draft was sent out to everyone. Michelle suggested that maybe it would be helpful to have a new board packet. Jody suggested that having a organization chart with acronyms. Faith suggested having information about officer positions. It would include the member list, school code, expectations, etc. Faith and Shelle will work on this packet of information.

6. **Goals for this year** - please refer to your annual report for the goals and be thinking about this.
7. **Other** - Per Joann Rushing, the Chicago Lighthouse has applied for the 21st Century Communication and Video Act for Deaf-Blind. They have decided that they would be the agency to take on this monumental task. They have received numerous support letters throughout the state including one from Philip Rock Center. Joann will let the IABDB group know when they hear from the FCC if they certify them to provide the training and equipment distribution program.

IV. Standing Reports

1. LeCOBDA - submitted by Catherine Klein

Chicago Club of Blind Deaf Adults met at the Chicago Lighthouse on October 8. Some of the members wore Halloween costumes and prizes were awarded. Joann Rushing, manager of the Deaf-Blind Program at the Lighthouse announced the fundraising sale of Terri Lynn candies and nuts. After lunch, Mark Carson, with Wabash Computer services, presented information on the use of the Deaf-Blind Communicator. This is a new device for telephone communication for persons who are Deaf-Blind. A question & answer session followed.

The November meeting of le COBDA was held on November 12 at the Chicago Lighthouse. President Celine Bush led the meeting. She reminded the members of the importance of Thanksgiving and of all for which we are thankful. Joann Rushing, manager of the Chicago Lighthouse Deaf-Blind Program, reported that she will go to the Helen Keller National Center in New York. She will attend a training session on technology and communication for persons who are Deaf-Blind. Members enjoyed lunch, a social hour, and shopping for gifts and handmade items at the leCOBDA holiday bazaar.

2. SSP Task Force – no report at this time

3. **IDHHC** – IDHHC had a 3 month meeting on November 10 and a motion to set up a SSP task force was approved. It will be set up sometime in the near future. IDHHC will have to analyze their budget to determine how many task force members there will be as the Task Force meetings will be paid out of IDHHC lump sum. IDHHC will receive packets from , The Chicago Lighthouse about the SSP Task Force that they have gathered in the past, which will help determine how much the Task Force will cost.

V. Agency Reports

1. HVEIO - Submitted by: Gail Olson, Program Coordinator 11/14/11

HV/EIO is a statewide training and technical assistance program regarding infants and toddlers who are deaf, hard of hearing or visually impaired. HV/EIO is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Bureau of Early Intervention since April 1, 2011. It was previously known as Hearing and Vision Connections from July 1999 to March 31, 2011.

- 88 Technical Assistance responses July to October, 2011 (not all inclusive for October)

Scheduled:

- **Parent Conferences** in vision and hearing. The planning continues.
 South of Eighty Conference for Parents of Children with Hearing Loss
 November 5, 2011, Jacksonville

 North of Eighty Conference for Parents of Children with Hearing Loss
 March 24, 2012, Rockford

 South of Seventy Conference for Parents of Children with Hearing Loss
 April 14, 2012, Mt. Vernon

 Southern Vision Conference
 March 17, 2012, Mt. Vernon

 Northern Vision Conference
 April 17, 2012, Rockford
- **Functional Vision and Hearing Screening Training**
 October 19, 2011, Thompson Center, Chicago
 November 10, 2011, Grace Church, Fairview Hgts.
 February 1, 2012, Sangamon Co Health Dept., Springfield
 March 14, 2012, Batavia Library
- **Designated Service Coordinator Webinar Training**
 Part I: December 8, 2011, Hearing, by Nancy Scott
 Part II: December 15, 2011, Vision, by Mindy Ely
- **Every Day Sign Language for Young Children**, Feb 16, 2012 Bloomington, for STARNET I and III
- **IAER Preconference** for DTV's and DTO&M's February 15 in Shaumburg.
- **ITHI Preconference** for DTH's March 1 in Springfield
- **National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference** in St. Louis March 4-6, 2012 in St. Louis.
- **National Deaf Education Think Tank Meeting**, TBD, Spring 2012 Chicago
- **Annual Illinois Parent Leaders Collaboration Conference**, April 28, 2011, Spaulding Pastoral Center, Peoria. Paula Kluth is the featured presenter
- **Opening Doors, Parent Infant Institute** at Illinois School for the Visually Impaired June 6-9. A planning committee is being formed and first meeting for FY 12 is October 31/
- **ISD Parent Infant Institute** June 10-15, 2012 (exhibit and presentation).
- **Summer mini camp for DTH's and DTV's** (combined) June 28 and 29, 2011

2. **ISBE** – no report at this time.

3. **Philip Rock Center/Project Reach Agency Report - November 2011**

PRC Report November 2011

On November 23 – 27, there was a recommended home visit for the residential students at the school. The school was closed from 3:00 pm Wednesday November 23 to 3:00 pm Sunday November 27. Future recommended homegoings have been scheduled. These homegoings provide an opportunity for school/home communication, as well as a savings to the PRC budget.

PRC continues with union negotiations with SEIU Local 73. This collective represents 22 of the non-certified employees that work for Philip Rock Center.

PRC is scheduled for updated accreditation this fiscal year. The process is being completed with AdvancED, and PRC staff and residential school family members are participating on seven committees, which represent the seven standards by which the school will be rated. A visit from the AdvancED Quality Assurance Review team is scheduled for March 2, 2011.

On November 29, 2011, PRC/Project Reach gave testimony at the ISBE FY 2013 Budget Hearing. Representing PRC were Peggy Whitlow, Michelle Clyne , Alva Gomez (parent of residential student) and Eliza Ellett (parent of outreach/Project Reach student). Yolanda Gomez, family specialist, assisted with interpreting. Highlights shared included an individual story on adult transition, and the plans to develop and expand training for interveners for students who are deaf-blind.

Project Reach Report November 2011

On October 24, OSEP and NCDB hosted a webinar regarding the new approved mechanism for State Projects in Deaf-Blindness to propose products that may be reviewed for funding. Project Reach has begun the application process for several products, including web-based versions of a previously produced sign language book and video on visual

Faith will come up with an appropriate response and send it to us if the board members are contacted about any PRC matters.

4. **DRS** – You will see some billboards around the state about getting people with disabilities who want to work. You can refer to drs.illinois.gov/success for more information.
5. **DHS/OMH/ODD** - Bob will go forward with attending their meetings.
6. **DCFS** – they now have a deaf advisory board that she has been wanting to have for years. They will help her on working on advocacy. Bob asked if she has anyone on her advisory board to speak about deaf-blindness. Marsha said no, but that would be good to have.

John Jun motions to adjourn our meeting. Maria Roeters seconds the motion. Meeting ends at 1:00 p.m.