

**ILLINOIS ADVISORY BOARD FOR SERVICES FOR
PERSONS WHO ARE DEAFBLIND**

Minutes

December 17, 2015

DRS

2901 Finley Ave

Suite #109

Downers Grove

Meeting called to order at 10:34 am by Jon June, Second by: Shelle Hamer

Members in attendance: Shelle Hamer, Bob Griffith, Jon June, Derrick Phillips, Jeffrey Bohman, Rose Slaght

Members absent:

Board Members Attending by Phone: Eliza Ellitt, Rebecca Patton

Guests: Michelle Clyne, Jason Salerno, Ingrid Halverson, Joanne Rushing, Phone: Judy Knisely, Brandy Hayes (via CART)

Interpreters: Holly Parsons, Shelley Engstrom Ketsel , Paula Bloomberg, Donna Stanton, Cathy Rajan (CART)

- I. Minutes of September 10, 2015 Meeting were accepted by unanimous vote. Moved by Jon Jun, Second by Jeff Bohman**

II. Old Business

- 1. Bemyvoice.com website review:** Amy Richards working with ISBE to update (read note from Amy). Michelle spoke to Faith Young and brought Board up to date as to how her neighbor created the platform, we want to transition to a simpler platform. HTML platform currently. Jason Salerno asked to assist as he is familiar with how web pages are set up. Michelle will introduce Jason Salerno to Faith Young to begin the process. Eliza Ellitt offered to meet with Jason Salerno. Jason Salerno informed the Board that if he has the password to the site, he can get into it and work with ISBE or not. Jason Salerno, as a consumer will be very helpful to us and our website (Rose Slaght). Jason Salerno will volunteer and look at the site and write a proposal once he knows what is needed. Michelle will connect Jason Salerno and Eliza Ellitt. Derrick Phillips asked who recommended Jason Salerno- Jeff Bohman & Ingrid Halverson made the recommendation.
- 2. Vacant Board Positions:** status of members and recommendations
Michelle has an interested parent- Christa Bowl, the parent of a 4th grade DeafBlind child. Open position with DCFS & Governor's office. Becky Patton says we can switch Jason Salerno and the parent. Rose Slaght added: once someone is vetted, it is easier to switch. Jeff Bohman stated it may be faster now that we have a new Governor. Jon Jun agrees to go ahead and get Jason Salerno vetted, then move him to the Governor's open position. Michelle Clyne will invite Crista Bowl to our next meeting. Joanne Hiatt is in process of becoming a Board member.

3. **Status of recommendation for advisory board recommendation at ISD and ISVI:** Bob Griffith spoke to Serena Preston, acting superintendent of both schools (read email note dated October 28, 2015) "I believe both schools have all required membership slots filled. There may be a possibility of having an ex-officio member on one or both of the boards so I will check. I know that ISVI Advisory Council bylaws limit the number of ex-officio members but I'm not sure about ISD. I will share your interest with the Chair of each school's Advisory Council. Thank you, Serena"
4. **Acceptable format, Board recommendation of DeafBlind:** motion to recommend using DeafBlind for all business by the IABDB Board by Shelle Hamer, second by Jeffrey Bohman. We will officially change terminology (Michelle needed to turn in Deaf-Blind Advisory Board, as that is how it is listed in the system). Discussion took place that if consumers and families want one word, we should lead the future with this terminology. Brandy Hayes added that SSP also agreed to DeafBlind. Joanne Rushing asked that this Board write a letter to ISBE, legislature & Governor about changing the terminology and wants terminology included in Center for Independent Living as it has been input only as deaf, blind or multihandicapped. Michelle Clyne has asked Jeffrey Bohman to write the letter and bring it to the Board.

III. New Business

1. **Open Meetings Act certification and representative to the Board:** Training needed by all, link: <http://foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/default.aspx> , Bob Griffith agreed to monitor.
2. **DeafBlind Awareness Week:** Rose Slaght suggested our focus be DeafBlind. Judy Knisely suggested ICC (I Can Connect). Judy Knisely and Joanne Rushing will discuss participation.
- **3. **Board Accessibility:**
- **4. **Keep TTY symbol on documents:**
5. **Change IABDB Board meeting to 10:00-2:00:** Discussion and all agreed to plan to remain until 2:00, when needed.
6. **New Legislation:** 2 pieces of legislation- insurance to participate in the cost of hearing aides HB2709 & SB0097

IV. Standing Reports

1. **LeCOBDA:** Holiday party Dec 5th, 58 people attended. Next meeting in February
2. **SSP Task Force:** The final report will be submitted Jan 28th to commissioner. Task force disbanded last May. Joanne Rushing asked why the taskforce disbanded? Brandy Hayes responded, budget
3. **IDHHC:** A new website is going live tomorrow (12/18/15), accessible to VI, report sent to all
4. **IADB:** An upcoming family weekend is planned for April 9th, 2016.

V. Agency Reports

1. **ISBE:** Phillip Rock Center and School was in the budget bill that was rejected last summer. ISBE put together a grant that would sustain the school for 6 months until the state budget was settled. That grant is in place from September 1st through February 29th. In the event that the budget is not resolved by that time, ISBE has begun writing a new grant that will cover PRC for an additional 6 months.

ISBE is taking a close look at the Cogswell-Macy Act to see what actions it may take to be ahead of the legislation. ISBE already has an endorsement for DeafBlind, but there are currently no programs in the state. The possibility for an approval for Interveners has also been brought up at this time.

ISTAC (Illinois Statewide Technical Assistance Collaborative-climate/culture) and RtI (Response to Intervention-academic) are coming together to form the Illinois MTSS Network (Multi-Tiered System of Support).

2. **PRC/Project Reach:** report sent out electronically to all

3. **EI:** no report submitted

4. **DHS/DRS:** They are working on DeafBlind unit with supervisor, 3 rehab counsellors, 3 O&M, 1 supervisor. All staff will be assessed for sign level skills

5. **DHS/OMH/ODD:** no report submitted

6. **DCFS** no report submitted

7. **ICRE Wood:** 2 people with DeafBlindness in program and 1 in vending program, 2nd floor proposed to convert 5/11 rooms for DeafBlind usage to accommodate all & put video phones on 2nd floor. The question is what is the demand for 2nd floor usage?

Wants to open building to consumers at night and weekends. Bob Griffith asked how people will get there in the evening. Derrick Phillips responded PARA Transit or Jose will work in the evening. Last 7 years opening services to DeafBlind has shown success. Weak in technology- has instructors but no equipment. ICRE-Wood will be Wifi accessible in March. Helen Keller has earmarked ½ million dollars to make it accessible. Staff from Helen Keller observed physical building in March and made recommendations to make it accessible to DeafBlind including: antiglare film on all windows, new flooring on 1st floor and dorms w/ contrasting color/texture identifying rooms. Hallway will have textures replicating different ground for O&M training.

8. **DOA:** no report submitted

9. **CLH DeafBlind Program:** DeafBlind training retreat may need to move to Chicago, Judy Knisely- ICC campaign doing anything?

10. **Helen Keller:** Judy Knisely reported that Helen Keller congratulates ICRE-Wood, Chicago Lighthouse, and Ingrid Halvorson for all they do in the state of Illinois. Flyers to be sent out

11. **CPS-** Diane & Doris cannot attend the meeting due to a holiday lunch & wish all IABDB a Merry Christmas

2015-2016 Meeting dates:

March 10, 2016

May 12, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 1:06as moved by Jon Jun, second by Rose Slight

Respectfully submitted by Shelle Hamer IABDB Board Secretary