

FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL  
FOR THE  
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
QUARTERLY MEETING  
August 23, 2007  
Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk  
1515 Prudential Drive  
Jacksonville, Florida 32207

8:36 am: Meeting convened.

Joan Haber, Council Chair, opened the meeting with introductions around the table.

Members Present: Joan Haber, Joe Naulty, Dawn Saunders, Sarah Harris, Chris Wagner, Rick Kottler, Lisa Schaefermeyer, Stan Gustetic, Eloise Williams, Randy Ellsworth, John Jackson, Julie Church and Carol Christopherson, and Staff, Karen Anderson, DOH Liaison and Mary Grace Tavel, Council Assistant.

Members Absent: Laurie Gaylord and Tanya Ward English.

Service Providers Present: Interpreters, Angela Roth, Marvin Mollinedo, Tina Riner and Laurel Standley; CART provider, Mike Cano, and SSP, Amanda Brata.

Members in the audience introduced themselves, Don Schaffer and Katie Schaffer from Plant City, and Emily Taylor-Snell from the Florida Outreach Project.

Joan introduced two amendments to the agenda, inserting a break in the middle of Chris Wagner's presentation on Thursday, August 23 and changing the order on the morning of August 24 by changing "d, financial report" to "a, financial report".

Chris presented the Strategic Plan. The first order of business was to review the mission statement. He asked whether it accurately reflects what the Council can do, and what its mission is.

It was suggested that adding "outreach" to the Council's mission statement might enhance the fiscal position of the Council. Randy mentioned that the Council also hears the concerns of the public, and that is not reflected in the current mission statement. He suggested adding something along the lines of: "Provide a forum to hear public concerns"?

The Strategic Plan Report was reviewed.

Strengths: There was no disagreement.

Weaknesses: Diversity was listed as both a strength and a weakness.

FCCDHH Quarterly Meeting  
August 23 & 24, 2007  
Jacksonville, Florida

Opportunities and Goals were outlined.

Stan mentioned that SWOT might not be the best approach for the Council.

Short-term and Long-term goals were reviewed.

Lisa stated that 12 months was probably unrealistic for creation of a legal accessibility manual, similar to the manual produced by the medical accessibility task force.

Stan said one of the dangers was to make things so out of reach that it impacts what the other urgencies are. He added that the Strategic Plan needs periodic review and tweaking.

Chris asked whether the Council should we have a vision statement?

Karen suggested that the 2005 report outlined the vision statement.

Joan suggested adding the public hearing to the goal. Chris responded that he was thinking of setting that up as a subcategory under “communication” in the goals, and along with that would come increased participation.

Is there commitment from Council members? Do the Council members have that, and support from their own member organizations? Chris stated that “We need to have 100 percent commitment from each member. We are all in this together, even though we all have term limits.”

Timelines: The Council has done a lot in two years. Chris was reluctant to set up a rigid timeline for the next five years. Rick suggested a 3-year minimum timeline.

Is the goal to approve the Strategic Plan in November? No, everyone needs a draft. Chris said perhaps we could have a final draft in November and then hopefully approve the final plan in February. A rough draft of the strategic plan can be included in 2008 report and issued in the Spring, instead of January.

Where to go from here?

Funding, Limitations, Authority, Visibility and Awareness and Education.

10:00 break

10:20 meeting reconvened.

FCCDHH Quarterly Meeting  
August 23 & 24, 2007  
Jacksonville, Florida

Suggested Revised Mission Statement:

“To Provide a forum for public concerns resulting in policy recommendations, technical assistance, advocacy, and education as methods to improve coordination of services among public and private entities to meet the needs of deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and deaf-blind Floridians.”

At issue: “methods to improve coordination of services”

Break up into two sentences?

To serve as an advisory and coordinating body which recommends policies that address the needs of deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deaf-blind persons.

To provide a forum for public concerns resulting in policy recommendations, technical assistance, advocacy, and education as methods to improve coordination of services among public and private entities to meet the needs of deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and deaf-blind Floridians.

Receiving public input and providing outreach.

Vision: To serve as an advisory and coordinating body which recommends policies that address the needs of our service population.

Mission: The Council provides a forum for public input and outreach resulting in technical assistance, advocacy, education and improved communication access to meet the needs of deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deaf-blind..

Switch the two statements and center the titles and change purpose to vision. (Stan)

The next meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee potentially in Tallahassee?

Lisa asked that a guidebook from the Legal Accessibility Task Force not be included. Chris responded that specifics need not be part of the Strategic Plan.

Joan suggested looking at the policies and procedures as part of the Strategic Plan, and include an annual review of Policies & Procedures as part of the Strategic Plan.

Break: 10:55

FCCDHH Quarterly Meeting  
August 23 & 24, 2007  
Jacksonville, Florida

11:17 Meeting resumed.

Joan introduced Susan Allen, Director of the Clarke Jacksonville Auditory/Oral Center for deaf children, the only school of its kind in the State of Florida. The closest is Chapel Hill, NC. Teresa Bolger, director of Options Schools international, accompanied her, and Carrie Mitchell, the development officer of the Clarke School. Their population of children with bilateral cochlear implants has risen to over 90 percent. They serve an average of 50 families each year. There are two types of children: developmental and remedial. They also take children with other secondary issues. Deafness has to be the primary handicap.

Florida Statistics: (Teresa)  
220, 000 PER YEAR, LIVE BIRTHS  
660 hearing impaired  
627 children are born to hearing parents (95%)?  
614 hearing families choose auditory  
Only 4 referrals last year... why?

The Clarke School is asking for:  
Unbiased referrals  
Costs to families  
Costs to taxpayers

Annual tuition is \$17,000, but the real cost is closer to \$35,000, per Susan Allen, who does a lot of fundraising. The school does not turn away a child because of financial need.

12:00 noon: Meeting adjourned for lunch.

1:16 pm: Meeting reconvened.

Introductions around the Council table were made.

Joan introduced Julie Meadows-Keefe, Department of Health Counsel, Connie Blackman, Children's Medical Services Purchasing Agent and Renee Gregory, Department of Health, Finance.

FCCDHH Quarterly Meeting  
August 23 & 24, 2007  
Jacksonville, Florida

Julie Meadows-Keefe spoke on the Code of Ethics, the Sunshine law, and the purchasing laws, as far as how those things are to be carried out ethically. She began with the statutes, FS 413.271, and synopsized.

The Code of Ethics is in FS Ch. 112.

Governor's Executive order 07-01 set forth an enhanced standard of ethics. Council members are considered "public officers."

Gifts: Do not accept anything.

FS 287.001 et seq., address procurement of property and services.

Sunshine Law: Meetings need to be open, and reasonably noticed. Appropriate minutes must be kept, and open to public inspection. All correspondence is public record. Ch. 119 is the public records law.

Julie turned the meeting over to Renee Gregory with the Central Purchasing Office, she brought with her Purchasing Agent Sonja German-Jones, who deals with Mary Grace a lot. Training here is based under FS Ch. 287, part I.

Connie Blackman, Director of Purchasing for CMS spoke next. CMS has a 250M dollar budget. The Council purchases are a small part of that.

The group then entertained questions.

In CMS, the Council's budget is a line item. Connie agreed to a meeting with Eloise and Stan, quarterly.

John brought up on-line training in ethics, since we will have to take training every year. He asked if the Council had to take it as a body or if individuals could take it on their own. Julie answered that maybe they could do individually through "Track-It" on-line.

Rick asked, regarding purchasing timelines, after bidding and decision on vendor, how long does it take? Renee answered that they have three days. Connie responded that if something is missing, the clock stops, and then the three days start over. Renee and Connie agree that one week is sufficient for all the approvals needed to finalize a purchase order.

Action: Mary Grace to send DOH policies and procedures to Chris and other interested Council members.

A report on the website was given by Mary Grace Tavel, substituting for Tanya Ward English: Liquifusion is doing a great job at updating the website.

FCCDHH Quarterly Meeting  
August 23 & 24, 2007  
Jacksonville, Florida

Staff Report: Karen gave an update on the status of the creation of the Outreach Positions. Chris asked whether we hadn't decided that the location would be Tampa and shouldn't that be part of the job description? Karen responded that the location was not part of the job description, that would be part of the advertising and hiring, and the Council probably wouldn't want both positions located in Tampa. Karen anticipates that the contract amendment (No. 9) won't even be effective until the end of November. After that, the Council could start advertising the position. Chris wanted to add that the Council should encourage persons who are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind to apply for the outreach positions.

3:30 pm: Break.

4:12 pm: Meeting resumed.

Joan called the public hearing portion of the meeting to order with the time and location. The Council introduced themselves, along with the staff and service providers. Laurel Standley, Marvin Mollinedo, Angela Roth, Tina Riner, Alex and Sergio, Mike Cano and Amanda Brata.

Joan reminded everyone of the protocols of the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

- (1) Judy Martin. Welcomed everyone to Jacksonville, her beautiful adopted city. She spoke about the looping process. She is a strong advocate of looping. Randy pointed out that only 17% of people who wore hearing aids had t-coils in the 90's and the loop system isn't cost effective for that many people.
- (2) Don Shaffer, new to Florida from Indiana. He's here to talk about the ADA, and the Governor's Commission on Disabilities. Would there be a question of a duplication of effort if the new commission is looking after the same thing? The other issue is t-coils. Unfortunately, a lot of places don't have a loop system. He worked for VR in Indiana for 31 years.
- (3) Lynne Rousseau, President of HLA. Her concern stemmed from a recent event with her daughter who had a severe ear infection. Her daughter saw doctor and was sent home with ear drops but she became significantly worse over the next seven hours. Lynne tried to make calls to help her daughter, and it was impossible to navigate the automated phone system. Rick made the statement that hearing people have the same problem! He thought we could address that in the MATF video. Joan asked if she had written any letters. Lynne replied that it was just recently and there hadn't been time.

FCCDHH Quarterly Meeting  
August 23 & 24, 2007  
Jacksonville, Florida

- (4) Brandy Harvey. She has two children, 5 and 6, with bilateral CI's. She wanted to talk about the lack of funding for oral auditory education. Her children attended the Clarke School, and she donated many fundraising hours so that there could be scholarship funding. She suggested there be a greater push for options in Early Intervention. She disclosed that she was employed by Cochlear Implants of America, but she was here as a private parent of deaf children. She asked if the Council could advocate for funding for oral auditory education?
- (5) Debbie Kantor. Her child went to FSDB, she is deaf-blind, and only lasted a year. Now she's in public school. She has new acronyms for IEP for ESE students. At FSDB, they refused to teach her Braille, because the instructors were too overloaded. That's when they decided to move her to public school, where she fought to get her daughter assistance in the classroom. She got untrained assistance, i.e., they assigned the person who operated the photocopier to work with her.
- (6) Emily Taylor-Snell. She invited the Council and members of the public to Lighthouse meetings on September 6 and 7. She would like the Council to assist in getting the word about deaf-blind events out to other agencies. Chris suggested we might collaborate in the area of strategic planning.
- (7) Melissa Trauthwein. She wanted to share her experience about accommodations at work. First she thanked the Council for all their dedication. She works full-time for an insurance company, doing data analysis, and she works on the computer and via e-mail, meetings and conference calls. Her employer offered to pay half of the hearing system she decided she needed, and VR picked up the tab for the other half. She has a future appointment with the Phonak representative and feels much more confident in her hearing, even though her system isn't totally programmed yet. She also wanted to mention that open-captioned movies are not all that available, and the movie times are not open to spontaneity. She also wanted to advocate for looping.
- (8) Cathy Wilson wrote in via e-mail, and Joan read her comment. She has a daughter who rapidly lost her hearing, and she went to FSDB for help. The school IEP process took 5 months, and they tried to find volunteers to teach their daughter ASL. They did find some good volunteers and learned about service animals, which has been a godsend to the family.

6:04 pm Public Comment ended.

Joan announced that the public comments would be discussed at the meeting continuation in the morning.

6:05 pm meeting adjourned.

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8:33 am: Meeting convened.

Joan Haber, Chair, opened the meeting and introductions were made around the table.

Members Present: Carol Christopherson, Joe Naulty, John Jackson, Dawn Saunders, Sarah Harris, Chris Wagner, Joan Haber, Rick Kottler, Lisa Schaefermeyer, Julie Church, Stan Gustetic, Eloise Williams, Randy Ellsworth, and Staff, Karen Anderson, DOH Liaison and Mary Grace Tavel, Council Assistant.

Members Absent: Laurie Gaylord, Tanya Ward English.

Joan introduced the Service Providers, Marvin Mollinedo, Angela Roth, Tina Riner and Laurel Standley, interpreters; Mike Cano, CART provider; Alex and Sergio, CODASound; and Amanda Brata, SSP.

Joan introduced Stan Gustetic who, along with Eloise Williams, reviewed the state of the budget. Eloise emphasized that we need to plan ahead. Stan mentioned that he and Eloise would be meeting with purchasing prior to the next meeting and work out the miscellaneous details of the UF contract expenditures. Julie asked about dollars for public relations and it was deduced that some money could come from “consultant” category and some from “general expenditures.”

Joan asked members of the audience to introduce themselves. Don Shaffer of Plant City introduced himself and his wife, Kate. Judy Martin introduced herself.

Meeting minutes from the previous quarterly meeting were introduced and corrections were offered. Joan asked if Mary Grace had sent minutes to Julie and Eloise, which she had. Joan suggested Mary Grace attach Leisa Flynn’s Strategic Plan report, rather than going into such detail. John made a motion to accept the minutes as approved; Randy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Action items from last meeting were reviewed. ACTION: Mary Grace to pursue getting items up on the website, and follow-up with Evan on item 14. Chris had accomplished item 23.

Rick reported on the reception at the Governor’s mansion to kick off the introduction of the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities which he attended in Joan’s place. He presented Joan with an autographed picture of Governor Crist.

FCCDHH Quarterly Meeting  
August 23 & 24, 2007  
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Rick also reported on the status of the video for the Medical Accessibility Task Force. The Council received three bids, one from ProMedia, one from Kossof Productions and one from Impressionmasters. Rick made a motion that we move forward on the bid from ProMedia. John seconded the motion. Chris asked details about the production of the video, such as disposition of the proceeds of the video, operations trust fund or an administrative trust fund? ACTION: Find out whether the Council can accept money, and what we could do if someone else wanted to reproduce the video once it is made. Rick made a motion that we accept the low bid, and John seconded the motion. A vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously. (Eloise had left the room.)

ACTION: Mary Grace to get dollar figures to Lisa Schaefermeyer on the cost of Wednesday's task force meeting.

The Events Planning Report was given by Sarah Harris in a PowerPoint presentation and the event requests were considered in order.

Lisa requested sponsorship of the FRID conference on October 18—21, 2007 at the Hyatt Hotel in Orlando. Randy asked if FRID had a lobbyist or was planning on employing one soon. Chris responded that with their 501c(3) status, they could not have lobbyists, they have political consultants, which is totally different. Julie asked if we could have a dollar limit on the amount that could be requested. Sarah made a motion to accept the request. The motion was seconded by Joan. The motion passed with no opposition.

Tanya requested sponsorship of CART sessions at the National Court Reporters Association Annual Convention September 27—30, 2007. The question of what exactly the sponsorship covered was asked, and no one could answer that definitively. There was confusion as to what the Council would be paying for.

Action: Mary Grace to ask Sarah for a copy of her PowerPoint to include with the minutes. Sarah made a motion that there be clarification and that we amend the procedures to elaborate on the Council's expectations. John seconded the motion, as amended. Vote was called. The motion did not carry. Two ayes, the rest of the votes were nos.

HLA-FL Walk4Hearing, April 12, 2008 at Phillipe Park in Safety Harbor. Request is for \$3,500. Judy Martin addressed the question of what the proceeds will be used for. Sarah made a motion to support her request. Dawn seconded the motion. Carol asked for a correction in the amount on CART. No opposition. The vote was 9 affirmative, 3 abstentions.

FCCDHH Quarterly Meeting  
August 23 & 24, 2007  
Jacksonville, Florida

Warren Estabrooks Convention, October 27, 2007. Sarah suggested that no vote be taken because we don't have enough information. Rick suggested that the Council's mission was education, and that would be education. Rick tried to call Laurie for clarification. Sarah suggested again that we move on to the next item due to lack of information.

Joe asked if there was a lot of money he didn't know about. He has concerns that no money is being allocated for deaf-blind events. Action: Mary Grace to send guidelines to Joe Naulty again.

There was a request from FOP for a total commitment of \$14,700. Sarah suggested that this request be tabled until next meeting since it's not until February of 2008. Discussion was tabled until the November meeting, with advice to Emily Taylor-Snell that she needs to fill out the appropriate form.

The agenda was altered to have Legal Accessibility Task Force report. Lisa gave a handout to everyone. She described who attended. She asked how the council members who were on the task force felt about meeting dates in Orlando. The Council members agreed to Orlando for the next meeting at a discrete date separate from the council meeting dates. Lisa provided an estimate of \$6,000 to support the next meeting rather than the \$10,000 that was approved to support the last meeting.

Julie Church presented issues related to hiring a Public Relations firm. It continues to be a big need for the council. The little bit that was done by Ron Sachs did provide results to the council. She suggested that Mary Grace begin to solicit bids for PR services. Discussion ensued on importance of Public Relations and what it would consist of. Julie made a motion to direct Mary Grace to go out for bids with the previous criteria with graduated amount in the request. Randy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. (Action)

10:31 break.

11:12 meeting resumed.

Joan opened the floor to discussion about the public hearing.

John asked that the Council request that people who come to the public comment session with a prepared written statement that we ask for a copy of it so that we have a copy of it for the public record.

FCCDHH Quarterly Meeting  
August 23 & 24, 2007  
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Chris asked for a discussion of what we could do to improve attendance at the public comment time? Julie Church suggested list-serves of the individual organizations. ACTION. Mary Grace collaborate with on a template for a meeting notice, and send the meeting notices as an attachment with the agendas so that members can send the attachment to their individual organizations. John suggested moving the public hearing to the evening with break before. Eloise suggested more media contact and also suggested advertising on MFMP. Action: Mary Grace to investigate using MFMP to advertise. Carol asked about using billboards. John suggested split shifts for public comment time. Chris suggested a video clip, a flyer, and translation to Spanish. Julie suggested tailoring what we do to the particularities of the location. For instance, Jacksonville is heavy on education, and school started this week, and it was just bad timing. It was decided not to change the time of the hearing for the meeting at The Villages.

Rick addressed Melissa Trauthwein's concern about conference calls, and suggested Judy Martin ask her to contact James Forstall at FTRI. Action—Mary Grace to get James' e-mail to Judy.

Rick suggested that we have a council member attend each one of the meetings of the new Commission on Disabilities, and John Jackson emphasized that DCF not only attends but make it a point to speak.

Joe asked if he could apply to be on that commission. John told him he could. Chris announced that the Commission was now filled, and applications were closed.

Action: Joan to write a letter to Governor Crist asking for clarification of conflict of interest and whether there had to be two applicants for each seat.

Randy suggested Joan send a nice letter to each member of the new commission with a copy of the 2007 report. ACTION

Chris asked that someone from the Council attend the meetings that Emily Taylor Snell talked about on Thursday. If Dawn Saunders' travel is approved through DOE, she will go on behalf of them and the Council, and if not she will contact Mary Grace and have her do travel. Joe is also planning on attending the meetings.

Joan asked about the lady yesterday who was concerned about the education issue.

Sarah asked if we could get someone in to talk about the loop system. ACTION: Joan to contact someone to come address the Council meeting.

Carol questioned whether the State does not really support Oral schools. Dawn said that state does not choose one system of communication over another, school districts cannot dictate that. Most school systems have a variety of programs in place.

FCCDHH Quarterly Meeting  
August 23 & 24, 2007  
Jacksonville, Florida

Carol asked why the IEP process takes so long. Based on the comment yesterday, it took five months? Action: Dawn to check on whether initial evaluation of a student is 45 or 60 days. She doesn't know why that one took 5 months. She was from out of state but it should not have taken that long. Carol explained she was talking about Cathy Wilson's comment.

Joan asked for comment on the new mission statement which she read at the beginning of the public comment time. Carol said someone had commented that they liked it.

New business:

Chris made a motion that the new mission statement, vision and purpose be accepted. Dawn seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Chris made a motion to accept the new vision statement. John seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dawn announced that there was a teen retreat for regarding deaf-blind teens in February. She will send information about it to Mary Grace to distribute. She will also send a flyer for deaf/heard of hearing meeting in October to Mary Grace to distribute as well.  
(Action)

Chris asked that Rick keep Spanish captioning in mind for the MATF video.

Chris suggested that the Council spearhead a Rally at the Capital next year. He suggested that the Council call it an Awareness Day. ACTION: Mary Grace to ask Julie Meadows-Keefe if staff can participate if it is called an Awareness Day. Chris made a motion that the Council establish an annual awareness day during the legislative session in Tallahassee. Carol seconded the motion. There was a discussion of whether the Council would pay for travel. The consensus was yes, if we could combine it with a committee meeting. Carol seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Joe announced he had finally sold his former residence and officially purchased his home in Melbourne. He is also a licensed vendor with the State of Florida and now has a job with a paycheck coming in.

Joan reported on her participation with the Inclusion Council. The AmeriCorps program is their biggest priority. AmeriCorps is the domestic "Peace Corps."

Joan reported on COAT (Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology). Joan participates in their meetings by remote C.A.R.T.

FCCDHH Quarterly Meeting  
August 23 & 24, 2007  
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Upcoming meeting dates and places were discussed. If Chris can book a date for the Awareness Day, the Council can consider moving the February meeting to March from Sarasota to Tallahassee and going to Sarasota in May and skip Sanford. John and Joan made similar motions to move the dates and locations. The motion was amended to state if that was not workable that we would revert to the original schedule. Randy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Action: Mary Grace to check out The Inn at Wildwood (near St. Marks).

Chris wondered about Council meetings becoming an “open chat”. Chris wanted to explore that option. Action: Chris, Mike Cano and Mary Grace to explore this.

Chris asked if people had done their homework regarding strategic planning.

Elections of Chair and Vice-Chair for the coming year were held. John nominated Rick as Chair. Rick declined; Chris nominated Joan as Chair and Rick as Vice-Chair. Lisa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting time was discussed. Chris needs three hours to finalize the Strategic Plan. A suggestion was made to start the meeting at 10:00 am and address the Strategic Plan and have the presentation on digital TV, then the public hearing at the regular time, and then potentially a short day on Friday.

Joan thanked everyone on the service provider staff, and the members of the audience for coming.

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.