



100 N 15th Avenue * Suite 104 * Phoenix, AZ 85007
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Minutes of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Task Force** held February 26, 2015 at 100 N. 15th Ave., Suite 104, Phoenix, AZ
Thursday, at 10:00 am
PENDING APPROVAL

Call to Order and Housekeeping

Jennifer Hensley, Family and Youth Resource Specialist called the test force to order at 10:05 a.m.

Introductions

JoAnn Benfield, Interim Director at Gallaudet SW Regional Center

Cynthia Elliott, Arizona Hands and Voices, Raising Special Kids and parent of a deaf child

Jennifer Reid, Assistant Principal of Sequoia School for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing

Najwa Ghattas, Executive Director, Arizona Hands and Voices

Angela Denning, Deputy Associate Superintendent of Exceptional Student Services Department of Education, State Director of Special Education

DeeAnn Chapman, Executive Director, Desert Voices

Teri White, Parent Outreach Coordinator, Desert Voices and parent of a deaf child

Sarah Sotille, Supervisor of Middle School, Phoenix Day School for the Deaf, representing Courtney Fritz

Jeremy Tuttle, Educational Interpreter, Desert Valleys Regional Coop of ASDB and K-12 Committee Chair with Arizona Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf; representing Educational Interpreters

Sue Kay Kneifel, Statewide Coordinator for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Arizona Department of Economic Security - Rehabilitation Services Administration

Staff Present: Vicki Bond, Interpreter Assessment Coordinator at ACDHH

Jeremy McCowen, IT, ACDHH

Michele Michaels, Hard of Hearing Specialist, ACDHH

Melinda Villela, Assistant to the Executive Director at ACDHH

Sherri Collins, Executive Director, ACDHH joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Review Past minutes

The last meeting was held November 2012. The report from this meeting will act as the minutes.

Review Needs Assessment

There were many issues of concern in the last report:

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Jennifer Hensley reported one of the larger goals was to hire a Parent Resource Specialist for the state. ACDHH has hired Ms. Hensley part time as the Parent Resource Specialist. Hopefully, a fulltime position will be approved by the legislature this year. To date, she has pooled resources and brought different groups together that were not previously connected. She is now chairing the Education Task Force. She invited members of the November 2012 meeting to share what progress has been made toward achieving the task force goals.

3 (Angela Denning, Sue Kay Kneifel, DeeAnn Chapman) present in November 2012

Review Needs Assessment/Centralization of Information

Development of a Database of Children in the State of Arizona: Angela Denning reported that they were concerned that not all of the children in Arizona were being counted. They are in the process of developing a new database. In 2012, the Department of ED was using the Student Academic Information System (SAIS), their main database for children in the pre-K to 12 system. SAIS did not communicate with the voucher system so some students were not counted. Part C, birth to 3 years old is a completely different systems and they do not talk. They are in the process of replacing SAIS with a system that will communicate with each of these areas and are hopeful they will have a more accurate count in the next 12 - 18 months. This system captures 3 years plus, however they hope that the two systems will communicate with each other.

Ensure Seamless Transitions: Angela Denning reported that the database was birthed out of this goal. The goal is from birth, to improve transitions and ensure that no one falls through the cracks or misses opportunities they need to be successful.

Strengthen Self Advocacy: Vicki Bond reported, recently ACDHH partnered with JoAnn at Gallaudet Regional Center to provide a Leadership Workshop to Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth here in Arizona. Topics covered were, how to improve confidence in who you are, become better leaders and how to self-advocate. There were 15 participants.

Facilitate Parent Knowledge of the Rights of Their Children: Vicki Bond reported, recently ACDHH hosted two parent education sessions where parents and students were educated regarding IEPs, their rights for interpreters in and outside of the classroom, EEA, and IDEA.



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Address Low Graduation Rate: Angela Denning reported herself and Sue Kay along with others have joined Secondary Transition for Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing with PEPNET. Sue Kay reported PEPNET is now called PN2. There is an Arizona team that is part of PN2's 5 year grant program to ensure better transition post high school. The focus of the grant is building capacity in each state and getting all the players together in the state. Angela Denning has been a key person in that as well.

Angela Denning reported all this information is going into the Department of ED's Secondary Transition Plan and that plans are not just compliant but are viable and will lead youth to become fully engaged in the community, in employment and in education after high school.

Jennifer Hensley inquired how reporting out will happen? Sue Kay stated the project is in the beginning stages and piggy backs on the Dept. of ED project. The Arizona Group is trying to access the number of kids not only in the school system, but all the way back to early detection. They are looking at the number of students receiving RSA services for VR at transition age, and going back to EHDI numbers for that age group 18 – 22 year olds (4 year period) for the year they were born to see how many are actually in services and how many that we know of are still in the state. They hope to continue to expand the database backwards so eventually that early detection number can be used to report longitudinally through the system. Reporting out would probably be to this task force. The team participants are Sue Kay Kneifel representing RSA; Angela Denning representing the Department of ED; Sherri Collins representing community partnerships; Megan Scarboro representing PDS/ASDB; Shelly Herbold as a parent rep; and Katherine Crandmyer from U of A, who has a dual role. She is ensuring project goals are measurable and provides statics research and instruction to that next group of educators. She hopes to bring best practices from the summit back into the classroom for the next generation of educators.

The Arizona Team has been chosen to be highlighted at next year's summit. They will be featured showing the progress made in Arizona, how we have come together as a community and how the collaboration will benefit students in the long run.

Jennifer reported ACDHH has been providing parent support and trainings bringing different organizations together to provide more overall services in education.



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Sue Kay reported that people who know deafness and hearing loss are motivated to come to the table. One area still lacking is getting a point person within DHS of DDD that has some basic knowledge of Deaf plus other disabilities.

New Arizona Statistics

Michele Michaels reported ACDHH's goal is to capture the number of people who have hearing loss in Arizona regardless of the type of loss. Research was conducted using several statistical references. The Department of Health Services cites 1.7 of every 1,000 babies born in Arizona have hearing loss at or within the first 6 months of birth. It has been difficult to determine how many children 3 years – 14 years old have hearing loss. Research is continuing for this demographic. For the age group 15 years old – death, information is available through the National Institute on Deaf Communication Disorders, Center for Disease Control, Enhances, JAMA and market track data from the Better Hearing Institute. There are over 1.02 million people with hearing loss in Arizona. ACDHH is working with U of A regarding affordable hearing aids for people in need. U of A reports 1.15 million Arizonans with hearing loss. ACDHH reports conservatively. Ms. Michaels welcomes any additional sources of data the committee may have. She will also be breaking out the information by county.

Parent Support Trainings: Sherri Collins stated that there has already been discussion between Dr. Lamer and Ms. Denning regarding parent education. Ms. Collins would like to have a day and a half or a two day state wide conference addressing all age ranges and degrees of hearing loss and inquired if there is interest in collaborating among the group. She further inquired what the best time of year would be for teachers to attend.

The task force determined Saturdays are ok if districts agree to pay the staff to attend. When school is not in session, late May, early June or July after teachers have had a break would be the best time. Angela Denning, Jennifer Reid, JoAnn, Sarah, Cynthia and DeeAnn participated in the discussion.

Summer Resources

Resources are being gathered for Deaf, blended and Spanish speaking families and will be posted on the ACDHH website. If you know of any events, please send them to Jennifer Hensley.

Sue Kay shared:

April 30, 2015 9:30a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – RSA Job Fair on the Sequoia campus. Workshops in the am and job fair with employment opportunities in the afternoon.

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor



Sherri L. Collins
Executive Director

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A few months ago RSA hosted a Volunteer Palooza. Many employers will not employ until a person is 18 years old. This event connects 16 year old volunteers with employers, which looks great on a resume. All employment events are posted on RSA website calendar

Announcements

Teachers Institute, Leaning Change in Tucson, Transition Conference and Directors Institute are being hosted by the Az. Department of Education. To see all the details go to www.azed.gov (Angela)

August 24 – 25th Transition Conference – PEPNET and the Arizona Team will be presenting at the conference. There are scholarships available for youth and their families to attend.

If you identify a constituency that is not represented or someone that would be a good fit for the task force, forward their contact information to Jennifer Hensley and she will reach out to them.

Next Meeting Date & Tentative Agenda Items

Consensus is to meet quarterly. Discussion ensued. Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings the second or third week of May are best.

Legislative Issues, Educational Interpreter Licensure (Sherri)

Early Intervention Transition 2.11 to 3 – Language and Communication, Literacy and Graduation (Angela Denning)

Please email any additional agenda items to Jennifer Hensley.

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