



Advisory Council to the Division of Services of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Wednesday, March 17, 2021
Via zoom meeting 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Advisory Council Members: Justin Howell, Kim Lucas, Michelle Tanner, Stephen Ehrlich, Larry Lee, Bradley Jones, Martin Price, Chip Royce, Amy Hardy, Arlene Gunderson (non voting)

Guests: Sarah Brenna, Ramoa Rice

DSDHH Staff: Melanie Sperry, Chelle Wyatt, Pamela Mower, Annette Stewart

Agenda Item	Discussion	Recommendations/Actions
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Meeting started at 5:11 PM</p> <p>Chair, Justin Howell welcomed all to the Advisory Council meeting.</p> <p>Approval of Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ February 17, 2021 meeting minutes. <p>The link to the recording of the meeting: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMwA_zi33IE</p>	<p>Justin Howell called for a motion to approve the 2/17/2021 minutes. Kim motioned. Larry seconded the motion. Melanie will replace Kim's last name Smith to Lucas.</p> <p>Minutes approved with proposed changes of names unanimously.</p>
Voting on New Members	<p>We discussed what the number of hard of hearing, deaf, deafblind and hearing members we have. We wanted to make sure to meet the required numbers in the bylaws.</p>	<p>Justin called for a motion to approve the two new members - Joe and Sharron to become council members. Martin motioned to accept the two new nominations for advisory council. Stephen seconded the motion.</p> <p>The two new council members were approved. Justin and Melanie will work with Sarah Brenna to move them forward.</p>
DSDHH Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arlene showed a PowerPoint. ● We are in the last quarter of the fiscal year 2021 ● Several full time positions will be posted for both North and South Centers. 	

- Second vaccination clinic was a success, thank you to Annette Stewart and her team who put in more than 40 hours of work.
- There will possibly be another vaccine clinic in April for all community members. When more information becomes available it will be shared through a video.
- DSDHH and UAD will have a training with NAD about the legislature on Saturday, April 17, 2021 from 9am to 4pm. All managers and supervisors in DSDHH will be attending. We will review how a bill becomes a law. We will look at the ethics of the employees of the Center working with political action and what that looks like. Will discuss the difference between the Deaf Center staff and the UAD board members, how they can support one another and what each can bring to the advocacy table. Discuss what resources will be needed and come up with an action plan. Hoping to come up with 2 possible bills to bring to the legislature. One being a mental health bill and one being for a senior assisted living center. The senior center being a long term goal. We do have a committee led by Stephen Persinger.
- North Center is having all four of the bathrooms remodeled.
- Four North Center staff members went down to the South Center to do some painting and to do some one on one meetings with the South Center staff. Pictures and a short video of the visit to the South Center were shown.
- UIP Testing Center is being set up at the South Center
- Trenton Marsh went to Dixie State and presented about UIP testing at the South Center.
- The open positions at DSDHH are:
 - Employment Specialist
 - Certification Specialist Assistant
 - Full time CDI
 - Youth and Family Programs Specialist
 - Hard of Hearing Specialist for South Center
- Justin asked if the bathroom remodel will make it brighter and easier to see inside. Arlene explained that a more modern look was chosen.
- Stephen asked Melanie to read the DSDHH Value regarding respect and trust. Melanie read the values. Stephen expressed some of his concerns in relation to respect and trust.
- Justin reiterated that we need to be respectful with each other.
- Annette Stewart, the CAS manager, shared a PowerPoint about the Community Advocacy Services (CAS).
- CAS is also known as Client Advocacy Services

- Last month's vaccine clinic for age 70 and older had 65 people vaccinated for the first dose and 66 people for the second dose.
- One goal in the strategic plan was to update the ASL counseling list. It is in the process of being updated.
- Employment Specialist interviews start tomorrow (March 18). Hoping to find a good candidate to fill Pamela Mower's old position.
- Recently received approval for a temporary Communication Assessor Specialist. With this position, a person's abilities to communicate and comprehend can be determined to show what their strong and weak skills are. This helps with vocational rehab and helping create accommodations for people getting jobs.
- Another vaccine clinic will be planned for ages 16 and older on hopefully April 6 for anyone in the state.
- Senior assisted living has been a goal. How to help our seniors to be less isolated.
- Hard of Hearing Specialist position will be opening up at the South Center. Currently there are 3 vacancies for Hard of Hearing Specialists.
- Chelle added that we have a Hard of Hearing Specialist in Monticello that covers the Moab area as well. We have 3 Hard of Hearing Specialists in the Salt Lake area that are teachers. One in Utah county and one in the northern part of the state that has recently turned in their resignation. We are waiting for the pandemic to subside to start in person activities and then we will try to hire out for the more rural areas.
- Annette introduced the CAS team.
 - Annette Stewart
 - Stephen Persinger
 - Laurie Monell
 - Diego Acosta
 - Employment Specialist
 - Chelle Wyatt
- Justin asked for clarification of the ASL counseling list. Annette explained that we used to keep a long list of counselors and that we narrowed down the list to about 17 counselors that use ASL.
- Martin Price requested that the next time Annette attends Advisory Council if she would bring the numbers of how many cases, on average, are being handled every month. He also asked if there are any goals to increase those numbers. Annette explained that the numbers are a bit lower as our case managers are having to do the Employment Specialist's job right now.
- VITA tax help is open. Contact the front desk for more information.
- Kim mentioned that the picture used in one of the PowerPoint slides felt very audist as it was of an ear

with words coming out of it like sounds and recommended to remove the picture. Annette explained that the picture was for the Hard of Hearing Specialists and community and wasn't meant for the Deaf community but apologized for any offense.

- Pamela Mower shared a PowerPoint about the Continuing Education and Outreach (CEO) program which includes media.
 - Outreach consists of
 - Mitch Moyers
 - Ron Nelson
 - Gideon Nielson, who is the editing specialist
 - Activities and Events consists of
 - Mary Beth Baierl
 - Diego Acosta, who is also a part of the CAS team.
- The very first Virtual Parent Teacher Conference was recently held. The theme was "Engaging Families in Education" which 44 people registered for. Some of the registrants were from out of the state of Utah. There were various presenters such as Michele Tanner, Rachel Posner from Deaf Outloud, Rachel Coleman, Chelle Wyatt and Sue Ordonez, Annette Stewart, as well as others.
- There have been changes to the newsletter to make it more interactive for the community to make it more engaging and exciting. There will be a CEO Newsflash will provide updates as far as what DSDHH is doing so the community is aware. There will also be updates from CAS, FMO and UIP. Nellie Sausedo will write up a monthly article to represent the seniors. Circle of Friends, which focuses on Deaf Plus, to provide updates with their program. It will also share what happens at meetings and committees where we have a representative from DSDHH attending. There will be updates from Vocational Rehab, UTA CAT (accessible transportation committee), EHDI (Early Hearing Detection Intervention). There will also be updates on Outreach efforts and success. For example, Outreach was contacted by the FBI and was able to do a presentation. They were so impressed that they invited Outreach to do another presentation for all the special agents in the state of Utah. A section will be added called Technology Talk where updates will be given about new and useful apps and equipment as well as how to use them for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Last but not least, there will be a section for the community to share things such as recipes, art, photos, stories, etc.
- There are upcoming presentations that Outreach will be doing at UVU for the dental program and other rural

areas about how companies can accommodate potential employees.

- Media has produced 8 videos so far and will be doing more. Gideon has been the only person editing so others will be trained to lighten his load.
- The studio has been remodeled with a green wall and large tv monitor for PowerPoints with a touch screen.
- Continuing Education upcoming events for the North and South Centers:
 - Paint Nite with Nancy Rourke on March 25
 - Working on having deaf presenters from all over, not just from Utah.
 - DeafBlind Town Hall “TALK to us!” on April 1
 - Hoping to hear from the DeafBlind community about their concerns and ideas and how we can become more inclusive.
 - Surprise Egg Hunt on April 2
 - Raise your Hands/Voice on April 7
 - ASL Classes starting April 13 through June 17
 - CODA Zoom Meet on April 14
 - Dog Training on April 17
 - Fly Fishing on April 20
 - Pinner’s Series on April 22
 - UTA Transition on April 20
 - CORPS THAT on April 28
 - Deaf Studies Talk with Michael Ballard on April 29
 - Cooking Class on April 29
 - Seniors Group Chat every Wednesday
 - Circle of Friends every third Saturday
 - Shifting Perspectives Through Deaf and Hard of Hearing’s Experiences on May 5
 - Self Esteem workshop in June
 - Signers Chat is weekly
 - Summer camps for kids and youth this summer.
- The Virtual Parent Teacher Conference had 44 registrants. There were various classes that they could register for. Some classes had up to 40 participants some had as little as 5 or 10 participants. We will take a look at which classes were more popular and see what adjustments can be made to others.
- Justin asked if Outreach has made contact with local police departments since they have presented with the FBI recently. Pamela commented that Outreach has been contacting local agencies to see if they can do presentations. However, SeGoLily has been working with SLCPD and DSDHH does not want to over step but work together.
- Chelle wanted to emphasize the event Shifting Perspectives Through Deaf and Hard of Hearing’s Experiences. It will have an exciting panel as it will be

	<p>the first panel with Deaf AND Hard of Hearing panelist’s perspectives. Pamela commented that she has been to the Hard of Hearing Coffee Chats and found new perspectives. The panel will focus on Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals and if it is successful other perspectives such as DeafBlind and people of color will be brought in and provide different workshops.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chelle, Pamela and Mary Beth Baierl have had discussions with Laura Benghe who works with the DeafBlind. They have discussed and will provide training to DSDHH staff about DeafBlind needs and how to be more sensitive to their needs. ● Arlene commented that DSDHH staff has been working on our Mission, Vision and Values. There have been sensitive issues and have been trying to be a better example. How we can provide programs and services without offending anyone. We are still working to achieve this. ● Stephen wanted to know if Arlene and Steve Winn at the Blind Center have met and come up with any ideas how to create a partnership and if that will be discussed at the DeafBlind Town Hall. He also asked how many people have registered to attend the Town Hall. Pamela commented that Steve Winn has been informed of the Town Hall and an invite has been sent to Steve and his staff at the Blind Center to participate. Also, DSDHH has been working closely with Ramona Rice who has given a lot of ways to reach out to people. As of now, five DeafBlind have signed up and four or five other people have signed up to learn. More advertising will be done before the Town Hall. 	
<p>USOR Director Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sarah Brenna started with how happy she is with the staff at DSDHH regardless of how COVID has affected everything. Even though the numbers look different, looking at the bigger picture, a lot of work has been done. ● At the next meeting Sarah will discuss with co-chairs about a dashboard that tracks services provided and how many interpreters are certified. The next few years, to align with the strategic plan, things may be changing how data is collected and what is collected. ● Sarah attended some of the Parent Teacher Conference sessions. Some of the speakers were amazing. It was educational. She asked when some of the recordings would be posted online and shared with the Advisory Council. Pamela commented that there were 3 sessions per hour and it will take time to edit and share. She is hoping by the end of next week. ● Interviews are being finished up at DSBVI for the DeafBlind specialist. Arlene has been involved with Steve Winn. ● DSBVI is having a hard time recruiting SSPs that support our DeafBlind clients, especially in Provo. The job is 10 hours a week and about \$17.00 an hour. Please help spread the word. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pamela commented that in her experience as an employment specialist, she's noticed that the few hours may be why they are having a hard time finding candidates. ○ Stephen commented that he and Steve Winn talked about the recommendation for the DeafBlind people who are newly using specialists to maybe go to SLCC or UVU and do recruiting for SSPs. Maybe make a video to show what working with DeafBlind is like and encourage people to meet DeafBlind people in person. ● Sarah shared some information from the legislative session. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Homelessness has been a big area of focus for the department. The Housing Community Development Division is within Workforce Services. \$50 million was allocated to help with homelessness and housing. \$730 million will be brought in by a combination of public funds. ○ Agency realignment combined the Department of Health and Human Services which is a big change. They are going through what we did 5 years ago. The goal is to keep services to the public the same. A dozen staff will join DWS in the appeals division as some of Medicaid is being moved over to DWS to streamline the eligibility process. It should not change how the public interacts with Medicaid. ○ There is a new Office of Homeless Services that will be under DWS that is made up of existing people in our division. There is a liaison that will advise the Governor and work with his office. ○ There were a lot of little bills that Sarah did not want to go into detail. We did not lose any money. Our budget has been maintained. Our budget and FTEs have not been reduced. 	
<p>Other Business/ Community Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chelle commented that she went to a Disability Self-Advocacy Day. One of the speakers, Stacey Stanford, was from the Utah Health Policy Project, sustainable health care solutions for underserved Utahns. DSDHH has invited her to present. The Utah Health Policy presentation is on March 31, 6:30 to 7:30 PM on Zoom. Updates on state and federal health care issues, including COVID-19 with a focus on the impact on disability. Register here: https://utahstateofficeofrehabilitation-nviek.formstack.com/forms/health_policy_and_the_disability_community ❖ Stephen had a question about the Bylaws Committee and why they disagree on a new process for selecting members and why the committee has chosen certain members. Martin commented that as the Chair of that committee, he is not prepared to discuss it with the entire council just yet as the committee is still in discussion about this issue. They are hoping to be ready to discuss with the entire council by the next meeting. Stephen asked if the Bylaws Committee will have a Zoom meeting prior to next month's meeting. Martin 	

	<p>explained that discussions have been through email and that hopefully there will be a Zoom meeting later on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ USDB: Michelle – USDB has a long list of available positions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ JMS director position is open as Amy has decided to go back to teaching. ➤ JMS assistant director position is open as Nate is moving to a teaching position. ➤ JMS has 3 available teaching positions. One in preschool, elementary and high school. ➤ SLP position. ➤ School Counselor full time position. ➤ Third audiologist position is also now available. ➤ Three available positions in St. George as it has been growing. ➤ PIP Parent Advisor position is open. ➤ Check the website or contact Michelle. ➤ Graduation is May 26 at 11am if anyone is interested in watching. ➤ 70/48 boating competition is coming up. The team built a boat and is going to Lake Powell to practice rowing for 4 days. In June, the team is going to Tacoma, Washington to compete. There are 4 deaf and 4 blind students on the team as there must be 8 people on the team. ➤ April 15 and 16 will have our first National Deaf High School Theater competition. 16 high schools are participating. It will be virtual with workshops and presenters. Deaf West and Sunshine 2.0 from RIT will present. Alexandra Wales, Michelle Binx and Antoine Hunter will be presenting workshops. ❖ UAD: Kim – UAD will announce the upcoming UAD Conference on October 29 and 30. The theme will be Frightful Experiences? Reality vs A Barrier Free World. This will be an in person conference unless things change and it could be virtual. It will possibly be at DSDHH or some other place. ❖ Pamela shared that NBC Universal spanish speaking news contacted DSDHH. They will be interviewing Arlene on Monday about the impact of COVID on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. We are not sure if it will be live on TV or if it is being prerecorded. 	
Adjournment	<p>Meeting ended at 6:27 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting Wednesday, April 21, 2021 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm</p>	<p>Justin Howell called for a motion to adjourn. Michelle motioned. Kim seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.</p>