

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

**Thursday, December 2, 2010
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Room 9-031
Chicago, IL 60601
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (lunch break included)**

MINUTES

Members in attendance: Catherine Klein, Jody Wolfe, Marsha Northrup, Bob Griffith, Maria Roeters, Gail Olson

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

Members by Phone: Rose Slaght

Regular Attendees by Phone: Laura Thomas

Gail Olson will run the meeting today. The meeting started at 10:19.

I. Minutes of the October 7, 2010 meeting – Bob Griffith accepts the minutes. Maria Roeters seconds.

II. Guest –Marcia Breese – IL School for the Deaf Outreach Services. The Outreach services support children ages 3-21 and provides technical assistance. They travel and train in schools. They use consultants some of whom are consumers. They collaborate with HVC to provide parent conferences. They sponsor a summer camp for Deaf/HOH students for fine arts. Their services are free. Marcia Breese distributed brochures and a Lookbook which is a compilation of different programs available for the kids at ISD. HVC works out of the ISD. The bureau of Early Intervention has only funded HVC through Dec because of a lawsuit which required that the state convert staff to State staff positions. On December 31, HVC program will end. ISD will expand their outreach services to those who are deaf-blind. Some of the services that HVC provided will be rolled out into the 2 school ISD and ISVI. Gail Olson will hopefully apply for the new position at the outreach service program. The one week parent infant institute program will be handled by the outreach program. Sarah Sebert asked if Gail Olson will be able to keep coming to our meetings. Yes, Gail expects that she will still be coming. We will need to touch base with DHS to make sure that Gail Olson can continue with her appointment. They are also going to expand direct service in addition to outreach. The funding that used to go to HVC will hopefully help with this direct service support.

The Governance issue: Marcia Breese said that ISD wanted to move out from DRS and into DHS. ISD is a school, but is treated as an agency. They have vacancies in educational staff and they have trouble getting the bills paid. They want to be able to hire directly (they don't have much input on who gets hired), they can't spend their budget and pay their own bills. Marybeth is superintendent over both school (ISD and ISVI). This is an enormous job for one person. Bob Griffith wanted to know what % of students have cochlear implants. Marcia Breese said that she thinks about 25% which they provide technical assistance. They serve mainly outside of the Chicagoland area and are trying to help get the word out that they exist and can provide technical assistance.

Bob Griffith asked about enrollment with schools for the deaf around the country. Marcia said ISV has a big program, but it's not appropriate for all kids. Laura Thomas asked how do they coordinate with Michelle Clyne's Project Reach? The ISD outreach program now only serves those who have hearing loss. Michelle Clyne said that in the past, they have coordinated with ISV and ISVI, in that once they have a child in common, they will collaborate with each other. In the past, Project Reach has a stronger collaboration with HVC. Now that HVC makes this transition, they want to make sure they continue the collaboration. HVC has been invaluable to Project Reach and Michelle Clyne wants to make sure they don't lose any of that support.

Sarah Sebert asked Marcia Breese if everyone was based in Jacksonville from the Outreach program. Marcia said that they have someone in Champaign and one person in Fox River area. Most of their trainers do travel. They are looking toward webinars to do some of their trainings.

II. Old Business

1. **HKDB Awareness Week** – Michelle Clyne reported on the results of the survey we sent out in November to the recipients of the Awareness week e-mails. The last day for the survey was November 30. She will compile the results and e-mail them to us.

We made it mainly a closed survey. Michelle Clyne originally sent it out to the wrong list of people. Then they sent it out again to the correct list. The first e-mail survey, they got 38 responses and the second, they got 19 responses. They sent out over 1,000 surveys. Here's a summary of the results:

14% of people read all 5 e-mails

47% of the people enjoyed the individual stories

44% they learned something new

38% only read the opening e-mail

33% visited the IABDB website.

73% clicked on the Facts under the 5 things you can do today.

Do we have any feedback: We needed to include nothing as an option on our survey.

Some people they didn't realize the stories changed everyday. Biggest comment was that people really enjoyed reading the personal stories.

Gail Olson said that given these results, do we want to do a similar type of e-mail campaign? Bob Griffith said that the concept of sharing personal stories is a good idea.

Per Laura Thomas, there won't be an IL Deaf-Blind retreat for 2011. Gail Olson asked if the 2012 retreat be in Springfield. Laura said yes, she expects. We will need another resource for filming next year.

Faith Young joined the call for this discussion of the awareness week for next year. Faith Young agrees that maybe we have one e-mail with one story with which would link people to our website which would have more personal stories. Gail agreed that five e-mails was a lot. Michelle Clyne said that based on the survey results, we should make the e-mails different and less repetitive. Gail Olson asked if there is there any value in reusing the same video? Faith Young said that we should share the data we collected with Wally from Engage Creative and see what he suggested. We want our stories to

be unique for next year. Faith Young asked if there is a specific theme that we want to explore for next year?

Laura Thomas suggested going to a LeCobda meeting to film there. Faith Young has asked Wally from Engage Creative about filming at LeCobda in the past so we know that there are other resources.

Faith Young will start the conversation with Wally from Engage Creative, will send us an e-mail with an update and at that point and will ask for volunteers for the committee next year.

2. **Discussion of deaf-blindness definition** – Bob Griffith said that the VR agency uses the definition that HKNC uses. The definition also includes someone who has a progressive disability. The RSA (Rehabilitation Services Administration) uses this definition from 1992. We are trying to find model language for all agencies to use. We want to collect definitions from other agencies. Gail Olson asked what the other agencies are using and see how they differ so that we can try to have all agencies use all the same definition. Marsha Northrup can send us what DCFS is using. Michelle Clyne has the definition of what ISBE uses. Laura Thomas said she has a couple of different definitions called AADB made last March and another one which is more generalized. HKNC is in the process of getting the definition changed. Please send Jody Wolfe each agencies definition and she will compile all of the definitions and discuss them at our February meeting.

III. New Business

1. **Review Current Goals** – We discussed that we understand that we can't just change the definition of deaf-blindness. We will wait to discuss Objective 3 about "Advocate for the addition of a separate category of "deafblind" on the PUNS questionnaire" until after our February meeting.
2. **IL Advocates for the deaf-blind** – Michelle Clyne wants us to know about this parent group and handed out a brochure about the group.
3. **Other** – Gail Olson discussed Jerrie Lawthorn's resignation to the board. We would move forward to formally accept her resignation and start searching for her replacement. We would like to honor her at our June meeting. We need to have Jerrie Lawthorn officially resign in writing. Michelle Clyne said that there is an application online to appoint our board members. Michelle Clyne will talk to Karyn Campbell from the IL Association for the deaf-blind about coming to our meeting and maybe making her a member of our board.

IV. Standing Reports

1. LeCOBDA

In October, Le Cobda gave prizes to members wearing the most interesting Halloween costume. One man was walking around in a garbage bag! A witch had

her face painted so that sighted SSP's and volunteers could not recognize who she was. In November, we enjoyed a traditional thanksgiving dinner and gave testimonies of gratitude and appreciation.

We just learned that Sydney, Barb Carson's faithful leader dog, died Monday, probably of heart attack. Sydney will be missed by all club members and especially by Barb who was always accompanied by Sydney.

For our December meeting, the Chicago club of the deaf will visit the Lighthouse and provide our holiday entertainment.

Thanks and best wishes to all board members,
Jerrie Lawhorn

2. SSP Task Force – Per Laura Thomas, there hasn't been a meeting for a while. Mindy Jo is thinking of turning over the services over to the IL Association of the Deaf-Blind (ILADB).
3. IDHHC – no report at this time.

V. Agency Reports

1. Hearing and Vision Connections – IL Hands and Voices is sponsoring Mom's Night Inn which will be in Springfield Mar 27-26 and in Chicagoland area Mar 6-7. They do 3 parent conferences every year. Gail Olson has brochures for the conferences available. There is one in February in Rockford and in March in Mount Vernon. Gail Olson also brought brochures for Guide by Your Side. They have trained 2 classes of parents who provide support to other parents of children who are deaf/hoh.

4. ISBE – no report at this time

3. Philip Rock Center/Project Reach Agency Report

Budget

PRC is finalizing the annual audit and the final FY10 expenditure report. We have received one of three disbursements of FY11 funds after a letter of hardship was sent to Governor Quinn and the comptroller's office in early November. Peggy Whitlow, Michelle Clyne, Laura Frankiewicz and Stacey Borrego testified before the State Board of Education Budget Committee regarding the FY12 PRC budget. These hearings give the public an opportunity to speak with board members regarding funding and board policies.

PRC Suggested Home Visit Schedule

PRC is implementing a series of suggested homegoings for the residential students. We hope to have enough students home that we can operate with modified staffing, therefore, saving some money, and giving staff a much needed break. All children visited a home for the Thanksgiving holiday, so the school was closed briefly from Wednesday night to Friday afternoon.

Project Reach

Project Reach has received the draft version of the updated FileMaker Pro data collection file from IT Solutions. The first of several consultations with IT staff have occurred, and they continue to modify the draft to better serve the data needs of Project Reach. The program was demonstrated to Reach staff in November, and suggestions will be shared with IT solutions as the data base continues to be refined.

The rubric used for staff evaluations has been supplemented with a cross-walk to specific references in the Project Reach data system. This was done in response to a request that all IS-TAC partners link staff evaluation to technical assistance outcomes.

Project Reach and the NCDB (the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness) Area 2 have completed a preliminary technical assistance agreement for FY 2011. NCDB provides technical assistance to Project Reach and other state projects to expand capacity. Topics include a continuation of training staff in models of staff coaching, collaborating with other states to modify the Comprehensive Autism Planning System (CAPS) for students who are deaf-blind, and exploring the use of Interveners for students who are deaf-blind.

Has there been any more thought into changing PRC into a different program? They were requested to submit a plan from ISBE, but weren't given details on what the plan should accomplish. They are waiting for an answer from ISBE before they submit a plan. They need to know what their goal is in order to determine what the plan should contain. Sarah Sebert said that no matter what they ask for, it will be cut back and changed. Michelle Clyne wants to know upfront what they want.

4. **DRS** – Bob Griffith has nothing additional to report.
5. **DCFS** – no report at this time.
6. **Other** – From Laura Thomas, HKNC is alive and well. They have Sr. Bernie Wynn who will be coming for training at the ICRE (IL Center for Rehabilitation and Education) blind rehab center across from the Lighthouse. She will be there in March. All the rehab instructors will learn to work with people who are deaf-blind. Bob Griffith asked if they are including mobility instructors in the training? Laura Thomas said that they have already had training for O&M instructors earlier in the year.

Rose Slaght moves to adjourn our meeting at 12:14. Maria Roeters seconds the motion.