

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

**February 4, 2010
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, 9th Floor, Room 9-039
Chicago, IL 60601
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (lunch break included)**

MINUTES

Members in attendance: Laura Frankiewicz, Marsha Northrup , Jody Wolfe, Jerrie Lawthorn, Catherine Klein

Members by Phone: Gail Olson, Rose Slaght

Regular Attendees Present: Michelle Clyne, Joann Rushing

Guests: John Miller – Chair of IL Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission, Mary Beth Harrison –Blind Rehab Manager from Hines VA Hospital Rehab Center, Darrell Washington

Guests by Phone: Todd Williams – representing ISBE

Minutes of December 3, 2009 Meeting – Gail Olson Olson approves the minutes and Jody Wolfe Wolfe seconds the minutes.

II. Old Business:

1.IABDB Annual Report -

Laura Frankiewicz wants to get the report out by the end of February. In the next couple of weeks, please e-mail Laura Frankiewicz our changes/additions.

Introduction – Gail Olson wrote a new and revised introduction with some slight changes from Laura Frankiewicz.

General Recommendations –bringing board full since we are there, Laura Frankiewicz deleted it.

Per Joann Rushing, the SSP task force hasn't met for awhile and has been put on hold and there is a new group called IL Association of the Deaf-Blind IADB. If the Lighthouse takes on the SSP task force – holding them back is funding. Texas is the only state that has created an actual waiver to get funding. With the economic downfall, they knew they couldn't get funding. They are waiting for IADB to help start the task force again. Per Joann Rushing, we'd want the

Lighthouse to be the fiscal agent for the group. They'd like to tap into the other agencies that have this in place already. Primarily now the holdup is the funding and who would be the fiscal agent. Working with the Centers for Independent Living in IL – they want the report that the Centers obtain, to include deaf-blind and not just deaf or just blind. She pushes the way they change their intake form. We want the numbers out there so that the Governor's office knows how many deaf-blind individuals there are.

A continuing goal has been to have agencies to use a standard definition for deaf-blindness. That has been a source of denial of services for individuals.

William Gorman – new director for Independent Living Council.

#2 recommendation – maybe change from the SSP Taskforce to having the state agencies adapt a consistent definition of deaf-blindness and include definitions of deaf-blindness. We agreed that this is a good recommendation and Laura Frankiewicz will reword and resend it to us.

IADB is having their first meeting tomorrow and their primary mission is to advocate and work with state agencies regarding their work with deaf-blindness. Laura Frankiewicz doesn't feel that supporting IADB as a recommendation is a good idea now as they are a new organizational that is just forming. We will include IADB as a goal to support them.

Summary of Major Activities –

Goals and Objectives -

Goal #2 - change for Objective #1 – maintain/establish relationship with the IL and United States Departments of Veteran's Affairs. Add for Objective #2 - Michelle Clyne suggests maybe adding an objective related to developing model language of the definition of deaf-blindness that we can share with the state agencies. Laura Frankiewicz said that we need to include adding the PUNS to our list.

Goal #3 – Laura Frankiewicz will add objective #1- to maintain contact with the IL Advocates for the Deaf-Blind is a parent group. Their goal is to support families of children who are deaf-blind. Objective #2 is to contact the new group is IL Association for Deaf-Blind is a consumer driven group. Joann will find out if they go by ILADB or IADB? Objective #3 will be to participate in the Chicago Lighthouse Awareness Event.

Goal #4 – objective to add is to encourage board members to monitor the bills in the general assembly and make recommendation

Mary Beth Harrison would love to have someone come train the staff at the rehab Center. Her staff could serve her consumers with more education. Our board cannot actually do the training, but we could connect the Center to the agency that could do that. Sarah Sebert suggests adding an objective to facilitate communication among the agencies in an effort to provide resources and awareness regarding deaf-blindness.

Michelle Clyne suggests moving the objective to monitor legislation to Goal #3 and move the goal to support IL Advocates for the Deaf-Blind for Goal #4.

Goal #5: Objective #2: Per John Miller, for objective #5, if we are talking about replacing Mike Parvis' appointment, it would be under the SDHH (Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing).

Closing – Laura Frankiewicz wanted to include our call to action. Faith Young and Laura Frankiewicz feel comfortable with it. Laura Frankiewicz said that our position is that we are trying to encourage our elected officials to be creative and move away from business as usual.

Chart – Laura Frankiewicz asked if we should be remove Julie Somers from our frequent guest list? Yes, we agreed Julie Somers was hired as a counselor for the deaf and deaf-blind for Dept of Rehab Services. We agreed that we will remove her.

We are going to remove the “date board member began attending meetings”.

Jody Wolfe and Laura Frankiewicz will work on the membership information and include those that are previous members. We can list them and then put an asterisk by them saying what their status is.

Sarah Sebert suggests making changes to 2nd page to retitle them as Guests and take out last 3 columns.

2. **Ethics Training** – Per Michelle Clyne Clyne, the report was sent in and all 11 members have completed the ethics training as of 2009.
3. **HK DB Awareness Week Campaign** – Faith Young reports that we've had 2 conference calls. Wally from Engage Creative has helped guide us. We would like to do 5 profiles so that we can send out one each day of the week. If we can't do a veteran, we can do something more general about Hines and the VA centers. We will do one video that would have information about what we do and a call to action. Each profile will have a link that would link to our website and the video. The call to action would be generalized into categories on the left hand side of our website. On our main page, we would have a list of maximum of 10 items that would be our call to action. You should have received our list of ideas for call to action items. If everyone can

look at it and get us any comments to us by Monday. Faith Young will send out the consent form to everyone.

Faith Young said that we didn't do so well in reaching our target audience in our last campaign. We can buy e-mail list, but want to know what demographics. Who do we think our audience? Suggestions for contacts: high school, list of the group that we want to collaborate with from our goals and objectives, teachers of the deaf and or blind, teacher training institutions, IAER, ISHI, IIMC (IL Instructional Materials Center), Special Ed Directors list, Early intervention designated service coordinators, EI developmental therapists for vision and hearing and EI deaf mentor, IL hands and Voices, Guide by your side,

Can we target groups to get on or two e-mails vs. all of them? Laura Frankiewicz thinks it's useful for our audience to know that people see all different types of people with deaf-blindness. What will our e-mail subject line be? Gail Olson suggests that we can be specific in our e-mail subject line. Michelle Clyne is concerned that if we send so much to people they will be overwhelmed and they won't do anything. Faith Young asked about Michelle Clyne's comments about people saying they did not understand them. Faith Young said they actually got a lot of positive feedback

Jody Wolfe asked how many profiles we will have. Wally feels we should do five in a week. Can go with three that we have, or add senior citizen and perhaps a Center? John asked if there is a listserve that could do a blast to find people? It could get posted on a list and then individuals could contact you. He suggested to Illinois Deaf listserve. Faith Young said that listserves sometimes reject it. Could John help? Maybe. Other suggestions for demographics of groups? Wally feels "I am..." is still a good campaign theme

5. Other-

Board Appointments – Laura Frankiewicz is happy to report with the help of Ryan Croke from Governor Quinn's office. We have official members Catherine, Faith Young and Jerrie Lawthorn as Governor's representatives, Jody Wolfe Wolfe and Maria Roeters as DHS and Secretary Saddler appointments ; Bob Griffith is based in Springfield and is taking Mike Parvis' position on the board. We have 11 official members.

III. New Business:

1. IABDB website –

The question is to the actual cost. For this year, only took 6 month contract. A 12 month contract is \$149.90 (website, domain name, etc). We can pay an addition \$50 for Constant Contact which gives us two months work of data on click through, etc. Faith Young will update the website so minutes can get on the

website. Jerrie Lawthorn sent Faith Young an interview she had with Avoca school in Feb 2009. Good questions and answers from Jerrie Lawthorn. The interview will go on the website as a question/answer product.

IV. Standing Reports

1. **Le COBDA** – Jerrie Lawthorn reported that there was no meeting in January. The next meeting will be February 13. She expressed concern that agencies are cutting costs so they are looking for sponsors or fundraising. They want to continue without being a burden on the Lighthouse. They need more activities, selling candy was good, up into the thousands of dollars. Their goal is to sponsor themselves more and pay for the expenses of the interpreters. They paid for tickets for interpreters during boat trip. Laura Frankiewicz said that it would be good to get a corporate sponsor. Their next meeting is next week. The interpreters will be honored with certificates.
2. **SSP taskforce** – no representatives present to report.
3. **IDHHC** – no representatives present to report.

V. Agency Reports

1. Hearing & Vision Connections (HVC)

Program Goal: All children in Illinois who are deaf, hard of hearing or visually impaired will have appropriate Early Intervention services.

HVC is a statewide training and technical assistance program regarding infants and toddlers who are deaf, hard of hearing or visually impaired. HVC is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Bureau of Early Intervention since 1999.

Staff Information	
Part Time: .75 FTE or less and all contractual	
1 program Coordinator	In office
1 Vision Specialist	In office
3 Consultant/Trainers	Southern and Northern Illinois
1 Parent Consultant/Trainer	In office
Full Time:	
1 Hearing Specialist	In office, retiring June 2010, ISD Educator
1 Program Support Staff	In office, contractual

Monthly Summary and Major Activities

January was largely a month of planning. The focus this month has been on preparing to conduct select trainings through the use of Webinars and planning for the numerous parent and professional conferences which start in February and continue through the spring. HVC is collaborating with numerous other entities in the provision of conferences and trainings. We are also preparing for the February submission of staff contract renewals for FY 11. We are well underway in the assembly of information for the spring newsletter.

ISD and ISVI are in discussions with DHS about changing the governance of the two schools. The schools are currently governed by DHS/DRS . Under consideration are Illinois State Board of Education or Board of Higher Education, or staying under DHS with additional agreements in place. It's possible that a decision will be reached regarding governance before the beginning of the new fiscal year (July 1).

ISHI, The Illinois Supervisors of programs serving students with vision impairments, is working to develop a Communication Plan that would be developed for students with hearing loss who have either an IEP or a 504 Plan. The development of a communication plan was recommended by the Illinois Education Options Task Force which issued a final report to the General Assembly Dec 2008 (the task force report can be found at the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission website www.idhhc.state.il.us). A communication plan has been drafted, based on communication plans from multiple other states, and is being piloted in some school districts during February 2010. Results of the pilot will be shared at a March ISHI meeting and the form will be revised as needed then shared with the Illinois State Board of Education for review and consideration. This work is part of the ISHI National Agenda Committee who has been working to formulate an Illinois Agenda regarding Deaf Education in this state.

Technical Assistance

For the first half of FY 10 (July – Dec 09), HVC provided 225 cases of technical assistance to parents and providers. Many technical assistance cases are involve multiple contacts.

Technology

We continue to work with the technical support people at Webex. Staff has received two Trainings to date with a third training scheduled 1/22/10. We will likely purchase one license for HVC and one for Outreach. HVC will host its first "mock" Webinar February 3rd on Functional Vision Screening. We will have HVC and Outreach staff logging on from various locations. Space for hosting Webinars has been created in the Kline House in a vacant office.

Coming up ...

Feb 11 Functional Hearing Screening Training for parents, Carterville
www.morgank12.il.us/isd/hvc

Feb 12 Functional Hearing Screening Training for providers, Carterville
www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc

February 17 – HVC Preconference for Early Intervention vision providers at IAER conference, Holiday Inn Select, Naperville www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc

Feb 18- 19 – IAER vision conference, Holiday Inn Select, Naperville
www.iaer.org

Feb 20 North of Eighty Conference for parents of children ages 0-21 who have Hearing loss www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc

Feb 20 Illinois Hands and Voices, Moms Night Inn, Naperville
www.ilhandsandvoices.org

Feb 23 Functional Hearing and Vision Screening Training, Springfield
www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc

March 1 and 2 National EHDI Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference, Chicago www.infanthearing.org

March 3 Illinois Supervisors of Programs Serving Individuals with Hearing Loss (ISHI),
Springfield

March 4 and 5 Illinois Teachers of the Hearing Impaired (ITHI) Conference,
Springfield Hilton www.ithi.org

March 20 South of Seventy conference for parents of children ages 0-21 with hearing loss, Mt. Vernon www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc

March 27 Southern Vision Conference, Mt. Vernon www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc

April 24 South of Seventy, Northern Vision Conference, Rockford
www.morgan.k12.il.usd/isd/hvc

May 30 Fourth Annual Parent Conference: Inspirations and Resources for Adult Family Members and Caregivers of Individuals with Disabilities, Illinois Family Leaders Collaboration, Villa Maria, Springfield mk-smith@wiu.edu

2. ISBE – Sarah Sebert doesn't have an "official" report other than to say Todd Williams is taking over Barb Sims old position. He will be representative for our board. Sarah Sebert and Todd will both continue on the board. Sarah Sebert will still help with the interpreters, coffee, and room.

3. PRC/Project Reach

Project Reach:

The four day school closing in December (23-27) went well and everyone has returned in good health and good spirits. Good news! At the end of December, the comptroller released a general revenue payment for \$900,000 to PRC. The payment had been vouchered in August, so it was long overdue. Much of this payment is already obligated, however, it will allow us to get off the tight wire for a couple of months. Thanks to District # 20 for their support, generosity and patience throughout this process. We anticipate a long, hard road ahead.

BUDGET TESTIMONY

Michelle Clyne Clyne, Jody Wolfe Wolfe, and Peggy Whitlow gave testimony at the ISBE December FY11 Budget Hearing in Mundelein. More good news! The proposed FY11 budget posted on the ISBE website contains flat funding for PRC for FY11. We consider this good news in these tough economic times. What remains to be seen is what kind of reductions the Governor and legislature will ask ISBE to make down the road. Anyway, so far so good.

LAKE PARK STUDENT INTERN

This semester we are looking forward to having a Lake Park student intern helping out in our primary classroom located at Greenbrook Elementary School. Tentatively, she will be attending Greenbrook three afternoons and PRC one afternoon beginning Jan 25 and ending April 25, 2010.

PROJECT REACH REPORT

Project Reach has been collaborating with the Wisconsin Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project (WDBTAP). Together, the two projects have been creating manuals to assist staff in using coaching techniques during technical assistance. Sections of these manuals will also be used to train and guide volunteer teachers from across Illinois who will serve as mentors to other teachers. These mentor teachers are being chosen due to their high marks in various areas during observations using the "Classroom Observation Instrument for Educational Environments Serving Students with Deaf-Blindness". The two Projects will team together to offer a summer institute for these teachers. Two of the staff from the Wisconsin Project will be in Illinois February 1 and 2 to continue work on the manual and training. In addition, Illinois staff will coach the Wisconsin staff in the use of the national FileMaker Pro software system modified for data collection, needs assessment, and evaluation of technical assistance by Project Reach. This system, designed by the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness, is being

used to varying degrees by the state projects in the U.S., and Illinois is considered to have the most proficiency with the system.

4. DHS/DRS – no report at this time

5. DHS/OMH/ODD – no report at this time

6. DCFS – Marsha Northrup provided us with a handout on DCFS statewide provider database. Per Sarah Sebert, she serves on a taskforce for this and wanted us to know that this information is available to the caseworkers and the providers on the database will be updated frequently.

7. Other –

Mary Beth Harrison from Hines VA Rehab Center – she provided us with a brochure and an annual report and that report shows the statistics of the people we serve. The VA hospital has very little experience of people using sign language. VIST (Visual Impairment Team Service Coordinators). They are the folks that work with the visually impaired in the community. She cannot provide us with specific names of people. Laura Frankiewicz asked whether Mary Beth was aware of the new IL interpreter law. She does not. There are lists on the IL Deaf and Hard of Hearing website on the different interpreter rules. Another issue for is that many of the veterans do not want to be identified as hearing loss and/or vision loss. They are reluctant with getting hearing aids and getting around their community.

John Miller from Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission has a quarterly meeting which will be broadcast live. The next meeting is Feb 18 at 1:00 which is open to the public. You can watch the broadcast on the website. One the biggest things that they are concerned about is the budget. They are concerned about the program services all over the state of IL being impacted. They are going to keep monitoring that.

VI. Other –

Laura Frankiewicz is concerned about EI funding. She is concerned that her agency is losing about \$300,000 dollars a year in providing EI services. Gail Olson – general comments. NIA is not alone about inadequacy of the reimbursement rate. EI does not reimburse for travel, overhead, etc, none of these things covered. Very few programs left doing EI, mostly independent providers. Yesterday was the first meeting of a new EI task force, meeting now until June, looking at entire EI system. There are four workgroups – one is billing and reimbursement rate. People not on task force can be in the work group, Laura Frankiewicz could get invitation to be part of work group or submit

comments. ISD and ISVI have EI groups that cover 2/3rds of the state. It would be a great loss if the NIA services were lost.

All meetings for 2009-2010 are scheduled for Room 9-039. The meeting was adjourned. Next meetings listed as April 1 and June 4. **Correction: The meeting in June is actually Thursday, June 3.**

Marsha Northrup had to leave the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Jody Wolfe left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Recorded by Jody Wolfe