

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

**Thursday, June 3, 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:** Gail Olson, Catherine Klein, Jody Wolfe, Maria Roeters, Faith Young

**Regular Attendees Present:** Michelle Clyne

**Members by Phone:** Rose Slaght, Faye Manaster

**Regular Attendees by Phone:** Todd Williams

**I. Minutes of the April 1, 2010 meeting**

Faye Manaster's information about the Medicaid Managed Care pilot will be corrected to include quotations that this information was taken from a letter to the editor in Crains from Tom Wilson from Access Living.

On page 2, Darrell's name should be corrected to Darrell Washington.

On page 6, Kelly's name should be Medina of Mokena.

Faith Young makes a motion to accept the corrected minutes. Maria Roeters seconds the minutes.

**II. Old Business**

1. **2009 Annual Report** – It has been distributed by e-mail. Michelle Clyne's Job description is inaccurate as her title is Project Coordinator of Project Reach IL Deaf-Blind Services, not Chief Administrator. We don't know if it's been posted in the State Board of Education website. Per Todd Williams, he doesn't know either. Sarah Sebert usually posts the report. Faye Manaster wants to know why her appointment has never been updated. Faith Young asked who is a DHS appointment. Gail Olson said that she is. Faye Manaster's appointment is through DCFS. Faith Young said that we will have to look into it why Marsha Northrup and Faye Manaster have old term dates. Faith Young will talk to Laura Frankiewicz about it. Many thanks to Laura Frankiewicz for her hard work and long hours on the Annual Report.
2. **HKDB Awareness Week** – June 27 to July 3. Engage Creative retained the services of a photographer who would shoot our video and take pictures of people we are profiling. This photographer has left the country for a job. Wally from Engage is looking into getting another person who can take the video. Those people who we are profiling need to provide their own photos. Wally wants us to use the tag line "my condition", "my friend", "my voice", and "my employer" as our subject line. Everyone should have

received by e-mail the campaign information. On the boilerplate, we need a name and contact number. Gail Olson said that she thinks on the boilerplate we should just reference them to our website rather than a person's name and phone number. Faith Young agreed that it was a good idea. E-mail subject line options: Jody Wolfe suggested including something about Helen Keller, Gail Olson suggested IL deaf-blindness along with the "my condition". Gail Olson suggested changing the boilerplate to for more information about our call to action, please go to [www.bemyvoice.com](http://www.bemyvoice.com). Last year, there were 3 clickable links and we will include multiple ones this year as well.

Demographics – Michelle Clyne can forward the e-mail from our campaign on our behalf to about 100 families and other agencies. Maria Roeters asked if there was a link on the e-mail if they can forward to a friend. Faith Young said yes, but most people don't use it, but mainly forward it on their own. Faith Young said that we don't have a good demographic to purchase a list. We should update legislators e-mail addresses on a yearly basis.

3. **IABDB website:** We are going to change the website to have a banner with pictures of people who are deaf-blind and we will run our mission statement underneath. And then below 2/3 of the space will be about DB Awareness week and then 1/3 of the space will be our call to action items. All our call to action items will be links that will take them to more specific examples of how they can help. The website will be updated in time for HKDB Awareness week. Jody Wolfe and Faith Young will get together to finalize the website. Faith Young is going to add a link to our IABDB facebook page. Faith Young is also going to include on the website a link to the video to the intervener model and pieces of the interview that Jerrie Lawhorn had done with the school

Michelle Clyne suggested that after the last meeting we request that Karen Campbell, who is a receptionist at PRC, a screen reader and consumer, do an evaluation of our website. For the most part, it was accessible. The browser we use can affect how accessible our website. One of the glaring deficits is that our past profiles are inaccessible. How much do we want to do to make them accessible? Getting/navigating to a page was the biggest problem with the website. Faith Young is using a wizzywig program not HTML. For now, the easiest thing to do to make the past profiles accessible is to type a PDF file or word document. Faye Manaster said that PDF is cannot be read by screen reader. Maria Roeters brought us the fact that our campaign is mainly targeted to those who are not deaf-blind. We agreed that we will add the Word files for the past profiles. Michelle Clyne also said that Ray Campbell at the Chicago Lighthouse can give us a free resource. Rose Slaght said that the DB retreat which is June 9-12 and we could take some video at the retreat. Michelle Clyne said that the DB camp is happening at the same time as Project Reach events. Faith Young said we really need to have someone who can debug our code.

Maria Roeters opened the Facebook page under IABDB so that we can start inviting friends and we can link it to our campaign.

4. **Other** – Jerrie Lawhorn sent out an e-mail about a MN Deaf-Blind camp Sept 9-12 and about an on-line course that is offered through Penn State about sensory impairments.

Gail Olson sent out an intervener model from CA Deaf-Blind services.

## Letters Received:

Michelle Clyne said we got 2 replies to the letter we send to the Governor. Michelle Clyne sent us already one from Philip Rock. Another letter was received from Tom Cross, one of our House of Representatives.

*Philip Rock's letter says:*

*Dear Dr. Frankiewicz,*

*Pardon the tardiness of this note of thanks. I very much appreciated your letter to Dr. Chris Koch and the fact that I was copied. I applaud your good work and vigilance in favor with those you serve.*

*With my best wishes and thanks,*

*Phil Rock*

*Tom Cross' letter says:*

*Dear Ms. Frankiewicz,*

*Thank you for making me aware of your concerns about the State's fiscal crisis and the status of the Philip J. Rock Service Center. The struggling economy, coupled with lagging revenues into the State Treasury has created a substantial back log of bills in the State Comptroller's Office. As a consequence, school districts and human services providers are walking a tight rope to concomitantly be financially sound as well as continue needed programs and services.*

*Based on recent budget-related activity in the General Assembly this month, the Fiscal Year 2011 State Board of Education budget is likely to be level funded from Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations. Much like last year, the grant funding in the State Board's budget will be appropriated in a lump sum to be allocated to various programs.*

*At this time, no decisions have been made on a final budget. The General Assembly continues negotiate with the Governor to approve a budget. Please know that the education budget is my priority during budget negotiations. The Philip J. Rock Service provides vital services to students with deaf-blindness and should be adequately funded.*

*Again, thank you for alerting me to your concerns.*

*Sincerely,*

*Tom Cross*

## III. New Business

### 1. Meeting dates for Next Year:

In the past, we haven't held the August meeting because it conflicted with the state project director's meeting. Since we've been doing it this way for years, we agreed that we would not hold the August meeting. We could always hold an emergency meeting at PRC if needed. Our meetings for next year are **October 7, 2010, December 2, 2010, February 3, 2011, April 7, 2011, and June 2, 2011.**

**To Do's for next year:**

Faith Young said that we need to work on for next year the appointments for Faye Manaster and Marsha Northrup. Michelle Clyne said that we need to do the ethics training next year. In November 2011, Project Reach will have a stakeholder's meeting. We all need to collect different definitions of deaf-blindness that the different IL state agencies and have that definition inserted in the PUNS. Jody Wolfe can ask everyone to bring their definition of deaf-blindness to our first meeting in October. We also need to support and participate with the Chicago Lighthouse events. Gail Olson will contact Joann Rushing to see what we can do to support their events held in the fall.

**2. Other** - Gail Olson said that if people who have agency reports, please submit them ahead of time. Michelle Clyne asked if they could distribute it to multi-media. Please also let us know if you will or will not be able to attend future meetings so that we can better know if we need interpreters and if we have a quorum.

**IV. Standing Reports**

- 1. LeCOBDA – no report at this time
- 2. SSP Task Force – no report at this time
- 3. IDHHC - no report at this time

**V. Agency Reports**

**1. Hearing and Vision Connections**

**Gail Olson, HVC Coordinator**  
**Report: June 2010**

**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.

**Major Activity**

FY 11 Contracts for HVC staff have been submitted to ISD business office and we are waiting for approval from DHS. There is some indication that contracts may not be approved this year which will require an alternative plan for HVC staff employment.

Plans are well underway for summer trainings for statewide Early Intervention staff serving families of children with vision and hearing loss:

- June 21 – 22, Bridges, for DTH's and Speech and Language Pathologists, Bloomington
- June 23 – 24, Summer Mini Camp, for DTV's and DTO&M's, Champaign

The Early Intervention Task Force has completed its work and held two meetings in Springfield during May to share the results of the work groups. The report to the General Assembly is being compiled by the DHS Bureau of Early Intervention. No immediate changes to the EI system are anticipated. No change to eligibility requirements for Early Intervention. Whatever changes will be accepted will not go into effect until next year.

There are no updates regarding Governance of ISD and ISVI since the last report. The final recommendation was that the schools remain under DHS with possible legislative or Executive Orders that would address some of the issues that led to the governance discussions from the beginning. Secretary Saddler requested a meeting with CMS officials which occurred in April. This meeting involved the superintendents, DRS administration, and DHS administration. The meeting focused on hiring and procurement issues which continue to be faced by our schools, and determining what kinds of legislation, if any, will be necessary to move forward in the next phases of becoming more effective and efficient as schools.

With Reggie Clinton leaving the superintendent position at ISVI, DHS has initiated discussion with Marybeth Lauderdale of ISD regarding the possibility of having both schools under one superintendent.

<b>April/ May/ June Highlights</b>
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April 1, Illinois Deaf Blind Advisory Council meeting

April 2, Joint meeting of ISD and ISVI Early Intervention staff

April 8, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Council meeting, Bolingbrook

April 9, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Day, Chicago (Nancy Scott of HVC honored)

April 15, Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention, Tinley Park

April 19, Central Illinois Vision Parent Conference, Champaign

April 20, Functional Vision and Hearing Screening Training, Chicago

April 21, Disability Roller Coaster: One Parents Ride

April 24 South of Seventy, Northern Vision Conference, Rockford

April 30 and May 1st, Fourth Annual Parent Conference: Inspirations and Resources for Adult Family Members and Caregivers of Individuals with Disabilities, Illinois Family Leaders Collaboration, Villa Maria, Springfield

May 6, Training for Illinois Community College, "Who Supports Families of children with Hearing Loss", Peoria.

May 19 and 20, HVC Webinar, Designated Service Coordinator Training

May 21 – 22, HVC Presentation and Exhibit for Illinois Lions.

May 25 and June 8, HVC Webinar for Designated Service Coordinators, Audiology Evaluations and Assistive Technology for Hearing Aids/Accessories

June 4-5, Opening Doors, ISVI Parent Infant Institute

June 13 – 18, ISD Parent Infant Institute

June 21 – 22, Bridges, ISU (collaboration between HVC and ISU for DTH's)

June 23-24, DTV Mini Camp, Parkland Community College

### Newsletter

Current and archived newsletters can be found at [www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc](http://www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hvc). We are currently collecting information for the Summer newsletter and are ready to assemble.

### Technology

Webinar service through Webex has been purchased along with the necessary head sets. A number of Early Intervention webinars have been scheduled for May and June. In the meantime, staff are practicing and training every Tuesday on how to host a webinar.

HVC did not launch a FACEBOOK page in April as planned and will postpone that to June. HVC staff has joined a WIKI page for statewide Early Intervention DTH's. Clearance from DHS was required for both of these to occur on state computers.

Michelle Clyne asked Gail Olson more about the EI Task Force. They are trying to eliminate procedures and make the system more efficient. They are not going to slash the budget by a certain percent.

**2. ISBE** – Todd Williams said that they are working with the interpreter program to clarify the rules. Gail Olson updated us on the communication plan that would be added to the IEP for any student who is deaf or deaf-blind. They are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> draft and they are close to sharing it with the State Board of Education.

### 3. PRC/Project Reach

#### Philip Rock Center Report

#### IEPS

PRC will begin IEP's on May 21. The IEP teams, which consist of PRC staff, parents and school district representatives, meet annually to review individual student progress on educational goals and to identify goals for the coming year. The IEP's will conclude on June 8.

Other events coming up over the summer months include:

- Student Arts and Crafts Fair- May 24-June 2, 2010
- Publication of PRC's first Annual Yearbook
- Summer School July 1-31

#### BUDGET

The funding situation remains uncertain at this time. We received a payment of \$1,050,000 in April. From that we repaid the \$200,000 loan from Citibank. We also paid \$178,515 to the District for the FY09 Administrative fee. This left \$681,485 cash available to operate the PRC program. This should carry us through the month of June, 2010. At that point, we would be

looking at receiving another payment from the comptroller's office or accessing the Citibank line of credit again (see attached ISBE document on **Prioritization of Payment**, attached).

PRC is talking to their attorney about possibly getting donations (monetary or material) from individuals. They are again in a grim situation. If parents who previously wrote letters to their state senators can do so as this situation.

### Project Reach Report

The annual continuation report for Project Reach was submitted April 16, 2010. Full copies of the report are available upon request. Data was submitted for each of the four grant objectives:

- By 09/30/2013, 80 percent of all service providers receiving technical assistance, including onsite coaching, will have increased their ability to implement evidence-based practices for children in the least restrictive environment who are deaf blind.
- By 9/30/2013, of the technical assistance plans that include child objective and performance indicators, 73 percent of all children had increases skills as measured by technical assistance recipients.
- By 9/30/2013, 80 percent of families receiving technical assistance will have increased their skills in advocacy, meeting the needs of their children, and teaming with educational partners.
- By 9/30/2013, 80 percent of all programs receiving ISTAC-member technical assistance will implement evidence-based strategies and use universal supports to increase student access to the general education curriculum.

More than thirty outcome data points are included in the report. Some highlights include:

- Over 2,500 service providers will have received information about Project Reach using the ongoing mailings of partner agencies and organizations.
- Over 1700 family members/service providers received information created by the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness.
- When materials were loaned and Materials Effectiveness Surveys distributed, 100% of the returned Materials Effectiveness Surveys had ratings of 5 of 7 or better to the survey question, "This information supports the use of research-based practices."
- Twenty-six new children were added to the census as new referrals.
- One hundred percent of child-based technical assistance services were aligned with the needs identified in referrals.
- Of the technical assistance plans that include child outcomes, 73 percent of child OPI ratings averaged 3.0 or more.
- Ninety percent of Project Reach web pages and information packets are available in Spanish.

- One hundred percent of Project Reach-eligible families attending the Illinois Family Leadership (formerly New Dreams) Conference had OPI ratings of at least 4.0 in follow-up evaluations.
- Contact occurred with 21 preservice students in colleges and universities (usually by Project Reach providing guest lectures).
- Three contributions of data were provided from Project Reach to research projects targeted for children who are deaf-blind.

If anyone would like to see the whole report, please contact Todd Williams so that he can see if the report can be provided to them.

Priorities for the upcoming year will be to collect more effectiveness data on service providers, families, and children who receive individualized technical assistance. Data of this sort often straddles school and fiscal years, so delays are expected.

#### **4. DHS/DRS**

Bob Griffith will be providing technical assistance for the DB training to be held at the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired June 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>. The Illinois Lions Foundation will be having its Helen Keller Camp in Dixon on June 13<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **5.DHS/OMH/OCC – No report at this time.**

#### **6. DCFS – No report at this time.**

Maria Roeters moves to adjourn our meeting at 12:24 p.m. Gail Olson seconds the motion.

Minutes recorded by Jody Wolfe.