

# ALASKA DEAF, HARD OF HEARING, AND DEAF BLIND COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes April 25, 2010

### Opening:

The Board meeting of the Alaska Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf Blind Council was called to order at 12:15 PM on April 25, 2010 in University Alaska Anchorage Library by Elizabeth Andrews.

### Present:

Elizabeth Andrews, President  
Courtney Westberg, Vice President  
Jennifer Schwebke, Secretary  
Aaron Stribling  
John Miranda  
Dean Gates

### Guest:

Sharon Miranda  
Mira Babb  
Ederlee Mojica  
Ralph Pasana  
Isiah Edwards

### A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

### B. Approval of Agenda

No agenda.

### C. Executive Committee Reports

*President—Elizabeth Andrews:* Encourages ADC board and members to attend Stone Soup's parents support group for parents with deaf children. The more inputs from deaf community will have the parents understand the different resources and modalities to fit the best interests of their children. The meetings occur on second Friday every month from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

*Vice-President—Courtney Westberg:* Interpreters and Cart are confirmed for May Statewide Meeting.

*Secretary—Jennifer Schwebke:* The ADC minutes, excluding statewide minutes, are updated. There are only committee reports in February and March meetings. I would like to address the concerns of unpaid bills, overdraft fees, and ADC mails and hope to resolve this matter soon as possible.

*Treasurer— Courtney Westberg: No report.*

**D. Committee Reports**

*(The chairpersons of the committees will give their monthly reports on Google Doc from now and on—the reports will be posted on ADC website.)*

*Deaf Youth Camp—Randee Pascall: N/A*

*Fundraising—John Miranda: The Spring Fling is postponed to deaf awareness week in September.*

*Education—Courtney McCabe: Mrs. Lee Waters, supervisor of ASSDHH, announced her resignation last week. The ASD administration will run ASSDHH for now.*

*Media Outreach—Aaron Stribling: See attached report (page 8 & 9)*

*Deaf Center—John Miranda: See attached report (Meeting notes from Nancy Burke—page 4 & 5)*

*By-Laws—Rudy Kerr: N/A*

*Deaf Summit II—Jennifer Schwebke: There will be a sign-up sheet during May Statewide Meeting to recruit volunteers.*

*Legislative & Interpreter Licensure Bill—Dean Gates: See attached report (page 6 & 7)*

*Early Invention—Elizabeth Andrews: In hope to help EDHI (Early Hearing Detection and Intervention); I will make a list of resources that is available to deaf children in Alaska.*

*AD-HOC: N/A*

**E. Old Business**

No Old Business.

**F. New Business**

I) Treasurer

a) Jennifer Schwebke: I nominate Mira Babb for ADC Treasurer to fill the remainder of this two-year term (2008-2010). John Miranda second. **PASSED**

II) Statewide Meeting

a) Jennifer Schwebke: I move to set up a Nominations Committee for board expansion of two seats and for fall election. Dean Gates second. **PASSED.**

i) Jennifer Schwebke will be chairperson for board nominations. The fall election (2010-2012) nominations committee chairperson is pending.

b) Jennifer Schwebke: I move to set up a booth for May 8, 2010 Statewide meeting. Courtney Westberg second. **PASSED**

- i) The booth opens at 1:00 and will have membership forms, committee sign-up sheets, and copies of minutes. (Mira Babb and Courtney Westberg will run the booth)

III) Board Training

- a) John Miranda: I move to instruct Ms. President to contact Foraker Group and make an appointment for orientation and training. Jennifer Schwebke Second. **Withdrawn**

**G. Announcement:**

Please send any current deaf and hard-of-hearing articles or website links to Aaron Stribling who will post on ADC website.

**H. Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:54 PM by Elizabeth Andrews. The next ADHHDBC meeting will be on May 8, 2010

**Minutes submitted by:** Jennifer B Schwebke

## Deaf Center Notes

4.23.10--Meeting: Duane Mayes, John Miranda, NB, Lynne Van Vactor, Holli Yancey

### **Discussion:**

**Issue:** the deaf community needs to have something that is a resource for them and is not owned by another organization that will run it until they are tired of it.

**Operations revenue opportunity - Interpreter service :** VRS – Video relay service. The group would like to look into the feasibility of Alaska hosting its own service once again. There would be a considerable capital start up cost on these services and also some capacity issues with interpreters in the state.

NB question – would this also link into specialized interpretation for Trust beneficiaries – mental health settings?

**Funding process: FY12-13 cycle (GCDSE survey):** Is there a component of the operations plan – service delivery for the deaf community that can be forwarded through the RFR process?

- Discussion – yes, there is good reason to put together a gap funding proposal for core IL services for the population. Duane will send out the survey to AVS who will work on a recommendation.
- Corrections/courts? How many deaf people are in jail? Including funding for in-reach for deaf people that are in corrections. How many of these might be able to participate in mental health court. There is concern that people are not fully informed about their rights and what charges are being brought when they are arrested. There needs to be a deaf legal advocate.

### **Partnering**

Discussion of who might be a partner in the project –

- Alyeska Vocational – has training grants, vocational resources
- ADC – Alaska Deaf Council
- Deaf Café – possible social entrepreneur project
- Day care/birth -3 – integrated day care
- Access Alaska – space needs at the ILC?

### **Components:**

- Deaf culture center – resources for the deaf community – social, IL, connections – and – education for the community on deaf culture. Possible hub for interpreting services (see note above about relay service).
- Students:

- Anchorage School District – school for the deaf director is leaving and the school is not going to fill the position so the deaf school will go under special education?
- ARC’s residential program is not being fully utilized.
- Homelessness and outreach – contact with the homeless providers to do some outreach for when a deaf person is identified
  - Convene a meeting with emergency providers about what to do when a deaf person is identified (immediate)
  - Request through HAP grant? -
- Deaf advocacy – there is a need to have a deaf advocate full time for the area deaf.

Notes on federal activities

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) priorities:

- Youth in transition
- Supported employment – 25 mil – total pot for country (note – Alaska has historically had a balance remaining in the supported employment line)
- Workforce investment act – job centers. Innovation on workforce investment around employment within the WIA system

Next steps –

1. Develop survey proposal for RFR process (GCDSE survey) – Lynne, Nancy, John reviewing
2. Discussion of IL services and hours available and map out resources to distribute to the community: VRS, Access (Nancy facilitating) SILC reviewing
3. Meeting with homeless providers (Anchorage Homeless Coalition, emergency shelter cmte) to educate them on services available – Access AK, AVS, (Nancy facilitating).
4. Begin concept paper/ description of collaborative of agencies (One-Stop) ADC/AVS others input or reviewing as needed. Note – Agnew::Beck (consultants can be available for some drafting)
5. Note - Trust board testimony – week of May 11-12 . The ADC will want to provide an update to our board on the meetings and activities.

## **Dean Gates Committee Report**

### **1.) Legislative**

Support for Deaf Center legislative contacts. We got the \$50,000 grant from the Alaska State Legislature!!! Yahoo!!! The only possible thing that could trip up the receipt of these funds is the veto pen of Gov. Parnell. Many people have told me that is very unlikely to happen! Let's get the champagne ready!! The Deaf Center Committee has more detail on how the funds will be disbursed and the discussions with AVS, the Trust, and others.

The Legislative Committee chair supported the project with legislative contacts and tracking the capital budget bill. I was in regular contact with Shalon Szymanski, an aide to Senator Lesil McGuire, by emails once every week or two. It has been productive, as Shalon followed up with other senators and representatives to make sure the request made it into the draft bill. Duane Mayes was also instrumental in advocating with Legislators, and we heard from some legislative aides that everyone did a great job contacting several of them and making them aware of the Deaf Center funding request, including the Legislative Breakfast last November. Everyone's efforts helped us get to this point. It was eventually added in to the Capital Budget for the state (SB 230) and passed April 18, 2010. It is attached for your records, and on page 118 at lines 27-29 is the grant to Alyeska Vocational Services. I would like us all to sign a Thank You card to Senator McGuire, Shalon and their staff for helping us obtain this funding grant and the huge project it enables us to do. We always knew the Deaf Center Committee had a lot of work to do, now they have a lot of money to apply to the many tasks ahead! :)

### **2.) Interpreter Licensure Bill:**

- Committee met March 17 and April 6, each time with a couple interpreters to discuss how to structure the bill we want to propose, its purpose, features and how to define a two-tiered requirement to work as an interpreter in Alaska.
- Research of other states: One member surveyed other states for interpreting licensure laws and found 12 states require a license, 8 have a registration requirement only, 4 have some unique licensing/permitting structure, and the other 26 states have no requirement.
- She was able to summarize how other states licensing requirement is structured. The ones the require just registration we will be reading for our next meeting. Another committee member also did some research on a couple states licensure requirements and how it worked there. We would like to understand the difference between registration and licensing. The committee members would like more time to review the state laws that required registration. Registration is probably a standard that is cheaper for the state to operate, and easier for a person to obtain. Licensing usually requires passing an examination or standard test, or obtaining specific certifications.
- So far the committee members and the interpreters we are collaborating with like these features for an interpreter bill:
  - Adopt a structure with low cost for the state and the fee for the license
  - Use the centralized licensing office in the Division of Corporations, Banking and Professional Licensing, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic

Development. Centralized licensing statutes at AS 08.01. - 08.03 apply to all professions, using this helps keep the license fee cost low.

- Act should have these objectives:
  - (1) improve quality of interpreter services in the state
  - (2) encourage more people to make interpreting their profession/livelihood, and
  - (3) have a two-tiered structure: license and provisional license. The license would require minimum level of competency (RID certification or equivalent) for the license for more demanding interpreting settings. The provisional license would require new interpreters or those without RID or equivalent certification to complete a minimum number of continuing education units
- (CEU).
  - Some of the issues and questions we haven't resolved are:
    - Should the provisional license be of limited duration, forcing interpreters that have not passed the RID test to pass it within a certain number of years? OR should the provisional license be given again and again to an applicant that meets minimum requirements such as complete a minimum number of CEU's?
    - What should the Act say about the benefits of having a full license? Able to charge a higher rate? (or is that a market function only?) Should it be prohibited to interpret certain settings if you don't have a full license? (ie: medical care appointments, legal proceedings, counseling)
    - What should be the composition and functions of the Board? Some adjustments to last draft.
  - Another objective is to have a bill that both ADC and AkRID can both support. The Legislative Committee feels in general a bill with support of both the deaf community and interpreting association will have a much better chance of passing and becoming law. So we have tried to identify areas where these two groups might have a different perspective and see where our middle ground is. The meetings including interpreters to discuss it with us have been productive in guiding our perspective and shaping the substantive terms of the bill.
  - We would like to have a good talking points document and draft bill for the whole ADC Board to review, hopefully before the May 8 meeting, but maybe at the fall 2010 meeting. Our mission is to have things ready to pre-file in December before the next legislative session begins in Juneau next January.

## Aaron Stribling's Committee Report

### A) Web Report:

- 1) Our website was down for at least a day (April 18) because Deaf Vision hasn't received the payment.
- 2) I spoke with Deaf Vision asking to get our website back. They were generously getting our website up running on April 19.
- 3) What can we do to resolve this issue so it won't happen again?

### B) Traffic Report:

- 1) Average of 50 visitors weekly and is climbing up
- 2) Reminder: We have Deaf Center webpage which haven't been update in age
- 3) Vlog about \$50K, Deaf Center, Mission Statement, ADC Vision?

### C) Twitter Report:

- 1) 15 followers
- 2) Tweet 2-3 times a week -- such of ADC calendar, NAD messages, quotes and seldom Alaska DHSS messages too.

### D) ADC website:

- 1) Information for ASL interpreters
  - i) Contact info
  - ii) Interpreting agencies
  - iii) Additional info such of amount of work, commute, freelancing and others
- 2) Information for newcomers
  - i) Refer to AVS, DVR, ASSDHH, Other?
  - ii) Denali Association for the Deaf (D.A.D.)
  - iii) Deaf recreations
  - iv) Other resources

### E) Mailing List Report:

- 1) Test the mailing list with our custom template (the one with my faux mohawk hairstyle)
  - i) Found more issues between our custom template and mailing list
  - ii) Recommendation: Let's start with plain text email until I resolve the issues
- 2) Want to mention about MailChimp.com
  - i) Free to sign up- limit 500 subscribers and 3,000 emails a month
    - a) If over 500 subscribers and over 3,000 emails a month then may need to pay a small fee \$30/month
  - ii) Features and functions seem straight-forward compared to our current mailing list program
  - iii) Dizzying array of template layouts to choose
  - iv) Just something to think about in the future if we need to move from our current mailing list to MailChimp

### F) Membership Form:

- 1) Enhanced the membership form

- i) Added membership annual year date (May 1, 20\_\_ to April 30, 20\_\_)
  - ii) Added Official Use Only box
  - iii) Added checkbox for ADHHDBC e-newsletter
  - iv) Added last revise date on lower right corner
  - v) Cleaned up the formatting
  - vi) Converted the form from Microsoft Word to Adobe InDesign
    - a) InDesign have better tools
- 3) Last modified was on April 16
- 4) Will bring in the form to ADC meeting