

May 4, 2006  
Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Advisory Committee (A/C) Meeting  
1pm – 4pm  
30 N. Webster  
Portland, OR

**Members Present:** Rennie Dayton, Genie Ott-Mendiola, Bob Pope, Wayne Seely, George Scheler, David Viers

**Members Absent:** Eleni Boston

**Staff:** Morgen Brodie, Georgia Ortiz, Bentley Fink

**Guests:** Irmgard Friedberg, Margi Morgen, Alice Pakhtigian

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM. Introductions were made. The Agenda and previous Minutes were approved.
- 2) The 1<sup>st</sup> topic of real business was to ask the A/C to determine what it wanted our goal as an Advisory body to be. The 2 possible approaches posed by David were:
  - a) the historical approach – members would generally be consumer advocates.
  - b) new proposed approach - look for members with specialized skills that would be of use to ODHHS.

The reason this topic came up was because the A/C presently has 5 vacancies and it needs to be determined what type of candidates the Nominating Committee (N/C) should be considering in seeking to fill these positions. A Motion was made (and seconded) that the A/C be made up of individuals not necessarily involved in hearing loss communities. An Amendment was made that the A/C members *should* have a vested interest in the hearing loss world, with at least 51% of the A/C having a hearing loss. After discussion, both the Amendment and the Amended Motion were passed. Therefore, the N/C should be seeking out people who have a vested interest in the hearing loss world as a major consideration in their selection, and a majority of total members should have a hearing loss.

- 3) Georgia gave the Manager Report:
  - a) The record keeping of the numbers of people being served had a glitch that allowed these records to be deleted for the period November through February. This glitch has been corrected so that accurate record keeping will be maintained in the future.
  - b) It was mentioned that a form being used by ODHHS is missing a section on consultations with private businesses. Genie mentioned the Oregon Business Leaders Network as a more appropriate resource for handling inquiries from private businesses.
  - c) ODHHS has been working with various state agencies that could be potential clients, doing numerous Trainings, and handling drop-ins.
- 4) Morgen discussed:
  - a) the proposed move by ODHHS to Salem. The reasons for this are several: DHS locations in Portland are being closed down and consolidated, which will crowd ODHHS' current location; part of the ODHHS Program is already in Salem, as are supervisory and support staff; the current location has problems with an area for confidential talks; information exchange between the two offices has not been successful, etc. Morgen reminded the A/C that Portland was chosen because it was attractive as a drop-

in site, but that was before it was realized the extent to which ODHHS has had to commit staff resources to meeting the Interagency Agreements that are the source of the program's income. There is an empty building in Salem (on Church, near Union – specifically 676 Church St., NE) that is empty and can be remodeled to include the entire SPD Advocacy Unit, of which the ODHHS Program is a part. Discussion followed during which it was moved, seconded and passed that the ODHHS A/C believes that the Program should stay in Portland. An ad-hoc committee was set up to address possible solutions to the problems associated with this move and what is driving the need for it; the committee will consist of: Irmgard, Bob, George, Wayne, Margi, Morgen and James Toews.

b) a 4-column form that she has successfully used in the past that the A/C might consider using in its projects; this form should be sent out to A/C members for their consideration.

- 5) Due to time constraints, Committee Reports were skipped.
- 6) The ODHHS Planning Retreat will take place on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Izzy's in Newberg (15minutes West of Wilsonville). The time voted upon and approved by the A/C members was 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Georgia passed out a proposed Agenda which will be used at this meeting. Damara Paris, Sprint's new Account Manager, will be facilitating this meeting. New Business and setting up a Schedule for future meetings will be handled at the Retreat. The topic came up again about the large number of vacancies on the A/C. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the A/C recommend to the DHS Director to make Margi Morgen and Alice Pakhtigian members of the ODHHS A/C.
- 7) Public Comment was handled during the course of the meeting and no further comments were offered.
- 8) Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.