

Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Open Commission Meeting
January 26, 2023

Call to Order:

Commissioner Clark Corogenes, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Commissioner Clark Corogenes asked that all in attendance introduce themselves.

Board Members present:

Clark Corogenes, Chair (Seat reserved for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Org.)
Ante Čolić, Vice-Chair (Seat reserved for Parent of Deaf/Hard of Hearing Child)
Mike Kelley (Seat reserved for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Member)
Wendy Jensen (Seat reserved for Local Public School Administration)
Christopher Daily (Seat reserved for Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education/MSD)

MCDHH Legal Counsel:

Mary Moulton, Assistant Attorney General Office

MCDHH Staff present:

Becky Davis, Executive Director
Cindy Harris, Business Operations Manager
Sonya Smith, Deaf Community Advocate
Amy Sue Guinn, Staff Interpreter
Amber Carter, Hard of Hearing Program Manager
Laurie Lister, Office Support Specialist

Guests present:

Tom Green
Paul Miller

Interpreters present:

Shelby Harrison
AJ Housewright

Review of the Open Agenda:

Commissioner Mike Kelley moved to approve the open agenda. Commissioner Ante Čolić seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Review of the Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Commissioner Mike Kelley moved to approve minutes from the previous meeting. Commissioner Ante Čolić seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Reports:

Executive Director, Becky Davis, introduced the newest members of the MCDHH team, Amber Carter; Hard of Hearing Program Manager and Shanda Miller; MICS Coordinator.

Director Davis reported on the October activities including the annual Interpreter Conference, Collaboration with DeafLEAD concerning domestic violence, LEAD K meetings, Deaf Empowerment Symposium meetings with James Frost, Training development, a DEAF Inc meeting, and NDC discussing a virtual conference.

Director Davis has been involved in several committees including Relay Missouri Advisory, collaborating with Families First Lady Parsons, DHHS/EDHI Meeting (new-born hearing screening department), The Whole Person and Parent Leadership Training Institute as well as other Community Networking and consumer advocacy groups.

Director Davis shared an update on HB106 that has now moved to the Education Committee for review.

In December, Director Davis joined a conceal and carry class with 8 other deaf individuals and discussed with the instructor about developing a CCW card for those deaf individuals that carry a weapon. MCDHH staff has also started developing case forms to track the effort and time and occurrences with constituents.

Director Davis attended the Governor's Prayer Breakfast as well as the State of the State Address on January 18. MCDHH is collaborating with DeafLEAD to focus on domestic violence issues.

Recently, Director Davis attended a Budget appropriation meeting at the Capitol where she provided back ground information on hearing aids.

MICS Report

Amy Sue Guinn, Staff interpreter, gave the MICS report. The MCDHH office has been proctoring TEPS as well as performance tests. In February there will be an informational testing session and group testing at FCVV and SWIC.

Group testing was offered at the last Interpreter Conference last October. The University of Kansas is looking offer a group testing session in March of 2023.

Currently, there is not a quorum for the BCI board and all issues will be directed directly to the commission.

Statistics were shared concerning testing and pass/fail rates, IPCs given, and conversions. MCDHH recently developed a conversion application packet to address misconceptions.

A rater session was held in November of 2022 and the next rater sessions will be up and coming. MCDHH is actively testing every day and Amy Sue Guinn has received positive feedback on the positive customer service provided by MCDHH staff.

MCDHH offers MCIS CEU and RID CEUs. Currently, MCDHH is working on a corrective plan to correct the issues cited by RID to get our RID sponsorship status renewed.

On January 31, MCDHH is meeting with ITSD staff to finalize pages for the new website design. MCDHH hopes to launch the new website very soon.

At the next meeting, the MICS department will provide the commission a decade of information on the history of the BEI including pass/fail rates, cost analysis and the overall effectiveness of the BEI exam.

Commissioner Ante Colic requested a soft launch of the new website be sent to the commissioners for review.

DCA Report

Sonya Smith, Deaf Community Advocate, reported on the followers of MCDHH Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. January was the highest spike for social media activity.

The surveys are out and staff is getting a good response but MCDHH staff continues to encourage the community to participate in the survey program.

Ms. Smith shared her recent activities from October 2022 thru January 2023.

Hard of Hearing Report

Cindy Harris, Business Operations Manager, announced that the hearing aid selection committee met and awarded 31 hearing aids. Most of the funding has been expended for this fiscal year. The next HADP review committee will meet in July or August after the FY24 budget is available. Currently, MCDHH has 45 applications waiting to be reviewed with 19 of those being new applications.

SSP Report

Vancro Integrated Services have been a wonderful entity that has been providing SSP services for our state. Taylor Ofori recently announced that she will be stepping down at the end of January. Vancro was allotted \$291,000 in FY 23 and have provided over 2300 service hours his year throughout 5 regions in Missouri. Vancro's current goal is to offer annual trainings to current SSPs as well as training for new recruits.

Cindy Harris provided the financial statement.

OLD BUSINESS:

Director Davis recently discussed the PCED issue with SCI (State Committee of Interpreters). PCED is in the statute and MCDHH should be prepared friction from school districts if it is removed. Pam Groose, Director of SCI, has not received any applications for mentorship. It was suggested that MCDHH look into providing something similar to the RIESET, a 2-week training for rural interpreters during the summer, to help bump up skills and certifications. The PCED holder now can be utilized in many different classrooms in a particular district. Commissioner Wendy Jensen moved to follow the recommendations of the Executive Director as she investigates and works on the issues regarding the PCED. Commissioner Ante Čolić seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Break: 12:40 p.m. – 10 minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director Davis discussed legislation for the LEAD K bill. There was a meeting on January 18 at the Capitol concerning sponsorship for the LEAD K bill. A discussion ensued.

Conceal and Carry – MCDHH would like to pursue a CCW card template.

Emergency management response network. MCDHH started a training process and Director Davis encourages everyone to attend and participate. Information is included in our weekly newsletter. MCDHH sent out postcards to all licensed interpreters.

Survey results can be given out at the next meeting.

February 25 is the next Town Hall in Fulton at Ingle Hall on the MSD campus.

Put in two deaf activities – ones listed in the commission packet.

Elections for new commission chair and vice-chair

Commissioner Wendy Jensen moved to retain current officers. Commissioner Chris Daily seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Announcements: No Announcements

Commissioner Chris Daily moved to adjourn. Commissioner Wendy Jensen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laurie Lister

MCDHH Office Support Specialist