



State of Wisconsin

Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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Open Meeting Notice

Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Executive Committee Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

8:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M.

Minutes

Call to Order: 8:01 AM CST

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jonathan Petermon, BJ Ermenc, Leia Sparks, Jason Anderson (PPA), Lisa Stewart-Boettcher, Taylor Patterson (National Weather Service Milwaukee) (Public), Sydney Miller (civil rights specialist at advocate health) (Public), ASL Interpreter—Amy Simonsen, Brady Greenwalt (Public), Maryann Barnett (WI Education Service Program-Transition) (Public), Christopher Rawlings (ODHH director), Margo Lucas (Captionist), Andrew Kennard (Reporter for the WI Examiner) (Public), Carly Bieri Interpreter, Zachary Davenport (PPA), Tom Bergeront (public), Andy Altmann (Outreach Director/WDBTAP Project Director).

2. Motions

Motion to approve Dec 18, 2024, Agenda by BJ Ermenc. Leia Sparks seconds. PASSED.

Motion to approve Nov. 20, 2024, minutes with amendment to correct spelling of names; #8 Ms. Stewart Boettcher. BJ Ermenc seconds. PASSED

Motion to invite Taylor Patterson (NWS) to our first 2025 Quarterly meeting. BJ Ermenc second. PASSED

Motion to add Jonathan Thomm as the WisRID liaison to the first quarterly meeting of 2025. BJ Ermenc seconds. PASSED

Motion to invite Jeff Bronk to our first 2025 Quarterly council meeting by Leia Sparks. BJ Ermenc seconds. PASSED

Motion that subgroups from Q4 2024 report on our strategic plan work and solicit questions from the council. Leia Sparks seconds. PASSED

3. Reports/Updates

Cross Council Updates:

- CDHH has approved the finalized document of support to increase the funding for the Service Fund. Jonathan will send out an email to Governor Evers and CC some other DHS leadership members. The physical letter will be printed and end it out to the Governor Office as well.
- Jason Beloungy attended the CDHH meeting and requested the CDHH to send out a letter of support to increase 2.5 million dollars and the benefits for the Deaf, Hard of hearing, and Deaf Blind individuals from the funding. This means in the letter to request more than 2.5 million dollars for some centers to support and provide the services the Deaf, HH and DB. The legislative workgroup will develop the letter and send it on behalf of the CDHH. This letter needs to be completed before January.
- Legislative work group: developing more letters of support. Zachary will send updates on open comment for FCC.
- Taylor Patterson—expanding project for safety/general information being dispersed to D/HH/DB community. Asking feedback and participation in the project. Thinking about training or what works for the community. Many attendees dropped their contact information in the chat for Taylor Patterson to reach out and move forward with the council's involvement in her project.

ODHH Updates:

- Staff turnover—Service Fund Position can't be filled until her retirement benefits are completed. Hopefully early fall of 2025. Steve Smart is the POC for the service fund until the position is officially filled.
- TAP (telecommunication assistance program) job posting is closed and is now in the interviewing, screening process and will be announced in the new year.
- We will have another interpreting position open under ODHH. One contractor left. That will be posted soon.

PPA Updates:

- Zachary no updates.
- Jason and Zachary have been sending out updates on issues to be aware of regarding the state and legislation.
- Meeting will occur for Engage for Change Conference—April 29-May 1, 2025. Council, please hold these dates. Updates to come.

3. ACTION ITEMS:

January 1, 2025, complete the letter of support for the increase in the service fund.

4. Quarterly Meeting and Logistics:

- a. Time of 8a-9:30a works for most of the executive council. We will keep the early morning times.
- b. See motions above for agenda...
- c. Parking lot idea
- d. Jason Anderson contacted Waukesha County Library, and he is waiting for a response if they have a loop system in their facility. Leia Sparks suggested Oconomowoc and Christopher Rawlings will check out the facilities in Oconomowoc and let the council know. BJ Ermenc would like the facilities be hybrid capable. Christopher Rawlings suggested in live streaming the meeting instead of continued rise of costs hybrid options are tough.

9. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn the meeting by BJ Ermenc at 9:13 am. Leia Sparks seconds.
PASSED

The purpose of this meeting is to conduct the governmental business outlined in the above agenda. The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is appointed by the Governor to advise him, the Department of Health Services and the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing about issues and concerns affecting 500,000 people in Wisconsin who are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or deaf-blind.

The Council is administratively attached to the Department of Health Services. If you need an interpreter, alternate formats, or other accommodations to participate, please contact Jason Anderson at 414-207-8322 (VP) or jason.anderson@dhs.wisconsin.gov.