

Advisory Committee to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Disabled

**Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2013**

Members Present: Jason Weiland, Lauren Willis, Renee Davidson and Frank Latham

DMHAS Representative Present: Lily Britton

Members Excused: Frank Smith, Nancy Yarosh, Lauren Casey, Julie Doerrmann.

Members Unexcused: Carol Uckar, Kevin Sullivan

Interpreters: Lori Adams, Dena Hazen, Jeanette Voight (CART)

Chairperson Report

Jason Weiland reported that the Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) moved to their new office on Quakerbrige Road in Hamilton Township.

The self-advocacy training that DDHH scheduled with Northeastern University's Regional Interpretation Education Center to assist NJ in providing self-advocacy training and teaching individuals has been rescheduled from its original date in April 2013 to sometimes in September 2013. The training will provide education for those individuals who are Deaf about resources that are available.

Jason discussed that the Department of Treasury released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for foreign language and American Sign Language (ASL) services in late 2012 that would have one agency servicing the state for any request for these types of services. Since that time, the RFP was put on hold and no re-release date is known at his time.

Jason also announced that two interpreters have set up Boston emergency management Interpreting (EMI) as a result of the bombing that took place in Boston. They are partnering with the Commission for the Deaf and hard of Hearing in Boston, the Massachusetts RID, as well as other Deaf and hard of hearing organizations in Massachusetts. Jason reports this to be a model that New Jersey and DDHH would like to incorporate in hopes of preparing better and having better communications access for the Deaf and hard of hearing populations, specifically in cases of emergency or disaster situations.

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Report/ Lily Britton

Lily reported that DDHH and DMHAS have a meeting scheduled for Monday, September 17th 2013 to discuss better collaboration between the Divisions. She and Jason will be attending this meeting.

Lily reported that DMHAS continues its work toward implementing an ASO/MBHO which would move most current treatment services to a fee for service structure. DMHAS is currently working on an RFP for the ASO. A projected date for implementation of ASO would not be earlier than July 1, 2014.

Lily also reported on upcoming visit to Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital and will report at the next meeting.

Accessibility Subcommittee Update

Lily reported the Accessibility Subcommittee has not met in the past year but believes it is still important to work on goals and objectives to better serve the population of individuals who are Deaf, hard of hearing and disabled as it relates to substance use disorders. The majority of the committee agreed that the subcommittee would be an excellent opportunity to have individuals brainstorm and come up with plans of actions to better serve this population. The committee envisions that the Subcommittee could include individuals from the community, not represented on this Advisory Committee, that would be interested in improving services for the specialized population throughout the State.

Advertising for DMHAS services Available for Deaf, HOH and Disabled

At the June meeting, Jason stressed the importance of advertising the services the three contract agencies provide through funding from the \$350 k. He requests that the new representative from DMHAS provide quarterly updates at each meeting.