

Georgia Commission on Hearing Impaired and Deaf Persons

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Atlanta Speech School

3160 Northside Parkway, NW

Atlanta, GA 30327

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Ms. Lee Ann Meadows, Ms. Mary Reed, Ms. Laura Sarsfield, Dr. Helena Solodar, Mr. Comer Yates

Members Absent: Mr. Chuck Leavell,

Staff Present: Ms. Katherine Cadena

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Solodar at 9:15 a.m.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the November 13th, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Solodar welcomed Commission members and guests to the meeting.

Dr. Solodar discussed the possibility of utilizing current technology such as conference calls for possible future meetings when there isn't a need to vote on any business and asked members if they would prefer that option and/or if any members would need auxiliary aids or services to fully participate. Ms. Reed stated that she could participate if a CART services provider were present or if the technology exists that a CART services provider could assist via the internet.

Dr. Solodar stated that Nova Southeastern University is no longer planning to develop an AuD. program in Georgia; however, there are interested parties in considering an Au.D. program in the state.

Ms. Cadena stated that a bank account for Commission business has been opened and she will scan the paperwork to the Chair and Vice Chair. Dr. Solodar added that currently the raised funds to the Commission are being held in the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation account.

Dr. Solodar stated that many of the initiatives that the Commission developed have been implemented and are flourishing with the use of partner agencies. She requested that members conceive of other potential action items and bring ideas forward to the Commission for consideration.

Mr. Yates discussed the Pathway project. He stated that there will be a strategic planning session on June 27th and 28th. Pathway is committed to ensure children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing will read on grade level at third grade. A called Riley's Path identifies

transactions and services from birth to 8 years that must happen for a child to read on grade level. Collaborative agencies are: The Centers for Disease Control, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Georgia Department of Education (DOE), Georgia Department of Public Health, Auditory Verbal Center, and the Northeast Georgia RESA. Georgia Pathway has coordinated efforts with Let Georgia Hear, an initiative to have law passed for insurance companies to provide hearing aids to children who need them. Mr. Yates is testifying on June 4th for the Commission on Insurance Mandates. Mr. Yates, representing Georgia Pathway and Kelly Jenkins, representing Let Georgia Hear met with Dr. Fitzgerald, Commissioner of Public Health a couple of months ago to discuss children's access to language. Georgia PINES packets were discussed and Mr. Yates said that he expects it to be discussed at the convention at the end of June. Mr. Yates introduced Jessica Bergeron, the project manager of Georgia Pathway. There will be a grade-level reading meeting the day before the conference, June 26.

Dr. Tammy Uehlin spoke about the current status of the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Intervention, UNHSI, program through the Georgia Department of Health, DPH. She discussed the UNHSI process from birth to referral. She also discussed the Loaner Hearing Aid bank and that it is not functioning at capacity but that she is looking at ways to target audiologists to inform them of this resource. All birthing hospitals are screening now that 12 screeners were purchased. Previously, all but one birthing hospital were screening. About 15% of children who are referred are lost to follow-up after one year. Documentation is improving for identifying children in early intervention of programs. The Early Hearing Detection & Intervention, EHDI conference was in April, and the state stakeholders meeting was at the EHDI conference. Dr. Solodar will contact former State Representative Bob Smith regarding the Public Service Commission. The resource guide was distributed to parent stakeholders and will be given to Commission members once completed.

Dr. Solodar discussed the Adopt – A- Band initiative in partnership with the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation. The group has reorganized and there is a meeting tomorrow. The group will present a report to the Commission. All Commission members are invited to participate and can volunteer to adopt a band by offering ear plugs and give presentations to local programs. An audiologist will be asked to chair the initiative.

Dr. Solodar discussed Georgia Pines, and there was conversation about packets to parents being introduced through follow-up coordinators earlier in the process. Dr. Solodar and Mr. Yates will schedule a meeting with Mr. Kenny Moore with the Georgia DOE prior to the conference in June.

Ms. Cadena stated that the Commission chairperson's term as chair, expires in June 2013 and the vice-chair, as vice-chair, expires June of 2013. There was a motion to vote on changing the by-laws to read that the Chairperson may succeed himself/herself for two additional terms. The motion was seconded and the motion passed. There was a motion to re-elect Dr. Solodar as chairperson. The motion was seconded and passed. There was a motion to re-elect Mr. Yates as Vice Chairperson. The motion was seconded and passed. House Bill 655, that became law, reads that "Each Commission member shall serve for a three-year term and until a successor is appointed and qualified. No member

shall serve more than two consecutive terms". Each Commission member's three year term of service will expire in June 2014. The Commission discussed the need to replace vacancies and decided the dates members will transition off the Commission should the Governor's office not immediately replace members when terms expire. Ms. Meadows and Ms. Sarsfield will step down from service in July of 2014, but may still remain involved in Commission business, depending on circumstances. Dr. Solodar and Ms. Reed will step down in July of 2015, and Mr. Yates will step down in July of 2016. If any members would like to forward names to the Commission for appointment by the Governor, please forward to Dr. Solodar.

Action items were discussed for follow up.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at Noon.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at the Auditory Verbal Center from 9:00 A.M. until 12:30 P.M.

The meetings scheduled for the rest of the year are as follows:

Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at the Auditory Verbal Center, in the boardroom, located at 1901 Century Boulevard N.E. #20, Atlanta, GA 30345-3300

Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at the Atlanta Speech School, in the boardroom, located at 3160 Northside Parkway Northwest, Atlanta, GA 30327-1598