MINUTES

Members in Attendance: Robert Griffith, Catherine Klein, Shelle Hamer, Marsha Northrup

Members Absent: Gail Olson, Rose Slaght, John Jun

Members Attending by Phone: Maria Roeters, Eliza Elliott

Regular Attendees Present: Michelle Clyne (PRC), Ingrid Halverson (DRS), Laurie Clampett (Interpreter), Elizabeth Klein (SSP), Joann Rushing (CLH), Laura Thomas (HKNC), Paul Nijensohn (ISBE), Catharine Rajacan (CART), (Interpreter)

Guests Present: Chris Whitfield (HKNC), Maureen McGowan (HKNC), Peggy Whitlow (PRC)

Robert Griffith called the meeting to order. He instructed all to introduce themselves and indicate whether they were a Board member or a guest.

I. Minutes of October 4, 2012 Meeting
Shelle Hamer moved to accept the June 7, 2012 minutes. Catherine Klein seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

II. Old Business

1. DBAW 2012 and bemyvoice.com
Previously funded by Faith Young, she will no longer be able to continue. Eliza has agreed to be webmaster. Dialog took place as to combining with IABD as a funding site. Paul Nijensohn will inquire again to determine if ISBE can fund $75.00 per year. Joanne will explore funding options. If IABD were to combine with IABDB, Eliza will be webmaster for both groups on the same website. Bob asked if there is a conflict of interest. Ingrid Halverson has offered to donate $150.00 to fund this for 2 years. Bob said this will be taken into consideration. Paul asked how many are on the IABDB (11 on Board). Bob indicated a decision would be made at the next Board meeting. Michelle indicated that we need an update from Faith Young.

2. E-Mails to all to be sent with ability to reply all. Discussion took place regarding the method of sending out information by e-mail. Shelle Hamer motioned to allow all e-mails to go out to all, Maria Roeters seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

3. Legislation Updates
Gov. signed legislation that approved miniature horses for service animals HB #3826.

4. Open Meetings Act Trainings Update
Marsha, Maria and John need to complete the training. Eliza is waiting for paperwork for her Board approval. All others are up to date. Bob mentioned that the Open Meetings Act strongly recommends that a quorum be made of individuals present at the meeting.

5. Discussion of June date change look at 1st Thursday in August. Will come back to this potential date change at the December 6th meeting, keeping in mind the work needed for DBAW.
III. New Business

1. Annual Report- last report covered 2 years. Bob asking how it was completed in the past. Bob would like a more informative report by having a 2 year report. Will set up a committee to complete. Bob will look into the possibility of creating an annual report every 2 years. A committee will be formed to work on the annual report.

2. Deaf Blind Awareness Week- Faith had set up email PBS regarding persons who are DB. Rolls out last week of June during HK awareness week. Bob asks if there is any funding available to us. PRC can commit to Open House model. Board can make state aware of activities around state. Joanne suggested we incorporate different equipment vendors for DB. CLH getting many calls for equipment, we can ask vendors to partner with us. Joanne volunteers to be on this project. Laura, Shelle & Rose will assist. Michelle informed the group that ISD is taking videos of the usage of devises, may have collection of tech video. Columbia may be able to help as they have a media and interpreter program. Ingrid will follow up. CLH has video resource. Everything we do needs to have access to all (captioning, interpreting, audio description). We can invite the TV, Karen Meyers was mentioned.

3. Usher Syndrome Conference Update in St Louis by Bob- NIH funds research, but not much $$ in Usher Syndrome. There is a lack of understanding among professionals in identifying individuals with Usher Syndrome. Bob will distribute his report. Bob shared information gathered from listening to families. We need to promote the National Registration of Usher Syndrome and need guidelines of where to go to get a good diagnosis. Bob suggested adding information about Usher Syndrome on bemyvoice.com along with resources. Laura suggested we need to send information to Low Vision and ophthalmologists’ offices. Joanne suggested the College of Optometry. Mo McGowan added- Usher Syndrome Coalition has vetted genetic counselors around the country (Mark Dunning). NIH- trying to move away from Usher Syndrome I, II, and III. Bob will bring info back to the Board.

4. National Deaf Blind Distribution Program (Maureen McGowan) - Field Service Supervisor with Helen Keller for 30 plus years. Mo provided history: FCC to develop program to assist DB consumers with distance communication. Last year became law NDBEDP (National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program) with grant money ($10M year for three years) allocated. $500,000.00 went to Perkins for outreach. They are developing a website, icanconnect, which will provide updates, brochures, templates, tech support, and TV commercials. Perkins will have equipment distribution center with HK doing assessment and training. 50 states applied and are on board. 34 states are partnering with Perkins & HK. IL should receive $330,000.00 a year for 3 years in this pilot program. Has hired one FT person & will hire PT for whole state. Need to follow HK definition of DB & low income eligibility to participate. No age limit other than able to use equipment.

5. Two Week Young Adult Student Program & Transition (Chris Woodfill)- 2 week program at HK YASP (Youth Adult Student Program) for students 15-20 years of age. Top priority is transition from high school and to assist with accommodations and their understanding of their vision, hearing and accommodation needs. Exploration of work, school, travel and recreation/leisure are part of the 2 week program.

6. DRS Working Agreement (Laura Thomas, Ingrid Halvorsen, Joan Rushing) –MOU- now that there is training, many now realize of DB persons’ existence. They have increased by 16 since last meeting. Involved in both deaf and blind bureaus, then decide which best provides for individual and makes connection between both. Better collaboration between agencies since the development of MOU.

7. Ryan Croke (child of deaf parents), Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Pat Quinn- not in attendance. We asked for an amendment to PUNS that better explains the impact of Deaf-Blindness. Kevin Casey, the head of the Developmental Disabilities in Illinois, is meeting with his staff to determine our request.

8. Resignation of Faye Manaster, New Members Sought- we currently have 2 vacancies: DCFS parent representative, DHS parent representative.

9. Member Expectations/Officer responsibilities- Shelle Hamer will provide a CD for all Board
members of the Board Member Packet. She reviewed the information contained in the packet again.

10. Other:
   a. Dept. of Aging follow-up: Laura has been contacted by Joe Martin in Springfield. Very interested in getting training for their many staff; perhaps developing webinars or DVDs to place in their lending library.
   b. Interim Superintendents at ISD and ISVI. Waiting for recommendations to become public. Many staff got transferred to ISVI and ISD from Jacksonville Mental Health Agency that closed.

IV. Standing Reports

1. LeCOBDA -
2. SSP Task Force- Ingrid (DRS), Ryan (DB), Renee Ingelsby (DB), Karen Campbell, Tamarra, Julie Summers are members…1st meeting Oct. 31st. Bob asked Ingrid to keep IABDB informed
3. IDHHC- Formulating a task force (see #2)
4. HKNC- How many from IL at HK? Currently 2 with 2 expected. There is currently a wait list.

V. Agency Reports

1. HV/EIO- PRC collaborating to plan 3 conferences: pre-conference for AER, DHH, Bridges Mini Camp
2. ISBE- Michelle Clyne presenting at conference in Oaklawn for private special education schools across the country, which Paul Nijensohn oversees. This can be found on the ISBE webpage.
3. PRC/Project Reach- PRC collaborating with HVEIO for 3 conferences.
4. DHS/DRS
5. DHS/OMH/ODD
6. DCFS- News Headlines: Hot line issues, very unsure times within the agency- still in lay off status. Everyone got a notice to be prepared for layoffs.

2012-2013 Meeting dates:

December 6, 2012
February 7, 2013
April 4, 2013
June 6, 2013

Marsha Northrup motioned to adjourn the meeting. Shelle Hamer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by Shelle Hamer, IABDB Secretary