| Accent icon | Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind Council meeting (01/16/20) Meeting Minutes |
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# Call to order

A meeting of Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind Council was held at **Waterbury State Office Complex (Ash Conference Room)** on **01/16/2020.**

# Attendees

AJ Van Tassel, Rebecca Chalmers, Susan Kimmerly, Sherry Sousa, Deb Charlea Baker, Ameila Briggs, Amy Williamson, Danielle Howes, Spenser Weppler, Julie Stefanski, Laura Siegel, Monica Hutt, William Pendlebury, Sharon Henry.

# General Updates

* Minutes from November 2019 are accepted by the council (Quorum = 50%)
* Item #1 on Agenda: EHDI Update (Health Resources Services Application). CDC received an application for cooperative agreement. 35 awards are available. In both HRSA + CDC applications, they’re looking at how sustainable these programs are. Currently, the funds are not in the President’s budget. Trauma Informed workshop (May 4th+5th) for professionals and parents. Linda will send out more information about the workshop in the next couple weeks. 43 Children currently identified by EHDI in Vermont. The birthrates in Vermont are going down. In 2007: 6200 births, Currently: 5200.

# Legislative Updates

Monica’s update on Director position: The first round of interviews has concluded. Interviewers: Fred Jones, Liz Perrault, Spenser Weppler, Monica Hutt, Bill Hudson, Keri Darling. Interviewees: Bill Milas and Deb O’Willow (finalists). Council meet-and greet will be on 1/27/2020. Bill will be interviewed, and then will meet the council. Deb will meet with the council and then be interviewed. This schedule seeks to maximize the time that applicants have with the council. Monica will forward their resumes to the council. Monica will send the first round interview questions so that council members will be informed about what’s already been covered.

S66: Folks have been stepping off the council and we have not been filling those seats. DVAS: Keri. HLAA – anyone from HLAA that wants to join? When inventory has been done, it will be shared with the council and the council will be asked to consider additionally asking people to join. A lot of other boards have recruitment teams – is that something the council would consider?

HLAA + AARP – open caption bill. Anne Pugh (H312 is the bill #)

Who’s the best person to go and testify on that bill?

Hearing Aid Coverage bill: new senate bill to be coming out. Senator Lyons/Senator Belint are co-sponsoring the bill. What we sent is what HLAA National created. The bill begins in the Senate Health & Welfare and then is transitioned to the Senate Finance Committee for approval. Vermont Center for Independent Living wanted to know the council’s position on the hearing aid bill. Would Julie Stefanski be interested in testifying? There’s no Vermont specific audiology groups, but Julie is a part of the Vermont Speech and Hearing Association (which does have an audiology component).

Monica’s going to send out the bill. Will’s going to check-in with the Center for Independent Living. The legislative report was submitted as of Friday 01/10/2020. Vermont Interpreter Referral Services (VIRS) (Update from Will) Bill Bliss is the new director.

# 2020 Priorities for the Council

\*Accessibility in court system/corrections department

\*Equity in school-aged programs

\*Education to caregivers in Assisted Living/Senior Living facilities. Communication, device care, troubleshooting.

# Announcements

* Workgroup for Legal-deaf system (from point of entry to re-entry after prison)

(<http://vtrid.org/survey-interest-legal-interpreting/>)

* 01/27/2020 – Meet and Greet with final round interviewees at Waterbury State Office Complex.

# New Dates + *locations* for 2020 council meetings:

January 16th, 2020 – *Ash conference room*

March 19th, 2020 – *Cherry A conference room*

May 21st, 2020 – *Cherry A conference room*

July 16th, 2020 – *Cherry B conference room*

September 17th, 2020 – *Cherry B conference room*

November 19th, 2020 – *Cherry B conference room*

\*Next Council Date\*

03/19/20 (Cherry A Conference Room, Waterbury State Office Complex) – 10am – 1pm.

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| Secretary |  | Date of approval |