| Accent icon | Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind Council meeting (03/21/19) 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 (Cedar Conference Room)** on **03/21/2019.**

# Attendees

Rebecca Chalmers, Deb Charlea Baker, Linda Hazard, Spenser Weppler, Sherry Sousa, Amy Williamson, Keri Darling, Amelia Briggs, Bill Hudson, Julie Stefanski, Justin Kenney (Guest Speaker), William Pendlebury, Danielle Howes, and Susan Kimmerly.

\*No Quorum achieved (only 13 out of 24 folks attending – no voting)

# Justin Kenney’s Presentation on LEAN Methodology

Justin is a performance/budget analyst at the Agency of Finance + Management. He assists others with training around continuous improvement principles. LEAN is a methodology that was developed by Toyota. It employs results-based accountability, common principles, common language, strategic planning efforts. Justin represents himself as a neutral body, providing support to agencies and departments. He’s funded internally, so there’s no charge for his consultations. “Staff need to be empowered, not have one person that “fixes” everything.”

The council members are aware of where the gaps are in the system – but can only make recommendations to programs and the legislature. S66 has limited the power that the council has.

Justin agrees to return for continuous improvement. Justin and Spenser will collaborate about how much time is needed for Justin to provide support to the council.

# Bill’s Summary Presentation on Tactile Communication Facilitator

An intermediary accessible position for DeafBlind individuals called “Tactile communications facilitator”. There are 10-25 individuals around Vermont that would benefit from this addition (according to the DPS study). Washington is the only state that has this position – it seems to have worked thus far. The recommended salary for this position is $100, 000. The study is being sent to Health and Welfare committee/Senate committee on finances/HHS/etc.

Could the experts come from the Helen Keller foundation? *Email Monica your thoughts*

# Updates on programs

* Linda (update about EDDE meeting): Chicago CMV is under administrative rules. CMV is under Newborn Screening so it would become a statewide initiative in Vermont. Linda will be attending HRSA meeting in March 2019.
* Danielle (update about Universal Precautions). Is there any work with MCH around that? (First step is working with OBGYN) foundation brochures will be acquired and then VDH logo will be attached.
* Spenser: Disability Awareness Day participation. Finance bills crossover at Midnight 3/22/19 (senate appropriations bill). Revised ACA – if state includes mandatory minimum benefit: state pays for the increase in these services.
* Deb: Hearing-aid buying pools? The noise level testifying at Disability Awareness Day – DCIL needs to be notified of this (Contact: Sarah Lunderville).
* Open Caption Bill: Some Vermont theatres are already voluntarily doing it – this practice gives the bill grounding.
* Rebecca: Can we get a lawyer to look at the revised ACA to get it in front of a judge? Spenser will connect with Will/Bill about legal counsel “tapping.”
* Amy: Vermont Interpreter Referral Service – turnover in Director Position. Interpreters have been frustrated. New Director arrives April 15th!
* Susan: Expecting the RFP from state Agency of Education to come out in the next month or so around the school-aged services. Susan will share this with the council.

# Unfinished business

* Monica’s office will reach out to all council members to make sure they provide updated mailing addresses. The list needs to be returned to administration for the appointment.
* Spenser is revisiting the Chair/Vice Chair term limits (if chair steps down, VC steps up). Spenser will send around to the council again for additions by council members. After revisions, Monica will take to administration for review. Then the council can vote on it at the next meeting (5/16/19). Also, doing follow-up from the retreat? (Revisit).
* Keri will send her testament to the council regarding her participation at Disability Awareness Day.

# New business

* Advocacy for transparency of council attendance.
* VERY IMPORTANT: If you plan to testify at the legislature, please let Keri and Spenser know; even if it’s not on behalf of the council. (It needs to be very clear/specific who you’re testifying on behalf of).

# Announcements

* May 2nd Vermont Higher Education collaboration. More information available at VTHET.org. (<https://www.vthec.org/event/hard-of-hearing-and-deafness-legal-update-protection-and-entitlements-from-birth-to-adult-bruce-a-goldstein-esq-2/?instance_id=2063>)
* Vermont Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf – Retreat in May

(<http://vtrid.org/vtrid-retreat-2019/>)

* National Conference in Providence RI (VT folks presenting)

(<https://rid.org/rid-2019-national-conference-providence-ri/>)

* Vermont RID Picnic – June 8th (Vermont RID website) – Free Admission
* Workgroup for Legal-deaf system (from point of entry to re-entry after prison)

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

* VTAD October 24th, 2019 – Life/Death workshop (10/4, 10/5, 10/6 flyer distribution).

\*Next Council Date\*

05/16/19 (Cedar Conference room, Waterbury State Office Complex) – 10am start time.

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| Secretary |  | Date of approval |