| Accent icon | Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind Council meeting (05/16/19) 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 (Elm Conference Room)** on **05/16/2019.**

# Attendees

Sharon Henry, William Pendlebury, Judy Vreeland, Ameila Briggs, Danielle Howes, Spenser Weppler, Keri Darling, Linda Hazard, Monica Hutt, Julie Stefanski, Susanne Kimmerly, and Angela Smith – Dieng (guest).

\*No Quorum achieved (only 11 out of 24 folks attending – no voting)

# Angela Smith-Dieng presentation on VT State plan on Aging

Angela’s presentation (State plan on Aging) and how the four-year plan (2019-2022) interacts with the council’s scope of work around hearing loss awareness and hearing accessibility for older Vermonters. The purpose of the plan is to support healthy ageing for all, reduce social isolation, and maintain protection and justice for older Vermonters. With regards to reducing social isolation – what are the solutions to this growing epidemic amongst an ageing population? Angela and Deb Charlea Baker will coordinate. Killington AAA’s Aging Conference (September 2019 conference is about reducing social isolation).

At the conference, there was a suggestion about having exhibits/presenters centered around assistive technology. Also, a lot of people might not be aware or receptive to becoming late deafened.

Is there a way to support getting video conference phones in senior centers? Or even cost-effective internet service for folks to access?

Are there Etiquette advisements around hearing loss and standards of care that we can push out to people? How do we utilize the toolkit that already exists?

# General Updates

* Kerri and Spenser will follow-up with Justin about LEAN (vision group would meet with Justin).
* Keri: VIRS – Bill Bliss, new director hire from VIRS. A historical perspective on interpreting in Vermont. Keri might be joining the advisory council for VIRS.
* Susanne Kimmerly: Updates via word doc. Linda starts July 2019. 
* At the September 19, 2019 meeting, the council will check-in about what they want to focus on prior to January 2020.
* Vision group met in March. Draft vision statement to vote on (hopefully in September 2019) so that a quorum can be achieved. Vision group also needs to firm up the 5-year-plan. Spenser: Proxy vote via email. Will there be regularly scheduled meetings of the vision group?
* Keri wants to rework the vision group. What are we asking people to vote on? Vision group sends out statements, it goes to the council for feedback. Can you accept this as our vision statement? It’s a yes or no question. Keri and Spenser will connect offline. Vision group will connect over email.

# Legislative Updates

* Looking for a coordinator position at DAIL. The position is “matchable”. 45% Medicaid 55% General funds. As soon as Spenser knows anything, he’ll email the council. Monica will send out a draft document regarding her testimony at the legislature. The scope of work and job description are being finalized soon. ASL is a requirement for the position.
* Spenser’s hearing aid bill: It’s not moving, it’s not getting traction (it didn’t move out of senate finance).
* Open caption bill: Sometimes the legislature hopes that theaters make these adjustments for open captioning without having to legislate it. Open captioning network ca maybe work with the legislature about the bill.
* Update from Spenser: The council doesn’t have any authority to establish term-limits, which is why operating guidelines were taken off the agenda.
* If anyone has things that they’d like to add to the agenda (such as presenters like Angela) – please reach out to suggest.

# Future Agenda Topics

1. Employment for people with hearing loss and deaf/hard of hearing folks. How do they advocate for themselves for accommodations? They need to know their rights with regards to employment.
2. DOC and PURPLE. Getting video conference phones in correctional facilities) Contact: Paul Singleton.
3. Julie Stefanski: over the next year there’s going to be a changing landscape around hearing aids. They’re an FDA Hearing Aid device. FDA re-authorization act. A new category for hearing devices that need to be over the counter. What do we do when these articles are available?

# Announcements

* 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 in Deaf conference (10/4, 10/5, 10/6 flyer distribution).
* VTAD – Conference this Fall: Understanding Life and Death. September 27th, 2019 Killington, VT.

\*Next Council Date\*

09/19/19 (Ash Conference room, Waterbury State Office Complex) – 10am – 1pm.

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| Secretary |  | Date of approval |