**State of California**

**Health and Human Services Agency**

**Department of Rehabilitation**

**DHHAC meeting notes**

**Thursday 12/07/23**

**DOR Central Office, 721 Capitol Mall, Room 301, Sacramento, CA 95814, with virtual participation via Zoom.**

**In-attendance:**

DHHAC Members (virtual): Callie Frye, Toni Chapman, Frank Lester, Hugh Lafler, Michelle Bronson

DOR staff (in-person): Michael Thomas, Craig Rubenstein, Jennifer Wilbon

DOR ASL captioner and interpreters (virtual): Ariana, Kate, Tammy, Cindy Bender

DOR staff (virtual): Kimberly Nguyen, Tiffany Barlow

Public Members: Marnee Wafer-Hoecker, Angelica Martinez

**Item 1: Welcome and Introductions**

Callie Frye (DHHAC Chair) reviewed DHHAC rules. Callie welcomed attendees, conducted roll call, and established a quorum.

**Item 2: Introductions of DOR staff and members of the public**

**Item 3: Public Comment**

Callie asked public members if there were any issues or concerns to address that were not on the agenda.

No public comment made.

## **Item 4: Update Regarding the 09/14/23, Meeting Minutes**

There were no questions or concerns regarding 09/14/23 meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Michelle Bronson moved a motion to approve the 09/14/23 DHHAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Toni Chapman.

**Vote:** Callie, yes. Michelle, yes. Frank, yes. Toni, yes. The motion passed.

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## **Item 5: DHHAC Section Report**

Department comments and questions

* Looking forward to bringing services to the DHHAC community
* DHHAC applications will be announced soon
* Hoping to have a full committee
* Hoping to finalize and adopt the bylaws
* SB105 conference recap. SB105 took place in November. Prior to November, the last meeting took place 4-years ago
* SB105 will be in Northern California in 2024, more information to come
* Discussed deaf blind services, concerns with caseloads, working on recruiting RTD’s and counselors, discussed consumer payment card

Committee members comments and questions

* Discussed working collaboratively with other agencies such as EDD

## **Item 6: DHHAC Special Meeting**

Committee members comments and questions

* Will continue to discuss the RCD role and Bylaws and will use the time to express concerns or issues
* Discussed the agenda and what to expect at the upcoming meeting
* Discussed advisory committee vacancies
* Retirement announcements
* Members shared their thoughts/ideas/vision
* Hoping Bylaws will be finalized

Department comments and questions

* Thanked members for serving on the committee

## **Item 7: California Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)**

Presentation by Matt Baker, Project Manager, California Youth Leadership Forum. Some highlights from the presentation include:

* YLF was established in 1992
* The program hopes to connect more youth from the deaf and hard of hearing community
* California Youth Leadership Forum is for students with disabilities
* Can accept 50 students into the summer program. The hope is to get at least 5 - 6 deaf and hard of hearing students, including 5 - 6 deaf and hard of hearing staff
* Applications are now open
* YLF is a weeklong residential advocacy and leadership program for high school students with disabilities who are currently sophomores, juniors, or seniors
* The only requirement to apply is that you are a high school student with a disability

Committee members comments and questions

* Would like to know on average, per year, how many deaf and hard of hearing students attend the camp

Department comments and questions

* Has the YLF program been communicated to RCD’s

Public members comments and questions

* Provided feedback about program information that was shared

**Item 8: Disability Access Services (DAS) presentation by Ken Ng, Assistant Chief**

Disability Access Services (DAS) is a unit within DOR. Some highlights from the presentation include: DAS provides general guidance regarding: disability employment, independent living, services, reasonable accommodations, physical accessibility, digital accessibility, and service and emotional support animals. There are webinars about different topics to learn more. Ken went over the employment rate statistics and went over the steps a person can go through if they felt that they were discriminated against.

Public members comments and questions

* Would like to know what the first step would be if a person felt they have been discriminated against

**Item 9: Future agenda items**

* Would like to learn more about debit/CPC cards
* Would like to know the rules for working if someone has SSDI
* Continue Bylaw discussion and term limits
* Continue discussion about RCD’s
* Discuss work incentive programs
* Discuss the best ways to convince employers to hire deaf and hard of hearing individuals
* Would like to hear updates about accessible technology
* Legal may need to come back to the next DHHAC meeting and present on the Bagley-Keene Act if there are changes
* Would like RCD’s to share challenges they face with high school students
* Would like to hear a presentation about DOR and EDD working together
* Would like to hear a presentation from a counselor about on-the-job training and adult work experiences
* Request speakers to attend future meetings to discuss areas of concern brought up within meetings
* Would like to discuss summer camp, NTID

**Motion:** Toni Chapman moved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:50pm. The motion was seconded by Michelle Bronson.

**Adjourn (3:50 p.m.)**