**State of California**

**Health and Human Services Agency**

**Department of Rehabilitation**

**DHHAC meeting notes**

**Friday, 03/14/25**

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

**In-attendance:**

DHHAC Members (in-person): Tara Groswird, Jerry Cardoso

DHHAC Members (virtual): Callie Frye, Hugh Lafler, Michelle Bronson, Dr. Liann Osborne, Solomon Yigzaw, Ted Horton-Billard III, Ken Datugan, Trina Lichdt

DOR staff (in-person): Sue Pelbath, Craig Rubenstein, Kimberly Nguyen, Jennifer Wilbon

Public Members (in-person): Ed Ly

DOR staff (virtual): Tiffany Barlow

ASL captioner(s)/interpreter(s) (virtual): Julius Satterlee, Tiffany Jones, Gay Joyner, Allyssa

ASL interpreters (in-person): Kate Boyd, Cheryl Gallon

Public Members (virtual): 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**

New Committee members were introduced.

## **Item 3: Update Regarding the December 13, 2024, and March 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes.** The committee voted and the minutes from both meetings were approved.

## **Item 4:** **DOR DHHS Section Report**

Craig Rubenstein, Program Manager, DOR Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. Up-to-date program report provided to ensure the dissemination of current information and news.

Department comments and questions

* Explained CPC, California DOR paychecks, similar to a debit card, consumers have fast access and do not have to wait for authorizations
* Consumers can check information on the on-line portal
* Working on instruction video, should be available this spring or fall
* Explained possible reasons for delays
* Customer service phone number on back of card
* VR counselors currently cannot connect the CPC with the call center, consumers need to call themselves
* Provided consumer interpreting presentation training updates
* Social Security Administration updates
* DOR participated in multiple community events
* SB 105 report update
* Shared consumer success story

## **Item 5: DHHAC Purpose and the Role of DHHS**

Sue Pelbath, Deputy Director, DOR Specialized Services Division,

provided overview of purpose and role of DHHS

Department comments and questions

* Welcomed new members
* DOR looks to the community to share and identify issues, concerns, needs etc., and to share that information with the department
* Explained the purpose of DHHAC meetings
* Explained concerns with consumers not being successful in finding employment
* When the department hears about a concern, a response will be circulated in writing before the next meeting
* Can find a list of acronyms on the department website
* DHHAC committee advises the department on concerns and issues they would like the department to address. The main purpose is to get jobs for individuals with disabilities

Committee members comments and questions

* Would like to know what the department identifies as problems or concerns in the community
* When a concern is brought to management/the department, when will the committee receive a response
* Would like to know how the committee impacts the department

## **Item 6: DOR Services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Consumers**

Roberto Solorzano, District Administrator, DOR Greater East Bay District,

spoke about services available to D/HH consumers, including youth and students.

Department comments and questions

* Shared PowerPoint presentation and provided overview of the services that DOR provides to deaf and hard of hearing consumers
* Explained how the department provides services through vocational rehab services and student services
* Explained the application and eligibility process
* Discussed employment, education, and training services
* Discussed student services, ages 16 – 21
* Discussed VR services
* A consumer can re-apply for services without having to go back to the beginning of the application process
* Explained what support looks like
* 504 plans are part of the Rehabilitation Act, 504 plans explained
* Training can be provided to various community partners

Committee members comments and questions

* If a consumer case is successfully closed, and later would like to receive training, would the consumer have to go through the application and eligibility process again
* Questions regarding student services
* Questions regarding 504 plans
* Who can receive training
* Asked for clarification regarding the department and VR services

**Item 7: Election for Vice Chair Role**

Callie Frye, DHHAC Chair

Callie outlined the responsibilities of the Vice Chair role and facilitated the election.

Committee members comments and questions

* Discussed vice chair position and role

**Motion:** Michelle Bronson moved a motion to nominate Hugh Lafler to be the DHHAC vice-chair.

**Vote:** Michelle, yes. Lianne, yes. Ken, yes. Ted, yes. Tara, yes. The motion passed.

## **Item 8: DHHAC Bylaws and Bagley-Keene Act**

Callie Frye, DHHAC Chair, DHHAC members reviewed the Bagley-Keene Act, member attendance, and discussed a path to move forward to update bylaws for further clarification.

Committee members comments and questions

* Reviewed/summarized Bylaws
* Questions/discussion about term limits and voting
* What type of promotional activities are being done to gain interest in joining the committee
* Suggestions for outreach to get committee members
* Reminded members of Zoom etiquette and to keep the meeting on topic
* Suggested rotation list for in-person participation
* Discussed highlights of the Bagley-Keene Act
* Asked members to review Bagley-Keene Act

Department and questions

* When a member’s term is going to be up, management receives notice and an announcement goes out. If term is going to be up soon, would like members to let the department know in advance

**Item 9: Identification of future agenda items**

Committee members comments and questions

* Continue Bylaw discussion
* Discussion regarding whether the department will be impacted by federal dollars being cut
* Captioning and technology for consumers/how AI impacts consumers/captioning glasses
* Introduce the new director at the June meeting
* Would like to have a presenter speak about hiring deaf/hard of hearing employees
* Would like to discuss biases and the impact on consumers
* Would like to talk about employers who are open to hiring individuals with disabilities
* Outreach to students
* Building consumer referrals and letters of recommendation
* Training and making sure consumers are work ready

Adjourn (12:00 p.m.)