

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL  
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

**Virtual Quarterly Meeting**  
Thursday, February 8, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Cory Parker (Department of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Gina Halliburton (Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf), Jenny Rojas (Department of Elder Affairs), John Jackson (Department of Children and Families), Chris Littlewood (Association of Late Deafened Adults)

**Department of Health:**

Sean Isaac, Gabrielle (Gabby) O'Sullivan,

**Service Providers:**

Donna Flanders, Kelly Gagain, April Perry, Carrie Moore, Clint Solomon, and Janelle Barnes (Interpreters), Lisa Johnston (CART), Patrick Langan

**Minutes from November 9 2023:**

Chris Littlewood made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections and it was seconded by Cindy Simon. The minutes were voted on and accepted with corrections being made.

**Staff Updates:**

Gabby O'Sullivan provided the following.

- Future meeting is set for May 10, 2024.
- Requests for assistance included seeking interpreters, Individualized Education Plans, mental health services, service animals, and hearing aid assistance.
- Financial disclosure forms for the Council are due June 30, 2024. They were sent to everyone's email. Completed forms should be sent back to the State of Florida Commission on Ethics.

**Organization Updates:**

- Florida Department of Education: Jenny had no updates for the council.
- Audiologist Representative: Cindy had no updates for the council.
- Vocational Rehabilitation: Cory had no updates for the council.
- Association of Late Deafened Adults: Chris provided an update to the council. He stated that ALDAcon will be held in Florida this year from September 11 through September 15 in Clearwater Beach. He would like the council to attend so long as it fits in the budget as they are trying to prevent the event being cost prohibitive.
- Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (FRID): Gina provided an update to the council. She stated FRID is having an interpreter social in Bradenton on February 22. She also stated there is a board meeting March 11 via Zoom.

### **Committee Updates:**

- EMOT: Cindy provided information about the history of this committee and how it used to be as needed. She recommended that it should move back to an as needed committee and no new update was provided.
- Ad Hoc – Bylaws: Cindy provided an update to the council that updated bylaws were made in a past meeting, but they still needed to be voted on. Moving that vote to the next meeting so the committee can locate the most up to date bylaws.
- Budget: Cory provided an update to the council stating the budgeted amount for expenses was \$18,042 and the council has used \$35 leaving \$18,007 in the expenses category. The update also included the budgeted amount for the contracted services was \$37,370 and the council has used \$3,420 leaving \$33,950 in the contracted services category. Cory noted that this was the budget before anything was paid for the February meeting.
- Legislative: No update provided.
- Web: Chris had no updates to provide but mentioned that resources should not be taken off the website as they provide valid information for the public.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation Training:**

Cory Parker shared an in-house training for the council about what Vocational Rehabilitation is and what they do in Florida.

### **Presentation:**

Gwen Black presented how the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services with the Department of Education is working for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. She and her project leaders provided information about the auditory oral projects at the Clark School for Hearing and Speech, and at the University of Miami Debbie School, Bridge-to-Speech, the Florida Low Vision Initiative, Educational Interpreter Project, The Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired and, lastly, the Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Cory Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Cindy Simon seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.

### **Public Comments:**

There was one public comment made by Cecil Bradley. He spoke to the changes FTRI is trying to accomplish for language updates in 427 Section 701-708.

Friday, February 9, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Cory Parker (Department of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Gina Halliburton (Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf), Jenny Rojas (Department of Elder Affairs), John Jackson (Department of Children and Families), Chris Littlewood (Association of Late Deafened Adults)

**Department of Health:**

Gabrielle (Gabby) O'Sullivan, Khyati Master

**Service Providers:**

Donna Flanders, Kelly Gagain, April Perry, Carrie Moore, Clint Solomon, and Janelle Barnes (Interpreters), Lisa Johnston (CART), Patrick Langan

**New Business:**

- Future meetings: The Council discussed the importance of inviting members of the community to meetings. The Council also discussed how the May meeting should really be in person if it is in the budget for this fiscal year.
- Updated Bylaws: The Council tabled the vote for updated bylaws.
- 2025 Biennial Report: The Council discussed the best way to prepare the 2025 Biennial Report and how to complete it in a timely manner. A discussion about Government in the Sunshine laws was had to ensure any report discussions are publicly noticed. The Council agreed to have Gabby create a timeline for report drafting and submission. A virtual meeting will be planned to further discuss the report process.

Gina Halliburton made a motion to motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jenny Rojas seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 10:39 am.