

**\*\*WASHINGTON STATE CENTER FOR  
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING YOUTH  
Board of Trustees Meeting\*\*  
February 26, 2021**

*\*\* In response to restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted via videoconferencing.*

**Board Members**

District	Board Member Name	Officer	Present	Absent
1	Maria Christianson		X	
2	Allie Joiner		X	
3	Nancy Sinkovitz		X	
4	Nita Kamphuis			X
5	Char Parsley		X	
6	Jennifer Acuña		X	
7	Ariele Belo	Vice-chair	X	
8	Sidney Weldele-Wallace			X
9	Nancy Fitta	Chair	X	
10	Wes Henson		X	

**Leadership Staff**

Name	Title	Present	Absent
Rick Hauan	Executive Director	X	
Shauna Bilyeu	Superintendent	X	
Tsering Cornell	Legal Counsel	X	
Erica Rader	Recorder	X	
Jessica Sydnor	Director, Human Resources	X	
Kris Ching	Director, Outreach, Birth-5	X	
Rebecca Butz-Houghton	Director, Outreach, Birth-5	X	
Carol Carrothers	Director, Outreach, K-12	X	
Erica Pedro	Director, Outreach, K-12	X	

**Interpreters**

Name
Abel Constintino
Emily Dahl

**Registered Guests**

Name	Role

**Board Business**

Nancy Fitta, chair, called the Board meeting to order at 10:01am. It was determined a quorum was present.

Nancy Fitta reviewed the Zoom rules for the meeting.

1. Keep your video off unless you have a comment,
2. If you have a comment, turn on your video on and raise your hand
3. Make your comment and return to video off

While these rules are not ideal, it provides better access for deaf attendees.

Thank you

### **Approval of meeting minutes**

Page 2 line 9 change "position" to "positions"

Page 2 line 11 change "if any questions about" to "if there are any questions about"

Page 3 line 10 remove "in whole are substantially"

Page 3 line 17 change "student" to "students"

Page 3 line 34 change "cottage" to "cottages"

Page 3 line 36 remove capitalization of Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning

Page 4 line 2 change "Person" to "Pearson"

Page 4 line 6 change "Jerry Born" to "David Born"

Page 4 line 6 change "Jerryanne" to "Gerrienne"

Allie moved to approve the January 29, 2021, meeting minutes with the changes described. Nancy Sinkovitz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **Director's Report**

### **Rick Hauan, Executive Director**

Rick indicated he had nothing to add to his report, but welcomed any questions the Board may have of him.

Q. Allie indicated she had two questions.

1. What is the status of HB1153?
2. Allie Joiner joined a number of families and community members for a community meeting on Zoom with Seattle Public School District where they introduced Ann Curry, Coordinator for Sensory Programs. Allie asked if Rick Hauan or other CDHY team members knew what other personnel changes occurred in Seattle Public Schools. She also expressed some concern relating to the content of that meeting.

A. Rick indicated that HB1153 will be heard in the house next week and indicated he completed the fiscal note and information needed from CDHY.

Relating to Seattle Public Schools, Rick indicated he was not able to attend the last meeting that Allie was referring too. He acknowledged that parents and



other stakeholders in the Seattle Public Schools area had expressed concerns as well. Rick went on to explain, Ann Curry was a former employee of CDHY. He has faith in Ann's ability to help with cultural competency and program issues. Rick also indicated at a recent meeting in which he was invited to meet with the Seattle Public School District he expressed his concerns with the on-going stability of leadership and that he needed to see action to support deaf and hard of hearing students and their families. He explained to staff at the meeting his responsibility to all deaf and hard of hearing students in Seattle as well as statewide. Rick will continue to work with Seattle to assist with improving communication between Seattle Public Schools and CDHY, and explore ways for CDHY to offer solutions for the students in the central Puget Sound area.

- Q. Allie indicated the announcement for the community meeting was announced without much lead time for those who were interested in attending. Allie indicated that the process and notification did not provide good access to the meeting and left out a lot of deaf people. Allie expressed that she liked Ann Curry and wanted to applaud her for the work she is doing. In her prior position as superintendent at the Alaska School for the Deaf, Ann Curry even sent kids from Alaska to join Washington State children and youth at BizTown for 2 years in a row. Allie indicated she is concerned that the information we have shared with the Seattle Public School District has to be repeated again and again. As an example, Allie described a family who reached out seeking support as they were unhappy about their child not receiving appropriate educational services. Allie referred them to the CDHY Outreach team to provide services for their child. Allie inquired if we need legislative action to hold Seattle Public School accountable to deliver appropriate services for deaf and hard of hearing students.
- A. Rick expressed his concern about the growing displeasure with Seattle Public Schools. He will set up a meeting with Ann Curry and Tarra Mitchell, Special Education Director. Ms. Mitchell is new to her role with Seattle Public Schools. Rick indicated he will also reach out to Concie Pedroza, Chief of Student Services at Seattle Public Schools who has been helpful in the past. Unfortunately, Dr. Pedroza was ill on day of the community meeting and was unable to participate. Rick indicated it is time to re-examine how CDHY can support our families in the Seattle area which requires we try to enhance our partnership with Seattle Public Schools. Rick reminded Board members to reach out to him if you have concerns in your region or congressional district. He went on to explain this is why the Legislature established CDHY, and specifically the law identifies the Executive Director is responsible to provide statewide support at the local level. The law also articulates that the operations of the WSD campus is overseen by the Superintendent and Deputy Director of CDHY which is the role filled by Shauna Bilyeu.
- Q. Allie thanked Rick for the partnership with Gallaudet University. Currently, at Gallaudet they are running a series of trainings on the topic of audism.

Nancy Fitta thanked Rick for adding the new hires in his report. She also indicated she was happy to see that we can get vaccines for our staff.



Rick indicated we got approval for 1A vaccines for 54 employees. We have approximately 20% of our staff who live in Oregon and they have access to vaccinations based on their residence and occupation at a school. We are pursuing vaccinations for our staff both as a state agency through the reopening taskforce at OFM and DOH and as a school district through OSPI.

Rick introduced Dr. Erica Pedro as our new Outreach Director, K-12 and Becky Butz-Houghton as our new Outreach Director, Birth-5. We have the benefit of offering a longer than normal in-training processes which will provide us with the opportunity to continue services offered by the incumbents in the roles they are leaving. It also provides additional time to evaluate data and determine the best course of action as we continue to expand resources and tools and enhance services across the state. Kris and Carol have done an amazing job! Rick commended their tireless leadership and vision as they have set a new high bar for service statewide. They will be very much missed. CDHY and WSD would not be where we are without them.

Becky shared with the board, she is very happy to come on as the next Outreach Director, Birth-5. She has been a school psychologist for CDHY for many years and also will leave her part time position at Seattle Children's Hospital where she has worked for nearly 10 years in the Hearing Loss Clinic.

Erica P. Indicated she is thrilled to take on this role and thrilled to work with Becky. She shared her enthusiasm and has a lot of ideas to help the agency grow. She went on to say she looks forward to working with the Board in the future.

Rick gave waving hands to Kris and Carol for everything they have done for our agency.

Carol thanked everyone for the kind words and expressed her deep caring for the agency and the children she has served over the years. She has loved every minute of her time here.

Kris thanked everyone and is excited to pass the torch to her amazing colleagues.

Nancy Fitta congratulated Kris and Carol for their dedication and everything they have done for the deaf and hard of hearing children, youth and their families in our state and sends them her best wishes as they move on to the next chapter of their life. Nancy congratulates Erica P. and Becky on picking up the torch.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Shauna indicated that this month Jason Cox and Teresa Stotler-Martin spearheaded black history month which included a black deaf Zoom panel. The next big move for the school is to start the Library Club next week Monday March 1, 2021. This is to support for our local students. We will be utilizing ESD buses for transportation. We did a walk through of the school buildings and the library with our physician, Dr. Ebbing and Dane Bevan our Facilities Manager. Shauna reminded the Board things will come up as we plan and we will be adaptable. Kids want to be back on campus very badly. We now have 3 cottages open and not one kid has missed transportation even during the weather event. We are working very hard to get everyone back. Our Academic Leadership Team is working hard so we can make this return to campus for our



students and staff happen smoothly. Our campus will begin seeing demolition activities on 4/15/202. The actual removal of buildings will take 3 weeks. That will begin sometime in early summer, however will take until the end of August to get our campus looking like normal again after that.

Shauna indicated that we were contacted by the Vancouver Fire Department. The Vancouver Fire Department received a grant for visual fire alarms for all deaf citizens in the state of Washington. They asked for our assistance in helping distribute these visual fire alarms throughout the state. If you need one or know of a family with a deaf member that would need one please let Shauna or Dane know. Shauna will reach out to the WSD Facilities and find out the exact number that we have.

Q. Allie inquired if there are any plans for summer programs, and are we going to require vaccinations?

A. Shauna indicated we are not going to have any on campus summer programs this year as we will be working to remove buildings as part of our master capital development plan. We are exploring option for summer programming on campus for the summer of 2022. Shauna indicated they haven't done comprehensive studies for kids and vaccines. So we don't know yet if vaccines will be required for students. Shauna indicated she is working on the school year calendar for the next school year now and school will start on 8/30/2021. We are planning on everyone coming back in person on the first day of school.

Q. Wes inquired if there has been any word on the funding for a new building?

A. Shauna indicated we haven't heard anything. Our submission is in and we testified to the legislature last year. Rick indicated our pre-design was released for review to the architectural community on Wednesday 2/24/2021 and we are on the short list for approval. It seems our project funding is looking good so far. Rick did sign the agreement for our current architect and everything seems to be moving forward. Shauna indicated if anyone knows about testifying so we don't fall through the cracks let her know.

Q. Wes inquired if we should we be talking to our local representatives and advocating for WSD?

Q. Allie indicated it's a blessing we made it to the short list for approval. Is there a chair of the committee that we need to thank or a Vancouver legislator as well that we can express our appreciation?

A. Rick indicated Paul Harris is our local representative and very supportive of our school. Rick indicated he encourages all Board members to reach out to their local representatives and let them know about supports that we offer for children and families. WSD is the heart of our agency and we support that whole state of Washington not just the city of Vancouver.

Q. Allie inquired if the Board members could get a fact sheet and inquired if Shauna could assist with this so the Board members could have something to reference if they decide to contact their local legislators.



- A. Rick indicated he will work with the Executive Leadership Team to develop a fact sheet. We will provide this to Board members when it is completed. We will begin to do this annually in December going forward.
- Q. Nancy Sinkovitz inquired if the fire alarms are for families with deaf children or for all deaf families?
- A. Shauna indicated from her understanding for the Vancouver Fire Department, they are for any deaf citizen as long as they live in the state of Washington.

Rick thanked Shauna on the amazing work she does.

### **Human Resources Report**

Jess indicated we have a lot of recruitment going on right now and we are trying to prioritize recruitment. This environment adds a different level of in our recruitment process. We have done a lot of executive level recruitment, but we have had a lot of great internal candidates. We are having some difficulties finding someone to fill the Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) position. We are almost done with the Director of Business Operations recruitment and hope to have that wrapped up next week. We filled two positions for Food Service workers this week. We welcomed Ami Justice and Kevin Agurs to the Nutrition Services team. We filled our Secondary Administrative Assistant position with Rima Nandakumar. Sam Bennington has accepted a position as a full time interpreter. Sam was previously an on-call interpreter. We are working on getting Teacher Assistant positions posted. We are doing well on pandemic response and employee impact. Our staff bring issues forward and they are solution focused. We feel really good about it. We now have a DEI committee and they are currently working on a DEI policy. We are going to seek out an outside consultant for guidance and someone in the Deaf community to assist with the policy and committee. Jessica indicated she included an organizational chart in the Board packet along with a staff listing with names. We had some employees indicate they had concerns about where the information would go due to the recent fraud issue that hit our state.

- Q. Char inquired how the DEI Committee is working on the DEI policy. She suggested maybe they could contact Sheila Jackson in Seattle from the Deaf/Black organization for assistance.
- A. Allie indicated Sheila may have changed her name. Alani is another person you may want to contact as well. She did some things through Gallaudet.

### **Outreach Report**

#### **Kris Ching, Outreach Birth-5**

Kris reported she will be attending the EHDI annual state meeting this afternoon from 12-1:30. It will be virtual this year. Last year about this time COVID was just breaking out and a few of us decided not to go to Kansas for the EHDI conference. It's amazing



how things have changed in just a year. Kris indicated Becky will be joining the EHDI meeting as well and Kris will be introducing her.

### **Carol Carrothers, Outreach K-12**

Carol indicated she has added comments to her reports from other people. Carol reported the family retreat will be virtual this year. The first weekend in May we will have an art and science project. Carol indicated Rick will do a "State of the State" presentation. Carol commends the Outreach team for doing a great job on professional development and job capitalizing on working remotely and connecting with other professionals who also are in a remote working environment. Carol also informed the Board that we now have 80 followers on our Instagram page. The Social Media Committee posts different themes each months. This month was Black history month next month is deaf youth month.

Nancy Fitta stated she really likes the format of Carol's report and shares Glenna's perspective that the impacts of the activities is very helpful to review.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

1. Nancy Fitta indicated she has announced her retirement at the end of the school year. She will still remain on our Board though as Board chair.
2. Nancy Sinkovitz indicated the Policy committee is ready for policies.
3. Nancy Sinkovitz indicated the Code of Ethics needs to be brought back on in March.
4. Wes indicated that three of our Board members position look to be expiring in July. Wes also inquired with a change in Outreach can we look at an Outreach Committee.
5. Rick indicated we will try and activate an Outreach Committee right away.
6. Rick indicated for the Board members whose positions are about to expire, they would need to go on the Boards and Commissions website for renewal. He encouraged Board members to submit your application to Boards and Commissions if you plan on renewing your appointment. If there are any questions, please contact Erica Rader or Rick Hauan.
7. Maria congratulated Nancy Fitta on her retirement. Maria inquired as to the status of Lead-K initiative.
8. Rick reported Deborah O'Willow recently reached out to him regarding Lead-K and indicated some CDHY staff have been in communication with her. She informed Rick ODHH has a small group of people that are working on Lead-K and they are not willing to open the dialogue to additional people. Rick expressed concern with the lack of movement on the Lead K initiative. He pushed Deborah to open up the discussion to more deaf individuals and stakeholders. She indicated she was not open to doing that at this time, however once the group has more structure to the initiative, they will be asking others to join the discussion.




- Maria inquired if some deaf individual should begin work on a separate Lead-K initiative?
- Rick indicated it would not be wise to have competing committees. Rick encouraged Maria not to set up a 2<sup>nd</sup> group but to reach out to the existing group.
- Allie indicated she is trying to understand the role of DSHS and OSPI. She indicated she knows there is overlap as to services.
- Char indicated that there is a lady in California who took the lead and helped other states. She might be able to give you some ideas. Rick indicated her name is Julie Rems-Smario. Rick and Julie started to facilitate a process in Georgia together. Julie has great research on Lead-K implementation and results of early intervention resulting in good Lead-K legislation. It becomes a political conversation. The reason DSHS is because ODHH is in the construct of DSHS. They have a connection to early intervention that has been there. Deborah has taken it upon herself to head up the Lead-K initiative. April McArthur was involved in the original Lead-K conversation and it's important that it is deaf lead.
- Shauna indicated CDHY employees will be involved in the Lead K but not leading it. April MacArthur, Shawn Broderick and Krissy Walker have indicated interest in being a part of Lead-K.

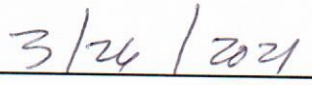
## Adjournment

Seeing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:49am

  
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 Nancy Fitt, Chair  
 CDHY Board of Trustees

  
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 Date

  
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 Richard Huan  
 CDHY Executive Director

  
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 Date