**Department of Aging and Disability Services**

**Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind**

**DeafBlind Advisory Committee Meeting**

**September 20th, 2024- 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**DRAFT Minutes**

**Chair Hana Tyler call the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.**

**Review of Meeting Protocol  
Chris Lassen reviewed the protocol for participating in the DeafBlind Advisory Committee Meeting.**

**Christopher Lassen conducted a roll call of the assembled members.**

**Voting Members Present**

**Hana Tyler, Chair, Consumer Representative; Wayne Seidel, Department of Developmental Services (DDS); Jesse Stanley, American School for the Deaf (ASD); Lisa Flaherty-Vaughn, DeafBlind Support and Access Network (DBSAN); Barbara Cloonan, Parent; Karen Olson, New England Consortium on DeafBlindness (NEC); Cheri Byrnes, DeafBlind Association of Connecticut;**

**Voting Members Absent**

**Bruce Stovall, Oak Hill School; Kathy Morgan Guardian; Sandra Miles, Department of Developmental Services – Southbury Training School,** **Stephen Thal – BESB Board; Dwayne Strawder, Oak Hill School; (DDS-STS) Christine Telford, Helen Keller National Center;**

**Non-Voting Members Present   
Christopher Lassen, ADS-BESB Adult Services; Marjorie Santos, ADS-BESB Adult Services; Krystal Kelly, ADS-BESB Vocational Rehabilitation; Muriel Aparo, ADS-BRS, CT Tech Act;**

**Non-Voting Members Absent**

**Alvin Chege, ADS-BRS, Mary Johns, ADS-BESB Children’s Services; Heidi Henaire, ADS-BRS; Carol Jenkins, ADS-BESB Director;**

**Others Present  
Ed Peltier, Communication Advocacy Network (CAN); Lisa Drew, ADS-BESB; Alan Gunzburg;**

**Old Business**

**Approval of minutes from June 11th, 2024. A motion was passed anonymously.**

**Motion: A motion was passed anonymously**

**Update: DeafBlind Technology Program (ATT)**

**Appendix[[1]](#endnote-1)**

**Muriel Aparo gave an update. In the 4th quarter, spanning April 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024, an allocation of $123,203 was earmarked for the Access Through Technology Program. 21 applications were processed during this period, leading to 19 consumers receiving services. Notably, ten consumers are slated to continue receiving services in the 2025 fiscal year.**

**The 4th Quarter expenditures encompassed $6,704 for assessments, $1,601 for equipment upgrades and inventory, $12,790 for installation and training, $2,418 for administration costs, and $2,137 for outreach.**

**The year-to-date expenses totaled $19,622 for assessments, $43,427 for equipment upgrades and inventory, $48,089 for installation and training, $16,469 for administration costs, and $7,584 for outreach.**

**The total spending for the 4th Quarter amounted to $29,663.48. An additional $12,000 from the NDBEDP increased the spending amount to $135,203, bringing the total spent for the 2024 fiscal year to $135,192.**

**In addition, In the 4th Quarter, our Outreach Program was quite eventful. In April, we conducted a presentation for the Hearing Loss Association of America. Then, on May 6th and 7th, we hosted a booth showcasing devices and program information at the AT conference in New Haven for two days. Also, in May, we had another booth at the OIB Silver Summit, again featuring devices and program information. Our services resumed on July 1st with the new budget set at $122,673.**

**New Business**

**Expenditures through May 10, 2024**

**Appendix[[2]](#endnote-2)**

**Report from CAN on SSP recruitment**

**Jennifer White—Jackson gave an update. They recruited six SSPs, two persons with hearing and four deaf persons. They will start our training soon. The goal for the training will start in October 2024.**

**Update on the development of the contract with HKNC**

**Christopher Lassen gave an update that the contract with Helen Keller National Center is still working its way through the process and there have been no new developments since our last meeting.**

**Discussion on serving newly referred clients·**

**Christopher Lassen reported we are working on an RFP, which is a confidential process.**

**Report from the Chair**

**Chair Tyler reported on a product website called Maxiaids.com. This site has many helpful tools, especially for the deaf, hard of hearing, and blind. She encourages people to check it out.**

**Announcements**

**Lisa Flaherty-Vaughn reported that the summer camp in July went well. It helped to build autonomy for our deaf individuals, who could attend to learn about pro-tactile. It really helped to build self-esteem. The camp provided a valuable and fun experience for all who participated.**

**There were other discussions on members' experiences at the camp.**

**Ed Peltier reported that CAN is sponsoring a retiring event for Director Sue Pedersen on Saturday, September 14th, 2024, from noon until 2:00 p.m., providing lunch. Also, at ASD, there will be a walk from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Adjournment**

**Motion: Jesse Stanley's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Lisa Flaherty-Vaughn.**

**The meeting Adjourned at 11:57 am.**

**NEXT MEETING DATE: December 10, 2024, - 10 AM to 12 PM via Zoom**

1. **ACCESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY**

   **Fiscal Year 2024**

   **QUARTER 4**

   **Apr 1, 2024 – Jun 30, 2024**

   **We have been allocated $123,203 for the 2023-2024 year. Access Through Technology Program for 4th Quarter. We had a total of 21 applications, with 19 consumers being served throughout the year. Ten consumers are still receiving services that will be carried over to the 2025 fiscal year budget. Access Through Technology Program for 4th Quarter. We had a total of 21 applications with 19 consumers being served throughout the year. We have 10 consumers still receiving services that will be carried over to the 2025 fiscal year budget. The 4th Quarter resulted in mostly installation and training services.**

   **4th QTR YTD**

   **$6,704 Assessments $19,622**

   **$1,601 Equipment/upgrades/inventory $43,427**

   **$12,790 Installation/Training $48,089**

   **$2,418 Administration cost $16,469**

   **$2,137 Outreach $7,584**

   **$29,663.48 total spent funds for the 4th Quarter.**

   **We received an additional $12,000 from the NDBEDP, bringing our spending to $135,203. Thus, which brought our spending amount to $135,203 and the total spent for the 2024 fiscal year was $135,191.**

   **Outreach for the 4th Quarter**

   **Program Presentation to the Hearing Loss Association of America in April.**

   **May 6 & 7 -Booth with devices and program information at the AT conference in New Haven for 2 days.**

   **May - Booth with devices and program information at the OIB Silver Summit.**

   **NOTE:**

   1. **Services have resumed effective July 1st ,2024 with the new budget of $122,673**
   2. **The most current Access Through Technology application can be accessed on our website,** [**www.cttechact.com**](http://www.cttechact.com)**, or by reaching out to Muriel via email at** [**muriel.aparo@ct.gov**](mailto:muriel.aparo@ct.gov)**.**

   [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. **Appendix**

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   | **DEAFBLIND GRANT FINANCIAL REPORT** | | | | |
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   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
   | **Grant Period 7/1/2024-6/30/2025** | | | | |  |
   | **Beginning Grant Total** | | **$66,011.00** |  |  |  |
   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
   | **Financial Summary Period 7/1/2024-6/30/2025** | | | | |  |
   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
   | **SSP Providers** | **Amount Paid YTD** | **SFY 2025 Allocation** | **Recent Invoices** | **Amount Remaining YTD** |  |
   | Communication Advocacy Network | $6,121.61 | $141,051.00 |  | $134,929.39 |  |
   | CT Institute for the Blind | $531.00 | $38,354.00 |  | $37,823.00 |  |
   | UCP of Eastern CT | $0.00 | $9,999.00 |  | $9,999.00 |  |
   | Elizabeth Hilton, INC | $151.50 | $9,999.00 |  | $9,847.50 |  |
   | DB Consumer Reimbursements | $1,583.92 |  |  |  |  |
   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
   | **Vendors** |  |  |  |  |  |
   | **American School for the Deaf** |  |  |  |  |  |
   | **Cosign CT LLC** |  |  |  |  |  |
   | **NWI Global** |  |  |  |  |  |
   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
   | **Total Expenses** | | **$8,388.03** |  |  |  |
   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
   | **Remaining Grant Balance** | | **$57,622.97** |  |  |  |

   [↑](#endnote-ref-2)