

DHHS-East Central Advisory Board Meeting

MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2005

4:30 – 6:00 P.M

DHHS Conference Room, St. Cloud

MEETING CALLED BY	Diane Leonard
TYPE OF MEETING	Advisory Board's Initial New Members Meeting
FACILITATOR	Diane Leonard
NOTE TAKER	Deb Rasmussen
ATTENDEES	Ernie Watson, Beth Schultz, Laura Schmit and Linda Hendrickson
ABSENTEES	Deb Riehl

Agenda topics

ALLOTTED TIME: 15 MIN.

INTRODUCTION AND BRIEF HISTORY OF SELF

NEW MEMBERS

DISCUSSION	Ernie Watson, Hearing, Teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students; Beth Schultz, Hearing, Parent of 2 hard of hearing Children, works at CSD Outreach Community Specialist and is our MCDHH Rep.;	
	Laura Schmit, deaf, stay at home mother who does home schooling with her children; Linda Hendrickson, hard of hearing, is the president of the local SHHH chapter and mother of 3 boys.	
	The fifth new member, Deb Riehl, was not able to make the first meeting.	
STAFF MEMBERS	Staff members present, Rich Diedrichsen, Regional Manager; Diane Leonard, Consultant, facilitated this first meeting; Lisa Hennen, Staff Interpreter Coord. Interpreted the meeting;	
	and Deb Rasmussen, Admin. Assistant, will take minutes of all meetings.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

ALLOTTED TIME: 1 HOUR

REVIEW OF THE ADVISORY HAND BOOK

DIANE LEONARD

DISCUSSION	What are the goals and expectation of the new Advisory members and the DHHS staff. Which counties we cover and which staff member are assigned to those counties.	
	Rich stressed not to feel that this committee is strict, but that we welcome all suggestions, no matter if you feel the idea might be inconsequential/insignificant. Rich gave brief examples of what MCDHH and our Advisory Committee have established and what needs we met in the community. Diane gave examples of things we are unable to change because of legislative restrictions and/or policies.	
	A question was asked regarding MCDHH –are they an independent committee or are they state funded? Rich explained they are appointed by the governor. Our mission statement and core values were shared with the committee.	
CONCLUSIONS	Chairperson elected, Laura Schmit. The role of this position will be to work with the Regional Manager and Consultant, mediate meetings, assign tasks to members, submit agenda items to the Admin. Assistant.	
	MCDHH member will be Beth Schultz, we are still waiting on confirmation from the commissioner.	
	Minutes of this meeting will be submitted to the division director, Bruce Hodek, Mike Cashman, TED Coord/Supervisor, Mary Hartnett, MCDHH Ex. Director and to the Dept. of Commerce who oversees the TED Program.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Agenda items will be sent to the chairperson to assimilate and forward to Deb Rasmussen to print up and mail out	Laura Schmit	2 weeks prior to the meeting
MCDHH information will be shared with Advisory members	Beth Schultz	At the time of the meeting

ALLOTTED TIME: 1 HOUR

WHAT DO EACH MEMBER EXPECT FROM THIS COMMITTEE?

GROUP SHARING

DISCUSSION	Ernie Watson –Currently he is seeing flaws in the drivers trainings business for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. This right of passage for young teens are being denied to these young students because of communication issues. The drivers school state that because of insurance restrictions there can not be 3 people in the car when the student is behind the wheel of the car. He shared that one of his students has written a letter to the law makers giving her experience on the denial of what hearing students are able to experience. Ernie also sees a restriction in the Work Study Program because of communication barriers.	
	Beth Schultz –Her goal is to see more training with business and agencies on how to work with the deaf and hard of hearing community.	
	Linda Hendrickson –Her focus is on the hard of hearing community. She would like to see more on the spiritual aspect of the community.	
	Laura Schmit –She would like to see more of an improvement interpreting for Emergency Hospital situations. She would also like to see an improvement for hard of hearing consumers that have no access to adaptive communication; i.e. FM system. The hospitals have in their policy under ADA sign language interpreters, but there is no policy for those patients who are hard of hearing and use a different form of communication.	
CONCLUSIONS	Lisa Hennen has been working with Ernie Watson and a ADA lawyer to help rectify the driving school situation. Feedback from the students and parents. Lisa would like to see the parents meet the ADA lawyer for more options. Letters will be sent to the Director of Public Safety.	
	One member shared that she heard on the radio that Senior Dave Kleis owns one of the drivers schools here in St. Cloud.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
DHHS will continue the course of action regarding the drivers school situation	Lisa Hennen	NA

NEXT MEETING	May 17, 2005, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. in the DHHS Conference Room, St. Cloud
SPECIAL NOTES	The members agreed to share their email addresses and street addresses. This will be included with the minutes to each member. Laura would like to do a follow-up before the next scheduled meeting