

DHHS-East Central Advisory Board Meeting

MINUTES

MAY 17, 2005

4:35 – 6:00 P.M

DHHS Conference Room, St. Cloud

MEETING CALLED BY	Diane Leonard
TYPE OF MEETING	Advisory Board's Meeting
FACILITATOR	Laura Schmit
NOTE TAKER	Deb Rasmussen
ATTENDEES	Ernie Watson, Beth Schultz, Laura Schmit, Linda Hendrickson and Deb Riehl
ABSENTEES	
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Rich Diedrichsen, Regional Manager; Diane Leonard, Consultant; Kris Haffley, Temp. Staff Interpreter Coordinator who interpreted the meeting; and Deb Rasmussen, Administrative

assistant who will be recording minutes of all meetings.

ALLOTTED TIME: 15 MIN. REGIONAL UPDATE RICH DIEDRICHSEN

REGIONAL UPDATE	Rich reported on the House Senate funding bills that are still in process. Will this affect us, probably not. Will our division receive an increase in budget, no. The Hearing Aid bill; an extension of the extended
	Purchase return clause to 45 days. Some manufactures and sellers have already adapted the change on their contracts. Other bill; readers for the blind funding for local television stations to provide live voice captioning, passed the senate and is now waiting for the house to pass. Beth Schultz added that \$300,000. will be given to rural Minnesota (e.g. Alexandria, Mankato, Duluth, and Rochester). Our division mandated to do a census of the Deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf/blind Minnesotans. An RFP has been issued. Rich has been working with a local group on disaster training and how this would influence the deaf. Diane along with other staff have been presenting a training on deaf awareness and how to work with an interpreter for Blue Cross Blue Shield and the hospitals. There has been positive feedback

ALLOTTED TIME: 15 MIN. UPDATE ON EAST CENTRAL REGION DIANE LEONARD

EAST CENTRAL UPDATE	Diane explained more on the BCBS trainings. The division received a small grant from College of St. Catherine's to do a presentation in Duluth, Detroit Lakes and St. Cloud to medical staff with how to work with an interpreter. The recent law suit against the hospital in the twin cities spurred the trainings. Very positive feedback from the audience. Diane further explained of trainings that they staff have done on police trainings in the Eastern area.
	A question; who decided on presentations? Answered; many times a client will request a follow up to a situation that happened to them and this gives us a good opportunity to bring deaf awareness to businesses, agencies, etc. Beth also added that when she is doing an assignment and an ADA situation comes up, she will refer to our agency. When our agency does a collaborated presentation or training with CSD (Beth), Beth will explain about the interpreter referral part and we will explain the ADA information. Rich will do presentations and trainings on adaptive equipment as another means of communication for hospitals who work with those who are hard of hearing.
	Diane also explained about the Annual Family Communication Camp that DHHS sponsored each summer. This week long camp has been cancelled because of budgetary reasons and not enough involvement of other agencies. A survey will be developed by a team to give to previous families for feedback on what their needs would be.

ALLOTTED TIME: 30 MIN MCDHH REPORT BETH SCHULTZ, REPRESENTATIVE

UPDATE ON MCDHH REPORT	Her first meeting was overwhelming. Topic; new born screening. President Bush did not include this in his budget. The commission is working on this bill in the senate. Mary Hartnett puts in around 70 hours a week during this time. Jamie Taylor who has low vision and is deaf, is interning with Mary Hartnett.
	They talked about the census from DHHS, DRS possible cuts in funding, open captioning in greater Minnesota. Example of open captioning needed – during the shooting at Red Lake School, a mother who is deaf was unable to know of current situations happening via the news on TV because of no open captioning. Hearing Aid bill on children 0-18 years old that was passed 2 years ago has not followed the mandate by insurance companies. MCDHH is working on policing the bill.
	HIPPA Law, concerns of parents discussed. If a child is found to have a hearing loss, who are the professional referring the parents to? One of our advisory parent had a negative experience and another of our advisory parent had a positive experience in referring to our services.

OLD BUSINESS	Driver's Ed. The last six (6) months, Rick MacPhearson, an ADA Lawyer has been working with families on accommodations for students who are deaf. This is a statewide problem and in order for this to be resolved a formal complaint will need to be made. The process has begun, what is the time line on this? Unclear at this time. The state of Wisconsin has won its cases and drivers ed is now assessable for students who are deaf. Discussion followed.
NEW BUSINESS	Question on hiring interpreters for high school sports after school hours. Who pays for the interpreter? Discussion followed. One suggestion was to get PACER involved. Question asked, how our advisory committee can get this information out to the public? Rich gave some suggestions, also suggested that MCDHH is also another perfect group to get involved.
NEW BUSINESS	Ernie Watson would like to bring the "Deaf Duckling" play to the St. Cloud area. The cost would originally be \$900. but he negotiated the cost to \$550. His question was how as a group, can we get money to bring in this public performer? Discussion followed. Ideas: Sertoma Club, St. Cloud Deaf Club, the Paramount downtown, ASL students, SNO, other communities involved and mass mailing to large funding groups. Idea also discussed, continued funding to bring deaf culture performers into the St. Cloud area on a yearly basis.
NEW BUSINESS	Ernie Watson would also like to see the Track and Field Deaf Statewide Event brought to the St. Cloud area. Previously it was held at Blaine, but the program was dropped. Discussion followed. This will be discussed at the next advisory meeting.

NEXT MEETING	September 13, 2005, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. in the DHHS Conference Room, St. Cloud