

DHHS-East Central Advisory Board Meeting

MINUTES

JAN. 17, 2006

4:30 – 6:00 P.M

DHHS Conference Room, St. Cloud

MEETING CALLED BY	Ernie Watson
TYPE OF MEETING	Advisory Board's Meeting
FACILITATOR	Ernie Watson
NOTE TAKER	Deb Rasmussen
ATTENDEES	Ernie Watson, Laura Schmit, Linda Hendrickson, Deb Riehl, and Jody Gertken-Teter (new member)
ABSENTEES	Beth Schultz and Sue Frank (new member)
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Rich Diedrichsen, Regional Manager; Diane Leonard, Consultant; Lisa Hennen, Staff Interpreter Coordinator who interpreted the meeting; Alysha R., intern; and Deb Rasmussen, Administrative assistant who will be recording minutes of all meetings.

ALLOTTED TIME: 15 MIN. CALL TO ORDER ERNIE WATSON

MCDHH UPDATE	Ernie called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. and Diane introduced our new member, Jody Gertken-Teter and gave Sue Frank's apology for not being able to attend because of illness. Diane explained about the newest members length of membership. Diane also introduced Ernie as the new chairperson. Ernie gave a brief synopsis of himself and then suggested that we all introduce ourselves to the new member.
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ALLOTTED TIME: 15 MIN. MCDHH BETH SCHULTZ/ERNIE WATSON

DISCUSSION	Beth was unable to attend the meeting but she had sent an email to Ernie regarding the new information about captioning and the new regulations/requirements. Ernie sent the attachment to the members who had email and brought a hard copy for the member who does not have email access. Beth said that she would follow up on the complaint that she had asked Ernie to send out.
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ALLOTTED TIME: 20 MIN DHHS UPDATE RICH DIEDRICHSEN
DIANE LEONARD

DHHS UPDATE	Rich shared that DHHS will be doing a Community Forum again this year and that MCDHH will be included in the forum. Rich shared some of the accomplishments they had in the past from the forums, one being TV Captioning, second being the fire alarm project, third being the hospital access program and fourth being the police and law enforcement centers. Discussion followed. A suggestion, a video conference type of forum. Committee talked of the pros and cons regarding video conferencing. A question was asked about the emergency call center and have they thought to have talked about having a video relay? Rich said with an disaster emergency there would be no electricity. Cell phones might work but video relay wouldn't work. Discussion followed. Rich will give more update at the next meeting. Rich also explained about the Emergency Call Center for a natural or man-made disaster. Our division has been asked to include what type of access will be needed for those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. The first call contact would be Metro followed by St. Cloud and Rochester as back up. Rich also talked about the grants and the RFP to be developed and of the Mental Health grant and who they have hired. Rich also shared that the Aware Fair will happen again this year. He shared that CSD (Beth Schultz) and Lisa Hennen had been working on the emergency planning project for deaf and hard of hearing and what they did to prepare for disaster shelter. What are the special needs and a disaster kit for home and what they need to include in it. Example: a portable TTY or a hearing aid drier.
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Diane gave a regional report on her work. She gave an update regarding the replacement of Camp Knutson and all the businesses and agencies involved in the survey process. The survey will be placed on the DHHS website and also hard copies will be handed out to those who are unable to use the website. Another part of the survey is to give parents the option to request other types of communication options and not necessarily sign language. The deadline for the survey is targeted for February 1, 2006.

ALLOTTED TIME: 15 MIN

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

GROUP

OLD BUSINESS	Driver's Ed.... Update was asked of Ernie and DHHS staff. An explanation of the situation was told to the new member. Ernie stated that he is out of this situation because of his role as a teacher in the public schools. It was explained that the students have been very tight lipped as per the attorney's instructions. Rich explained that confidentiality will be the key to making a good case and that the situation is in process and that is all they can say at this time. If they can make a case of this, it will become precedence for other states.
OLD BUSINESS	Track and Field day....an annual event until 2 years ago because of funding. Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are trying to reinstall the event and have been in contact with Mary Cashman-Bakken to help with monies. There is a teacher in the Metro area who is willing to take on this event. There are several teachers of the Deaf/HH that are interested in providing a Track and Field Day locally for Regions 5 and 7 students. May need help from ASL students and Deaf Club to pull this off.
OLD BUSINESS	Plays/Interpreted Performances – Deb R. shared that their school principal at Tech is willing to set up interpreter support for this event. Discussion followed. Possible times would be fall, mid-winter and spring. Ernie W. stated that the drama director at Apollo about interpreting performances was approached and she was supportive. More planning needs to be done to see if administration will support this idea for at least a 2-year initial process. DHHS can do mailing of the event. Rich also suggested that they add an assistive listening system for those who are hard of hearing. Rich would be willing to help set this up. Discussion followed on accessibility. It was suggested the importance of the community to go to these events, if no deaf or hard of hearing show, it would be a hard sell in the future. P.R. is also very important.
OLD BUSINESS	The use of FM equipment after school hours. Long story short, a parent had approached administration about their son using his FM equipment after hours. The special ed director granted permission for the FM to be used for after hour events. The parent and the special ed. director have resolved the situation.
NEW BUSINESS	Fundraising – was Beth's and she is out so this item will be tabled until the next meeting.
NEW BUSINESS	Diane asked about volunteers for the Community Forum. Discussion followed. The Advisory members would be willing to volunteer and Rich also suggested maybe having students help also. Discussion followed where the forum should be held. Discussion followed. St. Cloud was the best it was decided on.

NEXT MEETING	May 16, 2006, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the DHHS Conference Room, St. Cloud
	Meeting ended at 5:45 p.m.