

DHHS-East Central Advisory Board Meeting

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2006 4:30 – 6:15 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, Linda Hendrickson, Laura Schmit, Deb Riehl, Jody Gertken-Teter and newest member, Brenda Hommerding
ABSENTEES	Beth Schultz
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Rich Diedrichsen, Regional Manager; Diane Leonard, Consultant; Lisa Hennen, Staff Interpreter Coordinator and Deb Rasmussen, Admin. Assistant

ALLOTTED TIME: 15 MIN. CALL TO ORDER ERNIE WATSON

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS	Ernie called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Brenda Hommerding was introduced to the committee members and a brief explanation of her role with Lifetracks. Brenda shared with the committee about "Hands and Voices" and that she and other will be attending a meeting in Utah to learn more.
	Diane shared that another committee member would be needed and asked for recommendations. After a discussion followed, it was agreed that names would be sent to Diane if members thought of who they felt would be an asset to the advisory board.
	Diane shared with the committee that the post for chairperson for the next year would begin in January 2007 and asked if any member would be interested in filling the post. Ideas were expressed and talked about and it was unanimous to keep Ernie Watson as the chairperson. Ernie graciously agreed to stay on as chairperson.

ALLOTTED TIME: 45 MIN. REGIONAL UPDATES RICH DIEDRICHSEN
DIANE LEONARD

REGIONAL UPDATES	Rich shared with the committee about the Community Emergency Preparation workshop. There were 3 from our East region who attended and 1 from the West region who attended. Rich gave a brief synopsis of the meeting and what was seen as a need for those with a hearing loss. A discussion followed with added ideas from the committee members. Rich noted the ideas. Rich shared briefly about the staff retreat, the goals agreed and what staff will focus on for the new fiscal year. Rich shared the results of the parents' survey. Ideas and discussion followed.
	Diane reported on current and past consultant work that affects the community. An update was given on the drivers training struggle in this region and what the results were with the involvement of the Minnesota Disability Law Center. Discussion followed. Diane gave a brief update on the grant for mental health outreach for those who are deaf and hard of hearing in the east central region. The therapist is Joyce Atchison. Diane shared information on the upcoming 8-hour training she will be providing in December and again in the spring. She is also going to recruit/encourage teachers in regions 5, 7 and 8 to attend a Parent workshop. MCDHH received funding to help promote voting for the upcoming election. The focus is to encourage/stress the importance of those who do not vote how important their vote counts. Diane shared updates on the Deaf Club in this region. Within the month, Diane and Lisa will have completed 16 presentations at the hospital and clinics in the region.

ALLOTTED TIME: 30 MIN COMMUNITY FORUM RICH DIEDRICHSEN
DIANE LEONARD

COMMUNITY FORUM	Our regions community forum will be on October 3, 2006. Rich and Diane wanted to talk about the groups and topics and who will do the facilitating of which groups. A question was asked about the role of the facilitator and what is expected of them. Rich gave out the list of groups and explained what each role would be. Rich, Diane and other staff will be present to help and give encouragement. Diane explained the topics and that note takers would be needed. Diane also stressed the importance of advertising the community forum from government to businesses to Educational. Ernie shared that he would like to help businesses and agencies overcome the stereotyping that students who are deaf or hard of hearing can not perform in whatever work capacity that is needed. Diane encouraged everyone to invite those in businesses that they know of or to bring flyers of the upcoming community forum and to strongly encourage them to attend. Ideas and discussion followed.
	Ernie volunteered to facilitate the Employment section. Beth will facilitate the Educational section, Laura and Jody will facilitate the Community Access section, Linda will facilitate the captioning section and Deb Riehl will facilitate the refreshments section with her ASL students. Discussion followed on how to guide/encourage the community with suggestions or lead in questions that can get discussions started. Rich shared what types of communication access will be available for the community. CART will be provided for those who are hard of hearing and Lisa will be responsible for hiring of the interpreters. More discussion followed.

ALLOTTED TIME: 20 MIN

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

GROUP

TRACK AND FIELD	Ernie shared that track and field was a great success, 45 students and 30 some staff/helpers (senior high). Parents were impressed and thought this was awesome and would like it to continue. It was high praises from all sectors! Every year, unsure but the school authorities are talking about every other year might be a possibility.
SNO (SILENT NIGHT OUT)	Last spring was the last time we had a workshop. The committee will be getting together to set up our next meetings. No news to report at this time.
PLAYS	Pat Clark has retired; we are planning to have it every other year. Not sure about which building. The principal wants to know what the cost of interpreters verses the intake of funds. Not looking for a moneymaker but to at least break even.
OTHER	Brenda Hommerding shared the Focus newsletter, added section "view" for regional areas. It can be anything related to families. She stated that it is a great newsletter and encouraged everyone to receive one. Brenda explained about the program Lifetracks and shared about new parent packets; Volunteers of America and that she will be meeting with Joyce Atchison; hearing aid coverage at national level; and Pacer workshop that will be held here. Diane thanked Brenda for her update and her enthusiasm and we look forward to learning more.

NEXT MEETING	January 16, 2007 at 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the DHHS Conference Room, St. Cloud
	It was noted that the committee forgot to approve the minutes from the last 2 committee meetings. Discussion followed and the minutes were approved as written. Rich thanked Deb Riehl for volunteering to take the minutes from the May meeting (Deb Rasmussen was on vacation).
	Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.