

DHHS-East Central Advisory Board Meeting

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

4:35 – 6:20 P.M

DHHS Conference Room, St. Cloud

MEETING CALLED BY	Ernie Watson
TYPE OF MEETING	Advisory Board's Meeting
FACILITATOR	Ernie Watson
NOTE TAKER	Rich Diedrichsen
ATTENDEES	Ernie Watson, Rebecca Crowell, Brenda Hommerding, Debra Riehl, Beth Schultz, Laura Schmidt, and Jody Teeter
ABSENTEES	Linda Hendrickson and Mark Stiegel
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Rich Diedrichsen, Regional Manager; Lisa Hennen, Consultant; Jenny Robinson, Interpreter and Joanie Robinson, TED
GUESTS	Sarah Maheswaren, TED Program

Agenda topics



CALL TO ORDER

ERNIE WATSON

DISCUSSION	People introduced themselves and their roles/representation on the committee. Minutes from the spring meeting were reviewed and Laura asked that they be corrected to show that she was in attendance not absent. Minutes were approved as amended.
CONCLUSIONS	May 15, 2007 minutes were revised to state that Laura Schmidt was present at the advisory meeting.



MCDHH UPDATE

BETH SCHULTZ

DISCUSSION	Beth announced that she has given her resignations as the MCDHH representative for this region. She said the time commitment is high and she felt she wanted to focus more on interpreter related issues in the region. She explained the role to others and offered to answer any questions if then wanted to contact her. She was not able to attend the September 21 meeting but gave a recap of the July meeting including the legislative outcomes. There will be a review of the K-12 Educational Interpreter Law and the goal is to revise the language so that it is clear and easier to understand and include the names of new certifications that will be accepted. The EHDI mandates have been strengthened and there is more follow-up to make sure people are referred to services. Money was set up for services such as Parent Guides, mentors, testing and evaluations of children. The hearing aid law will now be monitored and more enforcement will be committed. Beth will send a handout summarizing the other legislation and this will be distributed to the advisory committee members. The commission is talking about hiring more staff as the commission work needs more support.
CONCLUSIONS	Diane Leonard, Consultant in the East Central Region, will need to recruit a replacement to be on the MCDHH board.



DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING REGIONAL REPORT

RICH DIEDRICHSEN

DISCUSSION	Rich talked about the emergency planning advisory committee set up after the May workshop and Beth noted that there will be a Code Ready presentation at the November 13 SNO event in St. Cloud. Rich announced the October 13 CI workshop and distributed flyers. Also announced was the October 12-13, Dad's Retreat; flyers were distributed. Rich noted that we are in the process of creating a West Central Advisory Committee and perhaps will schedule one meeting a year with both committees together.
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CONCLUSIONS	Plans in the work ; have both the new West central advisory members and the East central advisory members have a combined meeting once a year.
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TED PROGRAM	SARAH MAHESWAREN
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DISCUSSION	Sarah explained that TED is considering distribution of wireless devices. She has contacted other states who are doing this now to get information on how the program has worked for them. It is not certain if the wireless devices will be distributed using vouchers and she further explained that there are some issues related to service contracts and usability, etc. Another concern is that since technology advances so rapidly any devices people purchase can quickly become obsolete and there would be a need to look at how often equipment can be changed. Sarah did note that if a person needs changed because their hearing ability changed this would warrant an up-grade.
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It was noted that often people need cell phones to get or advance in work. Some people have cell phones and need accessories such and a neck loop or patch cord. Sarah noted that it may be possible to provide the accessories under the current program. Some people need information on that phones are compatible with hearing aids and Sarah noted that the program would do some of this research and make recommendations to consumers getting vouchers. There is a need also to train the sellers as often they do not know even basic information like "T-4/M-4" ratings. Sprint is starting to set up programs with some state distribution programs but some members noted that Sprint is not the best coverage for all parts of the region. There were further questions about insurance of breakage. Members noted that this would be a good opportunity for weather alerts and to help high school level children fit in with the times. It was asked if VP was part of the TED program and it is not as CSD is taking care of this for MN at this time. It may be added at some time in the future.

Other information from TED: Sarah noted that there has been an increase in the demand for specialized equipment such as Elector Larynx connectors, sip-and-puff switches, voice enhancer equipment and so on. She noted that TED is looking for more PR options and opportunities. SCSU responded that they would like such information for their students who are training to work with people who have communication disorders. Brenda noted that the information can be placed in the parent folders. Sarah also announced that new (up-dated) applications are being printed and will be sent soon and talked about the plan to scan applications.

CONCLUSIONS	The TED Program is on the lookout for more PR options and opportunities.
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1. SCSU responded they would like such information for their students who are training to work with people who have communication disorders.
2. Brenda Hommerding noted that the information can be placed in the parent folders.

OLD BUSINESS	MEMBERS
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DISCUSSION	Brenda Hommerding talked about the Family Social Picnic in Willmar and announcements were made about future events (flyers will be attached to notes sent). Brenda also noted two new website she has found helpful for parents; www.mnhandsandvoices.org , mnhv@lifetrackresources.org , both of these have to do with neck-loops.
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CONCLUSIONS	Additional flyers will be attached to the minutes.
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NEW BUSINESS	MEMBERS
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DISCUSSION	Dr. Ron Lyburger is doing a workshop for School Psychologist on Oct. 11 in St. Cloud (flyer to follow) and then doing a parents workshop in Brainerd that evening. He will then be available for the Dad's Retreat at Camp Confidence. March 27-28, 2008 will be the school district Diversity Days and Ernie is looking at ways to do more awareness of D/HH. In the past Rich did equipment/technology demonstrations, but this year we would like more exposure to D/HH people and awareness of their lives, careers, etc. Anyone with ideas should contact Ernie.
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CONCLUSIONS	Diversity Days - the goal is to have more exposure to D/HH people and awareness of their lives, careers, etc. Anyone with ideas should contact Ernie Watson.
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NEXT MEETING	The next Advisory meeting will be on January 15, 2008 from 4:30 to 6:00 PM in the conference room at St. Cloud DHHS.
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AJOURNMENT	A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 PM.
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"HARVEST HOE DOWN"



For students who are deaf/hard of hearing
and their families

10:00 A.M. to Noon
Saturday, October 6, 2007
FREE!

Benton Stearns Education District
517 2nd St. South
Sartell, MN



Games, facepainting, storytelling, pumpkin
decorating, food, and door prizes.

Please R.S.V.P. to Nancy Sturlaugson @ (320)257-7396 or
nsturlaugson@bentonstearns.k12.mn.us