

DHHS-East Central Advisory Board Meeting

MINUTES

JANUARY 16, 2008

4:35 – 5.35 P.M

DHHS Conference Room, St. Cloud

MEETING CALLED BY	Diane Leonard
TYPE OF MEETING	Advisory Board's Meeting
FACILITATOR	Diane Leonard
NOTE TAKER	Deb Rasmussen
ATTENDEES	Brenda Hommerding, Beth Schultz, Laura Schmidt, and Jody Teter
ABSENTEES	Linda Hendrickson, Ernie Watson, Rebecca Crowell, and Mark Stiegel
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Rich Diedrichsen, Regional Manager; Diane Leonard, Consultant; Lisa Hennen, Consultant; Jenny Robinson, Interpreter and Deb Rasmussen, Admin. Assistant

Agenda topics



CALL TO ORDER

DIANE LEONARD

DISCUSSION	Diane called meeting to order and shared with the board members that she need to leave the meeting early because of a scheduling conflict. Rich will finish chairing the meeting. Diane also shared that Ernie Watson will be coming late today, he had an after school event that he was involved in. Debra Dotzler completed her 3-year term, and she decided resign. Her position will not be filled until next year, in order to keep the numbers of people rotating on/off the same each year. If anyone has someone in mind for her position, please contact Diane.
	Diane asked if any of the members would be interested in chairing the meetings for the year. Ernie Watson who has chaired for 2 years, has met the two one-year chairperson term requirements this year. At this meeting, no one has offered to chair. Diane will contact the other members.
	Minutes from the previous meeting stand as written with no change. Rich talked about recruitment for the MCDHH Board position. No one at this time has volunteered.
CONCLUSIONS	Diane will follow up with absentee members regarding chairing for this year. Rich and Diane will follow up with absentee members regarding the MCDHH Board position.



MCDHH UPDATE

RICH DIEDRICHSEN/BRENDA HOMMERDING

DISCUSSION	At this present time we do not have a representative for MCDHH. Rich shared the upcoming agenda for MCDHH and the minutes from the previous meeting held at Breezy Point Lodge in Brainerd, MN. At this time we do not have an MCDHH Rep.
CONCLUSIONS	A copy of the agenda and meeting minutes will be scanned and added to these minutes.



DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING REGIONAL REPORT

DIANE LEONARD

DISCUSSION	Diane gave an update on the work she has been doing in her region. The family socialization program has been busy with activities for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. The activities included: a Hoedown event in October, Signing Santa planned by Deb Doltzler's ASL class again this year and doing a wonderful job, bowling in February, parent information night with Dr. Ron Lyburger in October, and an emergency training collaboration with Beth Schultz of CSD in November.
	Diane also shared upcoming events; an EMS (Emergency Medical Service) presentation with Stearns County Emergency Management Director, Marv Klugg at St. John's University, two all day seminar trainings—one in Willmar on March 4 th with Lisa Hennen (West Central consultant) and the other in Buffalo on April 22. The all day seminars have been very beneficial with great feedback. Due to the great feedback, this has generated many requests for in-house trainings to those who were unable to send their staff to the all day trainings. The Deaf Mentor program training in November (2007) had Seven people completing the program and 5 new people are set to attend and complete the Deaf Mentor training January 22 – 24, 2008. Lisa has 2 families (with a 3 rd interested), in the West Central region and Diane has 5 families in

the East Central region paired with a mentor. Because of funding limits there can only be 2 families per region. It is hoped that the legislature will see the need and increase the grant monies. Brenda Hommerding has share this need at the next Hands and Voices meeting and also will stress to Mary Hartnett (MCDHH) of the need for increase in funding from the legislators.

Diane shared about the PTE (Pathways to Employment) goal of helping the deaf and hard of hearing workers stay in their positions or have advancement opportunities with the temporary loan of adaptive equipment. By loaning this type of equipment to the employers, it shows that there are other ways for a person with a hearing loss to do their jobs.

Rich as been asked to do a presentation to regional rep. public health nurses. These nurses work in homed and may come in contact with families who need of services that are not aware of our programs. Rich will be creating informational packets; both Beth CSD and Brenda Voice & Hands asked to have their brochures included also. Rich has asked for 40 brochures. Rich has also stressed the importance of the PTE program from alarm clocks to get workers to work on time to adaptive equipment that will enable the workers who are deaf or hard of hearing to continue with their positions or to advance from their current position.

CONCLUSIONS	Beth Schultz from CSD and Brenda Hommerding from Voice and Hands will get their brochures to Rich by the following Thursday from this advisory meeting.
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NEW BUSINESS	MEMBERS
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DISCUSSION	<p>March – Diversity Day, this item tabled until Ernie Watson arrives for the meeting.</p> <p>Rich asked if any of the members had a speaker they would like to come and share at our advisory meetings? Please leave the contact or any other information with Diane and she will do her best to get the speaker to come and present. Ideas suggested were: Rebecca Crowell from SCSU presenting, Diane will follow up on the idea.</p>
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Winter/spring events, Diane and Lisa are working with SNO to set up events for families/children. Last year our region and the South Central region had a skating party with 50 people showing up to skate and do crafts.

SW Coop symposium for parents of deaf and hard of hearing children is scheduled for February 21 & 22nd. They are still looking for funding. Kim Konerza (Monticello) would like to also do such an event in Regions 5 & 7.

It was suggested that the West central advisory members and the East central advisory members have a one time joint meeting. Possibly in May or in the fall of the year?

Brenda Hommerding shared the new parent guide. Their group also will have a skating event at the St. Louis Park. There will be a meeting at the U of M on March 5th. The Spanish Support Community meeting is February 8th in the metro area. Rich stated that there is a large Migrant Council office in Willmar.

St. Cloud Deaf Club will have a snow tubing day at Powder Ridge from 5 to 7 PM. The cost is \$15.

There will be a spaghetti dinner fund raiser for MADC; the conference will be here in Waite Park in 2009, the cost of the dinner will be \$5. There are no advance ticket sales. The conference committee is beginning planning now.

Rich shared about the upcoming HLAA conference in Las Vegas, NV. The local HLAA group will begin meeting again starting in March. The group stops from Jan. & Feb. because of the snow birds.

The St. Paul Expo will be at the River Center, St. Paul, in September of 2008.

CSD –VRS (video relay service), not affiliated with CSD, but kept the name, has set up shop here in our building next door to us. There will be 6 interpreter stations, at present construction is still going on.

Mental Health therapist will be housed here in our space. Diane gave an update on what will happen in our region when the full time therapist has been hired and housed. Kris Swan who has been coming to our office every 2 weeks to meet with patients will no longer come and the patients will begin seeing the new person who has been hired. The Rochester area will also have a new therapist to cover their region. The target date for Rochester will be February 1st. The new hire for our region was to have begun the first week in January; unfortunately they had to re-post the position.

CONCLUSIONS	<p>Diane will contact advisory members for possible names of speakers they would like to present at the advisory meeting. Diane will also talk with Rebecca Crowell regarding a possible presentation from her.</p> <p>Diane and Lisa will set up a time for a joint advisory meeting.</p>
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NEXT MEETING	The next two Advisory meeting will be May 13, 2008 and September 9, 2008 , from 4:30 to 6:00 PM in the conference room at St. Cloud DHHS. Rich asked if the second Tuesday of the month still works for the members, the group said yes.
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AJOURNMENT	A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 PM.
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The Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People
AGENDA

Friday, January 18, 2006, 2007
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Elmer Anderson Building Room 2223
540 Cedar Street, St. Paul MN 55101

- 1) Introductions 9:00-9:10
- 2) Review and Discussion/Update of Strategic Planning 9:10-10:10
- 3) Approval of the Minutes (September & November) 10:10-10:15
- 4) Donation to Camp ASL discussion 10:15-10:25
- 5) Break (10 minutes) 10:25-10:35
- 6) Proposed Legislation for MCDHH-
 - A. Change of MCDHH name to the Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans 10:35-10:45
 - B. Funds for renovation of a building on the MSAD campus for a mental health facility for youth 10:45- 10:55
 - C. Captioning Candidate Ads 10:55-11:05
 - D. Interpreter Study Work Group endorsement 11:05-11:15
- 7) Vote on Legislative Agenda 11:15- 11:30
- 8) Suggested Changes to MCDHH Bylaws (11:30-11:40)
 - a) Change childcare/attendant reimbursement
- 9) Review of and recommendations to governor's office for applicants to the commission. 11:40-12:00)
- 10) LUNCH AT NOON 30 minutes 12:00-12:30
- 11) MCDHH Elections: 12:30 to 12:45
President, Vice-President, Two Executive Committee Members
- 12) Executive Director/Staff Update 12:45-1:15
Robert Wood Johnson Community Leaders Awards
LCC Training
Caucus Training
Capitol Lab
Education
EHDI
- 13) Discussion and Vote on MCDHH Work Plan 1:15- 2:15
- 14) Break 2:15-2:25
- 15) MCDHH Budget 2:25-3:15
- 16) Executive Committee: Executive Director Performance Appraisal 3:15-3:40
- 17) Commission Members Reports/Announcements- (20 minutes) 3:00- 4:00
- 18) Adjournment 4:00

The Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People
November 15, 2007
Breezy Point Lodge
Braintree, MN
7-9pm

Minutes

Commission Members: Toni Fairbanks, Adrienne Haragen, Patti Morelli Teachout, Jack Bender, Kim Wassenaar

Ex-Officio: Bruce Hodek

Staff: Mary Hartnett, Cynthia Weitzel, Kelly Murphy

Guests: Curt Micka (DHHS), Emil Argelico (COG)

Service Providers: Lauri Krouse, Gina Alvarado (Interpreters), Angie Sundell (CART), Cheryl Mairs and Claire Alexander (SSPs)

1) Introductions

Commission members, guests, staff and service providers introduced themselves.

2) Approval of September Minutes

Due to not having a majority of members attending, we were unable to take a vote on the minutes. The approval of the minutes was postponed.

3) Update on progress of implementation of 2007 legislation

a) EHDI Education Coordinator

Despite resistance from MDE, we were able to put a hold on the hiring of the EHDI Coordinator until the Assistant Commissioner is back, as the issue of system building was not addressed. We have been strongly promoting the need for parents and consumers to be a part of this hiring process.

b) EHDI Mandate

Parents and consumers need to have strong voices at the EHDI advisory council, so that consumer needs are kept in the forefront and to keep the perspective on long term system changes.

c) Hearing Aids

The bill was passed and went into effect as of August 1st, 2007. It's clear that enforcement is going to be an issue with this bill, as we are still receiving a steady flow of complaints from parents. They are still being charged more than the normal insurance co-pays. We are working with the Department of Commerce and John Gross on this issue.

4) By-Law Changes (Needs Board Action) Amend the by-laws to include the following:

- **Review and approve requests for major disbursements or purchases in excess of \$1,000 requested by the Executive Director or by the Commission that have not been approved by the full commission in the annual budget.**

Due to not having a majority of members attending, we were unable to take a vote on the change in bylaws. The discussion and voting was postponed.

5) Language we use to describe people who are deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind.

A lively discussion regarding how people in the community identify themselves and whether or not MCDHH should adopt a policy regarding such language as "hearing impaired", "hearing loss", "deaf", "hard of hearing", etc. It was decided that it is best to let individuals self-identify.

6) Legislative Agenda Items that we have been asked to consider:

- a) Funds for renovation of a building on the Minnesota Academy of the Deaf campus for a mental health facility for youth.**

This bill would keep Minnesota d/hoh/db children who have serious or persistent mental illness to stay within the state, which also allows the parents to be a part of their child's treatment. The Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf wants to renovate Pollard hall into a residential youth mental health facility. Volunteers of America would be developing and operating the program. MSAD would like us to take the lead on this bill.

- b) Change of MCDHH name to the Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans.**

In the September MCDHH meeting, it was voted and agreed that we would initiate a bill to change our name.

- c) Public Safety - require the POST board to demonstrate competency.**

A bill related to this topic could use some more time for relationship building and focus to ensure its success. An advisory committee has been established and will be meeting in the coming weeks. The training for police officers has been piecemeal and something should be done to improve the interactions of police and deaf/hard of hearing/deafblind community, but it may be best to wait for 2009 or later.

- d) Fire Alarms, Smoke Detectors**

Currently there is no statute that requires that fire alarms/smoke detectors in public places have a visual as well as auditory alert, such as a strobe light. Some fire departments and DHS have done programs to distribute or subsidize visual alarms but it has not been offered across the state.

- e) News reading service for Blind and DeafBlind.**

The news reading service is funded through the telecommunications access money (TAM), had a budget cap (\$100K) and sunset to the bill in 2010. The primary issues with this service is that it is not accessible for people above a certain range of hearing loss, so it might not be accessible for DeafBlind listeners, there proposal does not have a cap or a sunset. It would be best to see language in the bill that specifically addresses these issues

- f) Captioning Candidate Ads**

In the last election, we were only able to convince three candidates to caption their ads. This could be part of the requirements when accepting state funds. In Rhode Island, a law has been passed that requires candidates to caption their ads. This would be something MCDHH would be interested in pursuing.

6) Review of the Executive Director - Executive Committee, due by December.

The performance review of the Executive Director is due by mid-December and we will be asking the executive committee to complete that review and provide feedback.

7) Mary Update - hiring new temporary staff, communications, web.

This information will be sent via email, due to time constraints.

8) Cynthia Update - Airport, Interpreters, Youth

This information will be sent via email, due to time constraints.

9) Recommendation of new members. We have three vacancies, two additional members' terms expire in January 2008. Review of demographics of current commission members. Discussion, who do we need on board to do our work well.

The commission is low on people of color, male, young/elderly representation. MCDHH needs to be thoughtful about its recruitment so that we get representation of each group in the D/Hoh/DB community. Currently, Elke Yang, the former Miss Deaf Minnesota has applied and she is Asian-American from the Duluth area and would fall into the younger category. Another Asian-American might be Raina Johnson, an instructor from the University of Minnesota. From the Black deaf community, Cheryl Moody has expressed interest as well.