

DHHS-East Central Advisory Board Meeting

MINUTES

MAY 13, 2008

4:45 – 5:10 P.M

DHHS Conference Room, St. Cloud

MEETING CALLED BY	Diane Leonard
TYPE OF MEETING	Advisory Board Meeting
FACILITATOR	Beth Schultz
NOTE TAKER	Deb Rasmussen
ATTENDEES	Linda Hendrickson, Brenda Hommerding, Beth Schultz, Jody Gertken-Teter, and Guest -Michael Hormann
ABSENTEES	Rebecca Crowell, Laura Schmit, Mark Stiegel, Ernie Watson,

Agenda topics

ALLOTTED TIME: 15 MIN. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS

DISCUSSION	A guest, Michael Hormann, join us for our board meeting. Each member and staff introduced themselves. Michael has been asked to join the advisory board as the MCDHH rep. Minutes from the last meeting were approved.
CONCLUSION	Diane will do a follow up with Michael Hormann regarding the advisory board and as a rep. for MCDHH

ALLOTTED TIME: 15 MIN. DHHS REPORT RICH DIEDRICHSEN

DISCUSSION	Rich shared information regarding the internet website and pod cast and the ability of it being captioned. Some web-cast have caught on that it can be captioned. Rich gave a summary of the bills that passed. The Commission name will be changed to include deaf/blind. The official name will be MN Commission Serving Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf/blind. The acronym will remain the same, MCDHH. A campaign to promote the need for captioning to happen the moment a disaster is happening or an alert of danger.
CONCLUSION	No follow up needed.

ALLOTTED TIME: 15 MIN. REGIONAL REPORT DIANE LEONARD

DISCUSSION	There isn't a lot to report at this time. In January we had the second Deaf Mentor training. June 30, 2008, will be the end of the first year. This program has a waiting list and it is hoped the legislators will increase funding to allow more families to benefit from the program. Diane gave an update on the PTE (pathway to employment) program. John Gournaris, the director of the new Mental Health program that is housed within Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service, is certain that the position will be filled. He is confident the new mental health therapist will be hired by this summer. With the new employee being permanently housed in St. Cloud and also one day in Duluth, Kris Swan (Psychotherapists) from Regions Hospital Health and Wellness Program (HWP) will no longer travel here and Duluth to meet with patients. Ms. Swan will transfer patients, with the patient's permission, to the new M.H. therapist. Rich briefly shared other duties the new employee will also be responsible for. The person will be housed in our office and will travel one day a week to Duluth to meet with clients in that region. Diane invited the committee to tour the new office and counseling room that will be used for the mental health program. Beth Schultz, chairperson, decided while we were waiting for the speaker, Rebecca Crowell, to arrive, she suggested that we go into new business.
CONCLUSION	NA

ALLOTTED TIME: NEW BUSINESS ALL

DISCUSSION	Beth shared about the different events she has attended to talk about what is happening in the St. Cloud area. There is a work group that meets from 6 to 9 PM (NIC testing) for testing. June 11 and 18 there
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will be an ADA Law trainings, Carol Merman in the NW region asked if this training is just for interpreters and it is not, it is open to all the public. Brenda H. asked for more information, she would like to attend. At the end of August, tentatively, there will be a training workshop for education interpreting only. Marty B. and Linda Gill are geared up for legal issues for interpreters in the educational situations. Jody T. shared on June 19 through 21st MADC Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in 2009. She would like to let people know. Jody T. shared collaborated events Silent Night and VOA, Brenda H., has scheduled in the fall. Brenda H. shared upcoming training VOA-M (Minnesota) with a contract from the Dept. of Health. Brenda H. has had an additional 3 families contact her with their needs. She shared briefly on a survey to families on what are their needs, this helps Brenda to better understand their situation and how she can best help them. In that need, especially with the cost of gas rising, she also asks which form of contact they prefer, either via webcast or home visits.

A question was asked of Diane, how long has the deaf community had a deaf club in this region? Diane was unsure but will find out. Rich D. shared information on the upcoming HLAA (Hearing Loss Association of America) Conference. It will be here in St. Cloud at the Holiday Inn on March 27 and 28, 2009. They have speakers lined up; this is something to look forward to.

Beth S. asked if there were any concerns or comments or any other new/old business. Brenda H. added there is another family that will need to be on the Deaf Mentor Program. There was a brief discussion on this. Beth S. stated since the guest speaker, Rebecca Crowell, was a no show and there was no other old or new business that the meeting was at an end. She asked for a motion and second, the meeting came to an end at 5:10 PM. The next meeting will be Sept. 9, 2008. For our January meeting, the speaker will be Hands and Voices presenting.

CONCLUSION

NEXT MEETING

The next Advisory meeting will be on **September 9, 2008** from **4:30 to 6:00 PM**

AJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM

SPECIAL NOTES